Neighbourhood centre’s lease extension gives a big boost to funding hopes

AN extended lease has been agreed for Netherton Park Neighbourhood Centre to boost its chances of securing funding.

Sefton Council has agreed to a 25 year lease because most funding providers will need this requirement before agreeing to grants or donations.

It is hoped the decision will allow the Chester Avenue centre to push ahead with investment plans to further enhance and improve its facilities.

The tenants of the community centre is a group called Netherton Park Community Association.

A report published by the council states: “The grant of the proposed new lease will allow Netherton Park Community Association to apply for funding in order to sustain and improve the community offer for residents.”

“The council resolved to grant a 20 year lease, however the tenant now, in order to meet the criteria of any potential funders, requires a tenancy of a term of 25 years or more.

“Rejecting the request would prevent the group from applying to funders who could assist them in sustaining a much needed community facility located within an area of high deprivation.

“Big grant providers want the secure knowledge that community groups or charities have secured a lease for at least a 25 year period for any grant applications towards substantial capital investments.

“This is to give them confidence that a community group or charity has a proven track record of being able to manage the building and site and will not simply close after any substantial award has been granted.

“Netherton Park Neighbourhood Centre is situated in an area of high deprivation and operates from a substantial building on a large green site that requires continual maintenance.”

Run-down building set for new lease of life as facility ‘to improve the wellbeing of young people in area’

A RUN-DOWN sports pavilion in Bootle could be brought back into use after it was taken over by a local community group.

Orrell Mount Pavillion, which is on Orrell Road next to a playing field, has been described by Sefton Council as being in a “poor state of repair” and would need a wide-scale revamp.

The local authority has agreed to grant a 25 year lease to Linacre Bridge Community Hub, who will take over the responsibility of looking after the derelict building.

A report published by the council states: “Orrell Mount Pavilion is a vacant property held by Green Sefton.

“The property is in a poor state of repair and the council is unable to commit to undertaking repair works to bring the property back into a useable condition.

“The grant of the proposed lease will allow Linacre Bridge Community Hub to bring an underutilised property back into use as a community hub.

“Retaining Orrell Mount Pavilion for use by the council’s Green Sefton Service was considered; but deemed unviable due to its location and poor state of repair.

“This will also complement the activities already carried out at Linacre Bridge Community Hub’s other premises at Johnson’s Pavilion on Stanley Road, Bootle.

“The property shall not be used for any other use than as a community centre to provide services that will benefit and improve the wellbeing of young people and the local community.

“The tenant shall be responsible for the full repair and maintenance of the property, including the pavilion, all grassed area, hard-standing areas, hard and soft landscaping and all boundary enclosures to the satisfaction of the council as landlord.”

Fim-maker on Oscar shortlist

School ‘not doing enough to improve’

See Page 26

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A PENSIONER from Crosby who claims she accidentally let a receipt fall out her pocket was fined £50 for littering by a passing traffic warden.

The 72-year-old woman, who did not want to be named, was on St Luke’s Road on Saturday, January 4 when she reached into her pocket to get her mobile phone.

A civil enforcement officer then appeared and fined her on the spot for littering, claiming she had just dropped a receipt onto the ground.

The pensioner claimed she hadn’t realised and it was an accidental, but the fine was still issued.

Her daughter, who spoke to the Champion on her behalf, said: “My mum was walking back from Tesco Express and she can get pains in her legs, so she stopped on the pavement and reached to get her phone out of her pocket.

“A receipt must have come out of her pocket and blew away.

“A traffic warden has then appeared and fined her £50, which will go up to £75 if she doesn’t pay in a certain amount of time.

“My mum tried to explain what had happened but he wasn’t listening. She told him she can’t afford £50 but he said ‘that’s not my problem’.

“It was a windy day and it was completely accidental. He just wasn’t interested though.

“I’m trying to appeal. The council said they are going to review any footage so I would like to see this as well.”

A spokesman for Sefton Council said: “We are aware of an incident whereby a civil enforcement officer issued a woman a fine for dropping litter on St Luke’s Road.

“Body camera footage has been reviewed and we are satisfied that the officer’s conduct was appropriate, and the fixed penalty notice was correctly served.

“We understand that receiving a fine may have been distressing for her.

“However, the cleanliness of our local environment is important to us and littering is an issue that we take very seriously.”

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REPORT BY Tom Martin
Man caught selling cannabis wanted to make a ‘quick buck’ before holiday

By Lynda Roughtley

A YOUNG man from Netherton caught supplying cannabis told police he just wanted to make a “quick buck” before he went on holiday.

Carl Mooney had ten bags of cannabis on him when stopped by officers and during a search of his Netherton home.

He two sets of scales and snap bags were recovered.

Paul Blasbery, prosecuting, told Liverpool Crown Court that the drugs had a potential street value of £224 and when his mobile phone was analysed there were ten drug related messages.

Mooney, 19, was caught with the drugs exactly a year ago from when he appeared in court on Friday, January 10.

“When told he was going to be searched, he became distressed and started to cry.”

After the drugs and £20 cash was recovered from him he was arrested and said, “All I wanted to do was make a quick buck before I went on holiday.”

Mooney, of Quigley Avenue, Netherton, who pleaded guilty to possessing cannabis with intent to supply, had no previous convictions at the time but the court heard that last October he received a community order for motoring offences.

Imposing an eight month prison sentence on him suspended for 18 months Judge Sophie McKone pointed out that cannabis “is not a harmless drug.”

“It brings misery not just to those who use it but to the wider community because people commit offences to pay for their cannabis. It is anti-social and you peddle this misery.”

She ordered him to carry out 200 hours unpaid work and imposed a curfew for six months between 8pm and 6am.

Sarah Holt, defending, said that Mooney and his family had been devastated by the death of his mother not long ago.

He had been in employment but has lost his job because of the time off he needed to deal with the court proceedings.

Hundreds of pupils to watch film at cinema

MORE than 700 schoolchildren will watch a film at the Plaza Cinema, in Waterloo, aimed at broadening their knowledge of bullying and victimisation.

Youngsters will go to the cinema on Monday, January 27 to watch ‘The Island on Bird Street’, which follows the true story of a teenager trying to survive in a ghetto in Poland during World War Two.

If there are any schools who want to attend on Monday afternoon contact the Plaza email mar-tin.fol@plazacinema.org.uk

Just a week after winning a Golden Globe, film-maker Chris is now on shortlist for an Oscar!

Report by Kenny Parker

JUST one week after picking up a Golden Globe, an animation film maker who studied at Hugh Baird College has now been nominated for an Oscar.

Chris Butler’s ‘stop motion’ animation film Missing Link, which won a Golden Globe last week is one of five films short-listed from 35 nominations for the Best Animation Film category at this year’s Academy Awards, commonly known as the Oscars – the film industry’s most prestigious awards.

It is again pitted against Disney’s Toy Story 4 and Dream Works’ How to Train Your Dragon: Hidden World – both of which it triumphed over at the Golden Globes – and also Spanish film Klaus and French film I Lost My Body.

Chris, from Maghull, attended Lydiate Primary School and Deyes High School, before studying at an art foundation course at Hugh Baird College and studying for a degree in Surrey.

After a spell in London he has been working for 13 years for Laika studios in Oregon, USA, where he made Missing Link.

Chris’s mum Barbara said: “We couldn’t believe it because to all the other big films that were nominated, 32 altogether, and he went down to the last five.

“He is just overjoyed. Even if he does not get the Oscar, he has been nominated. We are all in a dream. There is only one Disney film that’s nominated, Toy Story 4, so he stands a good chance.”

As well as picking up a Golden Globe, Missing Link also won the best animated film at the Toronto Film Critics Association Awards last December.

The film and its crew have also been nominated for eight awards at the Annie Awards, which honour excellence in the field of animation and will be held in Los Angeles on January 25 – among them

Chris is nominated for Outstanding Achievement for Directing in an Animated Feature Production.

It is not the first time Chris has been in the running for an Oscar after also being shortlisted in 2012 for stop motion animated comedy horror film ParaNorman, which he wrote and co-directed.

