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Issue 157

May 2011

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**Hylton's eyes are on the road**



**TRAIN driver Hylton Holt from Belper delivering tea to his footplate mates from Leicestershire aboard the Royal train. Details page 2.**

**New town council**

THE elections on 5 May brought a couple of changes to Wirksworth Town Council.

Benjamin Dew and Pam Taylor were elected to the council to join Dave Brown, Alison Clamp, David Haspel, Stephen Maskrey, Andy Pollock, Irene Ratcliffe, Mike Ratcliffe, Josh Stockell and Chris Whittall who kept their seats.

Irene Ratcliffe, Mike Ratcliffe and Peter Slack were re-elected to serve on Derbyshire Dales District Council.

— NEXT ISSUE —

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**COMMUNITY FAYRE**

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**Carnival weekend celebrations**

THE weekend of 28–30 May is the time for Wirksworth to celebrate. It's Carnival weekend!

This year the crowning of the carnival queen will take place on Saturday 28 May in the Memorial Gardens at 2pm. The royal retinue are Becky Ward (carnival queen), Eve Kerry (junior queen), Kiera Pidcock (princess) and Laila Brown (rosebud).

On Saturday 28 May there will be stalls on the Market Place, a craft fair in the Memorial Hall and in the afternoon and evening behind the Lime Kiln, the Rock Face Gig featuring the Wam Bam Band and four other local bands. It starts at 3pm and goes on till late. Tickets for the gig (£8) can be bought from Top Ken's, Traid Links and the Lime Kiln.

The theme of the procession through the town on Monday 30 May is film and television. It's hoped that people will decorate their floats and choose their fancy dress to celebrate their favourite programme or character, but it isn't compulsory. Chris Booth, who chairs the Carnival committee, says: "We want lots of fancy dress and lots of floats in the parade whatever they're wearing".

If you are taking part, there are prizes to be won, and the judging this year will take place on Wood Street by the Anthony Gell School bus bay. (**not** the Ravenstor industrial estate) You must be there at 12 noon. The procession will set off at 1pm and move up St John Street, past the Market Place, along Harrison Drive, down North End, up Coldwell Street, past the Market Place for the second



**Dancers from Starkholmes troupe Flame, who will perform at Wirksworth carnival**

time, and on to Derby Road ending at the Kings Field recreation ground.

The star attraction on the field, towering above the crowd and keeping everyone on their toes, will be Titan, the giant singing dancing robot. Chris Booth is looking forward to meeting him and tells CF: "Titan is

a fantastic entertainment robot. He's appeared all over the world – America, China, Dubai – and now he's coming to Wirksworth. You really have to see him to believe him – he can be quite scary, but only in a comical way."

There will be other entertainment: all kinds of stalls, rides and roundabouts, a beer tent, demonstrations by Wirksworth and Middleton Wrestling Club, the manoeuvres of Bonsall Red Barrows, and the wriggings of Flame, the belly-dancing troupe from Starkholmes.

Chris and the committee still need more helpers, particularly stewards for the parade, so phone him on 07849 000653 if you can lend a hand in any way.

CF hopes the sun shines and the people of Wirksworth enjoy themselves, give generously and that some will join the committee to ensure this traditional community event continues

**Well-dressing festival**

NINE teams of dressers are busy working on their designs in readiness for the blessing ceremony, which begins in St Mary's Church at 10.45am on Saturday 28 May. Each well dressing will then be visited in turn by the local clergy and choir.

The dressers are hoping that their weeks of hard work will encourage plenty of visitors who will donate generously to their nominated charities.

The nine well dressings will be sited in seven different parts of the town:

1. St Mary's Churchyard – behind the shops on the east side of the main road. **Christian Aid**
2. Market Place – near the zebra crossing, on the west side of the main road. **Community Well**
3. Gate house – at the other end of the Causeway from Lloyds Bank. **The Masons**
4. The Cruck Beam – on the east side of the main road. **Junior School and Pre-school Playgroup**
5. Waltham House – on the main road, opposite the Memorial Gardens **Rotary Club**
6. The Memorial Gardens - on the east side of the main road. **Anthony Gell School Infant School**
7. The Methodist Church Yard – behind the Methodist Church in Wood Street, off the east side of the main road. **Methodist Church**

**INSIDE**

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- **Here? Barry/Cath? Page 1**

**WIRKSWORTH TOWN COUNCIL**

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**Wanted: your scarecrows**

SCARECROWS will again invade Wirksworth during the well dressing and carnival weekend.

If you have a window or garage roof that faces a road, imagination, a sense of humour and a little practical ability you can add to the fun the Scarecrow Festival brings to the town.

This year there will be a special trophy in the shape of a designer watering can for the best scarecrow on display. There will be space on it to include the names of this year's and following years' winners, so it's someone's chance to be the first name on the watering can.

To enter the competition and have a chance of winning the prestigious trophy, you need to collect an entry form from Sally-Anne at Marsdens or phone her on 01629 820191. It costs £2 (for charity) per scarecrow to enter.

Judging (by local celebrities, not by Peter Andre as rumoured in the town) will be during 27–29 May.

Sally-Anne says: "Let's make this the best Scarecrow Festival ever!"

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# Irongate mystery find

BUILDERS working on an extension to Bennett's Iron Gate shop in Derby recently found a 20 inch tall pot stamped with the date 1820 and the word Wirksworth. They found it in a vault which was uncovered when they removed a partition wall.

Retail director Ian McMillen said: "We were surprised to find the pot and ever since we have been scratching our heads about what it was used for. It would once have had a handle and a spout but we really don't know what it was used to store. We believe it could have been some kind of liquid, maybe oil or alcohol."

Before Benetts started trading on Irongate in 1734, the building had been used as an alehouse and this leads CF to believe the pot may have originated from Charles Wright and Son, wine and spirit merchants of Wirksworth.

Readers with information on the mystery pot can contact CF (address and phone number on page 1) or e-mail [ian@bennettsirongate.co.uk](mailto:ian@bennettsirongate.co.uk)

The pot is now on display in the store on Irongate.

## Eco courses

THE Derbyshire Eco Centre's new brochure contains details of the many courses available this summer: activities for families and creative children, arts and crafts, heritage skills, new and sustainable technologies, stone-walling, making your garden greener, finding out about the local wildlife, landscape and history and even making an outdoor bread oven.

