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Issue: 146
May 2015

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IN this issue we report on the sorry saga of the Wild Wings Bird Sanctuary which now has an uncertain future.

We have endeavoured to provide a balanced report and hopefully, with the help of local businessman Paul Taylor the sanctuary can eventually find a new home - despite being refused planning permission to relocate to a site next to Taylor Business Park.

Whatever the outcome the safety of the birds is paramount - and having seen them close up, they are



truly magnificent creatures.

It is good to see, what ever the differences between Wild Wings and Bents Garden Centre, all concerned have the interests of the birds at heart.

If there is anyone out there who can provide assistance and support in finding them a temporary home, while new premises are found, please contact Wild Wings now. (Contact details can be found in the article on page 6.

Meanwhile you may have noticed elections are looming! Full details of the national and local elections can be found elsewhere in this issue.

As always we remain politically independent but whoever wins we look forward to working with you in the future.

Finally Culcheth Community Day

is here again and what a fantastic event it has become.

Congratulations to all of you who work so hard to make it a success.

It is a great opportunity for local organisations to showcase what they have to offer in the local community.

Keep up the good work!

Deadline for the June issue of Culcheth Life is May 19

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Local rider qualifies for Horse of the Year Show

A LOCAL amateur rider has qualified for this year's Horse of the Year Show.

Donna Harrison, 18, from Lowton, took first place in the ponies class in a qualifying round in Lancashire, riding her mother Sandra Harrison's horse, Pictus Sleepy Hollow.

Donna fought off stiff competition from other riders in the class to gain qualification for the Horse of the Year Show (HOYS).

The Harrisons have owned the six year old pony, known as Angus at home, for a year and started competing in novice classes last season.

A delighted Donna said: "We just came along today to see what he was like - I can't believe that we have won!"

This was the first time the pair had competed in a show at this level.

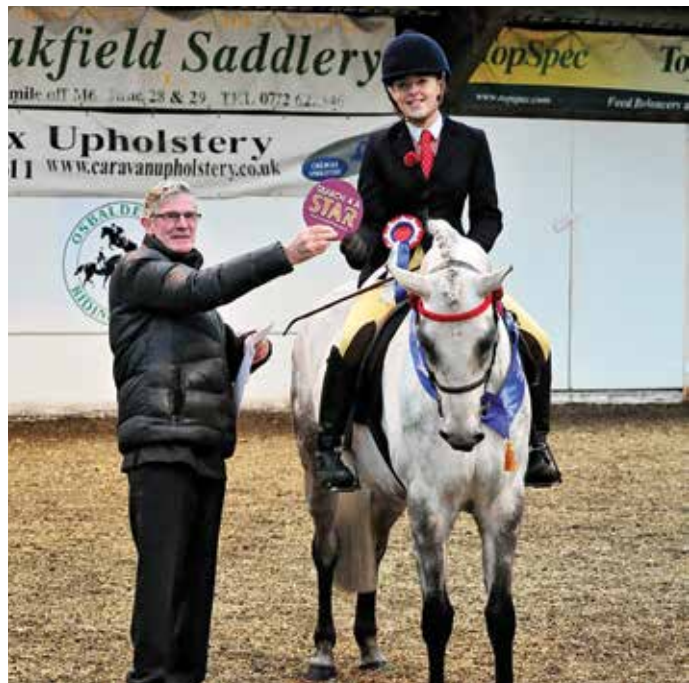
"I would have been happy if we had been placed - but it was my ambition to get to HOYS".

The pony's former owner, Donna Howarth, was at the show to support and acted as groom for Donna on the day.

She said: "I had him since he was a scruffy yearling - you would not recognise him today. I am very proud of him."

Sandra and Donna have not yet made any plans for more competitions this year, but hope to do some more show classes in preparation for HOYS. Donna said: "He will cope with the atmosphere at HOYS, he is so laid back he can actually be quite lazy. When he is at home he can be spooky, but at a show he really seems to enjoy it and is a different pony".

Donna's dad, Ken, makes up the support team, driving to shows and giving moral support, and the whole family will be making the trip to the finals at the NEC in October.



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This is the year of the sunflower!!!

2015 is the Year of the Sunflower and Bents Garden & Home at Glazebury, is hoping to make a dramatic statement with these fantastic and easy to grow flowers by inviting local school children to take part in a sunflower growing competition.

