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Issue 156
March 2011
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Titan to star at carnival



TITAN the Robot is coming to Wirksworth on Monday 30 May and will be a star attraction at this year's carnival.

A stunning piece of technology, the eight foot tall robot took nearly five years to perfect and since his launch at Glastonbury in 2004, he has appeared on television many times, including the Gadget Show, Jools Holland's end of 2010 show, Children in Need, Big Brother and on stage with Rihanna.

Everywhere he goes all over the world he is a big hit, parading through streets and shopping centres, interacting with the crowds, dancing and singing. Louis Armstrong's What a Wonderful World is one of his favourite songs.

Congratulations to Chris Booth and the carnival committee for bringing him to Wirksworth. If you are willing to help with the carnival in any way, particularly as stewards, please contact Chris on 07849 000653.

If you want to know more about Titan, visit www.titantherobot.com or www.cyberstein.co.uk

— NEXT ISSUE —

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COMMUNITY FAYRE

c/o 39 Summer Lane, Wirksworth
DE4 4EB Tel: 01629 822745
email: communityfayre@hotmail.com

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The train now departing ...

AFTER 10 years of hard work by Ecclesbourne Valley Railway volunteers, the line from Wirksworth to Duffield will re-open in April. It will become the twelfth longest standard gauge heritage railway in the UK.

The occasion will be marked by a visit from the Duke of Gloucester on 6 April before the new line is open to the public on Friday 8 April. A gala steam service will run from 8 to 11 April to celebrate the re-opening, and from that time trains will be running four times a day between Wirksworth and Duffield. They will leave Wirksworth at 10:20, 12:20, 14:20 and 16:20 and depart from Duffield at 11:10, 13:10, 15:10 and 17:10. There will be connections with the East Midlands Trains Matlock-Nottingham service.

Ecclesbourne Valley Railway is now on the national ticketing database to make buying tickets to and from Wirksworth easier.

The reconstruction has been a costly business: £1 ¾ million pounds has been spent on restoring the line. Funding has come from the 1,200 shareholders, from private contributions, from the East Midlands Development Agency, from using the line to



No. 3 arrives at Duffield

test railway equipment and to rent to film-makers. Voluntary support has been vital: in 10 years there have been 400,000 hours of manual work from 150 volunteers, 60 working on the line each week. 4,500 sleepers have been taken out and concrete ones laid.

CF congratulates Ecclesbourne Valley Railway on this remarkable

achievement: Duffield ... Derby ... London ... next stop Paris?

For details of the gala weekend, the Easter Eggstravaganza and steam events, phone the station on 01629 823076 or see www.e-v-r.com BR

Plane problem

THE plane tree at the entrance to the Memorial Gardens is causing ructions in the town.

The tree was planted about 30 years ago as part of the civic regeneration work and was intended to fill in a visual gap left by the removal of buildings fronting the Memorial Gardens

The town council has suggested its removal. Their concern is twofold: first for liability, because the tree's roots are lifting the surrounding tarmac, and second because of the species. London Planes can become large trees so the council would prefer to see a much smaller tree such as a cherry or rowan planted. Objectors to the tree's removal include Wirksworth Civic Society and NOW.

At one of the council's public

forums, Keith Mann made strong representation to save the tree, arguing that a smaller tree would not have the impact that the plane has. He suggested replacing the present surrounding paving with flexible surfacing or enclosing the frontage of the tree with seating to prevent walk over. He agreed that plane trees become large but argued that they are ideal for pruning so the Memorial Gardens tree could be crowned every 15 to 20 years.

Barry Joyce prepared a paper on behalf of Wirksworth Civic Society that urges the town council not to proceed with its proposal. He believes that the damage to the appearance and character of the town centre which would result from the felling of this beautiful plane tree would be incommensurate with any benefit in removing the minor problem of an uneven paved surface. A smaller scale tree could not do the same job. The problem of the uneven pavement could be dealt with by laying flexible paving. Seating around the tree, root trimming and barrier options should be investigated.

In the face of this opposition the town council has agreed to defer the decision to fell the tree to allow time to seek more information and opinion. It is likely to be debated again at the March town council meeting.

NHS reforms

200 people packed the Memorial Hall on 7 March to discuss the government's radical proposals to reform the National Health Service.

An action group has been formed and a march to protest against the changes has been arranged for Saturday 2 April.

See www.wirksworth.net for latest information.

INSIDE

- Honour for Kath, Page 2
- Civic award for Ben, Page 3
- Prize Bull, Page 6

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Parker's Piece improved

Father and son praised

THE Bolehill and Steeple Grange Improvement Group officially opened the new car park for Bolehill residents on Saturday 19 March. Local gritstone, limestone paving and cobbles were used in its construction and have improved the appearance of a derelict corner of the village. Its six parking places have helped alleviate the bottle neck on Little Bolehill. It is hoped that a stone plaque will be erected to say that it stands on a parcel of land called "Parker's Piece".

Some of the group's other achievements include the restoration of the footpath to Wirksworth, provision of new playground equipment, a village interpretation board and notice boards and planting of spring bulbs.

Future plans include improvements to the Chapel Hill footpath and, looking ahead, a community celebration of the quincentenary of Henry VIII's presentation of the Miners Standard dish in 1513.

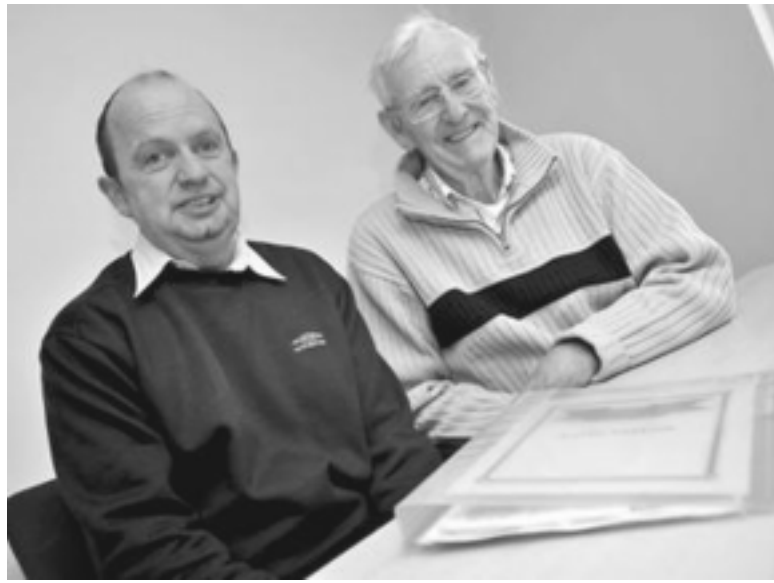
If you would like to know more about the group or have ideas about improvements, please contact June Jepson on 01629 823517 or peak.art@btinternet.com

DAVID and Peter Taylor of Wirksworth were recently nominated for an award at a ceremony in London hosted by Baroness Tanni Grey-Thompson.