If you want to know more, collect a brochure from the Eco Centre office, off Porter Lane (open Monday to Friday from 9.30am to 4.30pm), phone Nikki Wright, programme manager, on 01629 539649 or log onto [www.ecocentrexchange.org.uk](http://www.ecocentrexchange.org.uk)



Ian McMillen with Wirksworth pot

## Disabled people have rights

DISABLED people should enjoy the same rights as everybody – to live in the same streets, go to the same places and do the same things – but they are not always able to enjoy ordinary independence. Society disables some people by creating or approving barriers like stairways or by not providing accessible facilities to public buildings, or not providing easily understood information.

The Peaks and Dales Volunteering and Advancement project was granted five years funding in September last year to increase opportunities for disabled people living in this area to live full lives in their communities. They organise training and mentoring in confidence building for disabled people and talk to local businesses, schools and groups about disability.

If you want to find out more phone 07805 878729, email [pdva.project@dcil.org.uk](mailto:pdva.project@dcil.org.uk) or log on to [www.dcil.org.uk/dpva](http://www.dcil.org.uk/dpva)

## School upgraded

WIRKSWORTH Junior School is happy to announce that it has been removed from the special measures grading instigated by OFSTED in October 2009.

The school had its fourth visit from an HM inspector team before Easter, at the end of which the inspector had "seen evidence of significant progress in all areas" and saw no need to visit again.

Head teacher, Mrs Lesley Grover said: "We are delighted to have made such progress in so short a timescale. The inspector commented on the good behaviour of our pupils and their positive attitude towards learning.

"The children and staff have worked incredibly hard together and we are all really proud of our school."

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## 33 teams quizzed

THE 13th annual community quiz was held at Anthony Gell School in March. 33 teams competed for the coveted Community Challenge Cup with lavish prizes awarded for each round, but it's definitely the taking part that we all enjoy most.

The picture round organised by Phil Richards involved putting pictures of historic moments of the town into chronological order. Did you know that Rolls Royce used to test their cars up Greenhill and down The Dale? Was that you shaking hands with the Queen in 1992 or walking down the middle of Warmbrook in 1947? There was controversy – did Spock ever captain the Enterprise? – when Paddy Turner, the ever-cheerful compere, had to step in to keep the peace. He also devised another ingenious music round – the last letter of each answer gave you the first letter of the next one. Our team started well with top marks for the "Who said that" round but as usual struggled with our local knowledge in Don Hughes' "Derbyshire" round and Barry's quirky sports round: do you know the maximum number of clubs allowed in a golf bag? We were sustained by Jill Hughes' refreshments and had our answers scrutinised by the team of volunteer scorers with Ray Foley collating the results. The Lime Kiln were overall winners, closely followed by Tip Top Twinners, Festival Follies, Fire Hosers and Monday Night Football. We were pleased to end up joint seventh.

Roll on next year! *Eileen Kirk (team member of Community ACES)*

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# Coach House restored

THE old Coach House in the Crown Yard has been restored by Carol Fieldhouse (formerly Mitchell) and her husband, Paul, an architect. An eighteenth century coaching inn, The Crown, existed opposite the Market Place in Wirksworth until 1910 and behind it, through the archway by the post office, is Crown Yard. Over the years, the old buildings there have housed many different enterprises and one of them, the old Coach House bought by Carol and Paul, had fallen into serious disrepair.

Carol who teaches Pilates in Groom's Cottage, a small stone building near the station, needs more room and her new studio will be based in the restored building.

Thanks to two skilled local builders the work is due to be finished

in early June: John Frith has completed a complicated roof restoration and Chris Goodman's team, Hi Tor Builders, continue to tackle the many challenges inherent in a semi-derelict historic building.

Carol also wants to thank those who live and work nearby: "Our Crown Yard neighbours have had to contend with a lot of disruption, and we have really appreciated their understanding and kindness during the last few months".

There will be no flats in the new building (as incorrectly reported in CF 156) but it will include a large studio and office on the first floor and a smaller upper ground floor studio that a Shiatsu practitioner will use. Therapists and counsellors will be able to book the lower ground floor, and the large upper floor studio will be available to hire to community groups. View the website at [www.thecoachhousestudios.co.uk](http://www.thecoachhousestudios.co.uk) or contact Carol on 07971 885023 if you are interested.

Paul and Carol hope that, when completed in early June, the restored Coach House will be an asset to the town. *BR*

○ The Coach House restoration project has been supported through LEADER in the Peak District Rural Action Zone by the Rural Development Project England jointly funded by the European Union and DEFRA and delivered by Derby and Derbyshire Economic Partnership.

John and Avis

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# Did you know?

That BRADBOURNE is one of 30 "Thankful" villages in England which sent men to the 1914-18 war and received them all home again. 18 went from Bradbourne and 18 came back.

That BRASSINGTON is the resting place of Michael Adams, a 17th century Yorkshire rector, who died while on a journey. In the chancel of Brassington church there is a brass plate with the following inscription (translated from the Latin): "Pause traveller for a while and drop at least a passing tear for the lamentable death of a certain traveller whom perchance travelling hence, when a fierce winter was raging without, the more raging heat of an inextinguishable fever seized him within, and carried him without a doubt to the mansions of the Lord in a chariot of fire like unto Elijah".

That in CARSINGTON in 1698 the Easter offering was set as follows: for every hen - 1 egg; for every person - 1 penny; for every house - 3 pence; for every cow - 1 penny; for every calf - 1 penny halfpenny; for every foal - 1 penny; for bees - 1 penny. (part of the 17th century "Big Society"?)

That CROMFORD's Sir Richard Arkwright, the 13th child of his parents, was able to give every one of his 10 children a Christmas present of £10,000. He also began the building of Willersley Castle and Cromford Church, but the castle burnt down when it was almost finished, and he died before he could rebuild it or finish the church. It was left to his son Richard to complete both. *DH*

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# Modern marriage

ON Easter Day we congratulated Alastair and Ruth Rennie on their seventieth wedding anniversary.

It's quite an achievement, and an encouragement to all those who are embarking on their marriage in a different era. The Church of England has recently launched a new website for those who are preparing for their wedding. At the same time the Church has conducted a serious piece of research about the institution of marriage in the 21st century. It comes as no surprise that the number of weddings being conducted in places of worship has dropped significantly in the last 30 years. There is so much competition these days. Half of all children are now born outside marriage, and yet a significant proportion of young people believe that marriage is the best context in which to raise a family.

