

Link

AUGUST
SEPTEMBER
2011



Optimist: Person who travels on nothing from nowhere to happiness — Mark Twain



MAIN ATTRACTION: Another date for your diary is August Bank Holiday Monday when Beeston Castle hosts St Boniface Church's annual fete. It's a wonderful day out for all the family because there is always plenty to see, amuse and eat. You'll also be supporting a worthy cause. See Page 7 for more details ...

Discover a new joy on Sunday 25 September

A day that could change your life

VILLAGERS who have drifted away from the church – for one reason or another – are specifically invited to join the 10am service at St Boniface on Sunday 25 September.

The occasion will be part of National Back to Church Sunday. In all, 76 churches in the Chester Diocese will be taking part in the national initiative, which has seen more than 150,000 people – enough to fill Wembley Stadium and the Emirates Stadium – return to church since the first Back to Church Sunday in Manchester



in 2004. Vicar Rick Gates will lead the Bunbury service on Sunday 25 September but the Readers will also be on hand to explain what is happening. "It's a chance to see what we get up to every Sunday morning," said Rick.

After the hour-long service, there will be an opportunity to

chat to regular churchgoers over coffee.

"Children are really welcome, especially the noisy ones," said Rick.

Last year about 3,500 churches in the UK welcomed back 51,000 people on Back to Church Sunday.

The idea is really simple. Churchgoers are asked to invite someone to get involved in something they love.

"Experience over the past seven years has shown that, year after year, people are responding positively," said Rick.



MP debates
role of church
in politics

- Page 6



Win tickets
to see Kate
Rusby

- Page 15



Johnny's tale
of adventure

- Page 9

Who we are

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The Link

We are always happy to get calls/emails about The Link. Please contact us if you would like to advertise your business, or if you want to send us your news, views and pictures

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Having turned 65 this year, our vicar **Rick Gates** has sadly decided he would like to retire at the end of the year. He has served us tirelessly for the past 13 years, providing direction for our church community as well as comfort and support to countless people in times of need. We wish him a long, happy retirement. More on Rick's time and contribution in future issues.



We extend a warm welcome to **Harry Francis Kenwright**, son of **Jo & Martin Kenwright** of Calveley, baptised at Calveley Church on 10 June.



We extend a warm welcome to **Henry James Weddell**, son of **James and Petrina** of Malpas, baptised at St Boniface on 26 June.

We extend a warm welcome to **Oliver David Kinsey**, son of **Annette and Charles** of Haughton, baptised at St Boniface on 10 July.



Finally, we extend a warm welcome to **Summer Rose Dawson**, daughter of **Scott Dawson and Kelly Jackson**,

of Crewe, who was baptised at St Boniface on 10 July.

Congratulations to **Jeremy and Debbie Shears** who are celebrating their **silver wedding** on the 20 September with a long weekend in Venice.

Congratulations to **Nick and Alex Sanders** who celebrate 30 long, but happy, years of marriage this month - and their daughter **Lizzie** who was recently awarded a **first-class honours degree** in events management from Leeds Metropolitan University. Lizzie is now working as a wedding and events co-ordinator at Wood Hall Hotel in North Yorkshire.



Congratulations too to **Thomas Wright and Jane Mayers** on their wedding at St Boniface on 25 June.

Congratulations also to **Kelly Dutton and Warren Riley**, married at St Boniface on 9 July, and **Philip Walker and Anne Calveley**, of Rossett, who were married on 20 July.

Many happy returns to **Sarah**

Prayers

We pray especially for **Mary Williamson, Leila Potter, Denise Rylands** and **Arthur Cowap**. We pray for the family of **Stanley Harding** and anyone who has recently lost a loved one.

We pray for our former youth worker **Laura Warrington** and her husband **Luke** as they prepare for their new work in Papua New Guinea.

As **Rick** announces his intention to retire at the end of the year, we pray for him and the PCC in its search for a new vicar to lead the parish.

At the heart of your community

Thompson, whom we believe celebrated a significant birthday in July.

The **Bunbury Gardening Club** Annual Show is on 27 August. Schedules are available from Adrian Caine 01829 261163 (email: ruffield@sky.com) or Burrows Butchers. The Gardening Club has kindly agreed to donate surplus produce - i.e. entries not collected before 4.30pm on the day - to St Boniface Church Fete on the Bank Holiday Monday for sale.

Congratulations to **Nick Sanders** who has been selected for Reader training, starting in September. As a result, we will be seeing more of him leading services and preaching, and he asks that you please keep him in your prayers as he prepares for this training and this ministry.