As part of this year's sunflower celebrations Bents is approaching local primary schools and providing each with seeds, pots and compost; everything required to grow an award winning flower. Schools have been asked to measure their plants and bring photographic evidence to the Centre in July when the tallest will be presented with Bents gift vouchers to spend in store.

The Year of the Sunflower is a Home Garden Association campaign designed to encourage the growth of sunflowers with home gardeners. These far from humble plants are perfect for any garden: easy to grow with masses of magnificent flowers that last for weeks on end.

Their often huge and always sunny faces appeal to all ages, but there is far more to these spectacular plants than meets the eye. These summer beauties are great as cut flowers, a magnet for pollinating insects and also help feed the birds.

Not all sunflowers are garden giants, many are compact and ideal for smaller gardens and for growing in containers. There's also a wonderful range of colours, not just yellow. Red, orange or even white flowers can make a dramatic garden statement.

Matthew Bent, Managing Director of Bents Garden & Home said: "There are dozens of different varieties of sunflowers so perfect for any size and type of garden.

We're really getting behind the Year of the Sunflower with lots of sunflower related initiatives throughout the Centre as well as our local school's competition.

"Look out for a sunflower treasure hunt, special plants and promotions throughout the year and we'll also be having our own sunflower growing competition, which, I think it's safe to say, could get fairly competitive!"

All about sunflowers:

- Most sunflowers originate from the Americas
- The most common types are called annuals as they grow, flower and set seed in the same year
- The young, developing flowers track the daily movement of the sun, which is called heliotropism, so that the immature flowers face the sun, hence the name sunflower
- As the flowers mature, their ability to follow the sun reduces and they tend to face the east to greet the morning sun
- Sunflowers are great plants for gardens but they also make a valuable crop plant. The seeds are used to produce sunflower oil or harvested for the food and wild bird industry
- Sunflowers can be orange, pink, red, burgundy and even white in colour

The Home Gardening Association is a non-profit organisation promoting home gardening. 2015 has been designated as The Year of the Sunflower, designed to promote the use of sunflowers to home gardeners.

Any school interested in taking part in Bents' Sunflower Growing Competition please contact the Marketing Team on marketing@bents.co.uk or call 01942 266300.

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Double blow for Wild Wings



WILD Wings Bird Sanctuary has suffered a double set-back and now temporary homes are urgently required to re-home the birds following a recent turn of events, which has left the not-for-profit bird organisation facing an uncertain future.

The first problem arose when their application for planning permission on land adjacent to Taylor Business Park was turned down by the borough council planners who turned down the application due to the number of buildings, stating it would have a bigger impact on the green belt than their current site, also on green belt land, at Bents Garden Centre.

The second blow came just a week later when Wildwings represented themselves in court against a barrister representing Bents who were seeking a possession order.

In court Wild Wings made it clear that they weren't claiming any right to stay on the land but just needed time to move the birds.

The judge's decision, mainly due to the lack of evidence that Wild Wings had a legal reason to stay on the land, only having a tenancy at will at the time, was to grant the possession order forthwith, meaning that it is now possible for Bents to get a court order to remove Wild Wings from their land immediately.

Paul Taylor from Taylor Business Park who has been following events closely and watched events unfold at the courts in Warrington said: "This is a huge setback for Wild Wings but it is not the end of the road for them. They're looking to submit a new planning application that has a lower impact on the green belt and we, with the help of a Warrington based planning expert, will help them through the process this time.

"They received no objections during the previous planning process and we're sure a new application, that's perhaps a little less ambitious, would suit the land

better."

"In the grand scheme of things it has changed little though. They were already focusing on moving off their current site, as they said in court.

"Even if they had gained planning permission it would have taken months to get the new site ready for occupation so a temporary move was always on the cards. But it's never nice for either party when a landlord/tenant relationship ends this way though."

Wild Wings are now in the process of moving off the site at Bents and re-homing some birds on a temporary basis and any help with this would be warmly welcomed during this very difficult time.

Mr Taylor added: "Right now it's all about making sure the birds are safe as there are many that could possibly be euthanised should anyone step in and try and take over their care. These birds require special attention and skills from their owners and there are over eighty of them.

"Nobody can guarantee that they would all be safe if they can't be re-homed. Should the authorities be forced to step in and take care of the birds then their welfare would no longer be under the control of Wild Wings or Bents Garden Centre, despite anyone's best intentions and efforts."