The Wirksworth team ministry has sought to respond to these changing times by enhancing the support it offers to those wishing to get married. We have reviewed and renewed our marriage preparation material, and invited those wishing to get married in church to spend a day together at Bradbourne church hall.

St Mary's hosted a wedding fayre in May which sought to provide information to couples contemplating marriage and to provide a space for local businesses involved in the marriage business to show what they have to offer. It was the first wedding fayre to have taken place at St Mary's since the successful event three years ago and we expect that it boosted the local economy as well as being helpful to those thinking about marriage. Our hope, of course, is the event will make couples think seriously about getting married in church.

*Canon David Truby*

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# Aidan's StarDisc vision

THERE will be a party in Stoney Wood to celebrate the Stardisc's official opening one evening during the Wirksworth Festival this September. Plans are afoot for live music, a film in the open air, entertainment by local schools and a contribution from astronomer, Patrick Moore.

Sitting sipping tea outside his studio on a hot April afternoon, Katy his greyhound at his feet, Stardisc's originator and designer, Aidan Shingler told CF how it all came about: "Throughout my life, I have been enchanted by the mystery and magic of the stars. The inspiration for the StarDisc stems from a vision to create environments where people from all walks of life can gather, contemplate and connect with whatever lies beyond the sphere of our world."

It has been a hugely ambitious six year project. The StarDisc spans 12.2m (40 feet). Carved into black granite is a star chart which mirrors the northern hemisphere's night sky. The surface of the stone circle is inscribed with the constellations, their names and a depiction of the Milky Way. Black stone has been chosen to evoke the darkness of deep space. Contrasting with the star chart is a perimeter of silver-grey granite on which 12 seats are positioned. The seats denote the months of the year. By night, 72 lights illuminate the StarDisc, powered by our nearest star, the sun.

Aidan acknowledges the financial backing he's received from national bodies such as the Arts Council of England and the National Lottery, but he also wants to put on record the help he's received from friends and family, Wirksworth Town Council, the Stoney Wood group, the Stardisc steering group and Rosie Rennie, local architect. "Without their encouragement and support, there would be no



**Aidan Shingler with his greyhound Katy**

Stardisc," he says.

He sees the Stardisc as a place where people can go to contemplate and reflect, but also as a "celestial amphitheatre" which will be used for community events, story-telling, dance, music and theatre. He hopes it will attract more local people to Stoney Wood and also more visitors to the town.

Aidan has lived in Wirksworth for 13 years and says he's best known in the town as "the man with the dog" and he's happy with that. CF believes that, from September, he'll always be known as the artist who conceived and achieved the StarDisc in Stoney Wood. *BF*

Aidan Shingler has worked in the field of visual arts for more than 30 years and has exhibited throughout the United Kingdom including Durham Cathedral, Bournemouth International Conference Centre, Kent Institute for Art & Design and the Orleans House Gallery, London.

His work is included in the permanent collection of the Glasgow Gallery of Modern Art. He was curator of the 1990 Visions exhibition, Royal College of Art. He is the author of One in a Hundred; an exploration of the spiritual and creative potential of 'schizophrenia'.

# Money on your roof

SOME houses around Wirksworth have solar photo-voltaic (PV) panels on their roofs, taking advantage of a clean energy cashback scheme. John and June Berry had them installed a year ago on their bungalow in Gatehouse Drive.

John says: "We are getting a steady income which is an 8 to 9% return on our investment. We are also generating electricity with almost no carbon emissions and have lower electricity bills."

John has signed up to the Feed-in Tariff scheme which gives financial incentives for generating domestic electricity from renewable sources such as panels, wind turbines and hydroelectric units.

To benefit from panels, you need a roof that faces south (more or less) and isn't shaded by trees. According to the Energy Saving Trust, it should cost about £12,000 and could earn around £770 per year from the Generation Tariff, £30 per year from the Export Tariff and £120 per year reduction in current electricity bills.

Without this investment, you can still benefit as companies are offering to install PV panels on your roof for free. You get reduced electricity bills, in exchange for them getting the tariff income. The Energy Saving Trust's website has more information.

Do you need planning approval? The Derbyshire Dales Planning Department say that the majority of properties can have solar panels installed, including within the Conservation Area.

John Berry is happy to talk to anyone who wants to know more about PV panels on 01629 822441.

*MAH*

## Town and village skip dates: May-September 2011 Ashbourne Recycling Centre is open daily 8.30am-6pm

Location	Address	Time	Dates
Bonsall	Lorry park	10.00-10.45	14 May, 11 June, 9 Jul, 13 Aug, 10 Sept
Bradbourne	Monument	10.00-10.45	2 Jul, 13 Aug
Brassington	Greenway	7.45-8.05	21 May, 2 Jul, 6 Aug, 17 Sept
	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	23 Jul
Cromford	Market Place	9.15-9.45	14 May, 11 June, 9 Jul, 13 Aug, 10 Sept
Hognaston	Old Chapel	7.45-8.15	23 Jul
	Mills Croft	8.15-8.55	
	Red Lion	8.55-9.35	
Hopton	Post Box	9.45-10.45	16 Jul, 20 Aug
Kirk Ireton	Village Hall	7.45-8.30	16 Jul, 20 Aug
	Village Pump	8.40-9.30	
Kniveton	Public House	7.45-8.15	2 Jul, 13 Aug
	Chapel Lane	8.20-9.00	
	Council Houses	9.05-9.45	
Middleton	Rise End	9.35-10.00	21 May, 2 Jul, 6 Aug, 17 Sept
	Nelson	10.05-10.45	
Wirksworth	Wood Street	7.45-10.45	14, 28 May, 11, 25 June, 9, 23, 30 Jul, 13, 27 Aug, 10, 24 Sept

# Relationship at breaking point?

For a free initial meeting to see how we can protect your financial position on a relationship breakdown call Ben Stubbins on:

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When a relationship breaks down income and capital are often stretched in order to create two households out of one.

It is a worrying time for most people who may be concerned as to where they and any children will live and what money they will have to live on.

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# Ian lives his dream

When CF visited Ian Robb and his wife Charlotte Rattenbury at Sycamore House, a thousand feet up in the hamlet of Ible, the sun was shining on their chickens, ducks and rabbits grazing in front of the house they had restored thirteen years ago. Ian explained that his business of lime plastering and fitting woodburning stoves had originated from the total restoration of this house. A project of love that had taken him five years.