Bunbury and Tiverton Methodist Chapels meet each Sunday at 10.45am. On the first Sunday of the month we meet at Tiverton and the following Sundays at Bunbury in the Chapel by the playing fields. All are welcome to come and join us. We also share a joint service with St Boniface on every fifth Sunday of the month at 10am.

The methodist chapel's **harvest festival** services are to be held on Friday 9 September at 7.30pm at **Tiverton** and on Sunday 18 September at 10.45am at **St Boniface**, Bunbury. There will also be a harvest supper on Wednesday 21 September.

The **copy deadline** for the **October edition** of the **Link** is Wednesday 21 September, and the magazine will be available for distribution on Friday 30 September. All submissions may be edited.

Correction: We reported in last month's Link that the proceeds from **Bunbury Village Day** will be donated to the redecoration of the pavilion. This information was incorrect; the Village Day Committee will decide which organisations are to benefit. We apologise for any confusion caused.

THE TWO-MINUTE INTERVIEW

If you had a motto, what would it be?

Live for the now. You don't know what is around the corner.

It's a celebrity beer call. Whom would you like to invite?

Oscar Wilde, Andrew Flintoff, Gareth Thomas and Keith Floyd. It would obviously be at the Dysart. But why them? They are all heroes of mine and it would not be an early night.

What would you call your autobiography?

Sorry if I caused offence.

What was your first job?

Milking cows on a farm in Shropshire.

What would you change about Bunbury, if you could?

The medical centre. It is a wonderful facility for the village and beyond but who on earth designed it?

What is your biggest regret?

Not trying a little harder at

Greg Williams

Greg Williams is a well-known face in the village, thanks to his job as landlord of the Dysart Arms. He and his wife Pia run the very popular pub next to St Boniface Church and have done since they moved to the village in February 2008 with their son Charlie ...

school, college and Leicester University.

What is your biggest achievement?
Fatherhood.

If you were granted one wish, what would it be?

I would like to find an immediate cure for all terminal diseases.

What is the one thing that people would be surprised to learn about you?

I was born in Nazareth ... house in Wrexham.

What would you like to achieve most over the next 12 months?

I would just love to stay healthy and happy. That would do me, thank you.

What is your favourite place and why?

Rhossili bay on the Gower Peninsula in South Wales. It is absolutely stunning yet so few even know it exists.

How would you spend your ideal weekend?

Working at the Dysart of course.



Nick sets heart on new role

NICK Sanders is training to become a reader.

He is due to start a two-year course at the Southern North Western Training Partnership in September.

Once he's completed the course, he will join a number of readers, some of whom are more active than others, including Eric Wallington, Tom Crotty, Mike Verity, Pat Edgley, Peter and Kath Collinge and Joy Parker.

There are currently more than 10,000 readers in the Church of England.

Readers are lay men and women, from a wide variety of occupations and backgrounds, who recognise a call to serve God. They can preach and teach and can be distinguished from their ordained colleagues by their distinctive blue scarves.

Cost should not be a barrier to a church wedding, says Rick

Shake-up of wedding fees is rejected (for now)

THE Church of England has for the time being abandoned its plans to standardise fees for weddings.

Under the plans, proposed by the General Synod, the cost of a wedding would have almost doubled from £296, but parishes would have been banned from charging extra for services such as heating and lighting.

Rick Gates, who is vicar of St Boniface Church, said that ban would have put an extra strain on older - and usually the more

attractive - churches which cost more to run. "You have to ask whether it is right for the church to subsidise the cost of a wedding," he said.

"We get no assistance towards our running costs and they have to be met by the congregation and community."

It currently costs about £1,300 a week to run the grade I listed St Boniface.

"The wedding ceremony is a comparatively small part of the average cost of a reception and honeymoon," he said. Most

churches currently charge two different fees for weddings. The 'statutory fees' are set nationally but the bride and groom are also asked to make a contribution towards the cost of the church and for such things as the choir, bells and candles.

The plan was to standardise those local fees so that a couple would have paid the same whether they chose a small, medieval parish church, a modern urban church or a cathedral.

"Wedding couples often choose pretty churches and pay

the price," he said. "So the chances are the less attractive churches would have lost out even more than they do at the moment." It currently costs more than £70 to heat St Boniface for a winter wedding.

"At the moment we pass on a charge of £65," said Rick.

"However, in cases of genuine hardship we are prepared to waive or reduce the fees - even the statutory ones. I certainly would not want cost to be a barrier to getting married in church."