Missing Link, featuring the voices of Hugh Jackman, Stephen Fry, and Zoe Saldana tells the tale of Mr Link, an eight-foot tall, fur-covered ‘Sasquatch’ or Bigfoot, who becomes tired of living all alone.

He befriends an explorer and an adventurer to help him find his long-lost relatives in the fabled valley of Shangri-La.

At the Golden Globes, Chris was not expecting to win so he did not prepare a speech. He thanked those who worked on the film and paid tribute to his mum and dad Tony, who died two years while the film was being made.

His mum says he might just prepare a speech for the Oscars! She said: “I think he might prepare one just in case this time!” The Oscars will be held in Hollywood on Sunday February 9.

Long waits to see a doctor and lack of mental health support are top concerns for patients

Healthcare Sefton promise to make solving issues a priority for 2020

Report by Tom Martin

PATIENTS in Bootle have revealed their concerns over getting GP appointments and a lack of mental health support after they were asked to give feedback on the local health service.

Healthwatch Sefton has been asking locals for their views as part of its #SpeakUp2020 campaign, calling on people to share the changes they want to see to their local health and care services.

Patients told Healthwatch Sefton of their concern in trying to get a GP appointment, which resulted in the health team carrying out an engagement campaign asking for feedback in Bootle and Southport.

Some of the comments included “not being able to get through until later in the day” and “I can’t see a GP, I’m always sent to Litherland walk-in or A&E”.

Other concerns included NHS dental provision and mental health support, particularly for men, and Healthwatch Sefton will now make these “health and care priorities” for 2020.

Sir Robert Francis QC, chair of Healthwatch England, said: “Taking the time to listen to people’s experiences of care and what they want to see done differently is enlightening and often generates a range of practical solutions that can help services better meet the demands being placed on them. This is what we do at Healthwatch. We take the time to listen.

“But we cannot improve things on our own. If anyone wants to share their experience or an idea they think might help, I urge them to get involved and speak to Healthwatch Sefton.”

People can share the changes they want to see by getting in touch with Healthwatch Sefton by phoning 0800 206 1304; emailing info@healthwatchsefton.co.uk or by completing a short survey:

www.healthwatch.co.uk/speak-2020

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Chris Butler with his Golden Globe won for his film Missing Link
A UNIQUE drama company staged a special celebration event in Netherton to salute the success of its members on a linked college course.

New Centre Stage held the certificate presentation to mark the achievements of 14 group members who have successfully completed a two-year St Helens College course, the Certificate in Skills for Further Learning and Employment.

The event was held in the Netherton studio theatre of the group which is run by adult social care providers, New Directions.

The flexible Open Awards-accredited course has been using drama as the basis of a range of activities designed to help students acquire useful new life and work skills.

Group members have been encouraged to set a number of individual goals to boost their personal awareness, health and wellbeing, self-confidence and self-esteem.

The aim is that over time the course will have a very positive effect in terms of students’ personal development, social skills and employability.

New Centre’s stage activity lead, Vicky Bennett, said: “The group members involved have worked very hard on this course over the past two years and really deserve their success.

“They have been particularly enthusiastic about the use of drama as the basis of many of the activities and I am sure they will find the new skills they have learned extremely useful in the future.”

New Centre Stage has built up an impressive track record of successful productions of hit musicals including The Greatest Showman and the Wizard of Oz.

Other recent appearances have also included an evening of dance and a performance at the Anne Frank memorial event at the Bootle Strand Shopping Centre.

Report by Tom Martin
High school ‘still not doing enough’ to get itself out of special measures

A SCHOOL in Bootle which is in special measures is “not doing enough” to improve, according to a new report.

The Champion reported how Savio High School was criticised by Ofsted and given their lowest possible rating of ‘Inadequate’ in October 2016 and then again in February 2019.

A Monitoring Visit was held last month to check on the school’s progress but a report published on Monday, January 13 details how “leaders and managers are not taking effective action towards the removal of special measures”.

The inspector believes a key reason for this is the absence of a permanent and long-term headteacher.

The Ofsted report notes: “Since the previous inspection, an associate headteacher has been appointed to work alongside the senior leadership team for two days each week. This is a temporary arrangement.

“Leaders and the chair of governors are not aware whether this support will continue after March 2020.

“In addition to the associate headteacher, the seconded headteacher’s appointment to the school has been extended for another year.

“The chair of governors and the seconded headteacher are keen to find a permanent solution to who will be the substantive headteacher of the school.

“However, little is known about whether this temporary arrangement will continue. This uncertainty in the senior leadership of the school is a barrier to removing the school from special measures.”

Other criticisms include “pupils’ achievement remains very poor”, “teachers’ use of assessment is not good enough” and “not enough teachers have high expectations of what pupils can achieve.”

Ofsted also claims Savio has not been supported enough by Sefton Council. The report states: “The local authority has provided very little support to the school since the previous inspection in February 2019.”

The Monitoring Visit report will be sent to the chair of the governing body, the director of education for the Archdiocese of Liverpool, the regional schools commissioner and the Director of Children’s Services for Sefton.

One of the more positive aspects of the report notes how the “seconded headteacher has worked to repair many of the broken relationships between staff and senior leaders.”

It also states that the [Special Educational Needs Coordinator] has “quickly ensured that teachers have access to important information about pupils with special educational needs.”

A spokesperson for Sefton Council said: “It is very important that pupils attending Savio Salesian College receive the best quality of education possible.

“The local authority has worked closely with the Archdiocese over a number of years providing a wide range of support including financial and training opportunities.

“It is our priority to offer support and work in partnership with the Archdiocese, to ensure that standards continue to improve.”

‘We are determined that by the next inspection we will be able to show more progress’: letter sent to parents

IN response to the Monitoring Visit, a letter was sent by Savio High School to parents.

It reads: “Inspectors noted the positive steps that are being taken to improve the quality of education that pupils receive and that subject leaders have raised their expectations of what pupils can achieve.

“They also noted that subject curricula were now more ambitious for pupils and in some subjects such as maths and geography now much more organised.

“Other positive points noted included the way that school leaders support staff and understand well the challenges faced.

“These positive points are much tempered by the consistent thread in the report that progress is not fast enough, that curriculum planning has too many weaknesses, that school development plans are not good enough and that, as a result, pupils’ achievement has been below expectation.

“We believe that it is our duty to report this honestly and we accept that there is a great deal of work to be done to show that things are improving.

“Financial investment in improvement came in October.

“Even though it was clear to inspectors that there has been improvement this academic year, the measure has to be taken from February when the school underwent full inspection.

“We are determined that by the next monitoring inspection which will take place in late spring/early summer we will be able to demonstrate more rapid progress which will impact on pupil achievement.

“Your patience and support is greatly valued.

“Staff work hard to ensure your children are safe and happy in school and we are making the necessary changes to ensure that they also achieve and make progress.”
Rimrose Valley group contact minister over Peel Ports influence on new road project

AN open letter has been sent to the government by the Save Rimrose Valley group about its “serious concerns” over Peel Ports’ relationship with Highways England.

The Champion recently reported that a Freedom of Information (FOI) request revealed emails sent between Peel Ports and Highways England as staff from both companies discussed the proposed road to be build through Rimrose Valley Country Park.

The Save Rimrose Valley action group claim the emails showed Peel is the “driving force” behind the controversial road plan.

They have now written to Transport Secretary, Grant Shapps, asking him to look into the issue.

The campaigners also claim the FOI request was not fully answered, because they claim some emails were kept back.

Stuart Bennett from Save Rimrose Valley said: “It is no surprise that Peel Ports has a role to play in this project – it is called the Port of Liverpool Access Scheme, after all.

“However, we have serious concerns about the transparency of this process, the nature of their relationship and what information has passed between the two organisations.

“We are questioning whether it is appropriate for a privately-owned company to have so much influence in this hugely unpopular project, when it stands to benefit from it the most.

“We already know that Peel Ports was involved in efforts to secure funding for the project and that it offered tours of the port to influential parties.

“More communications between the two companies have been withheld and the public aren’t being given the full picture of their collaborative efforts in trying to push the scheme forward.