David and his father Peter act out scenarios of bullying and harassment as part of training workshops for people with learning difficulties held at the Bankcroft Day Centre in Ashbourne.

It is their work with the Derbyshire Keeping Safe project at the centre that helped the group win a nomination in disability charity RADAR's People of the Year awards.

The group organises workshops across the county: David acts as the victim of bullying, while his father takes on the role of the bully. Peter says: "I've been amazed how the training is done and how the people with learning difficulties understand exactly what the message is. When



David and Peter Taylor

they see someone with learning difficulties being bullied in front of them, it helps them relate to it and then they learn how to deal with it and who to contact."

He concludes: "The biggest problem is that they feel exactly the

same as everyone else, but sometimes have difficulty communicating that and then the bullying continues."

Peter and David are full of praise for the staff at the Bankcroft Day Centre for their support.

Honour for Kath

KATH Stevens of Kirk Ireton has been awarded the MBE in the New Year's Honours List for services to education and the community. This honour is richly deserved and people who live in the village are delighted on her behalf.

At the time of her birth, Kath's parents were farming at Alton Hall and she has lived and worked in Kirk Ireton all her life. There does not seem to be any aspect of village life in which Kath has not been involved.

She has contributed to the school as a foundation governor, helped with swimming and outings and, until her retirement recently, worked as a lunchtime supervisor.

The church has benefited from her ideas and endeavours: for many years she has been a church warden and this year she celebrates 50 years on the parochial church council.

She has chaired the Women's Institute, served on the parish council and on village hall committees. She now helps regularly in the village shop.

She is sensitive to the needs and problems of villagers, many of whom she chats with as she delivers the eggs each week.

Kath has managed all these services to the community as well as being a farmer and running her successful catering business.

Always appearing cheerful and full of energy, Kath is not only inspirational but a catalyst for many of the good things that happen in the village. *MGR*

Mayor's events

MAYOR Andy Pollock is raising funds to support Wirksworth boys and girls taking part in local youth cricket and the Scout movement.

A sell-out gig by The Wam Bam Band at the town hall in February gave the fund-raising an excellent start. The next event is a concert by local choirs, Raise Your Voices and Bel Canto in the town hall at 7.30pm on Saturday 2 April. Tickets from Traid Links price £6.

On Wednesday 13 April, there will be a Poems and Pints evening at the Red Lion. Andy hopes this will be a light-hearted anthology of recited or read poems from well-known poets as well as from authors presenting their own works. If you have a favourite verse to share, you will be welcome to take the floor. Admission £4 on the door.

Contact Andy Pollock on 01629 823752 for more information.

Fairer fashion

IN May the Wirksworth Fairtrade Group will host a fashion show, organised in partnership with Anthony Gell school students, AIRR Clothing and the transition town group.

The event will bring together promotion of Fairtrade, cotton production, reuse, recycling and the impact of throw-away fashion and unethical clothing. The show will include Fairtrade and organic fashion, showing sustainable fashion that is affordable and stylish.

Anthony Gell school student Emily told CF: "We are helping to organise this show to try and reward the hard workers in third world countries. They work to the point of exhaustion just to feed their families; this isn't right. We want to show that by making small changes to your purchasing you can make a huge difference to the lives of farmers."

There will be a live band, clothing swap shop, catwalk, raffle and a competition "dress to impress for under a tenner". To win this, you have to catwalk an outfit from a charity shop bought for £10 or under.

The show is at the town hall on Friday 6 May starting at 7.30pm. Tickets - concession £2, adult £4 and family £10 (2 adults, 2 children) - available from Traid Links.

Wirksworth Fairtrade Group AGM will be on 14 April at 7.30pm in the council chamber of the town hall.

Free first aid

DEBBIE Webster is the community-based first aid coordinator at the British Red Cross and offers to organise a first aid session for any local group.

The sessions are a maximum of two hours and focus on first aid skills which are easy to learn and remember. "In just a couple of hours, learners can become life-savers," Debbie says.

Sessions are free of charge, but groups may wish to make a donation to support the work of the Red Cross. If you are interested, contact Debbie by email at dwebster@redcross.org.uk or phoning 01629 593335 or 07912 080894.

Give or take

WIRKSWORTH Transition are putting on a Give or Take event on Sat 9 April 10am - 2pm, downstairs at the Methodist Church, St John Street.

People are invited to bring things they don't want but are too good to throw away. Anyone can then take away things for free. Refreshments will be for sale.

"It's a bit like the Freecycle website where people exchange things, but this one is more sociable - Freecycle in the flesh," said Mary Ann Hooper, one of the event organisers.

Glee Club reunited

THE Glee Club of Wirksworth presented its 25th annual pantomime in December. To mark this theatrical milestone, a gathering is planned for Saturday 14 May in the town hall for anyone who has ever had anything to do with any of the performances.

Current member or past, stage hand or darling diva, if you'd like to meet up for a celebration of all things Glee Club, please contact Nik Pollock on 01629 823752 and look out for local publicity.

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The Cromford Kid rides again

A REVIVAL of The Derbyshire Desperado, first performed in Wirksworth in 1978, will come to town for three splendidly retro nights in April*.

The play is an adaptation of Shane Connaughton's Weston Coyney Cowboy. The adaptation was written and directed by Phil Richards, then a teacher at Anthony Gell School.

Now librarian, Phil is directing again. "We've been in touch with Shane Connaughton about putting it on, and he has given his blessing."

The Derbyshire Desperado, starring the Cromford Kid, was set in 1970s Wirksworth and Cromford.

The current production develops the 70s scene further, with songs, music, images and fashion from that era highlighted throughout. Even the audience are invited to come in 70s gear.

The cast is drawn from students at Anthony Gell and local adults from Theatre Wirksworth, the Glee Club, some of who performed in the Chicken Run and Midsummer Night's Dream. Three of the original cast are involved in this production and

others will this time be parents in the audience watching their daughters and sons perform. Original cast members who no longer live locally are being contacted so the occasion will be a reunion. Phil has added a completely new scene for the many younger students who are keen to participate.

Staff and students at the school, especially in the drama, music and art departments, are helping with sets, choreography, music and costume.

Phil Richards is excited about the production and also about someone special he hopes will be in the audience: "We've invited Shane Connaughton to be with us on one of the nights".

*Tickets for The Derbyshire Desperado £6, (£4 concessions) are available from Anthony Gell School.