THE GRUMPY GARGOYLE



Read this.

Go on.

Please?

What has happened to some of the most beautiful words in our language – 'please' and 'thank you'?

How often do you hear 'just put that over there'.

'Can you do X?'.

Is it just a grumpy old gargoyle who goes from anticipation to disappointment within a millisecond when 'please' is never put on the end of such sentences?

Why does the questioner not realise that the desired response will be far more likely and willingly delivered if this simple utterance is, well, uttered.

Many parents don't seem to notice, or care, whether their offspring use the requisite words. A recent conversation overheard...

'What flavour ice-cream would you like James?'

'Vanilla'.

Not just an obvious 'please' omitted, but when aforementioned ice-cream was kindly paid for and handed over by James' dad, not a word passed the child's lips.

No doubt said child will grow into that person we all know at work who never asks nicely, is never grateful, and always manages to rile their colleagues as a result. We have lost the plot so much that certain establishments feel the need to write 'polite notice' atop any small announcement. Eg 'Polite notice. Please do not block this entrance'. You would think that 'polite notice' was a little superfluous. Perhaps it has been put there for the Jameses of this world.

Next time you wish someone to do something for you, try adding 'please' on the end of your request. Please?

Thank you for your kind attention in reading my latest grumbles. It was very kind of you – awfully so – to spend your time in this way, and it is so appreciated. Much obliged.



Dimitrios' lamb with orzo

WHEN Major (actually, at that time he was a Lieutenant) Cruttock and I were newly married, we spent a lovely two weeks in Greece, holidaying in Thassos.

I found this recipe many years later, but tasting it took me right back to Dimitrios' taverna by the harbour in Aliko.

The recipe uses orzo, which you can find in the world food section of larger supermarkets, but you can also use risotto rice, or Riso Gallo 3 Grains (rice, barley and spelt) which is more widely available.

HOW TO MAKE IT

HEAT oven to 180C (fan 160C) or gas 4. Cut the lamb into large 4cm chunks, then spread over the base of a wide casserole dish. Add the onions, oregano, cinnamon sticks, ground

WHAT YOU NEED

1kg shoulder of lamb
2 or 3 onions, sliced
2 tbsp olive oil
½ tsp ground cinnamon
400g can chopped tomatoes
1 or 2 cinnamon sticks, broken in half
1 tbsp chopped oregano, or 1 tsp dried
1.2 litres of hot chicken or vegetable stock
400g orzo (see above for alternatives)
Some freshly-grated parmesan to serve



cinnamon and olive oil, then stir well.

Bake, uncovered, for 45 minutes, stirring halfway.

Pour over the chopped tomatoes and stock, cover tightly, turn the oven down a bit and then return to the oven for 1½ hours, until the lamb is tender. Remove the cinnamon sticks, then stir in the orzo.

Cover again, then cook for a

further 20 minutes, stirring halfway through.

The orzo should be cooked and the sauce thickened.

Sprinkle with grated Parmesan. To serve, put the dish in the middle of the table and serve with a crispy side salad (perhaps with some feta cheese) and crusty bread.

Kalí óreksi!

Don't forget to say Grace

For ham and eggs
 or cheese on toast
 thank Father, Son and Holy Ghost
 Amen

And to go with it ...

> Greg Williams

The Dysart Arms, Bunbury

Cabernet Sauvignon has always found lamb a willing partner at a dinner party with some Californian and Australian Cabernets having a pronounced minty taste which would obviously make them ideal.

Cabernet is also the main

grape in the Clarets of Bordeaux, still one of the biggest wine-producing regions of the world.

Look out too for some Bordeaux-style wines from South Africa, where those hours of sunshine often give them a more fruit driven, approachable edge.

For a walk on the wild side,

dig out something from the Bekka Valley, Lebanon. They love their lamb there so the wines naturally follow suit.

They are not the cheapest but always price-worthy. But if you only drink whites, push the boundaries and get yourself a nice bottle of rose and hope for the best. Cheers.

Ahoy all primary school children



CHILDREN seeking adventure will discover a world of non-stop fun at St Boniface Church during the October half-term holidays. The holiday club is open to all children of primary school age and will be held on

Tuesday 25 October, Wednesday 26 October and Thursday 27 October from 10am to 12.30pm each day. Organisers are planning a host of activities to keep the little ones entertained. "There will be games, crafts

and even the chance to bake and eat your own bread," said Debbie Shears.