“We have asked the Transport Secretary to look into this as a matter of urgency.

“We have also repeated our calls for the road scheme to be halted, in order to allow time for proper research into sustainable alternatives to moving freight to and from the Port of Liverpool, which respect our health and wellbeing and the environment.”

Report by Tom Martin

Transport Secretary Grant Shapps.

“What is more concerning is that more communications between the two companies have been withheld and the public aren’t being given the full picture of their collaborative efforts in trying to push the scheme forward.

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Driver hit 140mph on the M62 when chased by police

**Report by Lynda Roughley**

A DISQUALIFIED driver from Litherland led police on a horrifying 140 mph motorway chase, weaving in and out of heavy traffic and hurting along the hard shoulder.

The pursuing police car, which followed Stephen Beaumont for eight miles along the M62 from Liverpool towards Warrington, was eventually dramatically forced to ram him off the road when he suddenly did a sharp right heading towards on-coming vehicles.

Miraculously no-one was injured as a result of his appalling driving which took place while he was being investigated following another high speed police chase in a stolen car and while banned following offences in 2017.

Judge Stuart Driver, QC, told 30-year-old Beaumont that the latest offence was “as bad an example of dangerous driving as it is possible to see without serious injury, which was by pure luck.”

He said it was aggravated by the fact he had been released under investigation for the earlier dangerous driving and while subject to supervision or licence after his jail sentence.

“The whole case is aggravated by your criminal record involving 27 previous convictions, some of which are motoring offences,” Judge Driver said.

Mr Criddle said he committed the next dangerous driving offence on December 2 last year which began at 11.15 am on the M62 from junction 9 while he was driving a blue Ford Fiesta.

“He clearly became aware he was being followed by a police vehicle and travelled eight miles at speeds up to 140 mph.”

Mr Criddle played police damcash footage of the chase which showed Beaumont travelling at times on the hard shoulder, crossing three lanes of traffic before crossing back and again travelling on the hard shoulder.

Police deployed a ‘stinger’ device which deflated one of the vehicles’ tyres but he continued along and exited the motorway at 90 mph, going through a red traffic light at the roundabout before going back onto the slip road back onto the motorway.

He then made a sharp right taking him along the wrong side of the motorway and the pursuing officer “took the decision to ram the vehicle to prevent him causing serious injuries to other road users,” said Mr Criddle.

The court heard Beaumont’s record includes dangerous and aggravated vehicle taking offences.

His barrister, Jack Troup said Beaumont had been jailed for a year in April last year for assault, possessing a knife and drugs and released on October 17 and “had been trying to re-build his life. His father had given him a job and he was doing well.”

DEREK Acorah’s wife ‘still speaks to’ late husband

**Report by Tom Martin**

DEREK Acorah’s wife has spoken for the first time since her husband’s death and revealed she is speaking to him from beyond the grave.

Gwen Acorah Johnson, 71, was left devastated after Derek died on January 4 at the age of 69 following a short battle with pneumonia which led to sepsis.

In an interview with the Sunday People, Gwen said: “Derek believed life goes on in another dimension. There’s an element of comfort in that because it’s not a big blank wall and he’s gone.”

“I keep thinking I must pick up the phone and tell Derek. I actually do tell him. I talk to him. People may think I’m mad. I’ve nagged him all his life so why shouldn’t I continue?”

She added that she won’t try to speak to Derek through a medium and ‘has faith he’s OK’. Gwen, who married Derek in 1996, revealed the Most Haunted star was rushed to hospital on New Year’s Day after they both got the flu over Christmas.

The Celebrity Big Brother star, who was born in Bootle and later lived in Scarisbrick, near Southport, was put in an induced coma and passed away just days later.

His real name was Derek Johnson and was best known for his television work on Most Haunted, broadcast on Living TV.
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Parents vow to keep Teddy’s memory alive

Report by Tom Martin

PARENTS from Litherland who tragically lost their two-year-old son on Christmas Day want to keep his memory alive by raising awareness of his rare genetic condition.

Teddy Curry was diagnosed with Peroxisomal Bio-genesis Disorder (PBD) just months after he was born in December 2017.

The degenerative condition, which affects just one in 50,000 people, causes global developmental delays, deafness, blindness/multi-sensory loss and a plethora of other health issues.

His loving parents, Stephanie and Adam, decided to create a bucket list of adventures for their little boy, which included a donkey ride, visiting the Blackpool lights and a trip to watch Liverpool at Anfield.

Teddy’s story captured the hearts of many at the Reds, and defender Trent Alexander-Arnold paid a visit to their family home to meet the youngster.

The two-year-old passed away on Christmas Day in his mum’s arms, and the family say they have been inundated with messages of support.

Stephanie said: “The supportive comments on social media have really meant a lot to me.

“I have posted a lot on social media, showing Teddy’s adventures - the highs and the lows - so I’m sure people feel like they have known him in a way.

“We are really lucky to have our supportive family and close friends.

“I lost my grandad suddenly on Boxing Day so it’s been a tough time for us.

“Adam and I were totally overwhelmed by the turnout at Teddy’s funeral. Some of the staff at Alder Hey have become like family over the last two years and bizarrely it feels strange now knowing they won’t be in our life as they were.”

Teddy’s tragic death comes just three years after the parents sadly lost their first son Louis in December 2016.

Louis had a severe form of spina bifida and part of his brain wasn’t forming as it should have been, and he passed away at 21 weeks.

Stephanie and Adam want Teddy to be remembered for “all the good things he brought” to their lives and want to raise awareness of Zell-weger UK, which is a charity that supports those diagnosed with PBD.

Stephanie said: “PBD is such a rare condition not many people, medics included, know about it and there are very few teams interested in it.

“Not many people also know about the Zellweger UK charity who offer practical support for families affected by PBD. They have been another lifeline for me, it’s ran by other families who are so know-ledgable about the condition.

“We attended a family conference in Devon which they arranged back in September, and it was so lovely to meet other families who just get it.”

To find more about Zellweger UK or to donate to the charity, visit the charity: www.zell-weger.org.uk/
A PLEA for the government to invest in a new building at a primary school in Lydiate has been made by MP Bill Esterson after he was shocked to discover pupils had to wear coats in class to keep warm.

The Sefton Central visited Lydiate Primary School, as it welcomed pupils on Monday, January 6 after it had been closed since November 22 due to health and safety concerns with reports that pieces of concrete had been falling off the roof.

The children spent the last few weeks of the autumn term at Maghull High School. It is understood that £400,000 will be spent on repairs in the coming months but the MP said this will just be a “sticking plaster”.

He told students and staff that he was shocked to hear they had been wearing coats in the classroom in order to stay warm and took the campaign for a new building direct to Westminster after promising pupils he would fight to get them “safe, warm and dry” classrooms.

During Questions to the Leader Of The House of Commons in Parliament last week, the MP said: “Lydiate Primary School is in desperate need of a new build.

“Governors are doing all they can to make do but it is simply not economically viable to continue.”

“The school desperately needs funding for a new build.

“The children are wearing coats in the classroom to keep warm. This is completely unacceptable. I am told there are leaks in the roof and damp.

“When the children were moved out to Maghull High School temporarily they were amazed at not having to wear their outdoor coats.

“Spending £400,000 on a range of sticking plaster repairs will be money down the drain.

“It is simply not acceptable that the children and staff have to put up with leaks, with concrete falling off the walls and plaster falling off the ceiling.

“The wiring needs to be replaced while energy bills are absurdly high because of the poor insulation. But this will only delay the inevitable. It needs a new build.

“The damp throughout the school is a danger to the health of pupils and staff.”

Mr Esterson has asked to meet the Education Secretary over the issue. Lydiate Primary headteacher Georgina Forshaw said: “It was a pleasure to welcome Mr Esterson in to our school and the children had the opportunity to ask an MP some great questions from Brexit to football.

“Mr Esterson has been saddened to hear we had to temporarily move out of our school due to concerns with our school building and is keen to raise the issue of school funding in parliament.”

