

Farm wins funding

A FARM near Ely has been awarded £39,000 to help it pilot the development of a new variety of wild rocket.

CN Seeds Ltd, a family-run business based in Pymoor which specialises in herbs and leafy salads, will be using the funding from the Eastern Agri-Tech Growth Initiative to purchase the specialist equipment needed to grow the rocket.

Mark Hodgkinson, from the company, said: "The Eastern Agri-Tech funding will enable CN Seeds to pilot a new breeding programme which, if successful, will help the company to overcome one of its biggest challenges in relation to developing new products, the length of time it takes to develop a new variety.

"The pilot will begin within the company's established wild rocket product range, and will involve integrating marker assisted selection into the breeding

programmes through trialling new high tech equipment and utilising the services of local experts in the field of plant genetics.

"The desired outcome will be to make significant savings in both time and resources through being more accurate and consistent."

Mark Reeve, chairman of the Eastern Agri-Tech Growth Initiative and the Greater Cambridge Greater Peterborough Enterprise Partnership (LEP), said: "By providing almost £2 million of targeted grants to local businesses we are ensuring that we help our local businesses to grow even further.

"From new machinery to help flower and plant growers be more efficient, through to vital sector research and development, the funding will help local businesses to expand and create more jobs for our area."

For information about funding, visit www.agritechgrants.co.uk or call (01480) 277180.



Award for Ely hypnotherapist

A LOCAL hypnotherapist has won a national prize.

Dan Regan, pictured, who operates from the Ely Complementary Health Centre in St Mary's Street, and White Tara Complementary Health and Beauty Clinic, in All Saints Road, Newmarket, has been awarded the National Hypnotherapy Business of the Year prize.

The annual award is delivered by the Hypnotherapy Business School, based in the Midlands, and recognises the hypnotherapy business which has, during that year, delivered continuous business development, demonstrated a passion for business and client excellence and shown business innovation.

Mr Regan said: "I am delighted to receive this award and would like to thank all of my clients for supporting me in working to help as many people as possible."

Call (01353) 664476 for details.

Ely store raises over £3k

FESTIVE fun at Ely's Sainsbury's store has raised more than £3,000 for good causes.

The branch held a special 'Christmas in the Community' fundraising drive during the festive period to help raise money for local charities and groups.

The bulk of the funds will be given to the store's local charity partner; Littleport-based Branching Out, which supports people in the Ely area with additional needs.

Store manager Karen Watts said: "This fundraising drive was so successful, and I would like to thank all of our customers for their support. "We have helped to raise well over £3,000 which will make a huge difference to many different charities and community groups."

Other charities which benefited from the events are the Lisa Barnes Memorial Fund, the Ely District Scouts and the Viva! Arts and Community group in Soham.


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