Performances are on 7, 8, 9 April starting at 7.30pm. *MAH*

Chernobyl vigil

26 APRIL 2011 will be the 25th anniversary of the world's worst nuclear accident at Chernobyl in the Ukraine, part of the Soviet Union in 1986. Time has moved on but the aftermath is still "casting a shadow over generations to come".

Chernobyl Children's Lifeline (CCL) bring thousands of children over to the UK each year for a four-week recuperation holiday which improves their health. These children all live in contaminated areas of Belarus and the Ukraine. Many hundreds of thousands of children are eating food in these countries which damages their immune systems, their internal organs and their bones. The rate of incidence of cancers and other serious diseases in children under 18 in the two countries has not diminished over the 25 years since

the disaster and there is no evidence yet to suggest this is going to change over the next 25 years either.

The Bonsall and Derbyshire Dales Link of the national charity CCL is organising a commemorative candle vigil on 25 April at Stoney Wood in Wirksworth from 8pm.

Everyone is invited to bring a candle and take part.

On 26 April, the day of the anniversary itself, dinner will be served in Wirksworth town hall, followed by a video of the Chernobyl disaster, its consequences and the work of charities like CCL, finishing off with a barn dance and raffle.

Tickets will be on sale from Traid Links, Sainsbury's in Matlock and the tourist information centre in Matlock.

For more information about the events or to find out more about the local link of CCL contact Chris Broome, Chairman Chernobyl Children's Lifeline, on 01629 824512.

Temporary trail closure

A SECTION of the Monsal Trail, popular with local walkers and cyclists, has been closed while improvements are made to four former railway tunnels.

The work is part of the £2.25 million Pedal Peak District project, which aims to encourage more people to go cycling in the Peak District National Park.

The new route is expected to open in May or June.



Paige Holmes with her Young Achievers Award

Civic award for Ben

TOWN mayor Andy Pollock has inaugurated a young people's civic award, and the first to receive it is Ben Dew for his outstanding contribution to performing arts.

Ben's childhood was spent in Little Sutton on the Wirral, but in 2001 his father was relocated to Derbyshire and they came to live in Wirksworth. Eleven at the time, Ben remembers feeling a combination of excitement and apprehension, mostly because he wondered if he would make new friends.

His fears were unfounded once he started at Anthony Gell school where he was welcomed and formed many friendships. "I think it is a brilliant school. If you want to achieve something you can get all the support and help you need."

For the past two years, Ben has worked at the Robert Ludlam Theatre in Derby as a lighting and sound technician. In addition, he runs drumming workshops at schools and youth clubs for Fleet Arts, an arts charity based in Belper. In his spare time, he works freelance doing lighting and sound, drumming workshops and playing with musicians. He finds time to see his girlfriend, Ocean, a photographer and percussionist whom he met working on a music project in Turin last year.

At last year's festival Ben provided both drumming workshops and lighting. He played percussion with David Gibb and The Pony Club and the Mamelodi - Bright in the Corner performances and was heavily involved in the production of the community procession.

As a participant in the Derbyshire cultural exchange with the South Africa Mamelodi Township artists, Ben recalled the excitement of this trip. "It was an amazing experience in a fantastic country. We were quite centralised around Johannesburg and Pretoria and then we worked in the Mamelodi Township". Ben's favourite theatre is the open air Minack Theatre, built out of rock near Land's End. "It overlooks the sea and is the best setting ever. I've been there three times already." He could visualise an open-air theatre here in Stoney Wood.

He sees himself settling down one day: "I'd like to have my own house in Wirksworth - ideally near to the Market Place - and concentrate on just one job - but it would have to be in the theatre". *SF*

Peter Sellers

IT is with great regret that members of Steeple Grange Light Railway report the death, in early December, of society chairman, Peter Sellers. He will be greatly missed.

Peter was one of the railway's founder members. He was due to retire from his work as a bus driver later on this year. He planned to spend even more of his time developing various aspects of the railway. One of the last projects he was involved in was the purchase of 18" point work and track from a civil engineering firm in Horsham. This had been accomplished with generous financial help from Lawson Little and the Post Office. The point work and track duly arrived in early December, and was almost immediately covered by more than three feet of snow.

Since the only access road was also blocked, the Santa Specials had to be postponed until the third weekend of December. The Santa Specials were once again well supported and although the number of passengers was slightly down, were a great success.

The connection has now been made, taking the main line over the road crossing to Sandyhill Business Park, nearer to the planned terminus at Middleton. This was a project Peter was anxious to see completed.

Before the railway re-opens for Easter weekend, a Clayton locomotive is to be re-named Peter Sellers in his memory. *Mike Stanyon*

battle

ANTHONY Gell School student Paige Holmes was presented with a Young Achievers Award at an event to highlight the accomplishments of children and young people in Derbyshire.

Paige, aged 14, was severely injured in a road accident while out with friends in summer last year. She spent three weeks in intensive care at Sheffield Children's Hospital and had to re-learn to talk, stand and walk after a scan revealed her head injuries were so severe she had the equivalent of shaken baby syndrome.

She was determined to walk at the Derbyshire County Council ceremony, held at Highfields School in Matlock, to pick up her award.

Paige was nominated for the award by Helen Jackson, AGS Deputy Head, who said she was "incredibly brave ... she has defied medical odds and fought hard to learn to do everything again".

"She is marvellous," said her mum Shirley. "I was the proudest mum in the world to see her at that ceremony."

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Play park will go ahead

DELIGHTED Gorse Bank families have learned that their planned play area has been saved from the cuts. It is now hoped a multi-use games area, cantilever cradle swing and multi-activity unit will be installed on "the Rec" later this year.

Derbyshire County Council agreed in January to release the funding for the project when earlier it had announced it was freezing the £35,000 grant set aside for Gorse Bank as part of the government's play builder initiative.

Speaking to CF, resident Johnny Rowlett said: "We were devastated when the play builder money was withdrawn and we consider ourselves extremely lucky to have had the full amount reallocated. The development of the Rec is an ongoing project which will benefit the whole community."

Councillor Janet Goodison from Derbyshire Dales District Council said: "We were determined not to let this project get away. Even when the funding apparently dried up, we held a meeting with the town council and the Gorse Bank residents' association to consider different ways of providing this new play area."

Additional funding of £2,000 has been pledged by district councillor Garry Purdy from the council's community fund and £1,000 has been raised by Gorse Bank residents' association, bringing the total funding available to £38,000.

Cancer research

CANCER Research UK Wirksworth thanks all the supporters who made 2010 its most successful year to date. More than £6,600 was raised through events and donations.

It is hoped that 2011 will be equally successful. The programme includes a ceilidh on 9 April, a fashion show at Masson Mills on 5 May, an evening at Croots Farm Shop and Kitchen on 21 October and the pre-Christmas miscellany with the Wirksworth Writers on 25 November.

