Big 'thank you' from Rotary for Nepal cash

GENEROUS members of the public donated almost £2,000 for victims of the Nepal earthquake in one day.

Volunteers from The Rotary Club of Waterlooville were in the town centre at the weekend with collection buckets.

President Ken Berry said he was stunned by the response.

'I never cease to be amazed by the generosity of the people in our town,' he said.

'We have had appeals like this before and the response has always been excellent but this appeal beats all records.

'We believe deeply in providing essential supplies rather than money and shelter boxes are a living example of this.

'They are already on the ground in Nepal, housing beleaguered families.

'There are even examples of them being used by staff at Kathmandu hospitals to treat casualties.

'And thanks to the good people of Waterlooville we can provide even more support.

'Thank you and hats off to you.'

Shelter boxes provide shelter, bedding, water and living essentials for a family of 10 people.

One night at the museum

ANOTHER important vote is taking place.

The Novium Museum was one of five museums selected to submit ideas for a collaboration with a contemporary artist for the popular Museums at Night scheme.

The artists were then invited to choose which one they would like to see go through to the public vote.

Turner prize nominee Yinka Shonibare MBE has short-listed The Novium. He is most known for his trademark bright African batik material which he uses to question the meaning of cultural and national definitions.

The venue with the most votes will win the artist to lead an event in the October Museums at Night festival. Voting closes at 8pm on May 16.

Go to museumsatnight.org.uk/yinka-shonibare.

Champion rollerblader urges young people to aim high in their lives

Athlete will be mentoring pupils

by JEFF TRAVIS
Havant and Leigh Park reporter
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IT TAKES an immense amount of confidence and self-belief to jump across a 22ft gap on a pair of rollerblades.

But that's the kind of fearlessness that has taken Danny Aldridge all the way to the top of his sport.

The 28-year-old is a champion rollerblader and showed off his tricks at Park Community School in Leigh Park.

His visit was much more than showing off his acrobatic skills, however.

Danny is taking part in a mentoring programme as part of the Unlocking Potential scheme, run by the Dame Kelly Holmes Trust.

The initiative aims to inspire young people to strive to achieve their goals by meeting sporting heroes, many of whom have made it to the top because of their own self-belief.

Danny, who lives in Bognor, will mentor pupils over the coming weeks.

He has toured the world performing in extreme skating shows since the age of nine and has now set up his own skatepark in Bognor.

'I'm relatable,' said Danny, who admits he had a difficult childhood and found inspiration in rollerblading.

'I have the experience to

SPECIAL GUEST Danny Aldridge with sports ambassadors at Park Community School, from left, Emilly Briggs, Shauna Matkin, Abbie Robertson, Cameron Mitchell and Lauren Hollis
Picture: Sarah Standing (150818-9098)

say I have done it and been quite successful.

'Not many people make money out of rollerblading but I have done it.'

He added: 'It's not about teaching people.

'I have the experience I have done it.'

> ## "I have the experience I have done it. Not many people can make money in rollerblading
>
> Danny Aldridge

'It's about sharing stories and showing what we have done.

'No disrespect to teachers, but it's not just a teacher in a classroom saying "you have to do this to get a job".

'The main thing is hard work.

'You put in the hard work and it repays you.'

Danny is hoping to bring children from Leigh Park to the skatepark he runs in Bognor, called The Base skatepark.

He said he had been 'blown away' by the stories from young people.

'It's really opened my eyes to what young people go through in this world,' he added.

Janice Norman, sports co-ordinator at Park Community, said: 'It is a real opportunity for our pupils to meet inspirational athletes who can support them in achieving their goals and working towards their dreams.

'Danny is an inspiration to

us all.'

Pupil Shauna Matkins said: 'It is great working with someone who is so inspirational. Danny and Mrs Norman are really helping us to achieve.'

Lauren Hollis added: 'It's great for keeping us all focused.'

THERE'S MORE ONLINE

To watch a video on this story go to
portsmouth.co.uk

Performance of RolePlay

HORNDEAN Amateur Theatre is putting on a play by Alan Ayckbourn.

RolePlay will run from July 1 to 3 at Merchistoun Hall, Horndean.

Tickets cost £6 and are available on the door or can be reserved by calling (023) 9278 5800. Go to horndeanamdram.com.

Teenagers embrace politics in mock election

CHILDREN at Park Community School had their own taste of election fever.

Pupils had the opportunity for vote for their favourite party during a mock election yesterday.

Seven student leaders were randomly allocated a political party.

They have been busy campaigning, leafleting, creating multimedia promotions and answering questions fired at them by their peers in a *Question Time*-style debate.

Each student political leader was given a budget they could spend on promoting their campaigns.

The leaders were Jake Reeve, 14, Labour; Sam Altahaineh, 13, SNP; Hannah Fletcher, 15, Liberal Democrats; Brighton Alner,

14, Green Party; Lauren Townsend, 14, Conservatives; Shane Sellence, 15, Ukip, and Wayd Harris, 15, The Monster Raving Looney Party.

They each campaigned on changing an area of school life.

Deputy headteacher Sue Walker said: 'It's fantastic that our pupils are getting involved with politics.

'Our election was about

giving them the knowledge and understanding that will give them the confidence to vote in the future and that their voice is being heard.

'We want to inspire our pupils into politics, by giving them a basic understanding of the political parties and the voting system.

'This will then hopefully encourage them to use their voice and vote when able.