If you would like to book a place, please call Debbie on 01829 260707 or email bunburyholidayclub@hotmail.com

Children urged to bring parents

Chance to get involved



CHILDREN are being urged to bring their parents – and parents to bring their children – to St Boniface's first-ever Messy Church on 2 October.

The event is aimed primarily at those who never normally attend the Sunday morning church services and will involve a host of activities in which mums, dads and kids can get messy while exploring stories from the Bible.

"It should be a lovely event,"

said Joy Parker. The church doors open at 4pm.

Parents and children will then be able to take part in apple bobbing, make assorted crafts, tread 'grapes', and grow seeds.

Afterwards there will be a short service of worship before everyone sits down to a meal.

The first Messy Church was launched in 2004 when a group at St Wilfrid's in Cowplain, near Portsmouth, became frustrated that, as a church, they were

hardly reaching any children with God's story.

"We had lovely buildings and facilities but we weren't using them enough," said a member of their congregation.

"There was a lot of sympathy towards church in general but the church wasn't offering anything that really gripped the imagination of local families."

The Messy Harvest at St Boniface in Bunbury finishes at 6pm.

St Boniface appoints new youth worker

ST BONIFACE has a new youth worker, Kim Beswick, who joins Bunbury in September.

Kim, who has just completed a BA Honours degree in Christian youth work at Chester University, replaces Laura Warrington. As part of Kim's course, she has worked in several schools in the Chester area and at St Paul's Church in Boughton. She also

holds a diploma in performing arts, and her special gift is drama. Although she grew up in Lancashire, she now lives in Chester.

"This appointment has only been possible as a result of pledged donations from many different contributors following an appeal earlier this year," said treasurer John Mason.

RICK
GATES
your vicar



Why I feel it's time to move on

AUGUST and September can be difficult times for us.

For many there is the excitement of the summer holidays, followed by going back and meeting friends. For some there is the additional anxiety of a new class, or new school, or living away from home for the first time.

For others it is a time of worry, about job security, loneliness, finance, or about the wider issues in the world where war and poverty seem to feature permanently in the news.

Whether it is a time of excitement or worry, I pray – along with all church members – that you will emerge from these months stronger and wiser.

Here in Bunbury, we have three big events coming up which involve fun and hard work.

The first is the church fete at Beeston Castle on August Bank Holiday Monday.

The second is 'Back to Church Sunday' and finally we will be having our first Messy Church for the younger children on 2 October.

This year I turned 65 and, as you can imagine, I have been thinking about the future. With my recent marriage difficulties, I do now feel the real need to reflect, regroup and hopefully renew.

Our church is, I think, at a very exciting stage, and on the cusp of great change, bringing God out of the church and into all our lives in a very real way.

After a great deal of thought, debate and prayer I have decided that this would be a good time for me to bow out and allow a new priest to serve the community, and to help develop and support this mission.

I have informed the Bishop of my decision and we have agreed that I shall retire shortly after Christmas to ensure a smooth transition, minimal disruption and to allow my successor to be chosen in a timely and orderly manner. I hope that there will not be a significant gap before he or she is appointed, but I know that the church is in the great hands of God working through each and every one of us.



NEW ROLE: Kim Beswick is the new youth worker

Church services

for August & September

Sunday 7 August

8am: Holy Communion, Bunbury
9.30am: Holy Communion, St Jude's.

10am: Family worship, Bunbury

11am: Holy Communion, Calveley

Wednesday 10 August

10am: Holy Communion, Bunbury

Sunday 14 August

9.30am: Holy Communion, St Jude's Church

10am: Family Communion, Bunbury

6pm: Evensong, Bunbury.

Wednesday 17 August

10am: Holy Communion, Bunbury

Sunday 21 August

8am: Holy Communion, Bunbury

9.30am: Family worship, St Jude's

10am: Family worship, Bunbury

11am: Matins, Calveley

Wednesday 24 August

10am: Holy Communion, Bunbury

Sunday 28 August

9.30am: Holy Communion, St Jude's

10am: Family Communion, Bunbury

Wednesday 31 August

10am: Holy Communion, Bunbury

Sunday 4 September

8am: Holy Communion, Bunbury

9.30am: Holy Communion, St Jude's Church

10am: Family worship, Bunbury

11am: Holy Communion, Calveley

Wednesday 7 September

10am: Holy Communion, Bunbury

Sunday 11 September

9.30am: Holy Communion, St Jude's Church

10am: Family Communion, Bunbury

6pm: Evensong, Bunbury.