For more information contact: Janet Pidgeon on 01629 824912 or email pidgeons@w3z.co.uk

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Big society? Look no further

Dear CF,

MUCH is heard currently about the 'big society'. I think that Wirksworth exemplifies the very best of the (non-political) big society.

Examples abound. Every evening and weekend adults voluntarily assist young people with sport, music, drama or dance. Local people campaigned hard and raised funds for a care centre in Wirksworth and as a result Waltham House now supports more than 300 people. Dozens of volunteers assist in making Wirksworth festival such a success. Wirksworth has generated significant community projects such as the railway, eco-centre, Stoney Wood and the development of the skate park.

People contribute to these activities for the greater good of the whole community. They are in addition to what we expect from government and not a substitute for the state's own responsibility to meet the basic health, educational, and welfare needs of its citizens.

Garden venue

THE Middleton Millennium Garden is a community garden not just for Middleton but for Wirksworth, Bolehill, Brassington, Cromford, Bonsall and all the surrounding area.

If you are holding an event it is well worth considering as a venue.

The garden has full lighting, a large covered bandstand with power points, seating all round, flowerbeds, a wishing well and a pergola which can be covered to give shelter for events.

A gas barbeque and an electric boiler are available.

It is completely free for communities in this area, but donations are welcome for the use of the barbeque and boiler.

If you are interested in using Middleton Millennium Garden for an event, contact Kath Alesbrook on 01629 524285, Peter Slack on 01629 823359 or email peter.slack@derbyshiredales.gov.uk

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LETTERS

I am proud to live in a community that demonstrates the very best of the 'big society'. We should recognise the unique value of what Wirksworth has to offer and ensure that we pass it on to the next generation for safe-keeping.

We face challenging times and those who are shouting 'big society' the loudest seem to understand it the least. Let the people of Wirksworth hold on to this label for ourselves, and not allow the politicians steal it from us for their own political ends!

Peter Riddle
Coldwell Street

Walk for heroes

THE Rotary Club of Wirksworth will be holding its fourth annual charity walk, "The Carsington Circle" around Carsington Water on Sunday 24 April, to raise funds for Help 4 Heroes and the Mercian Regiment's appeal for its own injured members and their families. Last year's walk helped the club donate £3,877 to Help 4 Heroes, and members wanted to continue to support soldiers serving abroad, especially those from local regiments.

The 8.5 mile walk is aimed at all ages and abilities with a medal for all children completing the walk and transport available for those who prefer to limit their walk to about seven miles.

Sponsorship forms are available by ringing Martin Cruttenden on 01629 826162, but those walkers not wishing to be sponsored may turn up on the day and make a donation at the start. Walkers should aim to leave Carsington Visitor Centre between 9 and 10.30am to start the walk.

Severn Trent have generously agreed a concessionary parking fee for walkers, obtainable from the Rotary marshalls on duty at the entrance.

... and thank you

Dear CF

THE Rotary Club of Wirksworth would like to thank all the local residents for their generous donations to Rotary charities made during our collections at the Market Place Wirksworth, Sainsbury's and the Co-op in Matlock in the run up to Christmas.

More than £2,000 was raised which will be used for local youth projects and other local charities. Please accept our grateful thanks for your support,

Ian Dolby, President Rotary Club of Wirksworth

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Michael is much missed

Dear CF

FOLLOWING your tribute to Michael Handley (in CF 155), I am enclosing a recent photo of Michael. He was a dear friend to me and my family, and never short of a joke or a laugh about something.

Wirksworth is now definitely "one down" and may his memory live long in the minds of those who genuinely care about this town and what goes on within it.

Jeff Davenport



Michael Handley

Twinning talk

THE Twinning Association is holding a fund-raising coffee morning, with plants, books and bric-à-brac stalls, in the Baptist School Room on Saturday, 2 April from 10am to midday.

At the beginning of June, around 30 visitors from Wirksworth's twin towns of Die in the south of France and from Frankenau in Hesse, Germany will be hosted. Their programme will include a civic reception, a garden party in Ildridgehay, visits to the Eco and Stone Centres and to the Toyota factory or Denby Pottery.

Outdoor pursuits

TWO new courses, run by the town's branch of the Workers' Educational Association (WEA), start in April and May.

Tutor Chris Hall will encourage students to 'Enjoy birding with others' in a series of easy walks to look at and identify birds. The two-hourly sessions will start with an introductory meeting at Wirksworth's town hall on Thursday, April 28, at 6.30pm, followed by five outdoor meetings at Allestree Park, Carsington Water, Wingfield Park, Black Rocks and Osmaston Park. The course fee is £42.25.

From Saturday, May 14, Sean Moran's aim is to help students learn to walk confidently in the wilder parts of the Peak District. 'Navigation skills for hill walkers' is designed to teach the basics of how to get around using map and compass and GPS (global positioning systems) and includes four field trips to local moorlands. Participants need to be able to walk a few miles across rough country. The first of five sessions, from 10.30am to 12.30pm, is at Wirksworth town hall. The fee is £32.50.

The courses are free to anyone on income-related benefit.

For more information about fees and enrolment or an information pack about becoming a tutor, contact the WEA's Derby office on 01332 291805 or visit the Wirksworth branch website on www.weawirksworth.org.uk

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Schools news Derek builds for the future

CARSINGTON and Hopton Primary School has completed a versatile extension which provides an extra classroom, increases the size of the main classroom and provides a space available for the community. Both the smaller classroom and the larger space are now available for hire by phoning the school on 01629 540206.

Wirksworth Junior School has a new logo which features a hand reaching upwards forming the trunk and branches of a tree. More than 150 designs were put forward by pupils and the most popular features selected by staff, parents, governors and children were incorporated into the final format.

All year groups have been out and about on trips and have welcomed visitors into school, which has helped to make the curriculum more exciting, hands-on and challenging for children.

The Junior School is hosting an open afternoon from 2pm on Thursday 14 April at which members of the public are invited to see some of the work produced this term. Refreshments will be available. Contact the school on 01629 822457.

Wirksworth Federation of Infant Schools will hold a Spring Fayre with stalls, games and refreshments. at Wirksworth CE Infant School on Friday 13 May from 4-6pm.

Jelly Beans meets every Wednesday from 1.45-3.15pm in Wirksworth Infant School hall. Parents or carers and pre-school children are welcome to come along for an afternoon of activities and games. It costs £2 including refreshments. Phone 01629 822496 for details.

