

LUTON & DUNSTABLE Express

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Wednesday, January 25, 2012 Issue number: 161 www.luton-dunstable.co.uk | 40p where sold



Cops hunt car stolen in gang raid on house

SEE PAGE 2

Prince Charles' ex-harpist to play at Keech

SEE PAGE 9



L&D WORKER'S SUICIDE NOT 'ADMISSION OF GUILT'

The Wanted to headline at Love Luton festival

THE Wanted have been announced as one of the headline acts for this summer's Love Luton festival.

The chart-topping boyband will take to the stage on Popes Meadow, in Old Bedford Road, on Friday, July 6 as part of the four-day event.

The announcement was made yesterday at a special assembly at Lea Manor High School in front of students and teachers.

Two lucky boys were given the first tickets to the gig after winning a competition.

Lea Manor pupils, Ebrahim Sanyang and Ben Hammond, both 11, said they were 'excited and happy' to be going to the performance.

Ebrahim said: "It will be great to have a band of this size visiting Luton."

Speaking at yesterday's announcement, Robert Lee, artistic director of the Love Luton 2012 Festival, said: "The Wanted were an early choice for us, and a name that kept coming up when we were doing our market research about which acts people wanted us to bring to the festival.

"Not only will we have a Brit Award nominated group performing in Luton, but we will also have talent from the area sharing the same stage.

"It's a big opportunity to put the town on the map."

Colin Chick, Luton Borough Council's corporate director of environment and



Lea Manor headteacher Christine Lenihan and Robert Lee with Ebrahim Sanyang and Ben Hammond and their winners' tickets

regeneration, said: "Luton may have had bad press in the past, but this is an event that will show everyone what our town is about, and will promote it to the rest of the country."

A further announcement is expected in the coming weeks about the headline act for the gig the following night, on July 7, and Mr Lee insisted that the calibre of the performer will be just as high.

Tickets for the July 6 concert are on sale now at www.luton.gov.uk/2012festival

A special early bird offer is in place until April 7, where single tickets can be bought for £30 and family tickets

(four people – either one adult and three under-16s, or two adults and two under-16s) for £110.

From April 8, single tickets will be £35 and family tickets £130.

Tickets can also be purchased at the Visitor Information Centre in St George's Square and The Hat Factory in Bute Street during box office hours.

Aside from the performances, the Love Luton festival, which takes place from July 6-9, will be packed with a range of activities including the carnival and fireworks displays leading up to a special Olympic Torch celebration.

BY JULIA SUTTON

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A HOSPITAL worker facing trial accused of sexually assaulting stroke unit patients suffocated himself after taking an overdose of prescription drugs - but 'did not take his life because he was guilty', an inquest heard.

Ameet Mohabeer, 28, worked as a healthcare assistant on Ward 17 – a specialist stroke ward – at Luton & Dunstable Hospital for 18 months.

When he was arrested in February last year, a helpline was set up to allow potential victims to speak to the police. Hospital bosses also contacted former stroke patients, asking them to come forward.

Mr Mohabeer had pleaded not guilty when he appeared at St Albans Crown Court on September 15 last year to 17 charges – 13 of sexual assault against men and four of causing a man to engage in penetrative sexual activity.

The inquest at Dunstable heard yesterday he was found dead at his home in Butely Road, Luton, on September 25 by his neighbour Christine Burns.

Mrs Burns told the inquest she discovered Mr Mohabeer – who was known as Kevin – on the floor of his spare room with a plastic bag over his head.

She said Mr Mohabeer, who was in a civil partnership, never spoke about his problems.

She said: "He believed he would be found not guilty.

"He believed in the justice system. He was a very happy-go-lucky person."

Bedfordshire Coroner David Morris said that the cause of death was suffocation with a secondary cause of codeine and paracetamol overdose.

In a letter Mr Mohabeer had left before he had died, he said he was not taking his life because he was guilty.

The coroner said: "He could not face the publicity and the proceedings."

He recorded a verdict that he took his own life.

At the time, one former patient said: "When it happened to me, I was told I was imagining it. It wasn't taken seriously.

"It's not the sort of thing you imagine though is it?"

"You go into hospital to be treated and get better, not to be sexually assaulted."



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