



Protecting local  
communities

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## PRESS RELEASE

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### **PUPILS LEARN TO BE SAFER AND HEALTHIER IN SUCCESSFUL CHIP PAN CAMPAIGN**

BAN the Pan Forever! That will be the call from Cleveland Fire Brigade and partners when Boro star David Wheater helps them launch the fourth year of a campaign that has already seen chip pan fires reduced by 56%.

The launch will take place at Middlesbrough Football Club's Riverside Stadium on Monday 9 February at 2pm with North-East Player of the Year Wheater and Lynn Ford who helped launched the campaign when her 22 year old son died in a chip pan fire in December 2005.

Over the last three years the Brigade has been campaigning to get rid of old fashioned chip pans and replace them free of charge with safer deep fat fryers. This, alongside the Home Fire Safety Visit initiative hopes to ensure another family won't have to go through what Lynn has. This year the Brigade is not only trying to make people safer but hopefully healthier by working with partners to promote healthy eating.

Pupils from Abingdon Road Primary School will join Wheater to watch chip pan demonstrations and take part in a 'Ready, Steady, Cook' style game, making fruit kebabs and smoothies.

Lynn will be signing copies of her book entitled 'Poetry of Tears' which was written in memory of Andrew. All proceeds of the book are being donated to community safety.

Les Jones, Head of Community Safety and Education said: "We have seen fantastic reductions in chip pan fires over the past 3 years, with only 14 occurring last year. In the Hartlepool district there were no chip pan fires at all.

"We have made giant steps in achieving our goal to reduce chip pan fires and making people safer, but with the Brigade adopting a greater role in the community's health, we want to move onto the next stage of promoting healthy eating within this campaign.

"Although deep fat fryers are definitely a safer option, there are other choices which can make you safer and healthier such as making the chips yourself and cooking them in the oven. The 30 children will each receive a goody bag which will contain oven gloves, a baking tray, potato peeler as well as fresh fruit and a recipe book to take home."

David Wheater said: "This 'Ban the Pan' message is clearly one that can help save lives so the football club is delighted to support the campaign. I don't think people are aware of just how dangerous chip pans are, but talking to Lynn leaves no one in any doubt about the devastation they can cause.

"The fact that the alternative to using a chip pan is healthier eating makes the message all the more appealing. I hope more people will take up the opportunity to exchange their chip pan for a deep fat fryer – or, better still, go for the healthier options."

Cleveland Fire Brigade will supply a FREE deep fat fryer to any member of the public who gives them their used chip pan as part of a Home Fire Safety Check. To arrange one please call 01429 874063

A bucket collection in support of the 'Ban the Pan Forever' campaign will be held around the Riverside Stadium before kick-off when Boro host Wigan Athletic on Saturday February 21.

For more information and PICTURE OPPORTUNITY please contact David Atkinson on 01429 872311

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