Chair of Governors Claire Moore added: “It’s incredibly reassuring to know we have the support of our MP in lobbying central government for the funding we need to ensure that the school building in which we teach our wonderful children is fit for the 21st century.”
Hospital is cordoned off after man stabbed and has ‘substance’ thrown on him

Report by Henry James

A POLICE cordon was put in place at Aintree hospital after a man, who was stabbed and had an unknown substance thrown in his face, was brought there following a serious assault. At about 6.30pm on Sunday, January 12, emergency services were called to Inglis Road, in Walton, to reports of a man in his 20s being reportedly stabbed. The victim was taken to Aintree Hospital for assessment of his injuries and to establish the nature of the substance. Medical staff have now confirmed that the substance does not present any wider risk to others.

A cordon was in place at the scene of the assault as detectives conducted house-to-house, forensic and CCTV enquiries. A cordon was also in place at the hospital while their own medical assessment was made. This has now been removed and police have thanked members of the public for their patience and understanding.

Chief Inspector Mark Everard said: “These are the early stages of our investigation into what appears to be a targeted attack. If you were in or near to Inglis Road at around 6.30pm and saw or heard anything, come forward right away and we will take positive action. This is clearly a serious assault and our focus is now on establishing the exact circumstances to bring those responsible to justice.”

Anyone with information can contact @MerPolCC, 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111 with reference number 702.

Council’s payment service to be unavailable

SEFTON Council’s online payment system will be down for a short period next Wednesday (January 22) so residents are being advised to make arrangements. In order to carry out an essential security upgrade on the council’s payment system there will be restricted access to Sefton’s online, telephone and face to face payments on Wednesday, January 22. The payments system is expected to be unavailable from 10am on Wednesday, January 22 and it is anticipated that all the upgrade work and testing should be completed by 3pm. A spokesperson said: “Please make any necessary arrangements to pay for your council services in advance of this or for anyone who normally uses the self-service payment kiosks at Bootle or Southport One Stop Shops, you can continue to do so as this service will remain in place throughout and is unaffected by this work.”

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‘Metro Mayor Tax’ to be frozen in latest budget proposals

Report by Tom Martin

TAX paid by Sefton residents to the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority will be frozen under plans by metro mayor Steve Rotheram.

The so-called ‘Metro Mayor Tax’ will stay the same in 2020/21, meaning those living in the lowest-value homes (Band A properties) will continue to pay an additional £12.67 on their Council Tax bills - with that amount increasing for those living in more valuable properties.

It is part of Mr Rotheram’s key budget proposals for the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority.

The Metro Mayor Tax was introduced last year to pay for the staffing and priorities of his office.

The budget proposals would also see the Mersey Tunnel tolls frozen at 2019/20 levels, while the Transport Levy, paid by the city region’s six local authorities, would increase by 2.1%, in line with inflation, the first increase in three years.

The budget will also make special provision for key strategic priorities including the Mersey Tidal Power Project, the Liverpool City Region’s Digital Connectivity Programme and improvements to the city region’s bus services.

Speaking about the plans, Steve Rotheram, Metro Mayor of the Liverpool City Region, said: “Over the past decade, our region has been hit hard by austerity, with local government and local people bearing the brunt of government cuts.

“In spite of this, I’m optimistic about the future and the opportunities devolution gives us to make our own decisions for the benefit of local people; “From investing tens of millions in local schools and colleges, improving our transport infrastructure and providing £75million to support local business, to our UK-leading Housing First pilot to tackle homelessness and our Households into Work scheme to support families with generational unemployment, helping local people has been the driving force behind everything we do.

“And there is more to come. This year, we’ll be launching our state-of-the-art, publicly owned trains for the Merseyrail network, announcing plans to improve our bus network and moving forward with our ambitious Mersey Tidal Power project, which will harness the River Mersey for clean, green sustainable energy.

“Also want to help ease the burden on local taxpayers in the year ahead, which is why I’m freezing tunnel tolls and the council tax precept for city region residents.”

The proposals will be adopted if they are approved at the combined authority’s budget meeting on January 24.
Town council to present ‘list of objections’ over plan for 1,600 homes

Potential loss of public benefits and delays to building ‘spine road’ are among concerns

Report by Jim Sharpe

A LIST of formal objections to plans for the large-scale development on the land east of Maghull will be presented by the town council at the special meeting of Sefton Council’s Planning Committee to be held later this month.

The town council has submitted a “comprehensive list of objections” as to why the proposals to build more than 1,600 homes should be rejected as they currently stand, which they will present to the special meeting at Bootle Town Hall on Wednesday, January 22 at 1pm.

Town Council leader, Councillor Patrick McKinley, said: “We have scrutinised the planning proposals and believe as they currently stand they should be rejected.”

He said this is not ‘knee-jerk reaction’ against development per se but rather the result of detailed analysis using planning law.

He said the objections are based on detailed, sound evidential scrutiny by very experienced and well respected planning consultants.

Mr McKinley added: “Our objections include insufficient supporting evidence being supplied to meet planning requirements, the lack of a co-ordinated approach to the development, including shortcomings in the masterplan which have not been addressed, and potential loss or non-delivery of public benefits including parks and other infrastructure and mix/affordable housing.

“In short, we believe that the current proposals may breach Sefton’s own Local Plan policies and the National Policy Planning Framework.”

And Councillor John Sayers said the town council had tried to work with the developers to get a spine road through the estate at the beginning of the development “to save years of chaos on local roads.”

He said: “We even managed to negotiate a loan at a very low rate of interest to help the developers deliver this.

“We did this because they assure that they couldn’t afford to deliver this up front, despite that among the developers in the country.

“To date, the developers have not agreed to provide the spine road up front.”
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Mrs & Mr Lee L23

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Adele back on TV for another reality show

Adele, who grew up in Southport, first found fame after appearing on the 2002 series of Channel 4's Big Brother, and went on to forge a successful small screen TV show and radio career.

The 40-year-old is currently a presenter on Radio 1, and appeared in last year’s I’m A Celebrity...Get Me Out Of Here! where she was the first to be voted out of the jungle.

Adele believes her appearance on Celebrity Coach Trip will be a lot easier than the Australian jungle!

She said: “I missed Kate every single day on I’m A Celebrity...Get Me Out Of Here! and I wish she could’ve been with me but I also wish she wasn’t with me because I didn’t want her eating testicles!”

“I missed her so much and Coach Trip was so much more special because I got to do it with her.”

Adele (right) with partner Kate Holderness

Her former school took to Twitter to offer her support: “We’re excited to see Old Girl Adele Roberts on our screens once again! Best of luck on Celebrity Coach Trip, Adele!”

The new series of Celebrity Coach Trip started on Monday, January 6 and so far they have visited St Tropez and Le Lavandou, in France. Other celebrities on the show include Antony Costa and Simone Webbe, from boyband Blue, Amy and Jonathan Tapper, from Gogglebox, and internet pranksters Woody and Kleiny.
Wrong time for planning meeting

Sefton Council is to hold a meeting regarding the building of 1,700 houses in Maghull on a Wednesday at 1pm in Bootle, knowing full well many of those who want to attend, myself included, will be at work.

Although objections have previously been put to Sefton Council, it seems that planning permission will be granted regardless of the views of residents, and the lack of infrastructure.

It strikes me that those involved in this decision do not live in the area and are therefore of the opinion ‘if it’s not on my doorstep.’

Elaine Wall,
Maghull

Switch Island accident debris mess is a blot on landscape

I, like many readers, travel daily through our local blot on the landscape, that being Switch Island.

Apart from waiting in traffic jams, why on earth must we be subjected to the dismal sight of car debris, mangled barrier rails (that have been replaced but discarded), traffic cones, rusting frameworks that once supported road signs, sandbags, glass, etc.

Surely these remnants of traffic accidents should be removed from the site as part of the clean-up operation.

I am sure the contractors attending the site have costed into the operational service they provide, the charge to the authority for a full clean-up.

The non-removal of this debris is effectively fly-tipping which in the eyes of the law is now a criminal offence.

Secondly, the gully kerbstones, designed with drainage feature holes, are being rendered useless in the removal of surface water as there is no road sweeping or gully cleaning so the holes are allowed to fill up with grit, grass and weeds.