ORIGINALLY based in The Stable Block in Blind Lane, and then in Chesterfield, Derek Trowell's architectural practice is now located in Hopkinson's House, one of the key buildings impressively restored under the Wirksworth regeneration project. It's an appropriate office base, because it was Derek's enthusiasm to work with Andrew Sabir, one of the leading architects for the Wirksworth Project, which attracted him here in the first place. After qualifying, he had worked on designs for the new British Library before moving to Nottingham and subsequently teaming up with Andrew Sabir in Wirksworth. Nearly thirty years later Derek is still here and his enthusiasm for architecture is undiminished.

His practice has developed a particular expertise in sustainable and ecologically sound initiatives, particularly resonant given current concerns about the environment and climate change. Recent projects include the first Sure Start centre built entirely on sustainable principles. It is in the centre of the Rosehill district of Derby and is based around a garden oasis and features a solar tree - designed

to power the centre's minibus. This building has attracted much praise as well as two awards from the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA). Another challenge was a competition to design an energy-efficient family home which could be built as a terraced house for no more than £70,000. Derek's practice won the competition and the house, known as the BASF house, now stands occupied in the grounds of Nottingham University.

Derek has always been interested in teaching architecture and his commitments have included both Sheffield and Nottingham Universities. His practice regularly offers opportunities for students to gain their architectural experience in a working environment. Architecture, as with most other professions, has changed much over the past few years. However it is clear that Derek Trowell Architects is offering an approach to design that is individual and pertinent to current concerns and trends. His current projects include a scheme for a row of houses in Youlgrave to be built on similar principles to the award-winning house in the grounds



Derek Trowell

of Nottingham University.

Derek is part of that group of Wirksworth residents and professionals who have skills, expertise and talents that have earned them recognition far beyond the limits of the town. PRR

Andrew helps homeless

WHEN CF met Andrew Redfern he was locked in negotiations that could determine the future of 200 workers and thousands of vulnerable people in Nottingham.

Wirksworth born and bred, Andrew is now Chief Executive of Framework Housing Association, a charity based in Nottingham.

Last year Framework helped nearly 7,000 homeless and vulnerable people, but cuts proposed by central and local government threaten the closure of its hostels, specialist housing and community support services, forcing people back on the streets.

Framework is seeking a judicial review of the cuts.

Andrew attended Anthony Gell School before reading Politics, Philosophy and Economics at Oxford. He lived in Brixton after the 1980s riots and for a short while was a Lloyds banker. He worked at Arlington House, a hostel for 400 homeless people in Camden Town and in 1996 was appointed director of the small Nottingham charity that has developed into Framework.

Determined to think for himself, he settled on Christian faith as the foundation of his views and driver of his choices, such as working with disadvantaged people in inner-city



London because 'everyone matters'.

Andrew married Joanna, now an infant head teacher, in 1995. They live in Matlock with their three children. Andrew enjoys returning to Wirksworth where he visits his parents and honours his passion for cricket. He values the long-standing friendships that make it possible to 'be himself' in the local club.

"Wirksworth is a special place," He says, "with a quality of community not matched anywhere else I've been ... the Big Society was working here for years before David Cameron supposedly invented it. Now, with these draconian cuts to voluntary groups, he is harming it badly". BF

Greenbelt

AUGUST bank holiday at Cheltenham Racecourse - bustle, noise, stalls, laughter, music, drama, faith - that's Greenbelt 2011. A festival with a broad Christian core.

A group from Wirksworth will be there. Get in touch with Paul Heppleston paul.heppleston@virgin.net 01629 540969 for more information.

Nelson closed

AFTER running the Nelson in Middleton for eight and a half years, Judy and Neil Mitchell have decided to close and retire to Rowsley.

Judy told CF: "It was a hard decision, but because of Neil's ill health and other things, such as the economics of the business, we felt it was the right time to go. We hope the Nelson won't be empty for long and that our customers will soon be enjoying their village pub again."

She continued: "We'll take away many good memories of Middleton (and some not so good ones!). We thank our loyal customers for all their support. We'll miss you all."

Before the pub closed on Monday 7 February there was a party night on the Saturday and the usual Sunday quiz.

Grants available

IF your community, voluntary or self-help group needs a grant of between £100 and £2,000, you can apply to the Co-operative Community Fund.

During the past 10 years Co-operative members have donated more than £8m to this fund, allowing hundreds of local groups, projects, community groups, self-help organisations and charities to benefit.

Funding goes to innovative local projects that demonstrate benefits to their local community, have a charitable purpose, and are in line with the Co-op's values and principles. Event costs, help towards rent, lighting and heating, improvements to buildings, replacing a computer, sports project are examples of the financial support offered.

For more information and how to apply write to Community Fund, New Century House, Manchester M60 4ES, phone 0844 262 4001 or email communityfund@co-operative.coop

Did you know?

THE Crown Inn, in the Market Place, was an old coaching inn first mentioned in the Parish records in 1758. It closed in about 1910, but today part of the building is used as the post office. The high wide archway (called a carriage arch, to allow access for a stagecoach with driver on top) today leads to the Heritage Centre in Crown Yard at the rear of the Inn. The former stable and coach house in Crown Yard which has a fine oak roof has recently been refurbished and will shortly open as a Pilates studio on the ground floor with flats above.

THE fine double bow windows that front the chemist's (now B. Payne & Son Ltd) at 24 Market Place may well be the 1756 originals. The small building next door was for many years run by Fred Read and fondly remembered locally as the shop that sold everything. Ruth Payne has now opened it again as an old-fashioned sweet shop, Scrum-diddly-umptious.

TWO of Wirksworth's oldest and prettiest buildings next door to each other, now house Totley Antiques and Clare Goddard's small, intriguing art gallery called No.17. The art gallery is housed within a hall range dated by the Royal Commission on the Historic Monuments of England as of about 1625 and Totley Antiques is in a cross wing of the hall.

BEFORE the opening of the Vaults public house, the building and its large cellars were occupied by one of the town's most important 19th century businesses, Charles Wright, wine and spirit merchant, with offices in Leith and London. It was still open in 1962. Glen Haddon (seven year old) and Old Gran (ten year old) were its whisky trade marks. Charles Wright bottles and flagons have become collectors' items.

WHAT many Wirksworth people will remember well as Mee's, the wool shop on the corner of The Causeway and St John Street, should soon be opening as an antique shop 'with a difference'. The eagle-eyed will spot the date of the building, 1889, cast into the hopper head of its drain pipe.

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Easter hope

IN the past few months, a number of people have told me that the winter has made them feel a bit low. Perhaps that is not surprising, as the heavy snows before Christmas made even simple daily tasks much harder for a while and the dark nights, cold winds and low temperatures all combined to make the winter a difficult time of year.

For very different reasons, those of Jesus' friends who were around in the days immediately after his death would surely have felt low too. Jesus' friends had been full of hope and had expected him to change the world yet, after His death on Good Friday, it must have seemed as though all that Jesus had been working for had been futile. The story of Jesus' life must have seemed tragic at that point and Jesus' friends must have been desperately struggling to come to terms with his death.