Ian was born and brought up in Matlock Bath and, having a keen interest in climbing, started his working life in Bivouac, a local climbing and walking shop. Charlotte pointed out that Ian's climbing experience came in useful for his chimney work! Later he worked for Stancliffe Stone and for Harrington Generators.

Ian and Charlotte met when Charlotte moved up to Derbyshire from London. The pair originally lived near Farley Hill, Matlock, but reassessed their lives after a close friend of a similar age died in a flying accident. Realising that life was too short to waste, they set about changing their priorities and decided to live their dream. They looked for a place in the country and found Sycamore House, which needed completely refurbishing. Ian and Charlotte admit that they had not quite understood what they had let themselves in for. Not being able to afford a builder, they lived in a caravan outside the property for 18 months, while Ian set about the restoration at weekends and evenings after work.

Wanting to be honest to the restoration of the house by using traditional methods, Ian tried but failed to find someone to do the lime plastering. Attending an English Heritage day at Barlborough Hall he met its owner, who was giving lime plastering demonstrations and learnt from him. Ian practised on Sycamore House and his work improved as he gained experience.

Ian has since lime plastered in prestigious buildings including Chatsworth House, Elton church, the orangery at Wollaton Hall and he is soon to start work on Hemmington Hall. He has plastered a whole house at Grindon Moor and carried out

restoration work on many local barns and cottages.

Ian is a member of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings (SPAB) enabling him to obtain advice and information from an organisation dedicated to an aim he supports.

The stove fitting also came about from the experience of fitting stoves in Sycamore House, and Ian is now one of the first trained HETAS (Heating Equipment Testing and Approval Scheme) installers in Derbyshire. This fits in well with the plastering which cannot be carried out in frosty conditions, just the time of year customers want woodburning stoves. He and his young employee, Steve Frazer of Wirksworth, are kept busy and have work booked in for more than two months ahead.

Apart from work, Ian and Charlotte enjoy acquiring artwork by local and national artists and have for several years hosted two girls, Liza and Buka, who have been affected by the radiation from the Chernobyl nuclear disaster of 25 years ago.

I came away after an interesting hour with a couple who through hard work and dedication to their ideals have achieved what is for them a rewarding and unusual lifestyle. *MGR*

## Get together

A NETWORKING event for community and voluntary groups has been arranged by Derbyshire Dales Council for Voluntary Service (DDCVS) on Saturday 2 July in Wirksworth Town Hall 10am-12pm. It's a chance to meet local voluntary groups and learn about their work.

If you belong to a group that may be interested in booking a free stall or space at the event, contact Jonathan SImcock by phoning 01629 812154 or emailing jonathan@ddcv.org.uk

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# Introducing Alderwasley Hall

SOME of the students you see in Wirksworth, either in supervised groups or on their own, may be from Alderwasley Hall School.

Alderwasley Hall School is a special school that caters for the needs of young people with speech, language and communication difficulties. It has two sites, in Alderwasley village (primary and secondary age) and at Callow Park (sixth form) with an additional residential house in Matlock. It takes students with complex communication difficulties from across the UK. Many of the students have a diagnosis of Asperger's syndrome or autism which affects 1 in 100 people, so the chances are many of you will know

## Practice news

THE way the National Health Service might be organised and the future role of GPs is certain to be one subject for discussion at the next meeting of the Hannage Brook Medical Centre Patients' Forum on Tuesday 28 June at 6.30pm at the surgery. It would be great to see new faces at the meeting as well as regulars. Medical staff and patients discuss matters of common interest and improvements that can be made to the service the practice offers.

There have been changes in the way the practice deals with requests for urgent same day appointments. If there are no routine appointments left for that day when you telephone, contact details will be taken and the doctor on call will ring you back, usually within the next couple of hours. The doctor will deal with the problem over the phone if possible to save you having to come to the surgery or will book you a reserved appointment slot for later that same morning. In case of extreme emergency it is advisable to call 999.

The medical centre is keen to support carers. Many people, including those under the age of 18 whose parents rely on them for their help and even survival, may be unaware that they are carers or that help is available. If you are in a caring role please let the practice know. Doctors and nurses can help by listening to what you tell them about yourself and the needs of the person you look after. They can also make sure that you are offered regular health checks and flu jabs. Carer packs are available at the surgery containing lots of useful information.

We welcome Lorna Corbyn who has joined the centre as a practice nurse. *Sandy Tomlinson, Practice Manager*

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# Amnesty at 50

THIS year marks the 50th anniversary of Amnesty International's work in defence of human rights, and Al Wirksworth and district group is celebrating with a series of exciting events.

From Saturday 28 May to Friday 3 June there will be exhibitions in Wirksworth and Matlock libraries. On well dressings Saturday, 28 May, the group will be hosting a Golden Plant stall on Wirksworth market place with plants sure to add a splash of colour to any garden. For the hidden gardens weekend, 11 and 12 June, Amnesty is one of two charities supported. This will be followed on 25 June by a day-long celebration for National Refugee Week in Wirksworth churchyard. With stalls, drama and other activities there promises to be something for everyone.

To find out more about these and future events email wirksworth aigroup@yahoo.com or come along to the group's monthly meetings every third Tuesday at the Red Lion, Coldwell Street, Wirksworth.

## Parents' Forum

IF you are a parent or carer of a child aged five or under you are invited to join the Parents' Forum that is being set up at the Children's Centre in the Memorial Hall Wirksworth. It's a chance for you to have your say in what services are needed by parents with young families. Meetings will be held six times a year.

If you are interested or want to find out more please call Nicky Newberry 01283 224795 or email nicky.newberry@derbysire.gov.uk

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# Playgroup praised

WIRKSWORTH Pre-School Playgroup's recent Ofsted Inspection has resulted in another glowing report. The inspector found "the friendly and relaxed environment a stimulating and comfortable place for children to enjoy and achieve".

The staff are delighted that their hard work and dedication has continued to be recognised; they will continue to provide the best quality of care and early years education possible.

The report can be read online at [www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk), by inserting the unique reference number 206908.

The Pre-School Playgroup runs two sessions every weekday during term time from 9-11.30am and 12.45-3.15pm. They are for children aged two and a half to school age, and funded places are available for three and four year olds. Places for children from two and a half years old are available from September 2011. You are advised to book your child's place as soon as possible as places are limited.

You can find out more about what Playgroup has to offer and meet the staff and committee at the annual open evening and BBQ towards the end of June, or by phoning 01629 822625.