Switch Island attracts enough negative press as it is, without it becoming a dumping ground for all manner of vehicle debris, highways equipment and weed growth.

I am not asking for the earth here, but surely the council Highways Service and the Highways Agency can undertake a relatively simple task of keeping the areas free of all of this rubbish.

Billy Peters,
Maghull

We need more pet-friendly rental homes

As the UK’s largest dog welfare charity, Dogs Trust believes that the benefits of pet ownership shouldn’t be exclusive to homeowners, but open to private and social renters as well.

With the number of people privately renting increasing year on year, the news that the Government is looking to make it easier for private tenants to keep pets in their homes, has never been more important.

Sadly, the single biggest reason we see dogs handed in to our rehoming centres is due to a change in the owner’s circumstances, such as being unable to live in a rented property with a pet.

This can also stop people coming forward to adopt rescue animals.

This needs to change and we sincerely hope the proposed updates to model tenancy contracts will help ensure that fewer owners are forced to give up their beloved pets and that more people are able to consider adoption.

For over a decade, Dogs Trust has been working with landlords, letting agencies and the property industry on this issue.

It’s important that any updates to the model tenancy contract are backed up with appropriate guidance for landlords on how to put the changes into practice to make it fully effective and mutually beneficial for all parties involved.

We welcome the opportunity to work alongside other animal welfare organisations and the Government to ensure this forthcoming change positively impacts the property sector, and that more pet friendly rental homes become available.

Clare Kivlehan,
Head of Outreach Projects at Dogs Trust

Your quote was from the Bible

First, may I wish you very Happy New Year, and thank Jim Sharpe for your entertaining contribution to the Champion week by week.

You often manage to lift the spirits through ‘One Man and His Dog.’

In your column in last week’s Champion you quote “sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof” but you credit it to Shakespeare erroneously.

It is, in fact, to be found in the Bible of Matthew, chapter 6, verse 34 (King James Version) speaks these words as part of His ‘Sermon on the Mount.’ Shakespeare may have quoted these words in his writings (I’m not a Shakespearean scholar) but if so I hope he made reference to their original source!

Wendy Hinds,
Sefton

Better to extend Merseyrail lines to Burscough Bridge

I read the article headlined ‘Call for Merseyrail to be extended to Preston’ with interest.

Merseyrail does indeed top the league tables for reliability and performance. But this is due in large part to it being a self-contained network, unaffected by congestion elsewhere.

Extending the Ormskirk service to Preston would have a negative effect on Merseyrail’s performance, especially if it had to contend with additional Southport to Preston trains running on the same line.

If both Burscough curves are rebuilt then a better operating solution may be to extend Merseyrail from Ormskirk to Burscough Bridge on a self contained line providing connections with the Southport to Wigan/Manchester line.

Northern could then switch its Ormskirk to Preston service to run to and from Southport (calling at Burscough Bridge to connect with the new Merseyrail service). We would have a much better connected rail network without jeopardising the good service which Merseyrail already provides.

Matt,
Town Green

Port was there before residents

Peel Ports has every right to operate 24 hours a day.

We need the jobs in this area.

What people forget is the docks have been here for centuries long before the current residents.

When you move to an area you should learn to live with the activities around you.

Disappointed of Thornton,
By email
MERSEYSIDE Police has launched a new anti-knife campaign to help keep young people safe.

The campaign, called #BladeFree, comes after four people lost their lives last year in Merseyside due to knife crime.

Research has shown that many of those involved in or at risk of being drawn into knife crime, suffer from a lack of "aspiration and belonging", often as a result of living in areas with few or no opportunities for young people.

This campaign is designed to help young people steer clear of knife crime and other serious violent crime by providing support and opportunities through activities and initiatives such as sport, music, and theatre to build confidence and aspiration and improve practical skills and employability.

Through #BladeFree young people will be directed towards a range of local clubs and activities accessible across Merseyside, with the hope it can give them "ambition and opportunity".

This will be the first campaign for 'Our Merseyside', which is a regional initiative to encourage people and organisations to work together to bring pride and opportunity to Merseyside.

Anyone, and everyone, can pledge their support to #BladeFree. If you provide services, groups and opportunities that could help young people, visit the website OurMerseyside.org.

Assistant Chief Constable Jon Roy said: "We are hugely aware of the impact of knife crime on victims, their families, friends and our communities."

"We don't want people to suffer any longer and that's why we are doing everything in our power to reduce knife crime through our operational activity including open land searches, stop searches, targeted operations and high visibility patrols, as well as working closely with our communities, schools and safeguarding partners to tackle the problem by taking a more preventative approach. This is at the forefront of our partnership work within the Merseyside Violence Reduction Unit."

"We often hear that young people feel they have no opportunities, or that they're bored, that they even carry knives for protection or because it's deemed the 'norm' - but that couldn't be further from the truth."

"Merseyside is full of passionate people who are doing huge amounts of good work in their local neighbourhoods to educate, divert and influence young people away from knives and other violent crimes and we should do everything in our power to support and share their work."

"The #BladeFree campaign will sit on a central hub, 'Our Merseyside', hosting details of clubs, training opportunities, educational and fun activities that young people can do."

"This is just the beginning - a social movement allowing young people the opportunity to prosper and succeed – by starting this social movement today, we can give young people a better tomorrow."

Councillor Eish Hardy, Sefton Council's cabinet member for communities and housing, said: "We know the vast majority of residents living in our beautiful borough are upstanding citizens who are proud of where they live."

"Knife crime has a real impact on our communities and we are committed to ensuring residents across the borough are kept safe and live without fear."

"We are committed to working closely with Merseyside Police and other partners to fully support the #BladeFree campaign."

SEFTON Council has approved a wide-range of proposals to "kick start growth and investment" across the borough.

The local authority held a Cabinet meeting on Thursday, January 9 when they agreed to move forward with its Capital Investment Strategy.

As part of the newly-approved Strategy, projects such as town centre regeneration, transport initiatives, housing and large employment sites will be delivered, creating new jobs and businesses, upskilling local residents, enhancing access and connectivity and bringing redundant land back in to use.

Some of these projects will also create commercial income for the council and increase income from business rates and council tax which can help to pay for council services.

The council claims that while they continue to face financial challenges, they need to "think differently about generating income and how we provide critical services for our community."

The council also highlighted the "significant progress" made on projects such as the refurbishment of Crosby Lakeside Activity Centre and Sefton Adult Learning Centre, the purchase of the Strand Shopping Centre, and the creation of a new council-owned housing development company, Sandway Homes, which will build high quality homes for sale, including affordable homes across the borough.

Cllr Ian Maher, leader of Sefton Council said: "This really is an exciting moment, signifying a major commitment by Sefton Council across the whole borough to proactively and effectively utilise its assets to facilitate a major programme of investment and development, to deliver the council's regeneration strategies, and our community's 2030 vision."

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Authority approve plans
to ‘kick start growth’
Grand Winter Clearance Sale in aid of Carla Lane Animals in Need

CARLA Lane Animals In Need rescue centre is holding a Grand Winter Clearance Sale on Saturday, January 18 from 12.30pm to 3.30pm at Lydiate Parish Hall. People will be able to fill a bag of clothes for £5. Shoes, accessories, toiletries and much more will also be available. There will be vegetarian and vegan refreshments. All funds raised for this sale will help towards paying vet and heating bills at Carla Lane Animals In Need.

Carla Hardman, 42, of Sandon Street died at home on Wednesday, January 1. Her death is not being treated as suspicious. Anyone who can help the coroner identify or trace any potential next of kin should call the Coroner’s Office on 0151 233 2606 or email Jacqueline.A.Horner@merseyside.police.uk.

Carla’s family said: "There is so much love for Carla which will now be translated into helping others and the sale is a way of paying tribute to Carla’s legacy.

Carla’s perosnality was loved by many and we are all surprised at his loss. Everyone will bemiss Carla and love for her will always be there on our doorstep.

We have a lot of footwear, bags, clothes and toiletries and the sale will be a great opportunity to clear stock so we can focus on raising funds for the centre’s work.