If anyone is able to help by offering temporary accommodation for some birds or any form of help during this difficult period please contact Carole from Wild Wings on 07957 416883.

Meanwhile Bents have issued a statement on the situation which can be read in full at www.bents.co.uk/Statement-Update

[co.uk/Statement-Update](http://www.bents.co.uk/Statement-Update)

In the statement they say: "We are very aware of all the concerns that have been raised regarding the relocation of Wild Wings Birds of Prey Centre Limited and have been reluctant to comment on the situation until now. Many of the facts surrounding our decision do not reflect positively on Wild Wings and we have not wanted to raise these issues and potentially put them in a position where they have little or no options for their future relocation.

"Our overall concern is for the welfare of the birds and as such we have taken advice from various professional bodies such as Defra, RSPB and RSPCA to ensure we understand the logistics involved in such a move and can provide as much support as possible to Wild Wings.

Should anything unexpected happen and the owners of Wild Wings do not make sufficient arrangements to relocate, Bents will take steps to ensure that the birds will continue to be cared for.

Although we have offered more time, help with finances and aviaries for the birds, no amount of support seemed to encourage Wild Wings to take any action.

We were receiving contradicting reports of their intentions and plans and after over 12 months of trying our hardest to help them, we had no alternative but to progress with legal action to remove the owners of the Wild Wings business from our centre.

"Following the court case on 9th April 2015 the proceedings have been taken out of our hands and both sides must now abide by the court decision, awarding us possession forthwith.

"Wild Wings have been able to remain at Bents without any overheads, site charges or rent for well over 14 months and we hoped

that by offering them further levels of support, including donation of all the aviaries, they would be able to allocate those savings to the planning of their new site.

"Had they chosen to, they would have been able to fully operate their business at Bents and also arrange their relocation during this time.

"To clarify; this situation is in no way related to the expansion works that have taken place at Bents at the other side of the site and we have no plans for the area currently occupied by Wild Wings.

"We were simply approached by a local business, who told us that they were being evicted from their previous premises. As a local, family run centre we saw an opportunity to help and invested well over £160,000 in developing fantastic facilities for them. Even with all the issues inaccurate reports and unfounded and hurtful statements, we have remained quiet and allowed Wild Wings to stay here, free of charge, for over 14 months.

"We have worked hard to try and resolve the situation which is why we have been reluctant to respond to comments. We hope Wild Wings will be in a position to relocate but are pleased that Wild Wings have confirmed in writing that should they not make sufficient arrangements to relocate, they have provisions for the welfare and safety of their birds. However, if anything unexpected happens and they have not made these arrangements Bents are taking steps to ensure the continued care of the birds and under no circumstances will we allow any birds to be destroyed.

"Regardless of everything we still wish Wild Wings the best of success for the future."

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Superhero will be u Community D

CULCHETH & Glazebury Parish Council will be hoping to unveil a new "superhero" at this year's Culcheth Community Day which takes place on Bank Holiday Monday, May 4.

This year, parish councillors have unveiled a "superhero" theme, which will permeate throughout much of the entertainment.

Dr Diablo's open air performances will be entertaining crowds throughout the day, providing compelling entertainment for all the family.

Visitors (particularly children) will be encouraged to come in costume as their favourite superhero.

There will also be the usual favourites - Trumble the Clown will entertain young children; fairground rides will be located in the village centre; there will be a pet show; a cake baking competition and the veteran car and motorcycle display. Schools will have the opportunity to take part in an art competition.

This year's event will have added attractions - as well as the popular "Sudden Impact" ride, which will be located on the Sainsburys car park, visitors will have the opportunity to take a ride on the "Culcheth Eye" as a large ferris wheel will be sited on the village green itself, giving attendees the chance to see the village from above!

The Grenadier Guards will also have a unique stall on the Common.

Councillor Matt Smith said: "Community Day has undergone something of a refresh in the past couple of years. With new features and attractions, it has once again become an event not to be missed. Dozens of worthwhile organisations have signed up to take part and help to raise money for their charity.

"Like always, there will be something for all the family this year - whether its entertainment from classic acts like Trumble the Clown, or one of our new and exciting superhero-themed performers, we warmly invite everyone to make sure Culcheth Community Day is on your calendar for May 4th. It's not to be missed!"