# Walking for charity

Dear CF

I AM at Buxton College studying health and social care. When I was visiting the outpatients department at the Royal Derby Hospital I saw a leaflet about a sponsored walk to raise money for Derby hospitals' charities and decided to take part.

On Sunday 20 March I completed the eight and a half mile walk round Carsington Water and, although it was short notice, raised £340 from sponsorship. The money raised will go towards providing special chairs for elderly people who need help getting up and about again. Each chair costs £3,000.

I want to thank all my sponsors for their generosity and to say I intend to do the walk again next year.

*Danielle Flint*

  
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# Kings Field's final moments



Dear CF

**YOUR readers may be interested in a photo I have taken. It shows the demise of the poor old Kings Field and not far away, across the Recreation Ground, is the new cricket clubhouse.**

**Something old and something new so close together: the old pavilion and the Kings Field wiped away – who will remember them?** *Ken Cooke*

# Steam trip delights

NOT since "The Pheonix" in 1985 had Wirksworth Station seen so many people waiting for a train to Duffield, but Thursday 7 April was to be the first day of many such journeys.

Three generations of our family joined the excited crowds on the platform where former British Railways locomotive number 78019 stood quietly gleaming and steaming alongside Gatwick Express coaches.

The grandchildren soon found our coach and seats in a compartment to ourselves, with a sliding door into the corridor.

The guard blew his shrill whistle, the hooter sounded and steam surrounded us as we eased out of the station. We were soon relaxing to the gentle carriage movement, rhythm of the rails beneath us and the restrained speed of the train that let us enjoy the delights of the Ecclesbourne valley: so many green fields, trees bursting into leaf, wild flowers on the embankments, and the river sparkling as it meandered slowly along. We could see the river most of the way to Duffield and back. Lambs in their riverside fields bounded away, surprised by the snorting creature clanking past. Houses, back gardens, sheds, pigeon lofts and farms came and went, as did station buildings, now mostly

attractive homes.

Along the route there was ample evidence of the cost of restoring the track and many years of work by so many volunteers: tons of stone, new sleepers and rails, trees cleared from the track and trackside ones felled or trimmed; and at Duffield, angled fencing and an impressive new platform leading to the mainline connection.

The sights and sounds of the journey will be long remembered, especially the brief changes in sound and light when we passed under bridges, and the silence when we stopped at Gorseley Bank and Ildridgehay level crossings.

Thank you, Ecclesbourne Valley Railway association and Wyvern Rail plc for bringing the Wirksworth (and Ravenstor) to Duffield line to life again so magnificently. We hope that it will be enjoyed by many more generations of our family. *Don Hughes*

# Record for bunting

Dear CF

ON 8 May more than 400 flags from Wirksworth blew out over London to celebrate Fair Trade Day and to contribute to the longest bunting in the world (verified by the Guinness Book of Records).

I have written to the Fairtrade Foundation, organisers of the event, pointing out our small town's remarkable achievement, and now want to thank everyone and every group for their contribution. There are too many of you to list – but you all know who you are.

Well done! *Irene Ratcliffe*

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# Beryl's escape from school house

ROY Pearce writes to say that last month he met Noel Parsons who told him that his mother Beryl had worked as a live-in maid in Anthony Gell School House, where Roy himself had lived from 1971-1988. Roy was given a copy of the life of Beryl, written from her memories recorded in her later years. The year of this extract is probably 1928 when she was 20 years old:

"My sister and I wrote to Wirksworth ... and Harry took us in the motorcycle and sidecar with our luggage. It was a big old house belonging to the Reverend Hanson Bay. His wife was ill in bed. We were told to keep everything clean. I had to answer the door and sweep all the carpets with hand brushes. Violet was in the kitchen washing pots and keeping it clean. A woman came every day to do the cooking. It was very tiring work and we never went out – we had no time.

We had been there about three weeks and were getting fed up so one night we decided we would run away. We packed our things together in the case and early next morning we came down stairs cautiously. We passed the bedroom where the master slept. Down the drive, past the church we saw people going to work. It was a lovely spring morning because I remember the primroses on the side of the road. We walked to South Wingfield station and waited for a train to take us home. We arrived about dinner time. My mam and dad believed that we had got the sack. But we never had any wages and a very nasty letter arrived saying they were going to summons us for leaving the door unlocked and going without notice. Dad never saw the letter, but Vi and me wrote back stating we had not had a fair deal and that I had my legs bad through walking and Vi had a rupture. We never heard any more about it."

# LETTERS

## Gell stamped his mark

*PHIL Richards is investigating the connections of Wirksworth with Hobarth Tasmania. He suspected that the link may have something to do with the Gell family of Hopton, and has now received this letter from Adrian Gell:*

Dear Phil

HOW are you getting on with your research? As head of the Gell family and "Clan Chief", I am a trustee of the family papers and you should find quite a bit of what you need in the Derbyshire Archives. Failing that, there is I believe a fair amount of info to be had from the Aussie archives but I'm not sure how much or where exactly.

My great great grandfather, Rev John Philip Gell, was out in Tasmania, founded schools, was chaplain to Sir John Franklin the then Governor and latterly Arctic explorer; he was also Franklin's son-in-law. Franklin founded Hobart University and there is very much a family connection between Tasmania/Hobart and the Gell family – and Wirksworth would therefore be a name that Gell would have taken with him on his travels to stamp his mark (if you like) on new projects, new places etc. This was quite a common practice for intrepid families in the days of Empire building!

The Rev John Philip Gell also founded a school out in Tasmania – Christ's College in Hobart, based on his almer mater, Rugby School, where he had been an early pupil of the famed Dr Thomas Arnold. Also, in the Book "Tom Brown's Schooldays" the character "Old Brooke" was based on JPG. Good luck in your project!

Yours etc  
Adrian Gell

  
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# Nursery landmark

WIRKSWORTH Children's Nursery is 20 this year.

It was the brainchild of the late Maggie Riddle, a teacher living on Longway Bank who struggled to find childcare in the area for her two young daughters. She knew there were many parents facing the same problems and set about informing herself about pre-school education, eventually qualifying as a nursery inspector.

She and Peter, her husband, starting looking for a suitable building and considered the Janet Reger premises above the Market Place before deciding on the present location on Coldwell Street. "The place had been used as stables and later as workshops. We employed Stones of Wirksworth to do the conversion," Peter Riddle said, "and we opened in 1991."