Coroner’s office appeal for information after woman’s death

LIVERPOOL and Wirral Coroner’s Office is appealing for the family of a woman from Waterloo who recently passed away to come forward.

Alison Hardman, 42, of Sandon Street died at home on Wednesday, January 1. Her death is not being treated as suspicious. Anyone who can help the coroner identify or trace any potential next of kin should call the Coroner’s Office on 0151 233 2606 or email Jacqueline.A.Horner@merseyside.police.uk.

Acts to reduce discrimination can also breed resentment

DO you reckon that should I apply for another job (until you have) and fail to get it I could start a movement making it illegal to discriminate against folk (men or women of course) who choose to wear a moustache - for obviously that could be the only cause of my not being selected?

It is perhaps not that far from being possible in today’s climate for anyone who thinks of themselves as being even slightly different from what used to be called the ‘norm’ can use that difference as a reason (whoops, sorry, I nearly wrote excuse) for not being selected.

All this started very rightly when people were routinely barred not only from jobs but even accommodation simply for being black, or brown or indeed anything but whitely pale.

It was wrong, very wrong - and needed stamping down on - hard.

Trouble was though that from very reasonable and badly needed legislation, just about everybody who failed to get employment, hotel bed or restaurant table jumped on the bandwagon.

Now don’t get me wrong - it is wrong if the reason is that you happen to be of different colour, faith or indeed sex.

But it is likely that people have received either a new job or promotion within the organisation they work for not necessarily on merit but because of the furore that would follow when it turned out that the applicant was female or indeed, female, and failed to get the job allegedly just because they were - if you get my drift and put out the now feared ‘discrimination’ bowl.

Now folk of my age can well remember the time when on just about any TV programme you could just about guarantee the ‘token black man,’ and that was just about the nadir - it was worse than any total ban in an uncomfortable, guilty feeling way.

And happily those days are gone.

Now though you have, for instance, the recent Golden Globe awards. And sure enough, there was a rather cross woman on Radio 4 who grudgingly agreed that there are now far more female directors in the film industry but they didn’t win any awards! “This must change” was the cry.

Now maybe this is true - though I doubt it if only because these days there really is no reason why the directors who win the Golden whatnots are men unless - and I realise I am running my neck into a noose now - perhaps, just perhaps, it happens that it was films directed by people of the male persuasion that happened to make the best films.

And that is rapidly becoming the problem. The original intent of the equality campaigners was not to ensure that the right proportion of people of colour, or of any sex, would get their ‘share’ of jobs or awards - but that they would have as much chance of getting them as any white male.

I don’t know how many people of Chinese extraction live in the UK, but it must be quite sizeable.

Perhaps many of these particular people do not wish to become an MP or that again, just perhaps, somebody of Chinese extraction did - but simply wasn’t the best candidate.

Surely, for instance, if there are, say, 12 applicants for a particular job, only one of which is a woman, then in any genuinely fair world she should stand a one in 12 chance of success and if she then tries to play the ‘discrimination card’ should be told quite simply ‘sorry, but you weren’t the best applicant.’

But no, these days she would very likely be given a spot on TV and radio news and the company concerned would be on the back foot, unable to be rude about her capabilities and probably just glad that she happened not to be white!

I remember some years ago now, an acquaintance of kin should call the Coroner’s Office on 0151 233 2606 or email Jacqueline.A.Horner@merseyside.police.uk.

That may or may not have been the case but it is sadly how people feel sometimes.

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Ambulance chief calls on big hotels to install defibs

CALLS have been made for all major hotel chains in Sefton to install defibrillators.

Anthony Marsh, chairman of the Association of Ambulance Chief Executives, wants Automated External Defibrillators to be placed in hotels across the country after Premier Inn announced last week that they were installing AEDs in all 800 of its Premier Inn branches across the UK.

They can be used in case of an emergency to a guest, staff member, or even a passer-by.

Anthony Marsh, chairman of the Association of Ambulance chief executives, said: “A cardiac arrest can happen to anyone; young or old, fit or not.

“When someone suffers a cardiac arrest, not to be confused with a heart attack, they are clinically dead; their heart has stopped beating and they will not recover unless someone is prepared to start CPR quickly and a defibrillator is attached to them to reset the heart.

“Currently, the survival rate from cardiac arrests in the UK is tragically low at around 7%, but by increasing the number of defibrillators available and growing the number of people prepared to carry out CPR, that figure can be improved markedly.

“Increasing the number of defibrillators could make the difference between life and death and ultimately give friends and families the chance to spend time with their loved ones that they would not otherwise have had.”

Sudden Cardiac Arrest kills up to 60,000 people in the UK every year and affects people of all ages. A sudden cardiac arrest refers to a problem with the heart’s electrical system causing it to suddenly stop beating normally.

Hugh Baird College welcomed back some former students who are now industry specialists in sport to give an insight into different career paths.

Staff and students from the Bootle college’s Sport and Public Services department recently hosted a ‘Meet the Professionals’ event.

It featured a number of industry specialists who were once Hugh Baird College students themselves and who have since gone on to forge careers in the sport and fitness industry.

Many of the ex-students also spoke about the business and marketing skills they needed to develop and the importance of growing your businesses reputation with clients and customers.

Sessions delivered included; circuit training, high intensity interval training sessions, Pilates, Yoga, and Olympic weightlifting.

The first presentation was delivered by ex-Hugh Baird College Sport student, Jase Porter, who is the director of ‘My Fitness Agent Ltd.’

Jase, who is also the founder of the ‘Fitness Professionals Awards’ said: “It was great to meet with learners who are in the same position as I was a few years ago. It was important for me to make sure each student left my session feeling inspired and motivated.

“Hugh Baird College and the course I studied played a huge part in where I am today, but I really wanted the students to understand how hard you have to work to build your fitness business and most importantly, your reputation.”

Amy Crowley, Hugh Baird College Health & Fitness Instruction student said, “It was great to meet experts in the field who opened our eyes to the wide range of opportunities available to us in the Sport and Fitness industry.”

Cruise Sale Solo offer, Saver Fares - with the exception of Enjoyment Promise. No single supplement offer, is applicable to new bookings only, made between 04/12/19 and 04/02/20 inclusive, for departures of 5 nights or more, from April to December 2020. Offer applicable on selected sailings. Free drinks upgrade package comprises of selected house beers, wines, spirits and soft drinks. Tips are paid directly to the relevant staff on board, are non-transferable, non-refundable and cannot be exchanged or cashed. Recommended amount for Tips is £5 per person per night (when paid) not combinable with any other offer, including, but not limited to Cruise Sale Solo offer, Saver Fares - with the exception of Enjoyment Promise for singles supplement offer, is applicable to new bookings only, made between 04/12/19 and 04/02/20 inclusive. To selected departures from April to December 2020. Dining arrangements apply - please note the above applies to adults only. A Voyage to Remote Spitsbergen. 16 Nights | Departing 25/06/2020 | Black Watch Highlights incl: Cruising Ravik | Cruising Torghattan and Honningsvag | Tromsa | Pyramiden | Longyearbyen CFL price from only £2,812pp Ford of Canada 2019-19-20

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Prison has massively improved since it was ‘UK’s worst jail’

Report by Tom Martin

LIVERPOOL Prison has “improved dramatically” according to inspectors, three years after it a report labelled it an “abject failure” and “one of the worst” in the UK.

The Walton-based prison was described by jail inspectors in 2017 as the worst they had ever seen as it was rat infested with broken windows, filthy blocked lavatories, graffiti, damp, dirt, rodents and insects.

Violence was also increasing, drugs were readily available, and there were serious failings in health care and purposeful activity.

But HM Chief Inspector of Prisons Peter Clarke has said it had now put in place measures which had a dramatic impact improvement.

The improvement from poor, the lowest assessment, to good – the highest – for the “healthy prison test” of respect represented “a remarkable achievement since the last inspection”, Mr Clarke said.

He added that while safety was still not sufficiently good at Liverpool, there were actions being taken to address this which would have the desired impact in time.

“The squalor and filth we saw in 2017 has gone,” Mr Clarke said, adding that it was ”replaced by clean and decent living conditions for the vast majority of prisoners.”