Councillor Chris Vobe added: "A superhero theme was something that parish councillors couldn't resist, and our plans for the Day give the opportunity for everyone



Candidates line-up for elections

MAY 7 is election day - and while for most people in the Culcheth area that means a chance to vote in two elections, people in Croft can vote in three.

The General Election is, of course, the main event and local people have a choice of five candidates standing in the Warrington North constituency.

Line-up

The line-up is: Sarah Hayes (Green Party), Helen Jones (Labour Party), Stefan Krizanac (Liberal Democrat), Trevor Nicholls (UKIP) and Richard Short (Conservative).

Five years ago, Helen Jones held the seat for Labour with 20,135 votes - 45.5 per cent of the poll. Paul Campbell came second for the Conservatives with 13,365 while Dave Eccles, Liberal Democrat, came third with 9,196.

The Labour majority was 6,771. Borough council elections are being held on the same day.

In the Culcheth Glazebury and

Croft ward the line-up is Sue Bland (Conservative); Cathy Mitchell (Labour); Eddie Sloane (Lib Dem).

At Rixton and Woolston the line-up is Paul Bretherton (Labour); Diana Grylls (Lib Dem); Geoff Siddall (UKIP); Robin Sloan (Conservative).

The Birchwood ward is being contested by Nigel Balding (Conservative); Chris Fitzsimmons (Labour); Michael Johnson (UKIP); Christine Oliver (Lib Dem); Tracey Valentine (Green).

Resignation

Voters at Croft have the chance of voting in a third election because of a vacancy on Croft Parish Council caused by the resignation of Conservative councillor Jim Hilton, after 30 years on the council.

Candidates are Martyn Griffiths (Conservative) and Norman Partington (Labour).

Unveiled at Day

to get involved in a variety of ways. Whether you are part of the generation who grew up in the golden age of Marvel comics, or a fan of the modern wave of superhero movies, dust off your web-slingers, fire up the Batmobile and join us on the village green for what promises to be another successful day. Remember to keep a look out for our fantastic centrepiece – a ferris wheel that we’ve christened The Culcheth Eye!”



The Gardening Guide MAY

- Plant out warm weather crops such as tomatoes, squashes, cucumbers and peppers
- Start applying summer lawn foods now – remember to water them well in
- Help the environment (and save money too) by composting as much of your garden waste as possible
- Evergreen hedges can be given their first trim of the season – if the clippings are not too woody, they can be mixed in to the compost heap
- Remove flowers that have finished promptly to ensure a continuity of bloom – this is known as deadheading and stops the plant wasting energy in producing seeds that are unwanted

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New head



THE governors of Culcheth High School have appointed deputy head Chris Hunt as head teacher, following the shock resignation of former head David Terry.

Mr Hunt has been deputy head at Culcheth for more than six years and last year completed a five month spell as interim headteacher in the run-up to the school's successful Ofsted inspection.

He said: "I am very pleased, proud and privileged to be appointed the headteacher of Culcheth High School."

Mr Terry left the school by mutual agreement after spending less than a year in post.

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- Bank Holiday Fun** - Saturday 2nd to Monday 4th May
- Half Term Activities** - Saturday 23rd to Sunday 31st May

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Hospice project challenges myths to teach children about life

A PIONEERING project that saw primary school pupils from Culcheth engage with patients at St. Rocco's Hospice has been hailed a huge success by all involved.

The ground-breaking RocON! project ran over five weeks, with year six pupils from St. Lewis Primary School in Culcheth visiting the Hospice to learn about end of life care, with a focus on living well with difficult conditions.

Patients from the Day Unit also took part in the sessions, which involved craft work and

group discussion. Participants were encouraged to talk about their hopes and inspirations, which encouraged open and honest dialogue, and many deep friendships were formed.

Project leader Jan Temenos said the sessions had been 'life changing' for many of those involved.

She said: "RocON! far exceeded our expectations. Working with the children reminded patients there is more to life than their illness they are carrying and paradoxically, St. Rocco's is a place where you can be happy and sad at the same time.

In turn, the pupils learned that even if you are very sick you can still be very happy and that St. Rocco's is so much more than a place you go to die. We're hoping these pupils will now be our ambassadors and it was lovely to hear one of them say she is glad that the Hospice belongs to everyone in Warrington."

Norman Payne, one of the patients who participated in RocON!, said: "The project has given me hope and it's given me friendship. The kids bring such simple joy, triggering good memories from my own childhood, and listening to how they simplify life keeps me grounded."