Maggie was diagnosed with terminal cancer just as the family moved to Greengates, opposite the nursery, and she died in 2000. Peter, although in a demanding job and with little experience of the nursery, was determined that it would survive. "The nursery staff and local parents were devastated by Maggie's death and understandably anxious about the future, so they needed reassurance," Peter said.

20 years later the nursery continues to be an important part of the life of Wirksworth. It's small by modern standards with a maximum of 30 children at any one session, divided into three groups: babies, eighteen months to three years and three to four year olds. It employs ten local members of staff, most of whom have been there for many years. It liaises well with the pre-school playgroup and the infant schools. It has to respond to the ever-changing standards and regulations and changes to the curriculum: "The emphasis moves from child-centred play to more precise learning and back again," Peter explains.

If parents are interested in visiting Wirksworth Children's Nursery they are welcome to do so by contacting the manager Joanne Astbury on 01629 826079. CF hopes that in another 20 years parents with young children will be blowing out forty candles to celebrate the nursery's continuing success. *BF*

# Protesters plead for pause



Protesters gather for Wirksworth rally

ON Saturday, 2 April, 136 men, women and children (and 3 dogs) assembled outside Hannage Brook Medical Centre and marched with banners and placards up to Wirksworth Market Square where they were joined by many others. They were demanding that the coalition Con-Dem government "Stop & Think" before going ahead with the proposed changes to the National Health Service. The rally followed a packed meeting in the Memorial Hall that demanded action against the reforms.

Vernon Coaker, MP for Gedling, and shadow minister for policing and social justice, was the main speaker at the rally. He said that it was not just the Labour Party and unions who were concerned about proposed changes to the health service but many doctors were also warning of possible fragmentation and commercialisation. Commissioning services could often be on the basis of price not quality of care, he said. The government justifies such radical change, claiming the NHS is failing, but this is not so.

One of the event's organisers, Andy Miller, said: "The NHS is a service not a profit-making venture and there's a concern that these proposals are being hurried through without proper opportunity for people to consider the implications. The amount of legislation required is bigger than the amount of legislation that set up the NHS." He concluded: "There hasn't been proper public debate and this rally is the public debate beginning."

Those who attended were invited to write messages to local MP, Patrick McLoughlin, giving their personal reasons why they wanted the government to pause and rethink its plans for the NHS. 201 handwritten cards will be handed to Patrick McLoughlin at his local surgery. *BR*

# Lionel retires



LIONEL Blount (pictured above), one of the caretakers at the Wirksworth Town Hall for the past 11 years, will retire on 4 July. He was born in Belper but spent a lot of time as a child at his Bunting grandparents in Wirksworth and came to live in the town when he was 18. He left school at 15, so has worked for 50 years, doing "all sorts, but mostly quarrying".

He says the best part of the caretaker job is meeting people, but he has also enjoyed looking after the garden behind the Town Hall and Memorial Gardens. "I've made my mark - lots of curves because I don't like straight lines."

His hours have been in the evenings and on a weekend rota, so he is looking forward to having a family life again, with his wife, three children and five grandchildren. He'll also be walking with his dog, and enjoying his hobbies of metal detecting and coin collecting, hoping to add an even older coin, maybe Roman, to his Elizabeth I silver penny. And he'll still be ringing the church bells on Friday nights. *MAH*

## Twelfth Night performed

FRESH from the Stratford Fringe the Outlaw Shakespeare Company is coming to Kirk Ireton with a production of Shakespeare's Twelfth Night. Performed by a group of talented young actors and musicians with a set and costumes designed to transport the play into a fantasy castaway setting, this promises to be a local production not to be missed.

The Kirk Ireton performance will be on the afternoon of Sunday 10 July in the dramatic setting of a National Garden Scheme garden, Cashel, not far from the church. Refreshments will be provided by members of Holy Trinity Church and the audience will be able to admire the garden at the interval and after the play. Phone 01335 372058 for the £8 tickets

The company also appears at the Ashbourne Arts Festival with performances on 28 June and 14, 15, 16 July. Phone the Ashbourne tourist information office 01335 348707 for tickets.

## Hidden Gardens

MANY gardens and courtyards in Wirksworth will be open on the afternoons of Saturday and Sunday 11-12 June. It is a chance to explore and enjoy the town's outdoor spaces, many of them hidden behind buildings of historical and architectural interest.

As you follow the trail you'll hear live music and be able to buy plants, garden pots and home-produced refreshments.

This year the event will again support Waltham House care centre and also Amnesty International which is celebrating its 50th anniversary.

For more information, see [www.wirksworthgardens.co.uk](http://www.wirksworthgardens.co.uk)

## DaleDiva at Brassington

DALEDIVA, winners of Don't Stop Believing, are giving a concert in Brassington Church on Saturday 11 June at 7.30pm. There will be a licensed bar.

Tickets (adult £7.50, children under 12 £3.50) are available from Anna McGuire 540924 or Ann Barry 540599. In order to secure a central aisle seat it is essential that you buy your tickets in advance as these seats are limited.

## Volunteers needed

THE local branch of the British Red Cross based at Matlock Green is looking for more volunteers to train in first aid and other skills before helping at public events.

If you are interested contact Adele Gregory on 01629 582171 or email [agregory@redcross.org.uk](mailto:agregory@redcross.org.uk)

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# Royal day on the railway

ON 6 April the Duke of Gloucester formally opened the Wirksworth to Duffield railway line after travelling on the first scheduled passenger train to use it since June 1947. It was pulled by a gleaming black class 2 steam engine 78019 distinguished by four headlights (only royal trains bear four headlights), and included a carriage built the year the line closed which had been restored by a dedicated team of local volunteers.

The first train was filled with working volunteers. John Snell, Chairman of Wyvern Rail plc, paid credit to them: "We have anticipated and dreamed of this day for more than a decade and it is fitting that the people who made this dream a reality are here on this special day."

Before unveiling a plaque commemorating his visit and the re-opening of the line, the Duke toured the station and visited the railway's museum accompanied by Martin Miller, general manager of Wyvern Rail, and Mike Craft, secretary of the Ecclesbourne Valley Railway Association (EVRA), both of whom were present on the very first day of clearance work in November 2000.

School children waving paper flags lined up to greet the Duke and to celebrate the occasion. Volunteers were everywhere to be seen enjoying the event. Robin Lea from Etwell was on duty. Still in the sixth form, Robin has worked on the railway for three years doing different jobs, including shunting and track maintenance. Chris Ralls from Milford and John Silvester from Duffield have been part of the team rebuilding the platform at Duffield for eight months and previously they had helped to replace the track. It was hard work, especially in the cold winter weather, but they enjoyed the camaraderie.