Some prison reform campaigners had argued that the improvement was due to a reduced population at the jail as many prisoners had been transferred to other prisons.

Mr Clarke said, however, that “it is important to understand that this had not been brought about simply as a result of the population being reduced and resources channelled towards the prison.

While that had helped, he said the “real change had been in the quality of leadership and teamwork there was now a culture of care that I simply could not see in 2017.”

Mr Clarke noted, however, there are still too many drugs entering the prison, despite a comprehensive supply reduction strategy.

Phil Copple, HM Prison and Probation Service Director General of Prisons, said: “The turnaround at HMP Liverpool is an impressive achievement for the prison’s staff and senior leaders and I’m glad that their progress has now been recognised by the Chief Inspector in such positive terms.”

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GOODISON Park will host its first ever Merseyside derby in the Barclays FA Women’s Super League next month. The historic clash between Everton and Liverpool will take place on Sunday, February 9, with kick-off at 2pm. It will be the second meeting of the two teams to be hosted at a first-team stadium this season following Everton’s 1-0 victory in front of a derby record crowd of 23,500 at Anfield in November.

Everton are currently fifth in the Women’s Super League, level on points with fourth-placed Manchester United but with a game in hand. Blues boss Willie Kirk said: “We’re delighted we have the opportunity to play at Goodison Park. Big games like Merseyside derbies are the ones you want to be involved in as a player and manager and we have the opportunity to play this historic fixture on the biggest stage.

“Everton is a club renowned for its great support and that was on-show when we went to Anfield earlier this season. Now the reverse fixture is at Goodison, we have a chance to introduce our women’s team to even more Blues.”

Liverpool FC women manager Vicky Jepson added: “It’s fantastic that we’ve got another match in which to showcase the women’s game on Merseyside. “The Anfield derby was a terrific occasion and I hope as many Reds as possible will cross the park to cheer on the team at another historic football venue.”

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 Freemasons donate £50,000 to drought victims in Africa

FREEMASONS in Sefton have donated £50,000 to a relief fund for those at risk of starvation in southern Africa following its worst drought for 35 years. The West Lancashire Freemasons branch, which includes Sefton, as they follow the pre-1974 county boundaries, made the donation to the Plan International UK charity.

The drought, caused by record high temperatures and low rainfall could affect an around 45 million people in Angola, Malawi, Mozambique, Madagascar, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Plan International UK chief executive Rose Caldwell said: “We’re very grateful for this generous grant which will allow Plan International to reach thousands of people suffering from severe shortages of food. ”

“The West Lancashire Freemasons branch, which includes Sefton, has pledged to work with Plan to support the regions that are most in need of assistance,” she added.

The donation was made in recognition of work being carried out by Plan in southern Africa, which includes providing emergency food packs and urgent humanitarian assistance to those at risk of starvation due to the drought.

Plan International UK, which aims to advance children’s rights and equality for girls around the world while also providing disaster relief, is supplying emergency food packs and urgent humanitarian assistance to those at risk of starvation due to the drought.

Last year, Cyclones Idai and Kenneth caused widespread and destructive flooding across the region, leaving already fragile communities in a poor state to deal with this fresh catastrophe.

“Millions of people are at risk of a serious lack of food and clean water. “This is a desperate situation and Plan and the other organisations helping on the ground need all the help and support we can offer.”

Destroyed farmland in Mozambique - one of the countries affected by drought, and inset, West Lancashire Freemasons leader Tony Harrison.
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Hospital and fire service nominated for civic recognition

Report by Tom Martin

AINTREE Hospital and Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service will be given a prestigious civic award by Liverpool City Council. The firefighting service, which covers Sefton, and the local hospital have been nominated to receive the Freedom of Liverpool honour.

As part of the award, they will both be entered into the Freedom Roll of Associations and Institutions. The Freedom Roll of Associations and Institutions, which was created in 1962, has more than 70 organisations and groups including Liverpool and Everton Football Clubs, National Museums Liverpool and Cancer Research UK.

The nominations will be considered at an Extraordinary General Meeting of Liverpool City Council today (Wednesday, January 15) and if approved will be followed by individual ceremonies during the year.

Mersey Fire and Rescue Service Chief Fire Officer, Phil Garrigan said: “It is a tremendous honour for Mersey Fire and Rescue Service to be given the Freedom of Liverpool. I am thrilled that we have been recognised for the work we do – Our firefighters, protection officers, prevention teams and our wider support staff work tirelessly day in, day out to keep our communities safe.

“It’s a proud day for everyone who has an affiliation with the service – those serving now and those who have served the city in the past. We have a long and proud history dating back through the ages – and we remain as committed as ever in the protection of our people, our city and our heritage – we will continue to keep residents safe no matter what future challenges hold.”

Mayor of Liverpool Joe Anderson said: “The people and organisations that have been chosen for Freedom of Liverpool and Citizen of Honour awards have made a tremendous positive contribution to life in the city over many years. “We owe a huge debt of gratitude to the hard-working and committed staff in our hospitals, our firefighters, for helping save lives every day.”
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Stephen Bailey topping bill at LOL Comedy Club

Stephen Bailey, who is a comedian, presenter, tele- 
vision personality and writer, and whose friendly 
and open brand of grossly humorous comedy has made him 
one of the UK’s most exciting up-and-coming acts in 
comedy at the moment, will be returning to the 
Laugh Out Loud Comedy Club at the Atkinson. 
LOL Comedy have been booking him for years and he 
will be in the town on Saturday, February 1 at 8pm.
He is the host of Celebs on the Farm (Channel 5) & Celebs On The Ranch (5Star) and was the resident 
Agony Uncle on Zoe Ball on Saturday/Sunday (ITV) 
and a series regular on Big Brother’s Bit on the Side 
(Channel 5) until the end of their runs.
Bailey has already been on Coronation Street 
(ITV), The Apprentice: You’re Fired (BBC Two), Roast 
Battle: Takeaway’s Castle & Comedy Central at the 
Comedy Store (Comedy Central), The Stand Up 
Sketch Show, Satisfy, and Celeb Ability & The 
Great Xmas Rant (ITV2).
He has also filmed two shows for Comedy Central 
and E4, which will air toward the end of the year 
throughout 2020.
Stephen has previously supported Katherine Ryan 
and Jenny Eclair on their sold-out UK tours. 
He also guest hosted Sunday Takeover (Virgin Radio), 
The Jason Mander Show (Absolute Radio), 
Driveetime with Eamonn Holmes (TalkRadio), The 
Breakfast Show (Gaydio) and The Sunday Sessions 
with Laura Whitmore (BBC Radio).
He has featured on The Art’s Show with Jonathan 
Ross on BBC Radio 2, Russell Welton’s BBC podcast Evil 
Genius.
Joe Zolias will also be performing. He has been 
learning the stand up comedy craft for more than ten 
years and his hard work has certainly paid off as his 
memorable stage performances have seen him 
entertaining audiences nationally and interna-
tionally.
A devoted father, comedian, author and actor are 
only an insight into Joe’s extensive talents. 
His life has been somewhat exciting as he has 
ventured down various paths, including cage fighting, 
assisting a crime organisation and working as a fire-
fighter.
Joe’s life experiences have enabled him to put 
penn to paper and write two successful novels. 
Having such a varied life, Joe has projected his 
experiences through dark and cutting humour, 
which have led him to supporting established comedy 
acts like Bill Bailey and Tom Stade on their tours.
Audiences can see George Rigden as well. Having 
excelled in a host of new act competitions in his first 
year, George Rigden made his Edinburgh debut in 
2015 when he performed as part of the prestigious 
Agin Up Next search for the Pleasance Court-
yard for a sell-out run. 
Damon Larkin will be the MC for the night.

Stephen Bailey
Entertainments

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Temporary Closure of Myers Road, East, Crosby

Salford Metropolitan Borough Council, not less than seven days from the publication of this Notice, intend to make an Order under Section 14(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act, 1991, as amended by the Road Traffic (Temporary Restrictions) Act 1991, to close Myers Road East, Crosby for the following reason:

Manhole frame and cover repair works.