Wednesday 14 September

10am: Holy Communion, Bunbury

Sunday 18 September

8am: Holy Communion, Bunbury

9.30am: Family worship, St Jude's

10am: Family worship including harvest festival, Bunbury

11am: Family worship, including flower festival thanksgiving service, Calveley

Wednesday 21 September

10am: Holy Communion, Bunbury

Saturday 24 September

7.30pm: Harvest supper, St Jude's

Sunday 25 September

9.30am: Holy Communion, including harvest festival, St Jude's

10am: Family worship, Bunbury

Wednesday 28 September

10am: Holy Communion, Bunbury



Eric Wallington: Thought for the month

Reader Emeritus

Sometimes an advertising agency will put out a 'teaser' - an advert that

surprises you so much that at first sight you want to read it again carefully to find out what it's really all about.

Not so long ago a series of ads showed various celebrities with the words 'I am my cousin who first introduced me to canoeing etc.'

The idea behind the

campaign suggested that your personality - who you are - is formed by the influence that other people have on you.

There is, of course, some truth in that. People we meet can affect our ideas. So do the books we read and the TV programmes we watch.

Yet in our characters there is always something that we learned from our parents, our siblings, our teachers, our friends. And that surely emphasises the importance

of our network of relationships.

For many, the most important person in their personal network of relationships is God. And, like all other relationships, our relationship with God needs real and constant attention.

Similarly we don't only speak to God when we want His help and care, but rather to discover day by day what He wants us to do to assist others who are in need of help and care.

THE GREAT DEBATE: Is there a place for the church in politics?

by **Stephen O'Brien**
MP for Eddisbury

THERE are many answers to this question.

I could reiterate my firm belief that the Church and the presence of Bishops in the House of Lords play a crucial part in our democracy.

I could express my disappointment that the Archbishop of Canterbury was not more constructive in setting the spiritual context of the challenges facing our nation, rather than engaging in what came across as partisan politics.

Whilst St Paul's command that 'supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men, for kings, and for all that are in authority', I regard it as vitally important that every day's session in Parliament starts with prayers that are rooted in the Christian tradition but are universally applied.

The answer I want to give, though, is this.

What is the Church and what is politics?

Is the Church an institution and

The church is vital to society's success



STEPHEN O'BRIEN: The church holds the key to the success of the Big Society

structure, which engages with politics as an incorporated person - signified in England by our royal head, the Queen?

Or is it a collective noun for the mass of individual Christians across the country?

In other words, is it St Boniface's Bunbury, or is it the people who comprise its congregation?

And politics?

Is politics the cut and thrust of Westminster debate, and the discussions of our councillors in Cheshire West and Chester and on our parish council?

Or is it how each of us goes about our daily business?

The way we buy and sell, the

way we interact, the way we give our time and money?

Is politics something done to us, or something we do, every minute of every day?

You will have your own answers.

I believe that as we begin to recognise that the Church is its members, and politics is the people, we cannot but conclude that the Church has a place in politics.

But more, we will recognise that social change is driven not by huge institutions, but by the daily decisions we make.

This is the heart of the Big Society, and the church holds the key to its success.



Pat Edgley: Prayer for the month

Reader

Suffer the little children

In 1885, Mary Sumner gave a talk in

Portsmouth on the influence of mothers on the family.

From that small beginning the worldwide Anglican movement, The Mothers' Union, was founded.

Its aims were to uphold the bonds of marriage and the family. It may sound old-fashioned to our modern

thinking, but today MU has branches all over the world, and to join you don't have to be married, or a mother, or even a woman.

Its aims are to provide better conditions for disadvantaged children and families.

It has projects worldwide, underpinned by the Christian faith of its members.

We no longer have a branch in our parish but perhaps we

should think about that.

However, Mary Sumner's prayer is relevant to all of us today.

**'All this day, O Lord,
Let me touch as many lives
As possible for thee;
And every life I touch,
Do thou by thy spirit quicken,
Whether through the word I speak,
The prayer I breathe
Or the life I live.'** Amen

www.stbonifacebunbury.org.uk



HIGH POINT: There are always plenty of reasons to smile at St Boniface Church's fete at Beeston Castle on August Bank Holiday Monday. The fun starts at 11am

A day out for all the family to enjoy ...



ATTRACTION: Vicar Rick Gates helps a couple of youngsters at last year's fete

VILLAGERS will find a wonderful day awaits at this year's St Boniface Church fete at Beeston Castle on August Bank Holiday Monday.

