

# Pals take on a race round



**WRECK:** The Lexus was pulled out of a hedge before they could decorate it and take it on the trip round Europe



**RACERS:** Enjoying a pit stop during their adventure



**CAR:** The four pimped up the car to include a casting couch

PETROL head fundraisers completed a high octane wacky Euro rally in a clapped out motor in memory of their motor mad mate. The fearless foursome loaded up a twice round-the-clock, £500 Lexus LS 400 they'd pulled from a hedge where it lain undisturbed for years, painted it matt black and headed for Europe. Setting themselves a target of raising £2,000, the four, who took turns to drive and navigate while dressed as the late US Playboy boss Hugh Hefner, in fact raised £3,574. The money has been donated

to Newport-based St David's Hospice Care in memory of their late friend, Joe Chatham, 51, who was cared for at his home in St Arvans, Chepstow, by the hospice. Mechanic Richard Young, who had known Joe for more than 20 years, said: "Joe, like the rest of us, was into cars in a big way and also travel. By taking part in the Wacky Rally we were totally honouring his memory as this is exactly what he loved to do." The four - Richard Young, Paul Dunne, Lee Hasell and Bryan Cantle all from Bristol - covered some 2,500km in four days visiting eight

countries in Europe, from Belgium to Spain and almost everywhere in between, in the wackiest of races taking part in challenges and stunts along the way. Richard said: "We stopped at an Olympic ski resort in Switzerland on one night where we were treated as VIPs. The next morning we awoke to find that our car had been completely redecorated, from top to bottom. Every inch was covered in all manner of cartoons, drawings and graffiti - it looked awesome!" "The support we got at home and while we were abroad was

## Your chance to nominate a

WE are giving local charities the chance to take a share in a massive £16k giveaway. It could be that you volunteer or work for a charity, or you may just want to support your favourite local charity by nominating it for a share of the £16,000 cash we're making available to support great local courses. Making a nomination couldn't be easier - simply log-on to [www.southwalesargus.co.uk/reader-choice](http://www.southwalesargus.co.uk/reader-choice) and fill in your nomination form or you can write to us, confirming the name and address of the charity you'd like to nominate and why to: Readers' Choice Cash For Charity Nominations, Fleet House, Hampshire Road, Weymouth, DT4 9XD by the closing date of Sunday, September 11, 2022. Once all nominations have been

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of all to tokens collected, it will receive 50 per cent of the £16,000! The £16,000 cash is being provided by our parent company's charitable arm: The Gannett Foundation. This year the Gannett Foundation will donate £128,000 to charities across the country. Qualifying Criteria • Applicants must be registered charities. • Applicants must not have received a grant from us within the last two years

received, our editor will select ten of the most deserving local charities to be featured in this year's grants scheme. We're then going to put the power to allocate the cash back into your hands - for four weeks readers will be invited to collect tokens from our newspapers which can then be sent to collection points across our region or posted. Each token collected will then be used to allocate cash to the nominated charity - so if your favourite charity collects 50 per cent

# Europe in aid of hospice



**WACKY RACERS:** Lee Chatham, Paul Dunne, Tania Ansell, of St David's Hospice Care, Jaz Cuggy, Liz Dunne, Richard Young and Sarah Young. Picture: DBPR

magnificent and all for such a good cause. We feel sure Joe would have been proud of the mayhem we caused. "The engine of the Lexus, which had clocked almost 200,000 miles, was fine but the rest of the bodywork, especially the rubber hoses, seals and the suspension wasn't, as it had perished. This led to some interesting incidents along the way including, alarmingly but unintentionally getting extremely low, dropped suspension." "We had a great time. We were running in third place at one stage out of entry of 37, including a quite brilliant Back to the Future car. "We eventually rattled and bumped across the line in a very commendable fifth place. There wasn't much of the car left, even

the casting couch we'd created in the boot had collapsed but we kept the cow horns and, of course, our Hugh Hefner outfits and pipe!" Richard said: "Joe, who sadly lost his battle with illness last year, was so full of life and was such a well-loved character. He is dearly missed by so many people. "Towards the end of his life Joe received such wonderful care, day and night, at his home by a team of nurses from St David's Hospice Care. "The very special hospice, based in Newport, makes such a difference to patients and their families dealing with end of life care. Every penny that we raised through our wacky rally adventures is being given straight to them to help them with their outstanding work."

Joe's wife Lee and step daughter, Jaz, are continuing to raise funds for St David's Hospice Care. Lee said: "The hospice was absolutely marvellous. The care that the nurses provided for Joe at our home was outstanding. I can't thank them enough for what they did for Joe and us, as a family. We now want to do as much as we can to give something back to St David's Hospice Care." Tania Ansell, of St David's Hospice Care, said: "This is certainly one of the wackiest fund raising events I've known over the years. We're thrilled that the boys chose to celebrate their mate in such a memorable and enjoyable way. We're also very pleased with the magnificent amount of money their wacky exploits managed to raise for the hospice."



**EN ROUTE:** Richard Young, Paul Dunne, Lee Hasell and Bryan Cantle all from Bristol enjoyed their adventure

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ue of the grant awarded to each of the 10 charities will be calculated pro rata according to their share of the vote. Only original voting coupons will be accepted, no photocopies. The cash grants will be sent by BACS transfer. Grants are conditional on completion of the relevant project and a successful nominee charity may be required to evidence its use of the grant. The top 10 charities selected for the vote will be contacted to provide additional information for entry into the readers' vote; should this information not be provided within the timescale provided then the editorial panel will select an alternative charity. The charity must be registered with the Charities Commission and have not received a grant from the Gannett Foundation in the last two years.

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