

Awards for heroes of the environment

TWO men from Whitstable have been shortlisted in the **World Wildlife Fund's** nationwide search to find Britain's unsung environmental heroes.

The new competition called Hidden Heroes is being backed by England footballer Graeme Le Saux and closes on Monday. It hopes to highlight and recognise inspirational people who have gone the extra mile in helping to improve the environment in their community.

Jonathan Crawley and Anthony Cooper have made it to the finals and a chance to win a cash prize for a green project of their choice.

Mr Crawley has set up charity days for his company, encourag-

ing people to pick up litter on a stretch of Whitstable beach, helping to preserve the area's natural beauty and protecting local wildlife from harm.

He was nominated by his friend Justin Wilkins who said: "It's a thankless task but Jon makes sure we're aware of how much we're helping the environment by doing it. Since he began the charity days the beach has looked much better so we can see we're making a big difference."

Mr Cooper was nominated by his friend Roderick Edge who said his passion for conservation shone through in his work to enthuse the younger generations on the topic, such as through his children's book *The Curious Tale*

of the Dodo and the accompanying animated video he has created on the same character. Half the profits from these measures he has also given to conservation groups.

Mr Edge said: "He works continuously as an ambassador for conservation issues and lives his life by those principles. He's making a real difference, raising awareness for conservation, especially with the younger generations."

Both men are in the running to receive a £500 cash prize to support a green project of their choice. If successful, they will be invited to receive the award at a ceremony in central London on March 23.