The event, which last year raised £7,000 for the church and youth work, promises to be even better.

This year organisers are hoping you might bring your family and your dog to the fete, which opens at 11am.

"You can enter your dog into our fun classes on the day to win a rosette," said David Cox.

There will also be the usual attractions, including splat the rat, a barbecue and a tea tent.

Visitors will also be able to chance their luck on the tombola, test their skill on the hoopla stall and browse for the latest books. The famous www.stbonifacebunbury.org.uk

Church will reap benefits

BUNBURY Gardening Club stages its popular annual show on Saturday August 27 at the village hall – and anyone could win. There are a host of categories to enter to try to dazzle the judges. There's everything from the longest runner bean to the heaviest marrow to the best red onion. There are also

classes specifically for children. Entry forms are available from Burrows the butchers in Bunbury or by emailing ruffield@sky.com The doors to the show open to the public at 2.30pm. Entries not collected before 4.30pm will be sold at St Boniface's fete on Bank Holiday Monday at Beeston Castle.

Whitchurch Dog Display Team will also be at the fete.

Jack the Jester is planning to cook up some fun and Andy Caldwell, who runs Extreme Adventure, has promised some 'dare-devil' entertainment.

You can save money by purchasing entrance tickets in advance (£5 either for an adult or up to three children) on sale at

Burrows, Tilly's, The Yew Tree or at church.

Again this year the committee is hoping for help from the village in erecting marquees on Sunday, assisting running a stall, donating prizes or baking a cake. If you can help please contact Sarah Thompson on 07973 871769 or David Cox on 01829 261349.



Sunshine blessed our event

ROYAL Ascot, Wimbledon and St Jude's mid-summer lunch are just some of the major social events of the year.

Once again the great and the good were there, and, for once, the sun turned up too. Not only that but it turned out to be the hottest day of the year.

But it must be said that the success of the day was solely due to the hard work of the ladies, without whom the lunch would have been a disaster.

Moreover we must not forget the hard work of our host for the day, George Molynux and his partner, both of whom worked as hard as anyone to make sure the day was a success.

The next event will be the harvest supper on 24 September followed by the harvest festival service on Sunday 25 September at 9.30am.

We were happy to see the good folk from Calveley church making good use of our church hall for a farewell supper for Mr and Mrs Woodward and Karen Kirk, as a small thank you for all their hard work in developing and maintaining the life of their church.

We wish them well as they ride off into the sunset.

Meanwhile, loud and long cheers for Linda Downey who has graduated from Nottingham University with a first class honours degree.

There was another sadness this month, though, as we said goodbye to Stanley Harding whose funeral took place at St Jude's on 12 July. May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

Bob Gardner

St Boniface Church's Fete



Beeston Castle

August
Bank Holiday
Monday

August 29

11am to 5pm

Browse

Second-hand book stall
Golden Elephant stall
Gardeners' club stall
Crafts

Feast

Snugberry's ice cream
Teas, cakes and sandwiches
Burger & bacon bap BBQ

Play

Hoopla stall
Bouncy castle
Tombola
Splat the Rat

Watch

Folk duo
Stilt walking
Juggling
Classic cars
Working model steam train
Dog show



PART OF OUR HERITAGE: The 300-year-old ash tree has been damaged by storms

300-year-old ash tree at risk

LONG before the canal builders had completed their 'cut', from Chester to Barbridge, another smaller waterway was carrying water through Bunbury Mill on its way from Peckforton to Chester and on one autumn day a small quiet event took place.

An ash key blew or floated, we shall never know which, travelled along the Mill race and lodged in the bank.

That small event seeded a tree which for almost 300 years has grown and flourished until today.

It is certainly one of the largest ash trees in Cheshire. Ash trees are not averse to a drop of water and its foot in the water position has suited it well because it stands proud above

the surrounding trees. So far above, that it is difficult to see the crown because it pierces the canopy of smaller trees.

Alas, uneasy is the head that wears such a crown. The fierce winds that we seem to be experiencing recently are no respectors of crowns however venerable.

A large limb has fallen and timely surgery is the only possible cure.

But do we have the will to save our heritage tree?

It stands on what was obviously a boundary hedge when it was young.

Surgery is not only necessary but expensive.

Shall we be the last generation to enjoy it?



STAR ATTRACTION: Johnny Gillett has been telling tales in Singapore

STAR storyteller Johnny Gillett will have tons of tales to tell when he returns from Singapore.

And he cannot wait.

