

# THE HERALD

Wednesday, December 24, 2014

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# Vale rejects parish council's concern about traffic

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Ridgeway in October. The company said the hotel could be built in 2015 and open in 2016. It will provide competition for a new hotel planned for the Didcot Island site opposite Didcot Parkway.

Businesses can fast-track planning applications at Milton Gate as it is in the Science Vale Enterprise Zone, established in 2011 to attract new companies to the area. It was designated by the Government to allow applications to be processed quicker.

Milton Parish Council objected to the

Harvester plan, writing to the Vale: "The parish council consider that there is no need for another pub/restaurant in this area and are concerned about the potential effect on local independent pubs within the parish.

"The council is also concerned that the proposal will encourage yet more cars on to the already struggling Milton interchange."

But the Vale's head of planning Adrian Duffield wrote in his decision notice that "the proposal will not have an undue impact on highway safety subject to conditions".

Mitchells and Butlers' spokesman Sally Ellson said: "We are excited to have secured planning permission to open a Harvester restaurant in Milton Gate in summer 2015.

"The new build gives us the opportunity to incorporate our latest Harvester design as well as bring a number of new job opportunities to Didcot."

Councillor Mrs Davies said work to convert the Milton interchange into a hamburger-style roundabout design was expected to start in January.

# Fundraising footballers top scoring with £9,800

## Charity events hit record sum for children's hospital in city

By **Alex Regan**  
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A FOOTBALL fundraising group is celebrating a record year of supporting charities such as Oxford Children's Hospital.

Play2Give has raised £9,838.81 this year, its best ever, with £8,590 earmarked for the John Radcliffe Hospital department.

The group hosts fundraising football events, which this year included a major tournament in June with 18 teams of youngsters aged under 10.

Charity founder Andrew Baker, 26, was treated at the hospital after he suffered a brain injury at birth.

The Didcot resident has had treatment including brain surgery in 2001.

Mr Baker, who volunteers in the hospital's radiology department, said: "It's been a great year for Play2Give as we've now raised £26,500 for the Children's Hospital.

"Raising money for the Children's Hospital is very important to me and everyone else involved with the charity as it's given me so much."

Play2Give was founded in 2007



**Teaming up . . . Fundraiser Andrew Baker, front right, with fellow tournament organiser Dale Harris, front left, and Oxford United goalkeeper Max Crocombe, centre, with players and officials who took part in this year's event**

Picture: OX68485 DAMIAN HALLIWELL

and in total has raised £32,000 for causes like the Paediatric Eye Fund, brain injury charity Headway Oxfordshire and children's physiotherapy charity The Footsteps Centre, in Dorchester-on-Thames.

Co-organiser Dale Harris, 33, got involved after daughter Mya was treated at the hospital. She was born with spina bifida in 2002.

The Didcot resident said: "We're really pleased by the response that

we've received this year and the fact we've been able to raise money for such a good cause.

"I think we should be very thankful for Mya's health. You never know when you're going to need services like the Children's Hospital and this is our way of giving back."

Mr Harris and Mr Baker, with co-organisers Teresa Strike and Elaine Childs, want to raise £12,000 next year. Mr Baker said: "Our aim is to raise a total of £40,000 for the hospital so we can name one of the rooms on Melanie's Ward.

"It's going to be a challenge but we're hoping to meet that target."

## Top of the table

**DONATIONS over the years:**

- 2007: A total of £2,700 raised:
  - £900 donated to Oxford Children's Hospital
  - £900 given to Heads Up
  - £900 to Fox FM's (now Heart FM) Help an Oxfordshire Child.
- 2008: £3,400
  - £1,700 given to Oxford Children's Hospital
  - £1,700 donated to Abingdon Town Amateur Boxing Club
- 2009: £5,342.52 raised:
  - £5,142.52 donated to Oxford Children's Hospital
  - £188 donated to SpecialEffect
- 2010: £320 raised
  - £160 given to Oxford Children's

- Hospital**
  - £160 donated to The Footsteps Foundation
- 2012: £5,613.65 raised:
  - £170 given to Bone Cancer Research
  - £170 to Sienna's Footsteps Fund
  - £5,273.65 donated to Oxford Children's Hospital
- 2013: £4,812.40 raised:
  - £4,812.40 donated to Oxford Children's Hospital
- 2014: £9,838.81 raised:
  - £8,590 donated to Oxford Children's Hospital
  - £146.81 given to Headway Oxfordshire
  - £1,101.71 given to the Paediatric Eye Fund



**Football match . . . Oxford City Blues player Matty Knychalski, 10, in action against Summertown Stars in this year's contest**