Hylton Holt of Belper (front page photo) was the local enthusiast and train driver chosen to help the foot-plate crew from the Great Central Railway in Leicestershire, who knew the locomotive but not "the road".

Although the line is open again, there is still work to be done. Volunteers of either sex are welcomed and given any training they need ... even perhaps to drive a locomotive! Phone 01629 823076. BR



The Royal train from Duffield bearing its four headlights.

## Duke drives loco to Middleton

IT was a glorious Spring day for the royal visit, which was good because we did not have to resort to our contingency plans, for last-minute sanding of the rails on our 1:27 gradient. We also had thoughts of the Duke of Gloucester's co-driver having to hold an umbrella over him, as he drove a cabless locomotive up the line!

The occasion was, of course, the official opening of the Sandyhill Road Crossing, providing access to the final stretch of trackbed to Middleton Main Street. His Royal Highness arrived on time at Steeple House Station, and spent several minutes being introduced to staff and visitors, before studying the exhibition of photographs in the engine house. These showed the Killer's branch past and present, together with scenes of our labours over the past 25 years.

He was then provided with a high-visibility jacket and a safety helmet, before taking the controls of the freshly painted Greenbat locomotive, complete with his royal crest. The locomotive hauled a manrider, carrying the Lord Lieutenant and other special visitors. This was followed by

the diesel ZM32, hauling open manriders which carried Steeple Grange staff. In traditional fashion, a light engine ran up the line ahead of the royal train.

After the passengers had alighted at the crossing, the Duke reversed the train a short distance, before driving it forward on to the crossing, breaking a ribbon, held on one side by the youngest member, Joseph Marsden, and on the other by the two oldest members, Geoff Ross and Mike Stanyon. His Royal Highness was then introduced to other members of the Railway, including Michael Strange, who had fabricated the rails for the crossing. The Duke then spent some time chatting to children and adults from Middleton, before setting off, by car, for the Eco Centre.

All in all, it was a pleasant and informal occasion, and the Duke obviously enjoyed his narrow gauge experience. Tribute has to be paid to our secretary, Kevin Bunting, for all the preparation and meticulous planning, which made the event such a success. Thanks are also due to our friends at the Ecclesbourne Valley Railway, for getting His Royal Highness to us on time.

Mike Stanyon

# Top chef award for Pierce

CF met Pierce O'Connor in his garden at Thorntree Cottages to hear how he'd become Derbyshire's Young Chef of the Year.

Born and educated in Wirksworth, Pierce left Anthony Gell School to follow a foundation art course at Chesterfield College, intending then to go to university to study graphics. He started to work in the kitchen of Le Mistral to earn some money and enjoyed it: "I discovered I just love cooking!" Sam North, the restaurant's manager, spotted Pierce's talents and persuaded him to become a trainee chef and to take up an apprenticeship there.

After a lengthy process of long-listing and short-listing, five young chefs were invited to cook in front of three knowledgeable judges at the University of Derby's campus in Buxton. They each chose their own menus and provided their own ingredients. "It was intense and nerve-racking, partly because we were only given one and a half hours and the timing of each course had to be spot on," said Pierce. He didn't know



he was the winner until the decision was announced three weeks later at the tourism awards presentation evening at Chatsworth House.

After he'd received his award, he was immediately offered jobs by managers of three prestigious restaurants, but he's staying loyal to Le Mistral and will be back there as soon as his leg injury clears up.

His enforced time off work has allowed him to indulge his long-time interest in graphics, animation and photography, to have time to socialise and to plan his next trip to "Bestival" on the Isle of Wight. "It's the last music festival of the year and I always look forward to it," he said.

BF

## Festival trail

PLANNING for the Trail weekend, 10-11 Sept at the start of Wirksworth Festival, is well underway. Artists are being selected and the Trail administrator is appealing for hosts old and new to get in touch.

There is great fun and satisfaction to be had by offering homes, gardens, outbuildings and nooks and crannies to artists as exhibition space. Now is your chance to host an artist and to support this great community event.

To find out more contact Frances Rostron on visualarts@wirksworthfestival.co.uk or at the Festival office on North End on 01629 824003.

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## Safety in Summer

DERBYSHIRE Dales District Council's crime and disorder reduction officer Karen Cooper says: "The message during the summer months is that the Dales is one of the safest places in the UK - so let's keep it that way. While we're enjoying the sun and barbecues in the back garden we must stay alert and take simple measures to deter opportunist thieves. Don't leave doors and windows open when you're out and lock the front door when you're in the garden - common sense precautions that can save a lot of heartache."

To help reduce crime this summer, discounted shed alarms and door chimes are on offer at less than half the recommended retail price, so drop into your local police station to buy a shed alarm for just £4 and a door chime for only £1.



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## New season – new pavilion

AFTER a winter of hard work Wirksworth and Middleton Cricket Club is anticipating the new season with enthusiasm and optimism. Alongside new practice nets, the renovated and extended pavilion with its elegant new roof will provide much improved facilities. The enlarged social area, new bar and modernised kitchen offer greater comfort for players and spectators alike.

Both the first and second elevens were promoted as champions of their divisions and look forward to competing at higher levels. David Greatorex and David Hopkinson are reappointed as captains. Aafan Janjua, the first team's leading run scorer last season, has signed again but, unfortunately, visa problems have upset the scheduled return of the highly talented and engaging Dinesh de Silva. A new overseas signing is expected to join the club shortly. Several former players have returned, among them Andy and Chris Barlow, Jack and Tom Allen and Martin Dance.

Colin Julian is again captain of the third eleven, and a new side has been formed to play in a Sunday league captained by Jack Allen. (At the time of writing this side is unbeaten after three games, having won two and drawn one.)

The club runs eight youth league teams. Last season's stars were the outstanding girls' eleven who became national under 13 champions. Through the club's youth development

programme Kwik Cricket coaching is offered for junior age children on Saturday mornings 9.30–11.00 as well as the Chance to Shine programme in local primary schools. Councillor Andy Pollock is supporting youth cricket as his Mayor's Charity this year and will preside at the Mayors' Trophy for Under 13s in June.

If you would like to join the club as player or supporter (all ages welcome) contact Sue Marshall 01335 372797.

MI

○ Photographs of cricket and cricketers in Wirksworth especially from the "old days" are required for a national historical project.