But the story of Jesus' life had not yet ended. Chapter 24 of the Gospel of Luke tells us how some women went to Jesus' tomb early on the Sunday morning after he had died. Unexpectedly, the women found the stone rolled away from the entrance to the tomb and they could not find the body of Jesus. The women surely could not have imagined in their wildest dreams what would happen next. As they stood there puzzling about what had happened, two men in bright shining clothes stood by them. The women were afraid and bowed down, as the men asked them, "Why are you looking among the dead for one who is alive?" The men then went on to tell the women that Jesus was not there because he had been raised from the dead.

At this time of year, it truly begins to feel like spring has come; the sun becomes warmer, the days become longer and the countryside becomes greener. The signs of new life that are appearing all around us will hopefully help us all to feel a little brighter as we look forward to the summer. But the Easter story is not just designed to cheer us up; if we have faith in Jesus Christ, then it should change our lives in many ways. This is because the story of Jesus tells us not only of the great love that God showed for us by sending his only Son into the world for us, but also how, through Jesus' death and resurrection, we all have far more hope than anything else in the world can give us. May you experience that hope that Jesus gives this Easter time.

With best wishes.

*Robert Foster, Minister,
Wirksworth Methodist Church*

THIS painting of a prize bull (see note below) by local nineteenth century artist Thomas Roebuck sold for £10,800 at an auction held in London earlier this year.

The portrait is signed and inscribed 'Mr. Thomas Roebuck, artist, Wirksworth' on a wooden tablet attached to the reverse side of the oil.

Alistair Laird, a specialist in 19th-century paintings at Bonhams auctioneers who sold the painting, said: "It's a much larger picture than you'd normally expect - 30 x 36 inches."

The painting depicts the bull standing in a field, close to a barn door.

Mr Laird said: "Whereas most of



these so-called primitive pictures of animals are quite formulaic, this one's actually a very beautiful picture as well - it's got a lot more detail to it, a lot more background."

He continued: "In the middle of the 19th Century, British farmers were getting wealthy and many of [them] got their prize cattle and sheep - and sometimes even pigs - painted."

The bull painted by Mr Roebuck

may have been bred for exhibition at agricultural shows, which were popular pastimes. Competition at shows was fierce and some of the animals became celebrities. Animals could be fattened-up for as many as seven years to get them to the right size.

Editor: If any reader has doubts about the anatomy of this bull, please write to CF's agricultural correspondent (address on page 1) for a full explanation.

Hidden gardens

"THE Hidden Gardens and Courtyards of Wirksworth": a weekend when garden lovers were invited to explore the delights of the town's many outdoor spaces and gardens, was a great success last year, raising more than £3000 for charity.

The 2011 event is planned for 11 and 12 June, so if you are interested in taking part, please email wirksworthgardens.co.uk, call Jane on 01629 822539 or Heather on 01629 826547.

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Rotary news

JIM MOULSON, President of Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland, was a guest of the Rotary Club of Wirksworth earlier this year.

As part of his tour he visited the Aquabox depot at Steeple Grange and the Greenaway Workshop at Hackney, and met Reg Dean, an honorary Rotarian, who at the age of 108 is the oldest man in Britain.

Andy Pollock

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	Top Field End	8.10-8.30
	Bus shelter	8.35-8.55
	West Bank	9.00-9.20
Carsington	opp. Church	9.45-10.45
Cromford	Market Place	9.15-9.45
Hognaston	Old Chapel	7.45-8.15
	Mills Croft	8.15-8.55
	Red Lion	8.55-9.35
Hopton	Post Box	9.45-10.45
Kirk Ireton	Village Hall	7.45-8.30
	Village Pump	8.40-9.30
Kniveton	Public House	7.45-8.15
	Chapel Lane	8.20-9.00
	Council Houses	9.05-9.45
Middleton	Rise End	9.35-10.00
	Nelson	10.05-10.45
Wirksworth	Wood Street	7.45-10.45

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News of Durgapur

CHURCHES Together in Wirksworth and district have developed a link with the Diocese of Durgapur in India. The Diocese is part of the Church of North India, a group of denominations which came together in the early seventies, pointing the way for churches in our own country.

Jonathan Fowler and I spent ten days as guests at the Shanti Niketan centre in Durgapur, running a short youth camp, visiting local schools and joining in with the annual service of thanksgiving attended by 3500 people. The Wirksworth churches have supported a number of projects in the diocese over the last few years, and it was good to see how they are all developing. More than 250 tribal children from impoverished backgrounds are now given a good education, decent clothing and food and the space for safe play as a result of the child development programme.

The rickshaw project, which we initiated four years ago, now has thirty rickshaws which provide the means to a living for that many families. We have supported people training for ministry and advised on the building of a new cathedral for the diocese. The latest project is a child sponsorship programme in which a sponsor is able to support the education and living expenses for poor children living in the diocesan hostel.

I am available to speak about our links and any aspects of the projects with which we are involved.

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Parish room refit

CHANGES have been made to the main Parish Room by Wirksworth Area Community Orchestra to improve the acoustics of the building. The old industrial heating equipment has been removed and the main interior completely refurbished. As a result, it is now a much more enjoyable space in which to rehearse with much clearer and crisper sound.

The Parish Rooms, which house several local community groups as well as the Community Orchestra, have an interesting history.

Their original use, when built in 1850, was for wine packaging as part of a wine distribution business owned by the family who lived in the mansion next door. At the turn of the century the building was donated to the community of Wirksworth, under the guardianship of the PCC as trustees, and used for dances, a Sunday school and church social events. During the 1939 war it became a billet for soldiers undergoing training, was later transformed into a factory making ladies underwear and then children's clothes, before in 2001 it was converted back into community use, supported by the Parochial Church Council.

○ The Wirksworth Area Community Orchestra meets fortnightly in the Parish Room on Thursday evenings from 7.45pm. The orchestra is seeking more violin, viola and percussion players. If you are interested in joining us, please see www.wirksworth-orchestra.org or telephone 01629 824055.

○ A charity concert, featuring the community orchestra and organised by the Rotary Club of Wirksworth, will be held in Wirksworth town hall on Saturday 16 April at 7.30pm. It will include a mixture of light classical pieces and well-known themes from TV and films.

Tickets from the post office, Country Kitchen, Traidlinks or by calling 01629 824055. Admission £5.

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A cast iron career

WHEN CF visited Designs in Iron, based in the Old Sawmill on Wash Green, David Fletcher was working on a steel storage unit for a local business. David said that this was typical of the one-off jobs he does: "A customer hands me a drawing or vague sketch, and I get on and fabricate it".

