# WORD ON THE

on the Mail's website each day:

### THE SMILER IS NOW OFFICIALLY

Posted by Lianne

I was lucky enough to be at Alton Towers when they opened The Smiler and got on it after waiting one-and-a-half hours. I can confirm it is absolutely amazing!

#### **ROWDY ROOSTER GIVING FAMILIES** DAWN CALL DREAD

Posted by Politiks
Banning birds from singing in the morning?
We should do something about the sun ris-

Posted by Cruella
How petty minded some people are? A
rooster is nowhere near as bad as barking
dogs, loud music or heavy lorries trundling past. Some people are just not happy unless they are complaining. I would advise the school to black out the windows in the chicken house, this may mean the rooster sleeps in a little longer.

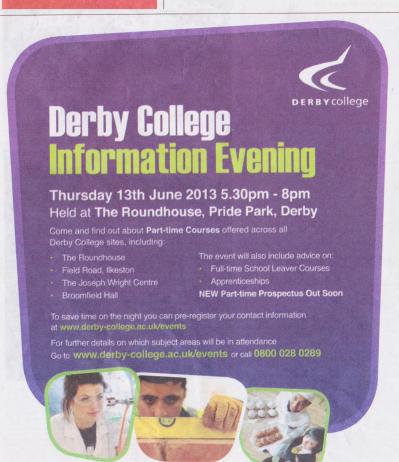
## **Have your say**

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BEFORE AND AFTER ... Tom Hartley posing at the site when it was announced (above) and the development now that it is completed (left).

## £2,000 a week for lodges built to boost tourism



by Rob Smyth

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A MULTI-MILLION pound project aimed at boosting tourism in and around a South Derbyshire village has finally opened – more than five years after plans were initially approved.

Businessman Tom Hartley has revealed that the Ashby Woulds 'luxury lodge' complex is now up and running, in Spring Cottage Road, Overseal.

However, guests will have to have deep pockets as they will pay up to £2,000 for

pockets as they will pay up to £2,000 for a week's stay in pampered surround-

The development cost £4 million to build and has been created to give peo-ple the 'Barbados treatment in Overseal'.

Mr Hartley, who also runs a worldwide motor business, spoke to the Mail. He said: "Many parks can now offer an experience comparable with a good three-star hotel – but I wanted to give people a taste of what's on offer from the truly prestige and

"In fact, many of the suppliers to our lodges already furnish some of London's most illustrious hotel names, and the heds are made by the company favoured by the Queen and royal family

The only difference which guests might notice is that our lodges offer

rather more living space than a hotel room, and that the view from the windows is green rather than grey."
The site will see holidaymakers 'cocooned in five-star finesse' with mar-

ble-topped kitchens, top-end electrical appliances, silver cutlery sets and comlementary Champagne and choco-

According to Mr Hartley, the park's 20 lodges will appeal both to 'special occasion' guests, and to those always accustomed to receiving the best wherever

"Arranging prestige accommodation in cities is never a problem, but people who find country house hotels rather stuffy have little alternative when they want to stay in rural surroundings," Mr

"Here they will have the space and freedom to relax in a superbly high-quality environment, and in a part of the country which offers endless leisure opportunities for all interests."

A limited number of its timber lodges will be available to buy, with prices ranging from just under £100,000 to a cool quarter of a million.

The park was recently awarded a five star grade under the Quality in Tourism scheme run by Visit England.



What are your thoughts on the development? Tell us by heading online to burtonmail.co.uk

## Sports leader course on offer



FUTURE sports leaders could get the leg-up they need with a special coach-ing course organised by East Staffordshire Council. Borough

Young people over the age of 16 will be able to take part in the level two community sports leadership course from July 8 to 12 at Shobnall Leisure Complex.

It will cost £35 per person and will offer the chance to learn more about leading sports and physical activity in a safe manner.

Councillor Bernard Peters said: "It is a nationally rec-ognised qualification which teaches generic leadership skills."

Visit www.sportsleaders. org for more information.