

DISCOVERY

Guns found near school

GUNS and ammunition were found hidden close to a primary school yesterday.

Police investigating dissident republican activity discovered the weapons stash in an area of waste ground in the Pinebank area of Craigavon, Co Armagh.

A spokeswoman for the PSNI said the items had been taken away for further examination.

Sources added officers went straight to the spot where the weapons were found - suggesting that police had a tip-off about the guns and ammo.



Bestie of the bunch

GEORGE Best lookalike Mark O'Hare hooks up with "David Beckham" and "Wayne Rooney" as part of an ad campaign yesterday.

The festival of doppelgangers saw O'Hare, from Newcastle, Co Down, flown over to Manchester to take part in a Virgin PR stunt.

He said: "The whole thing was just a phenomenal experience and a bit surreal."

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ULSTER ORGAN DONOR BOOST

80% rise in 5 years

BY MAURICE FITZMAURICE
m.fitzmaurice@mgn.co.uk

THE number of people in Northern Ireland donating their organs after death has rocketed by more than 80% over the past five years, figures reveal today.

But experts said much more needs to be done as across the UK as many as three people die every day while waiting for a transplant.

The figures show a big leap in the number of people whose organs have been used to save lives after their death but there were 40 deceased donors in Northern Ireland in 2012/2013, up from 22 in 2007/2008.

The rise comes as a high-profile campaign is under way in which live donor and GAA pundit Joe Brolly is pushing for Stormont to introduce an Opt Out system which would mean people are assumed to have consented to donate their organ unless they say otherwise.

However, campaigners say families will still be consulted after someone's death.

Health Minister Edwin Poots said: "The significant increase in deceased organ donors demonstrates the instinctive giving nature of the people of the province and the efforts of those who have worked together across the health service and voluntary organisations to deliver this noteworthy achievement."

"However, we must never be complacent and I would urge everyone to consider joining the organ donation register."

Mr Poots has announced his intention to put the Opt Out proposal out for public consultation.

Sally Johnson of NHS Blood and Transplant welcomed the marked increase in donations in Northern Ireland.

But she added: "If more families consented to donation more lives would be saved."



▲ TRANSPLANT Joe Brolly and pal Shane Finnegan

If more families consented more lives would be saved
SALLY JOHNSON