David was born in Darley Dale and on leaving school served a four-year apprenticeship with Twiggs, the Matlock steel stockholders and fabricators. There he learned welding and other metal-working skills before spending four years with Lehane, MacKenzie and Shand, civil engineers, at their Rowsley premises, which are now part of the Peak Village retail outlet. On a visit to the converted premises he was amused to see a nail in a window frame that he had knocked in in 1970.

In 1977 David moved to Derby Road and worked as a self-employed fitter, mostly at Middleton mine, but doing some metalwork repairs and fabrication for others. In 1992 he bought his present premises, which had been unused for 22 years and were lying derelict. He purchased the neighbouring cottage two years later, making his work much more convenient. The deeds David has for the mill go back to 1876, when it was used as a water-powered stone sawmill, but it could be older than this. Michael

Handley, the local historian who died last year, had shown David a sale catalogue from 1820, which included the mill.

David has recently been replacing the railings in front of The Vaults. He is using lead to secure the iron railings to the stone sockets in the old-fashioned way. "I don't know anyone else who does it like that these days," he said before showing me an example of the hastate finial which Twiggs had cut using their sophisticated laser cutter.

Another job David had just finished was a repair to the lid of a cast iron WC cistern, which his customer wished to preserve to retain their home's Victorian ambience.

David talked of other craftsman doing metal fabrication in the town: Steve Moor of Elysion who "was working as a lad at Twiggs during my time there", and Owen Cunningham.

David said: "We don't get in each other's way. Steve is using stainless steel and other fancy metals, while Owen pursues his art designs. I just get on with any bits and pieces people bring along, mostly what nobody else will be bothered with."

David may not be supplying iron solutions to local people much longer. He and Ruth have recently celebrated their silver wedding and may be returning to her native Cumbria. They will be missed. MGR



David Fletcher

Best films

A LOCAL director and two Wirksworth actors were up for film awards recently.

Nick Whitfield was nominated for a BAFTA award in the Outstanding Debut category for his first feature-length film, Skeletons. It's a dark comedy filmed at different Peak District locations including Matlock Bath and Nick's home village Bonsall.

Two actors who live on St John Street, Wirksworth appear in a film nominated for best original screenplay at the Hollywood Oscars. Another Year is directed by Mike Leigh and stars Jim Broadbent and Ruth Sheen. It includes scenes filmed in Derby and one of the mourners in a scene set in the chapel at the Markeaton Crematorium is Eileen Davies. Her partner, David Hobbs, plays the vicar.

Eileen says: "Acting in a Mike Leigh film is fantastic because he lets you build up your own character. There is no script to begin with and you improvise until you are ready to shoot."

Waltham House

WALTHAM House is making an important contribution to the local community. It is regularly supporting more than 300 older people who are either living in one of its flats, visiting the centre for day or respite care, or still living in their own homes but needing support.

Friends of Waltham House, established to offer a wide range of activities not only to residents but older people living around Wirksworth, have been busy during the winter months. A regular singing group has been set up; a theatre visit has taken place; there are proposals to provide computers and a greenhouse so people can grow their own plants. A series of visits to gardens and historic houses is planned and discussions are taking place with Wirksworth Film to explore the feasibility of a regular daytime film screening for local older people.

Residents would now like to develop their skills in arts and crafts such as painting, craft work, quilting, flower arranging and pottery. If you have a skill in any of these or other creative activities you would be willing to share with a group of enthusiastic older people, please contact Bridget by email on bridgetpar@btinternet.com or contact Peter on 01629 822539 or by email on peterriddle@hotmail.com. We are also looking for someone willing to coordinate such a programme.

The Friends are holding an open meeting on Wednesday 20 April 7.30pm at Waltham House. So please come along and hear about what has been achieved so far and what ideas there are for future development. You will be very welcome. PRR

Panto review

DESPITE the snow and ice, Treasure Island, the 25th annual pantomime presented by the Glee Club of Wirksworth, went ahead in all its glory in December.

The audiences at the four packed houses were rewarded by exotic scenes of pirating on the high seas and searching for treasure on Paradise Island, and by the entertaining script packed with dodgy accents, boo-hiss characters, double-entendres, custard pie flinging and sing-a-long numbers.

Performances from George Gough as Jim and Charlotte Eaton as Capt'n Smollet were commendable, whilst Craig Griffiths as leading lady Henrietta Higgins was ... most memorable.

Supporting cast members put in fluent and confident performances –

Merry the pirate (Kate Abbott)'s "drunken" speech at the wheel of the ship was especially enjoyable.

The large chorus featured some talented young performers able to cope with the many costume changes. Rosie Kuhlmann (Roger Rabbit) was awarded this year's Sam Taylor trophy for her unflinching enthusiasm throughout the gruelling rehearsal schedule.

The performance benefited from the town hall's recently fitted stage backdrops and curtaining, and use of a lighting and special effects team.

The whole troupe – including choreography by Darren Allsobrook, music from Peters Riddle and Wadesom and the back-stage support – is to be praised for another unforgettable production. CR

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Sing Messiah

SUNDAY 15 May will see the first performance in Wirksworth for many years of the much-loved Messiah by George Frederick Handel.

It will take place in St Mary's Parish Church, and is an event for the whole community organised by the Wirksworth Community Choir under the leadership of their musical director Lynn Dean and open for anyone interested to join in. Financial support has been pledged for the event by Derbyshire Community Foundation.

Since the appointment of Lynn in 2009 the choir has re-established itself with a healthy membership of singers who enjoy a wide range of musical genres. After an enthusiastic response to their performance with the Ashbourne Sinfonia of Vivaldi's Gloria last year the choir are keen to present the Handel work and to involve as many other singers and instrumentalists from the surrounding area as possible.

Singers are most welcome to join in with the Community Choir's own rehearsals which are held on Wednesday evenings at Wirksworth Junior School between 7.45 and 9pm during term time. In addition, two rehearsal workshops to assist people with learning the work will take place. The first will be held at Anthony Gell School on Saturday 2 April from 1pm to 4.30pm and the second at St Mary's Church on Saturday 14 May from 10am to 4.30pm. A final dress rehearsal will take place in the church on Sunday 15 May.

Tickets for the performance on 15 May at 7.30pm will be £10/£8 (children under 12 free) at the door and from Traidlinks.

For further information and application forms contact Lynn Dean 07813 654020 or Anne Oldak (Secretary) 01629 822844, anne@oldak.net or log on to www.wirksworthcommunitychoir.luporz.com

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What Price the future?

CF met Janice Price over a mug of coffee when she was still trying to make sense of the government's plans for the future of the Rural Derbyshire School Sport Partnership she has managed for ten years.