Class teacher Rachel Dinsdale accompanied the pupils to each session. She said: "There have been sad moments of course but at the same time, those moments have been uplifting. The children have learned to enjoy life and have learned a lot about themselves."

Pam Massey, CEO of the Hospice added: "We've got some remarkable patients at St. Rocco's and I'm so glad people take risks because it's been a wonderful

Pictured far left: Patient Norman Payne with pupils Sam Dunne and Emma Clarke.

Pictured above: patient Perpetina Lourdasamy with pupils Lucy Burnham and Isabelle Gall.

project and I'd like to thank everyone who played a part."

The project was the first of its kind in the North of England, and the Hospice will now welcome more schools for future sessions.

Guides celebrate award winners

THERE was a celebration evening at 7th Culcheth Guides to mark the achievement of Tia Lambert, Gemma Kubiena and Nicole Kubiena who all gained their Baden Powell Challenge Award.

The Baden Powell Challenge is the highest award a Guide can achieve and the girls had to complete 10 challenges which saw them sleeping out under the stars, arranging international themed evenings for the unit and taking an active part in community events.

The final part of the Challenge was take part in the "adventure" phase which entailed spending a weekend with other candidates from all over the UK to prove their teamwork skills.

Tia, Gemma and Nicole were helped through the Award by Jessica Burke, leader of 7th Culcheth Guides.

All three girls are now moving on to new challenges in Senior Section where they will have the chance to represent Girlguiding abroad at International events as well as work

towards their bronze, silver and gold Duke of Edinburgh Awards.

Anyone interested in joining Rainbows, Brownies, Guides or

Senior Section should register their interest via www.girlguiding.org.uk/interested or contact Sara Isles, district commissioner at sara.isles@btinternet.com

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The girls are pictured with a cake specially made for them by Rachel Stockton.



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How do you know if you've got a rubbish accountant?

What an excellent question. How would you know?

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All of this could, at least, be causing you anxiety or sleepless nights and, worse still, be costing you financially too with you having to pay additional interest and penalties; creating havoc to your cash flow.

You could be experiencing some or all of these things right now (we hope you're not by the way) but, if you are, what should you/could you expect from a good, modern accountant?

As it happens, a good accountant should be doing much more than the basics of keeping you legal, filing things on time and telling you

what happened in your business, six or twelve months ago.

The good accountants, the ones who add real value to your business will be much more helpful than that – no matter how big or small your enterprise is right now.

A good accountant will help you carry out a thorough analysis of where you are now, where the opportunities for growth are and, what needs to happen in your business to get you there.

A good accountant is a real expert at helping you understand what your business is capable of and what it will take to get there. It's way beyond getting the year end returns in on time.

A good accountant has access to both finance and capital investment and they can help you access this, whether it is additional borrowing or new external equity, or whatever is most appropriate for your needs.

Whatever the situation is in your business, a good accountant will

have invariably encountered it before and ought to be an excellent sounding board for any major business decision you make – before you make it.

One common characteristic of all super-successful entrepreneurs and business owners is that they've got the right accountancy support behind them and, there's absolutely no reason why you and your business should suffer with mediocre support.

If you won't or can't pick up the phone and talk with your accountant about a big thing that you're thinking of doing, then it sounds like you need to get a new accountant.



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Bents raise more than £12k for charity



HAVING set itself a target of raising £12,000 for the Royal Manchester Children's Hospital Charity, Bents Garden & Home is proud to have handed over a cheque for £12,292 which will help support continued excellence in treatment, care and research.

Joel Oxberry, Corporate Fundraising Manager from the Royal Manchester Children's Hospital Charity visited Bents to accept the donation and was joined for the occasion by the charity's mascot, Humphrey Bear, and Thomas & Charlie Clough, representing the Cystic Fibrosis Trust, the Centre's 2015 charity of the year.

Matthew Bent, Managing Director at Bents Garden & Home said: "We are always blown away by the support shown by our colleagues and customers and once again they have been hugely generous in helping us to reach our target and present Royal Manchester Children's Hospital Charity with such a fantastic amount."


Joel added: "We would like to thank Bents and their customers for such fantastic support during 2014. Royal Manchester Children's Hospital Charity is the largest single site children's Hospital in the UK and we look after over 200,000 young people each year. Donations such as these help us provide the very best care in specialisms such as bone marrow transplantation, burns treatment and critical care."