For much as he has loved his six-week assignment in South East Asia teaching 100 children a week about creative storytelling, he's looking forward to being reunited with wife Debs and their two children.

"I'm also looking forward to a pint of warm beer at one of our fine hostelryes," he said.

Johnny has been working with a handful of artists from all over the world in the former British colony.

"It has been great working with such an international mix again and the children are from almost every nation you could name as well," he said.

"I have been surprised to find my small knowledge of German has even come in handy."

Every week the artists – from different disciplines – have been exploring a single nation from the same region of the world.

"This year it's been the Middle East and North East Africa, so I've had to learn a lot of stories and brush up on my cultural knowledge of that region," he said.

"We have been working with the folklore of Syria, the www.stbonifacebunbury.org.uk

Johnny is a master storyteller ...

Lebanon, Israel, Egypt and the Sudan, which is all the more interesting knowing the turmoil many of these countries are currently experiencing."

Each day has been a long, but rewarding one.

"I now have many tales to bring back to Bunbury Primary School," he said.

During the trip, Johnny was especially pleased to discover that the evening service at St George's Church was still a feature of life in the city.

"That was something I set up when I was Director of Youth and Young Adults Ministry here in 2002," he said.

The idea behind the service was to create an atmosphere

where young people would especially feel comfortable.

"Because of its continued creativity and drama input, we had people of all ages attending because they were eager to see something different in church," he said.

On a more secular level, Johnny, who lives in Church Row, Bunbury, said he was also relieved to find that you could still get a decent mug of bandungcino from the renowned Cheese Prata Shop in Pasir Panjang.

"It's a cappuccino-like drink but made with rose syrup rather than coffee and it's impossible to get anywhere else in the world," he said.

Special evensong service

THE evensong service at St Boniface at 6pm on Sunday 14 August will be a special event.

Richard Lowe, director of Christ Church, West Didsbury, is bringing their choir to join the St Boniface choir in a choral evensong. The choir's members are all experienced singers, generally from ex-collegiate or cathedral backgrounds. The organist will be Jeffrey Makinson from Manchester Cathedral. It will be a cathedral-style service with hymns.



GROUP EFFORT: Johnny has been working with artists from all over world to teach children about the art of storytelling

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SUNDAY 14th AUGUST AT 6 PM

With the Choir of Christ Church,
Didsbury
(Director of Music Richard Lowe)

Organist Jeffrey Makinson
(Guh Organist Manchester Cathedral)

EVERYBODY WELCOME



WELL-ROUNDED: A group of Explorers, along with some Tarporley High School sixth formers, completed their Silver Duke of Edinburgh Expedition. They were (back row, from left) Lorna Robey, Emma Stockman, Emily Nicholson, Matt Brown, Jacob Grace, Mike Griffiths. Bottom row : Supervisor Bill Lewis, Rebecca Holland, Leah Jons and Courtney Lee Cragg. To qualify for the award they had to walk about 50km over three days, carrying everything they needed to survive - tents and cooking implements, along with food and water. They completed that as Britain sweltered in soaring temperatures. "We'd like to congratulate them on completing this very hard test of endurance," said Sarah-Jane Stockman

Tribute to a father who loved life on farm



BLESSED: Farming was Stanley Harding's real passion

STANLEY Harding was laid to rest at St Jude's Church on 12 July.

He was 90.

Stanley was born in Stockport on 28 September 1920 and was the eldest of two brothers.

He attended Stockport Secondary School where he was very proud to captain the school football team.

After leaving school he went to London for an interview for a banking job, but decided the life as a farmer was his real desire.

He subsequently started work on the farm at Rushden with his two uncles and aunt Alice, a cheese maker.

Stanley met and married Betty Willett of The Lock Farm, Bunbury, in June 1946, and they had two sons. Son David was born at the farm in 1948 and John was born after they moved to Manor Farm at Over Peover in 1953.

Sadly John died in November 2002.

Stanley's farm consisted of a herd of Guernsey cat-

tle, but he also kept hens and pigs, and reared turkeys for the Christmas trade.

In 1997, he retired from farming and he and Betty moved to Holmes Chapel, where they found it a more comfortable home as they became less mobile and unable to drive.

Sadly, Betty died 10 years later.

David spent much of his latter years piecing together the family history and collecting family photographs and memorabilia.



Bishop to attend special service

THERE are some interesting items in Calveley Church.

This year it celebrates the centenary of its reordering in November 1911.

The then occupier of Calveley Hall, John Julius Jersey de Knoop, was instrumental in this updating of the older Chapel dating from the 1830s.

