

Deputy mayor and new wife 'looking forward to life together'

ELY'S deputy mayor is celebrating having recently tied the knot. District and city councillor Will Burton, 68, has married 55-year-old Siobhan Branagh. Siobhan works at the charity, Voluntary and Community Action East Cambs (VCAEC), in Forehill, Ely, where Will is a trustee. The couple got married at Ely's Registration Office on Monday, March 19, and enjoyed a reception at Peacocks Tearooms afterwards with around 50 guests. The pair has recently returned to Ely following their honeymoon in Old Hunstanton, Norfolk. Will said: "We're extremely happy and I'm looking forward to our new life together. "I lost my wife, Heather, three years ago to cancer and I asked Siobhan to be my consort to events as I had nobody else. "We knew each other as Siobhan works at VCAEC, where I am a trustee. "Things developed and to be honest, we simply fell in love. "We had a lovely wedding day surrounded by family, friends and colleagues and our honeymoon was marvellous. "Siobhan loves my council role. She understands the council language and she is a great help to me." Will is due to take over Cllr John Yates as Ely's mayor in May.

Wedded bliss: Will and Siobahn on their big day CP



Former child star to join youngsters for Cathedral concert

SINGER Aled Jones will perform in Ely alongside a local children's choir.

The Ely Imps, a choir made up of children from local schools and the Cathedral Choristers have been invited to perform alongside the star during his tour in October.

The singer, actor, author and radio/TV presenter has confirmed he will perform at Ely on Monday, October 8, as part of his Cathedral tour this autumn.

Mr Jones has a very special relationship with Ely, having recently become Music Patron of the Cathedral.

He contacted the director of music and invited the Choristers and the Ely Imps to perform alongside him for part of the concert.

Aled was invited to be a music patron in 2011 following numerous visits to the cathedral involving filming comm-



Date: Aled Jones.

itments. This concert will be his first public appearance at Ely in this role.

He said: "Ely and its cathedral has always been very special to me.

"I am thrilled to have the opportunity to perform there on my tour and, as Music Patron, I can't wait to sing some of my favourite songs alongside the Choristers and the Imps".

Tickets are available at the box office on (01353) 660349 or at www.elycathedral.org.

Entrepreneur picks up title

AN Ely hypnotherapist is celebrating after scooping an award. Daniel Regan, founder of the Ely Mind Coaching company, has been named Cambridgeshire's entrepreneur of the month by the national Entrepreneur Circle. Mr Regan, 37, who lives in Ely, trained to be a hypnotherapist and life coach after he was made redundant. He launched his business last year and now runs sessions at the Ely Complementary Health Centre, the White Tiara Complementary Health Centre in Newmarket and at Girton Physio Clinic. Visit www.elymindcoaching.co.uk for more information.

Cemetery wants shed

A NEW storage shed could be built at Ely Cemetery. The City of Ely Council wants to build a 70 square-metre shed at the cemetery, in Beech Lane. A planning application has been submitted to East Cambridgeshire District Council and a decision could be made within eight weeks. To have your say, visit www.eastcambs.gov.uk.

Campaign calls for alternative to south bypass

A CAMPAIGN group has been launched urging council chiefs to consider alternatives to building a southern bypass in Ely.

The 'Ely Crossing Action' group insists there needs to be a "properly informed" public debate regarding congestion alleviation at Ely Railway Station.

Members are also adamant building a bypass could have a damaging effect on Ely's countryside and the cathedral.

They are urging Cambridgeshire County Council and East Cambridgeshire District Council to look at the alternatives, such as building an underpass instead.

In a leaflet, the group says: "Something has to be done about the A142 railway crossing but the real cost of a £29 million bypass could be the permanent damage it does to Ely's countryside and the wider setting of the cathedral.

"Ely Crossing Action has been set up to promote a properly informed public debate on this urgent matter and to encourage

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the energetic investigation of constructive alternatives to the bypasses and their intrusive structures.

"In the coming weeks we will be pressing the county council to look more searchingly and creatively at alternatives to a bypass."

Among members of the campaign group are renowned Ely architect Meredith Bowles, who insists a deepened and extended underpass should be built instead of a bypass.

The group insists Mr Bowles' scheme would reduce congestion, preserve views of the cathedral and could combine with a new Ely station gateway project.

It comes just weeks after bosses at English Heritage, the main adviser to the Government on heritage matters, raised fears about the effect a southern bypass would have on views of the cathedral.

The organisation also criticised the way the project has been dealt

with by the county and district councils, insisting not enough information was provided in the public consultation.

Despite that, council chiefs are still favouring a southern bypass – but insist "a whole range of options" are being considered before a final decision is made.

Cllr Ian Bates, the county council's cabinet member for growth and planning, said: "The council's preferred option to tackle the issue of congestion which has blighted the south of Ely for so long is a bypass over the level crossing.

"This was also by far the most favoured option in the recent public consultation.

"However, before a final decision is taken, we are investigating and assessing a whole range of options which would include an underpass option.

"No solution has yet been ruled out so it is interesting to see the concepts this new group is putting forward."

For information about the campaign group, visit www.elycrossingaction.org.