Bents is now looking forward to working with the Cystic Fibrosis Trust during 2015; a charity that is very close to the hearts of many at the Glazebury based garden & home centre.

Matthew added: "We have had previous experience with cystic fibrosis so were already very aware of the condition, but once again it has come into the life of one of our colleagues. Matthew Dickinson, our Head of Indoor Retail, has always been one of our strongest charity fundraisers, no matter what the cause, so this year we had no hesitation in choosing the charity that is now closest to his heart. With Matthew's enthusiasm and the continued generosity of our colleagues and customers we are hoping this year will be another record breaker."

Cystic Fibrosis is a life shortening disease that affects over 10,000 people in the UK. There is currently no cure but the Cystic Fibrosis Trust works hard to promote excellence in research and clinical care as well as helping to provide practical support and advice to people with Cystic Fibrosis and their families.

Bents has set itself a record breaking target of £15,000 and hopes its fundraising efforts during 2015 will help make a difference to the families whose lives are affected by this condition.



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Police warning after spate of thefts

RESIDENTS of Croft have been warned to become more security minded following a spate of thefts in the village

Police say there has been an increase in suspicious activity and items being stolen from cars in the Smithy Lane area.

They are urging people to call police on 101 if they see anything suspicious.

But they should also tighten up on simple security measures like making sure sheds, garages and vehicles are left secure overnight.

Windows should not be left open – particularly in the warmer weather as opportunist thieves will be on the look out for easy ways of gaining entry to houses.



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Playing field to get long-awaited changing rooms

DETAILED plans have been submitted for the long-awaited new changing facilities at Culcheth's Shaw Street recreation ground.

A decision is expected by the end of June and building work should start shortly afterwards.

The news has been welcomed by Cllr Sue Bland (pictured), who has been campaigning for the new facility for some years.

She said: "I am over the moon about this. It is fantastic news. The various clubs that use the playing fields will be delighted."

Council officers have consulted officials of Culcheth Eagles Rugby Club over the design of the new building.

There will be toilets, showers and changing rooms for up to four teams, an officials' changing room and a club area with toilets and a mini-kitchen.

Cllr Bland added: "We already have a super new car park, so things are really looking up.

"We still have the problems of dogs fouling the pitch and I would like to see something done about that – perhaps a separate, fenced off area for dog walkers.

"It would also be good if we could have a skate board facility for the youngsters – but that is for the future.

"I am just delighted the plans for the new changing rooms are going ahead at last."



New vicar installed by Bishop



THE new vicar of All Saints Church, Glazebury and St Helen's Church, Hollinfare, was licensed and installed by the Right Rev Paul Bayes, Bishop of Liverpool at a special service at All Saints.

The Rev Pam Swift is a House for Duty Priest for the two churches – a post increasingly used by the Church of England to maintain a presence in parishes where they would otherwise be unable to do so.

More than 120 people attended the service, including clergy from within the Winwick Deanery, retired clergy, members of the community, scouts, beavers, cubs, school heads and governors, and others.

Choirs from the two churches led the singing and Guy Pomfret was at the organ.

Afterwards there were refreshments at Glazebury CE Primary School.

The Rev Swift was born in Liverpool and attended Liverpool University where she studied Maths and Physics. She was ordained deacon in 1988 and priest in 1994.

She retired in 2010 when she did volunteering but then decided to return to the ministry.

Picture: Left to right: Alan Domville and Ray Shaw (Church Wardens at St. Helen, Hollinfare), Pauline Conway (Church Warden at All Saints, Glazebury), Bishop Paul Bayes of Liverpool, Rev Pam Swift and Mr Jeff Chambers (Church Warden at All Saints, Glazebury).

The mysteries of bee keeping

MEMBERS of Culcheth WI were introduced to the mysteries of bee keeping at their monthly meeting.

Speaker Yvonne Matthews told how she went on a course on bee keeping to find herself the only female present.

But she also met bee keepers in France who gave her an interest in "products from the hive."

These included medicines and facial and antiseptic creams.

Her hobby proved so successful that she was featured in an issue of Woman's Own magazine.

Yvonne said there were as many as 80,000 bees in a swarm and honey was harvested twice a year.

But it was not the only product from the hive. Beeswax is used for building their homes and pollen provides food.

Her story was told with much humour and some drama and she was thanked by president Joan Jarvis.

