

Christmas Fayre needed a sound system and staging

I CAN appreciate that the organisers of the Christmas Fayre in the Market Square on November 24 intended to provide a combination of entertainment and trade. However, while the day may have been good for trade and seasonal atmosphere, the choirs and Hyperfusion were poorly served by the organisers. The majority of people in the Market Square were unable to hear the choirs or see Hyperfusion. Where was the sound system and the staging? Later in the afternoon it was becoming difficult to see or get to some of the market stalls as a result of the number of people trying to see and hear the performers.

I hope that by next year a decision can

be made on whether the Market Square is used for stalls or entertainment. This year's organisation indicates that it is not suitable for both without proper facilities for the entertainers and spectators.

Regarding Father Christmas's arrival that was downright dangerous. How could anyone think it was a good idea to mix children with carriage horses? As it was the carriage kept having to stop so that the road could be cleared and when it did stop parents with push chairs crossed in front of the carriage and horses! As with the sound system and staging where were the barriers?

- Terry Wheatley
Great Chesterford

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

New housing descended into row

THERE needs to be a constructive relationship between the various housing campaign groups and the Conservatives in Uttlesford District Council in order for us to have any success in getting the right result for the community overall. The housing argument has descended into a row between various Councillors and groups; as a result nothing is being achieved actually to get the housing numbers reduced and that's what we really need.

We need a body made up of District Councillors, Town & Parish Councillors, members of the campaign groups from the towns and villages around the district and our MP. This should also be done in partnership with neighbouring Districts who are all going through this same painful process. The sole objective of this group should be to lobby

the relevant Ministers to allow Councils to both decide their own housing numbers/need and to be able to restart and review their local plans, without the threat of mass development going ahead as a result of the delay.

The Council has recently been criticised by local campaign groups and the Liberal Democrats (who resigned from the housing debate some time ago at Uttlesford) for allocating the majority of the additional homes to a single site in Elsenham. This is something many of the same people had previously been in support of (in fact a much larger settlement). We need to stop arguing over the sites and the plan and start working together constructively to get the numbers reduced to levels we believe will be sustainable for Uttlesford.

If these homes aren't allocated to a single site in Elsenham they will go to the bigger settlements such as Saffron Walden. Presently simply saying 'no' to new housing is not an option for any of us.

- Cllr David-James Sadler,
Uttlesford District & Saffron Walden Town Council

Making a splash! Local boy's swimming journey

Max Rowlandson – Swimming progress

After 12 weeks back in the pool at Lord Butler Leisure Centre, Max Rowlandson has continued to go from strength to strength in the water.

This week we caught up with Max's mother, Jodie Rowlandson, to chat a bit more about how things are going with Max's lessons:



"Swimming really is the highlight of his week, and it's great to see how much he's improving, thanks to the brilliant staff at Lord Butler. Last weekend we went to Centre Parcs for the weekend and we could see the difference in his confidence when in the water. He loved every minute and couldn't wait to show his swim teacher what he had been doing.

She continues, "Max especially loves to swim underwater. We keep trying to encourage him to swim on top but he's convinced that under the water is the way forward."

Five-year-old Max was diagnosed with leukaemia three years ago, and it left him unable to continue his swimming lessons. Now, after finishing his treatment, Max is once again enjoying his favourite hobby, swimming, at Lord Butler Leisure Centre.

Beckie Reynolds, Deputy Contract Manager at Lord Butler Leisure Centre said: "It's fantastic to see how much Max has improved since day one. We're very proud of him and all of our Swim School students who continue to gain more confidence week on week. It's especially great that Max has the confidence to show off his new found skills when away with family."

Charity Music Quiz

I WOULD like to say a big thank you to all the generous local people who donated raffle and auction prizes for the recent Charity Music Quiz organised by the Rotary Club of Saffron Walden.

The proceeds from the event will go towards improving a school in Sierra Leone, West Africa, for children who have been placed at a disadvantage by the civil war a few years ago.

- Linda Walker, Saffron Walden

Inner Wheel coffee

WE WOULD like to thank everyone who attended our recent Coffee Morning or who bought raffle tickets in the Market Square.

Many local businesses willingly donated raffle prizes and we are hugely grateful to all of them.

We raised the brilliant sum of £1,386.86 for Canine Partners. We hope everyone enjoyed meeting Oriole, the puppy in training, at the event.

The amount raised will go a long way towards the club's aim which is to at least buy two puppies for this very worthwhile charity.

- The Inner Wheel Club Committee
Saffron Walden

Better Christmas lights than Oxford Street

I WOULD like to applaud whoever was responsible for the Christmas Lights in Saffron Walden this year. They are absolutely splendid...wonderful...and easily eclipse the ones in Oxford Street.

The Christmas tree by the monument has been transmogrified too. With these triumphs added to the huge success of the Christmas Fair Saffron Walden has suddenly gone into another league.

- Ian Miller, Saffron Walden

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