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Thursday, October 13, 2011

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2 Shoes look ahead after X Factor dream dies

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Fencer eyes Euro boost for Olympic dream

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Celeb bid: Leona Lewis joins the campaign at the sanctuary on Sunday



HOPEFIELD ANIMAL SANCTUARY

Leona's stroll for sanctuary

AN ambitious appeal to raise £100,000 before Christmas is £14,000 better off thanks to caring supporters of an animal sanctuary.

Singer and X Factor winner Leona Lewis joined 80 people for Hopefield Animal Sanctuary's sponsored walk on Sunday. The money raised will be enough to

replace two stable blocks at the sanctuary, in Sawyers Hall Lane, Brentwood.

Leona, who is a patron of Hopefield, set the £100,000 target and according to Lianne Angliss, deputy manager "it's looking good as support from such a high profile celebrity is making a big difference".

Leona said she was "so pleased" with the turn out.

"It really does mean so much to me," she said.

"We still have such a long way to go though - we are appealing for people to volunteer labour and building materials so we can focus on re-building the barn before the cold weather sets in."

FIRE CUTS OPPOSED

CUTS and changes to crewing arrangements at Brentwood fire station put "money over life" it has been claimed.

But a bid to change fire chiefs' minds is gathering pace.

Overwhelming public support has been lent to the town's firefighters who were out in force in the High Street at the weekend carrying placards and wearing T-shirts to pick up extra signatures for their petition.

It has been set up to oppose Essex Fire Authority's decision to cut the station's two full time crews to one full time and one retained crew, leading to 24 job losses.

The gap will be filled by retained or part time officers, while other crew members will be moved to other stations in Essex.

If 10,000 signatures are gained though, the authority must take the views of the public into consideration - the firefighters have nearly 6,000 already.

An officer based at the station, in

by LAUREN HOCKNEY

North Road, Brentwood, who did not want to be named, said they were "quite surprised" at the backing they received on Saturday.

He said: "Lots of people think the cuts are disgusting and it's money over life."

"As a member of the public I believe Brentwood needs two fire engines, it's one of the busiest stations in Essex."

"It's a way of saving money, but I don't know if it's the right way."

Although the station will hold on to its two fire engines, one of them will be allocated to the retained crew.

The firefighter told the Weekly News this will mean it turns out to calls around four minutes later than the full time officers.

He added: "It's not a quality issue, it's quantity."

"That time can make a lot of difference."

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