Bishop Peter has kindly agreed to preach at the commemorative evensong at 4.30pm on 20 November. Do make a note in your diary for that Sunday and please come to swell the congregation.

John de Knoop was a member of the Cheshire Yeomanry and went to Egypt with them in 1916 for the Palestine campaign.

He had previously served in France with a Cavalry brigade as a much sought after interpreter.

He was a fluent French speaker.

Once in Egypt along with many other Yeomen, he transferred to the Imperial Camel Corps.

During the advance on Turkish positions, by now a Lieutenant Colonel, he led the 2nd Battalion.

Showing complete contempt for Turkish fire, and though wounded, he carried on until a sniper bullet killed him.

His memorial plaque is on the wall of the chancel.

John Ellis



ALL ABOARD: Local girls Kirsty Mason, Libby Kent, Charlotte Everton, Olivia Waddington, Ashleigh Dean, Jodie Cooper, Charlotte Malyon and Lottie Cunningham hired a double decker bus, which is pictured arriving in Bunbury, to take them to the Tarporley High School prom

Record 276 enjoy night out at the cricket club and help charity

Guests lap up bi-annual Bunbury Ball

A RECORD 276 guests had an absolute ball at the bi-annual Bunbury Ball at the Bunbury Cricket Club.

The dinner dance had been organised by Bunbury Aldersey School Association and the cricket club, which both shared the proceeds.

Guests enjoyed a three-course meal, during which they were entertained by local magician Mr Ree.

Other crowd-pleasing attractions included a raffle, an auction, a vodka jelly bar, which did get unsurprisingly a little bit messy, and a cocktail bar.

"The bars certainly helped to fuel the enthusiastic dancing to both the live music provided by the excellent Jacob's Ladder and then to the disco," said Lee Greenbury. The organising



committee would like to thank all those who supported the ball, donated prizes, provided sponsorship, volunteered to help on the night and with the all-important clearing up on Sunday. "We just hope they enjoyed the evening as much as we did and will want to come to the next one in 2013," said Lee.

WHAT A KNOCK-OUT: Guests enjoyed this year's Bunbury Ball and raised a good deal for good causes in the process



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Letters...

Your chance to share your thoughts with others

Are you worried about traffic?

I HAVE noticed that many people, who have been featured in the Link, have concerns about the amount of traffic in the village, particularly near the school and the Co-op.

Over the past 20 years, my practice and I have been looking at ways to reduce hazards on the road at the same time as improving the local environment.

Amongst others, I act for what was the Government's advisory body, the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE), now part of the Design Council.

I am wondering whether it would be worth Bunbury applying for a grant to commission some design work on improving the way that School Lane and the village centre work?

We are currently working with Acton (just outside Nantwich) on a similar project and have also been assisting Warmingham locally.

If the village thought it was a good idea, I would happily contribute my personal time as part of the project.

MARTIN STOCKLEY
Whitchurch Road
Bunbury Heath

God deserves bigger audience

I SHARE the comments of the Link Team in the letters' page of the July edition of the Link. We hope that people may get to know more of God's work in our village.

TRISH WELCH

email your views to briggsharris@live.co.uk

KNOW YOUR BUNBURY

CONTEMPORARY folk singer Kate Rusby is coming to Stoke-on-Trent and you could be there.

The Link has a pair of tickets to give away for her concert at the Victoria Hall on Wednesday 21 September.

For your chance to win, all you have to do is tell us where you can find this cross.

Answers please, with your name, address and telephone number, by email to link.competition@gmx.co.uk, by text to 07535 971218 or by mail to Link Competition, Woodstock, Hill Close, Bunbury CW6 9QJ.

The winning name will be drawn and the winner will be notified by August Bank Holiday Monday. The winner's name will also be published in the October Link.

Two runners-up will receive a copy of her critically-acclaimed CD, *Make The Light*.

The concert on Wednesday 21 September promises to be an uplifting experience.

Rusby is famed for her wondrous singing and her hugely engaging Yorkshire wit.

It's an event not to be missed.

Meanwhile, lots of you correctly guessed the location of this memorial.

But there could be only one winner of the six-weeks' free membership for two at the leisure club at Portal Hotel Golf and Spa at Tarporley.

So congratulations to Katharine Hingston of Bunbury lane, Alpraham.



DO YOU KNOW WHERE THIS

CROSS IS? If you do, you could be in with a chance of winning tickets to see Kate Rusby (left) in concert on Wednesday 21 September



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