Outings organiser Brenda Seddon told of two theatre trips, the first one

in June to the Octagon theatre at Bolton, to see a new comedy "Noises Off" and the second in January next year to see "Girls" at the Lowry Theatre in Salford. Christine Seddon reminded members that the next lunch outing to the Owls at Standish will be on May 5 and that a Bon Marche Fashion Show would be held in the Parish Hall on May 20.

Secretary Shirley Bennett, gave details of a special WI garden party at Buckingham Palace on the June 2, an Open day at the house of the Bishop of Chester on July 22 and a trip to Anglesey which Winwick WI were organizing on July 14. Margaret Fletcher told members about the Mosslands Group trip to Harrogate on the September 13.

Raffle prizewinners were Lynn Bates, Janis Porter, Brenda Pinion, Madelaine Kirk and Margaret Barron. Tea hostesses were Jean Coulton and Brenda Pinion. Sally Taylor provided the table flowers.

The next meeting is on May 19 when the speaker will be Eric Newton on "the life and times of a busker".

Obituary

Beryl Matthews



THE funeral has taken place of Beryl Matthews, aged 75, formerly of Sutton Avenue, Culcheth who died in April.

Mrs Matthews came to Culcheth with her husband, Derrick, in 1964. She worked at Peters' corn mill in Glazebury and later at the Co-op butchers in Culcheth before moving to the UK Atomic Energy Authority, later to become British Nuclear Fuels Ltd where she stayed for 23 years, becoming an office supervisor.

For three and-a-half years, Mr and Mrs Matthews ran a grocery store in Bridlington, in Yorkshire, travelling the 120-miles to the seaside town every weekend.

In 1985 they moved to Locking Stumps, but continued to visit Culcheth regularly. Mrs Matthews was extremely well known in the village, especially as a result of her time at the Co-op butchers.

Mr and Mrs Matthews are survived by five children – three girls and two boys – and 12 grandchildren.

The funeral service was at Walton Lea Crematorium.

Volunteers wanted for village carnival

VOLUNTEERS are being sought to help with preparations for the annual Winwick Carnival.

The event takes place on Saturday, July 19 but the organising committee is already hard at work signing up live music and other acts to keep the crowds entertained on the day.

There will be the usual fairground favourites, a birds of prey display and – weather permitting – a Battle of Britain memorial fly-past. Sheep racing will also be back after its huge success at the 2013 carnival.

Traders can also set up their own stalls at a cost of £20.

More information about the carnival can be obtained by emailing info@winwickcarnival.co.uk

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How to make the most out of my house

Sometimes, when I first visit people on appraisals they have a nagging doubt about whether they should be putting their house on the market at all. They have mixed feelings about moving, and are torn between staying put and extending their current home, or moving to get what they want out of a new property.

Of course, as an estate agent, my first instinct is always going to be 'sell, sell, sell' - after all, it's what I do. But there is more to it than that; here at Courtyard, we see ourselves as part of the community, so it's important that I put the needs and wishes of my clients first.

Moving house is a major upheaval, and the pressure of this change of lifestyle isn't right for everyone; therefore an important part of my job is to listen and understand the reasons why someone has asked me out to give a market appraisal on their property and to also gauge what it is that they really need.

And sometimes I have to say that it makes much more sense for some of my clients to stay and extend their existing home then move out of it.

- Look at your existing property first and ask yourself would it be feasible to stay, or even economically wise to stay? If you are moving to upsize, then it might be that your current home can work for you by extending it, giving you the space you require in the location that you love but at a fraction of the cost of moving. Look at the mortgage deals available and the payments on a remortgage to extend your existing property.
- We will put you in touch with a qualified mortgage/financial advisor who will scour the entire market to attain the best options for you.
- We can give you a guide price for the cost of moving, including fees for solicitors, removals, surveys, stamp duty, inheritance tax, agents fees for sales and lettings and the processes associated with both.
- If you are moving due to work or a change of lifestyle, have you considered keeping hold of your own property and letting it out? Change to a buy to let mortgage, let someone else make your payments for you, even take a little equity out of your home and use it on your new house as a deposit or just to make life a little easier.
- We can also give you hints and tips on how to present your property for sale or rent. Our buildings team can even quote you for the cost of a new extension, from its shell and plastering stage including all electrics and plumbing, to the kitchen and bathroom that you install.
- If you are unsure about the options available to you, **here's how Courtyard can help:**

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