The original decision was to axe the partnership, but after a public outcry culminating in a national petition organised by school students and handed in to 10 Downing Street on 14 December, the government had second thoughts. "They hadn't appreciated the devastating impact the cut would have on schools like Anthony Gell School and village schools," Janice said.

In Derbyshire Dales the scheme has involved not only AGS, but the secondary schools at Ashbourne, Matlock, Bakewell, Hope Valley and all their 64 feeder schools. It has provided high-quality coaching in schools, many with poor sports facilities. Through its five co-ordinators it has organised sports tournaments and competitions for schools, and establishes links between young people and local sports clubs. It has helped hundreds of children and young people to get fitter by participating in a range of sports. It has brought secondary schools like AGS and their feeder schools closer, and made the transition between year six and year seven smoother.

Janice Price was brought up in Witney in Oxfordshire ("My parents still live there") and her first school had 20 or so pupils, so she is well aware of the lack of sports facilities in village schools. Encouraged by her PE teacher at Woodgreen School at Witney, she started to play netball and hockey and went on to train as a PE teacher. She worked at schools in Wiltshire and Avon before moving to Chellaston School in Derby where she was head of Girls PE for eight years.

She retrained as a special needs teacher ("I wanted to spend more quality time with my two boys") and wrote to a number of local schools



Janice Price

about work. Her enquiry arrived with Rod Leach (then Head of Anthony Gell School) on the same day as a letter telling him the school had achieved Sports College status. She was interviewed and was appointed to "the best job in the world", creating links between schools, thinking of innovative ways of engaging children and young people in sport.

She was therefore devastated to read in the Matlock Mercury the local MP Patrick McLoughlin describe the partnership as "a bureaucratic failure" and to hear that her post and the funding for the whole initiative was to be axed.

The government's much-publicised reprieve for the partnership is only temporary, Janice tells CF. She was to have lost her job at the end of March this year – and now it's going to be the end of August. The funding for primary schools stops at the end of this month. Because it's widely accepted that the initiative has been successful and is too valuable to lose, Derbyshire County Council, the health sector ("there are undoubted health benefits") and headteachers are trying to find ways for it to continue even if in a truncated way.

So, as Janice left, she didn't know what the future holds for the partnership or for her.

Her job has been an important part of her life: "As soon as I walked into Anthony Gell School I felt at home ... I knew I'd never want to leave".

But her job isn't everything: she has her two sons, her love of outdoor sport ("mountain biking and ski-ing are two of my passions, my boys love sailing") and she is trying to fulfil a long-held ambition: "I'm learning to salsa". *BF*

Albion on form

ALBION'S newly formed Saturday side are currently fifth in the Matlock and District Football League. They have gone unbeaten since the end of October, playing some attractive and entertaining football that has given them fine wins against title challengers Woodthorpe Rovers 3-1 and Kings Arms 6-4. They are also through to the semi-finals of the Manor Pharmacy Shield after a thrilling 6-4 win over current league leaders Hillcote United.

These results are a great credit to everyone involved in this new team, and there is still plenty to play for.

Meanwhile Albion's double-winning Sunday side have also enjoyed a fine run of form in the Derby City Football League, having been unbeaten since the middle of October. This run included important wins against Normanton Allstars at home 3-2, and away 4-1 and victories over last season's league runners up Field Lane in the league 3-1 and in the Cup 3-2.

The side currently sit top of the Premier Division One table, and are through to the semi-finals of both the Premier and League Challenge Trophy cup competitions. *Paul Steeples*

Joanne retires

CF understands that current British ladies trials motorcycling champion and world number three, 18 year old Joanne Coles from Middleton is retiring from the sport.

It was more than four years ago that CF interviewed Joanne, and since then she has become one of the best motorbike trials riders in the world.

Mark Kilhams – team manager for the Ace trial team – has thanked Joanne and the Coles family for their hard work and dedication to the team over the past four years.



Joanne Coles

Leisure centre

THE Face winter bouldering aggregate, a competition for climbers of all ages and abilities is well under way with prizes from Wild Country, Embers and Core Climbing.

The seventh annual Christmas Gymnastics Extravaganza, postponed because of December's bad weather, took place in January.

More than 280 mums, dads, sisters, brothers, aunts, uncles and grandparents came to the centre to see the enthusiastic young gymnasts put on an excellent display of individual and group skills.

If you want more information about the centre and the Easter activities phone 01629 824717. *Neil Spencer*

Cricket pavilion

WORK is well underway in renovating and refurbishing Wirksworth and Middleton Cricket Club's pavilion before the start of the new season.

Substantial grants from the English Cricket Board and the Derbyshire Aggregates Fund, together with local fund-raising and generous donations from Tapton Estates, have allowed the major changes to the out-of-date building to take place.

Learner pool

AS CF goes to press negotiations are still under way on the future of Wirksworth learner pool.

Neil Moulden of Derbyshire Dales Council for Voluntary Service and Sylvia Green of Rural Action Derbyshire are continuing their discussions on the viability of a community trust being set up to help run the pool, currently the responsibility of Derbyshire Dales District Council (DDDC).

However, any trustees will need to know whether the pool is making money, whether necessary repairs and improvements to the building have already been made, and whether DDCC is prepared to give continuing support to any trust that is formed.

A working group of interested local people has already been formed and if you are interested in joining contact Sylvia Green on 01629 824797. *BF*

Sports shorts

CONGRATULATIONS to Harriette Phillips, Rosy Thorpe, Abbi Lawley and Thomas Phillips of Middleton and Wirksworth Wrestling Club who each won a gold medal at the British championships at Bolton.

THE AGS Under13 Girls are the Derbyshire Junior Team of the Year. Already Derbyshire Dales champion junior team, they won the honour at the Derbyshire Sports Awards competing against teams from all over the county.

RICHARD Daldorph from Wirksworth has received a top honour from the Royal Yachting Association (RYA). He was named Derbyshire's RYA Volunteer of the Year for his work encouraging young people to sail.

WIRKSWORTH Memorial Bowling Club invites new members to join when the new outdoor season starts on 1 April. The annual subscriptions are £40 for playing and £5 for non-playing members. Contact Joy Allsop on 01629 824286 for more information.

LYNDON Smith on behalf of Wirksworth Colts Athletic Under 12s would like to thank the following local traders who have donated items or services to the team's recent fundraising evening at the Red Lion Hotel, Wirksworth: Hairworks and lans Hairdressers, Hollingsworth's and Walkers Butchers, Kens Supermarket, Royal Oak, Wirksworth Brewery, ScrumDiddyUmptious, Factory shop, Traidlinks, Mrs Hadfield, LPS Driving Tuition. And a special thanks to Hannage Brook medical centre who have donated £200 towards a new kit for next season.

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