Contributions please to Roy Pearce 01629 822817.

## New goals for the girls

GIRLS at Wirksworth Junior School were keen to develop their football skills, but found that lunchtime football was often dominated by the boys, so the Rotary Club have stepped in to buy a new set of goal posts to be bought specifically for use by the girls.

Along with lunchtime coaching sessions, delivered free of charge by qualified coaches, the new goals will help the girls increase their confidence and develop their skills.

## Albion's two teams

WIRKSWORTH Albion decided to move to two teams this season, and the experiment has been a success.

The Saturday side have had a good first season in the Matlock and District Football League getting to the finals of both cup competitions. They reached the final of the Manor Pharmacy Shield by beating Riddings Rovers in the semi-final, but eventually lost to Laburnum Saints in a hard-fought final by penalties after additional time. They are through to the Cavendish Cup Final against Riddings Rovers after beating Kings Arms in the semis. The team currently sit sixth in the league with three games still to play, and a top five position is still up for grabs, a great credit to everyone involved in this their first season. Meanwhile Albion's Sunday side, competing in the Derby City Football League, have also enjoyed a successful season, retaining the Premier Division One title with two games still to play and winning the League Challenge Cup trophy by beating Normanton Allstars in the semis and Walkabout in the final.

Congratulations to the management team of Craig Gascoyne and Rob Inckle and the players and backroom team, and a big thank you goes to Kev and the Staff of the Hope and Anchor for their support during the season.

The team are now looking forward to next season and would like to hear from any local businesses or individuals who may be interested in helping or sponsoring the Sunday side in any way. Please contact Paul on 07947 826315 or via the club website at [wirksworthalbion@live.co.uk](mailto:wirksworthalbion@live.co.uk)

Paul Steeples

## A steep challenge

THERE was hot competition in more senses than one in this year's Wirksworth Incline races that saw 169 runners between the ages of seven and 76 taking part in sweltering conditions.

In the senior event (run over 4.32 miles) Stuart Bond of the Dark Peak Runners successfully defended his title to win the race and the Rod Woolley shield in exactly the same time as he ran last year: 23:50. The first woman home was Clare McKittrick of Charnwood Athletic Club (the winner in 2008) in 27:08 and Joel Stevens was the first local runner to cross the finishing line in sixth place. In the new under 18 category of the main race, Kristian Edwards of Tamworth and Holly Blount of Mansfield won their respective races.

In the other mixed competitions it was a good day for the girls, who won two of the three contests. In the junior two mile race, Jenni Willison of Derby Athletics Club led the whole field home, continuing a trend that started last year when another girl, Charlotte Bellingham was the winner. In second place and first boy was Sam Horton of Belper Harriers.

There was a record entry of 40 for the newest race, the half mile event for under 11s, won by Hope Hanby (aged 9) of Wirksworth with Matthew Holt (aged 10) second.

Three other races are being hosted by Wirksworth Running Club:

○ Tunnels and Trails, a 10K race along the High Peak Trail plus a 2.6K fun run, will take place on the evening of 25 May with proceeds this year going to Cancer Research UK

○ The first-ever Undulator Fell Race is at 10.30am on Saturday 15 October.

It will be run over 8.4 miles with 1260ft of ascent, along a mix of off-road, trail and lanes. Registration on the day at the Lime Kiln pub, Cromford Road, Wirksworth.

○ The annual Brassington Fell Run held during the village's Wakes Week is Thursday 28 July, starting at 7.30pm outside the Olde Gate Inn. It's an evening's run, open to everyone, over four miles of local footpaths, lanes and trail.

More details can be found at [www.wirksworthrunningclub.co.uk](http://www.wirksworthrunningclub.co.uk)

Ray Foley

## Sports shorts

CONGRATULATIONS to Vanessa Piggott on winning the women's half-kilometron race, run round the streets of Derby, in a time of 1 hour, 3 minutes and 33 seconds

\*\*\*\*\*

WELL done to Bonsall School for winning the Bunting Cup in the competition to find the area's top primary school football team. Schools from Matlock, Wirksworth, Darley Dale, South Darley, Ashover, Cromford, Lea, Matlock Bath, Winstar and Elton took part and were split into three sections according to size. Ashover won the large schools group, St Giles Matlock the intermediate section and Bonsall came top of the small schools. The three winners then played to find an overall winner – and Bonsall were victorious.

\*\*\*\*\*

HAPPY 25th birthday to Wirksworth Colts FC – the largest junior football club in the Derbyshire Dales.

\*\*\*\*\*

IT'S been another successful season for Anthony Gell School basketball:

○ Five boys' teams reached the semi finals, and two are playing in the finals of the Derbyshire Schools County Cup

○ There are two age group competitions for girls and both AGS teams have won through to the Derbyshire finals where they will each play St John Houghton Catholic School from West Hallam

○ IN the National Schools competitions the Year Ten boys and under 16 girls both came runner-up in the East Midlands region while the under 14 girls progressed as Derbyshire winners.

\*\*\*\*\*

○ The Community Sports Trust has set up a new three year initiative, the village games project, with the aim of increasing participation in sport in rural areas.

Katy Stubbs is the project co-ordinator in the Derbyshire Dales and among the villages she has chosen for her first year's work are Kirk Ireton, Carsington, Hopton, Kniveton, Hulland, Hognaston and Bradbourne.

If you are from one of these villages and would like to get involved or help to launch a new club, event or activity, please email [katy@villagegames.org.uk](mailto:katy@villagegames.org.uk) or phone 07909 443293.

## Wrestlers successes – and challenge?

MEMBERS of Middleton and Wirksworth Freestyle Wrestling Club have been asked to demonstrate their skills at Wirksworth Carnival. They'll be in the arena on the King's Field Recreation Ground during the afternoon of Monday 30 May after the end of the parade. Perhaps the eight foot Titan the Robot, who'll also be on the field, will be up for the challenge?

The club hosted the English Junior Championships at Alfreton Leisure centre and came away with a bundle of medals. Thomas and Harriette Phillips, Rosie Thorpe, Megan Doney and Abbi Lawley all won gold. Lewis Brown, Raina Cooper, Max Walker and Sophie Phillips brought home silver, Chelsea Stone, Georgia Ward, Eric and Rueban Walker, Kieran Robinson and James Colebourne were bronze medal winners. Mikey Bervan-Beirne, in his first year of competition, was chosen as the wrestler of the championships.

Congratulations to them all.

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