

Tablets were taken before lady's death

A WORCESTER woman with a history of anorexia and depression had taken a high level of an anti-depressant before her death, an inquest heard.

Elizabeth June Fry, 47, was found dead next to the bath at her home in Hawkeshead Court on December 4, last year after concerned neighbours called the police.

Worcestershire Coroner Victor Round said a post-

mortem had found Miss Fry had taken a high dose of the prescribed anti-depressant Trimipramine.

Miss Fry's sister told the inquest at the County Coroner's Court last Wednesday (February 23) she was aware her sister took large doses of the drug to knock herself out but did not feel she would have tried to kill herself.

Mr Round recorded an open verdict.

Sponsorship needed for marathon bid

THE DREAM held by Worcester's youngest councillor to run in the London Marathon may be quashed if he can not raise enough sponsorship money.

Coun Alex Kear (Lib Dem/Claines) has put a plea out to local businesses to help him raise the £1,200 he needs to compete in the 26.2 mile event on April 17 for the Royal National Institute for the Blind.

The 26-year-old said he would put a sponsor's logo on the t-shirt he will be wearing for the marathon and added he was planning to hold a fund-raising quiz evening at The Mug House in Claines on a date to be confirmed.

Anyone who wants to sponsor Alex should call him on 01905 360327 or 07950 931301 or log on to www.justgiving.com/alexkear.



● Running up funds - Coun Alex Kear needs local businesses to support his bid to run the London Marathon for the RNIB. Picture by Ben Dalby. 09.05.002.bdw

MP to fight for bus pass bill

PENSIONERS across the country will be given a free bus pass if a bill set to be re-introduced to Parliament yesterday (Wednesday) by city MP Michael Foster is eventually passed.

Mr Foster drew up legislation on pensioners' bus travel last year but the bill ran out of Parliamentary time.

However, he planned to present the bill again after Prime Minister's Question Time yesterday.

Mr Foster formed his bill after several

meetings with the Older Persons Advisory Group in Worcester.

"The postcode lottery of free pensioner bus travel has to stop, the bill would force local councils to offer the free service," he said.

"It will give pensioners the freedom of movement to get around and help them stay independent. It will reduce traffic congestion and car usage and it saves pensioners cash as well."

The city council currently offers a concessionary bus fare scheme for 16,000 pensioners.

Deputy leader Simon Geraghty said he would love to offer pensioners free bus travel as long as the

Government gave the council the estimated £1.2m it would cost to fund such a scheme.

Coun Geraghty warned a council tax hike of up to 20 per cent would be needed to fund free bus passes if the Government did not stump up the cash.

"Pensioners will be paying through the back door as they would have a free bus pass in one hand and a rise in council tax in the other," Coun Geraghty said.

Brian Hunt, chairman of Worcester City Forum for Older People, said he welcomed Mr Foster's bill but added most pensioners would prefer any increase in funding to be put into providing an improved bus service.

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