



POLICE: FAMILIES TO GET ANSWERS SOONER ON HOW LOVED ONES DIED

Elite team probes crashes

Grieving families who lose loved ones in road accidents were today promised swifter answers to their questions about how they died.

by **CIARAN FAGAN**
SOCIAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

"Families deserve that. They are asking, 'How did my wife, son or daughter die?' It's our job to provide the answers.

"If we don't get it right on that first occasion, the evidence can be lost forever."

According to police statistics, 19 people died on Leicestershire's roads between January and June this year.

However, this month has seen several bad collisions, including the accident on the A607, near Melton, which claimed six lives.

The figures for 2008 so far suggest the number of deaths is falling - over the previous four years, the average number of fatalities has been 65.

The unit, which was created in April, will also enable inquests to take place earlier, and help the Crown Prosecution Service make swifter decisions on whether charges should be brought against anyone involved.

Mick Studley, regional manager of Victim Support in the East Midlands, said: "Clearly, the quicker investigations take place, the better for the families concerned.

"They will get answers to what

happened, but they will also perhaps learn if there are going to be criminal charges."

The family of a promising young police officer, who died in a road accident in February last year, said relatives were desperate to know how and why their loved ones had been killed or injured.

Pc Adam Singleton, 26, died after his car collided with a van, left the road and crashed into a tree, in Coventry Road, Narborough.

His mother, Elaine, of Enderby, said: "In Adam's case, we didn't have to wait so long for the answers to our questions about what had happened to him, and why it happened.

"But I know someone whose husband was injured in a road accident a week after Adam.

"She had to wait a lot longer than we did and that was very difficult for her.

"Families want answers as quickly as possible, so whatever the police can do to help get those answers without delay would be welcome."

Pc Singleton, a father-of-one who was a year into his service with the force and was based at Hinckley Road station, was described by his commanding officers as an extremely promising officer.



TRAGEDY: Pc Adam Singleton died in a road accident last year

Gym users lose fees discounts

FITNESS fans lost their discounted gym memberships after a computer error.

Members of Parklands leisure centre, on Wigston Road, Oadby, who had been given special rates were charged full price, without any prior warning by the club.

Management at the centre said the extra charges were a mistake due to newly-installed software that deleted any discounts.

Most of the members have now been refunded and the centre is doing all it can to contact those who are yet to get their money back.

One member said she had been charged an extra £17 a month.

She said: "I didn't realise too much money was being taken out of my account until after about two months."

Another woman who uses the centre's facilities said her family and friends were also hit.

She said: "It's a fantastic gym and I love going but I am upset that I heard nothing about it."

Contracts manager for the leisure centre, Kevin Beales, apologised for the incident and hoped to swiftly resolve the issue.

He said: "When members' details were transferred from the old computer system to our new one, a small number of discounts did not get transferred."

It's fun, it's friendly and it Motorvates!

ADVERTISING FEATURE

IF YOU'RE a female over 40, sweating it out in a gym full of wannabe body beautifuls can be an uncomfortable experience.

So it's great that there's a new place in Leicester that's friendly and dedicated to the power of gentle exercise for ladies in their 40s and beyond.

And if you're in a rush, a complete workout only takes 30 minutes, which you can do in your everyday clothes.

But best of all, it's proving to be the answer for those with mobility problems caused by illnesses ranging from arthritis and cerebral palsy to multiple sclerosis, heart conditions and Parkinson's disease.

There are 10 motorised exercise machines which members come to use around three times a week. And with everything on the ground floor, access is easy for everyone.

"It's simple. Members pay £28 in advance for each month and this gives them unlimited use of the facilities," says owner and trainer Theresa Lowe. "There's also free tea and coffee. It's just as much of a social occasion for these ladies as it is a gentle but effective workout."

Theresa set up Motorvate after another exercise place she worked at closed down. Many former members have followed her from there, keen to continue receiving the benefits of a motor-assisted workout.



THIS IS FUN: Motorvate owner Theresa Lowe (right) is pictured with Anthea Flanagan, who is a regular at the gym

"They needed somewhere new to exercise and I needed a job!" smiles Theresa.

One of Theresa's most dedicated exercisers is arthritis sufferer Anthea Flanagan, who makes the journey from Loughborough to Leicester every day.

MOBILITY PROBLEMS

"I've been using motorised exercise machines for six years," she says. "When the other place closed down, I really noticed how my mobility worsened."

Likewise, Mavis Millins visits three times a week. "It keeps me mobile. I have cerebral palsy and when I started using these machines seven years ago, I no-

ticed the difference straight away. I've also made some great friends."

You'll find Motorvate tucked away in Mansfield Street, Leicester, only a short distance from St Margaret's Bus Station. For drivers, there are limited spaces at the front of the building, and a large pay and display car park just yards away.

Opening times are Monday to Friday, from 9am to 7pm, with weekend workout times to be confirmed.

Find out how you could make new friends and improve your fitness and mobility by chatting to Theresa today on 0116 251 1136.



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