The proposed Order will continue in force for a maximum period of 21 days or until the works have been completed, whichever is the earlier.

Work will take place on 31st January, 2020 and be completed by 17th February, 2020.

Access will be maintained for the Emergency Services and where necessary for pedestrian access.

Alternative Route

The diversion route for all traffic will be via: Ford Lane, Green Lane and vice versa.

Temporary Closure of Aldine Lane, Netherton

Salford Metropolitan Borough Council, not less than seven days from the publication of this Notice, intend to make an Order under Section 14(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act, 1991, as amended by the Road Traffic (Temporary Restrictions) Act 1991, to close Aldine Lane, Netherton for the following reason:

Cable renewal works and upgrade works.

The proposed Order will continue in force for a maximum period of 21 days or until the works have been completed, whichever is the earlier.

Work will commence on 27th January, 2020 and be completed by 7th February, 2020.

Access will be maintained for the Emergency Services and where possible for residents.

Alternative Route

The diversion route for all traffic will be via: St Osmonds Lane, Boreley Lane, Cop Lane. Netherton. Access to Aldine Lane and vice versa. Pedestrian access will be maintained.

Temporary Closure of Derby Road, Bootle (Southbound Direction Only)

Salford Metropolitan Borough Council, not less than seven days from the publication of this Notice, intend to make an Order under Section 14(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act, 1991, as amended by the Road Traffic (Temporary Restrictions) Act 1991, to close Derby Road, Bootle (Southbound Direction Only) for the following reason:

North Liverpool Key Contrator works.

The proposed Order will continue in force for a maximum period of 21 days or until the works have been completed, whichever is the earlier.

Work will commence on 27th January, 2020 and be completed by 19th February, 2020.

Access will be maintained for the Emergency Services and where possible for residents.

Temporary Closure of Green Lane, Maghull

Salford Metropolitan Borough Council, not less than seven days from the publication of this Notice, intend to make an Order under Section 14(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act, 1991, as amended by the Road Traffic (Temporary Restrictions) Act 1991, to close Green Lane, Maghull for the following reason:

Gas main replacement works.

The Order will continue in force for a maximum period of 21 days or until the works have been completed, whichever is the earlier.


Access will be maintained for the Emergency Services and where possible for residents.

Temporary Closure of Hero Road, Maghull

The diversion route for all traffic will be via: Sexby Road, Field Lane, Coney Lane and vice versa.

Proposed Order Change of use of coach house to a dwelling (C3) including partial demolition and extensions

Applicant/Referee
494a Developments
DC/019/02/173
Glencaige, 1 Oldert Road, Blundellsands.
Erection of one detached dwelling.

Applicant/Referee
Proposal
DC/019/02/174
Change of use of coach house to a dwelling (C3) including partial demolition and extensions.

Proposed Order

The proposed Order will continue in force for a maximum period of 21 days or until the works have been completed, whichever is the earlier.

Work will take place on 26th January, 2020.

Access will be maintained for the Emergency Services and where possible for residents.

Alternative Route

The diversion route for all traffic will be via: Caldwell Drive, Endicot Lane, Stuart Road and vice versa.

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF SEFTON ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT, 1984, SECTION 14(1) AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Temporary Closure of Millers Bridge, Stanley Road, Bankhall Street.

The diversion route for all traffic will be via: Derby Road, Bootle (Southbound only) for the following reason:

Alternative Route

The diversion route for all traffic will be via: Millers Bridge, Stanley Road, Bankhall Street.

SCHEDULE

The Metropolitan Borough of Sefton (Balmoral Road, Maghull) (On Street Parking Places, Prohibition and restriction of Waiting) Order 2020

To Introduce: Restricted Roads (No Waiting At Any Time)

Permitted Hours

Balmoral Road

Both Sides

Maiden Green

No parking on the road between 12.00 midnight and 5.00am Monday to Saturday.

Segregation of functional works.

The Order will continue in force for a maximum period of 21 days or until the works have been completed, whichever is the earlier.


Access will be maintained for the Emergency Services and where possible for residents.

Alternative Route

The diversion route for all traffic will be via: Slawgiate, The Round Meadow, Maghull Green and vice versa.

SCHEDULE

The Metropolitan Borough of Sefton (Georgia Close, Boulton) (On Street Parking Places, Prohibition and restriction of Waiting) Order 2020

To Introduce: Restricted Roads (No Parking At Any Time)

Permitted Hours

Georgia Close - North Side At any time

From a point 17 metres south of the south kerbline of Georgia Close to its westerly extremity

Georgia Close - South Side At any time

From a point 17 metres south of the south kerbline of Georgia Close to its easterly extremity

The Metropolitan Borough of Sefton (Fennell Mews East, Bootle) (On Street Parking Places, Prohibition and restriction of Waiting) Order 2020

To Introduce: Restricted Roads (No Waiting At Any Time)

Permitted Hours

Fennell Mews East - North Side At any time

Provision of parking facilities in the order of 2020 prohibited twenty four hours a day

Fennell Mews East - South Side At any time

Provision of parking facilities in the order of 2020 prohibited twenty four hours a day

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF SEFTON ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT, 1984, SECTION 14(1) AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Temporary Closure of St Davids Grove, North Side, Netherton

The diversion route for all traffic will be via: Prescot Road, Bank Lane, Sheringtons Lane, Hall Lane, Outlet Lane and vice versa.

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF SEFTON ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT, 1984, SECTION 14(1) AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Temporary Closure of William Wall Road, Litherland

The diversion route for all traffic will be via: Ford Lane, Green Lane and vice versa.

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF SEFTON ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT, 1984, SECTION 14(1) AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Temporary Closure of Byne Avenue, Southport

The diversion route for all traffic will be via: Balmoral Road Both Sides

To Introduce: Restricted Roads (No Waiting At Any Time)

Permitted Hours

Balmoral Road

Both Sides

Magdalen House, 30 Trinity Road, Bootle, L20 3NJ

Copies of the Orders and relevant maps may be inspected at the offices of Sefton Council in either Magdalen House, Trinity Road, Bootle, or Town Hall, Lord Street, Southport, during normal office hours.

Any person who desires to question the validity of the Orders or of any provision contained in the Orders on the grounds that they are not within the powers of the Road Traffic Act 1991 or that any requirement of the Acts of any instrument made under them has not been complied with in relation to the Orders, may within the six weeks from 15th January, 2020 apply to the High Court for this purpose.

www.sefton.gov.uk/PlanningGDPR

www.sefton.gov.uk/PlanningGDPR

www.sefton.gov.uk/PlanningGDPR

Restrictive Roads (No Waiting At Any Time)

Permitted Hours

Balmoral Road

Both Sides

Maiden Green

No parking on the road between 12.00 midnight and 5.00am Monday to Saturday.

Segregation of functional works.

The Order will continue in force for a maximum period of 21 days or until the works have been completed, whichever is the earlier.


Access will be maintained for the Emergency Services and where possible for residents.

Alternative Route

The diversion route for all traffic will be via: Slawgiate, The Round Meadow, Maghull Green and vice versa.

SCHEDULE

The Metropolitan Borough of Sefton (Georgia Close, Boulton) (On Street Parking Places, Prohibition and restriction of Waiting) Order 2020

To Introduce: Restricted Roads (No Parking At Any Time)

Permitted Hours

Georgia Close - North Side At any time

From a point 17 metres south of the south kerbline of Georgia Close to its westerly extremity

Georgia Close - South Side At any time

From a point 17 metres south of the south kerbline of Georgia Close to its easterly extremity

The Metropolitan Borough of Sefton (Fennell Mews East, Bootle) (On Street Parking Places, Prohibition and restriction of Waiting) Order 2020

To Introduce: Restricted Roads (No Waiting At Any Time)

Permitted Hours

Fennell Mews East - North Side At any time

Provision of parking facilities in the order of 2020 prohibited twenty four hours a day

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Temporary until 31 August 2020, in the first instance, duties will include in-class support to students with special educational needs and providing assistance with personal hygiene needs.
Range High is committed to safeguarding and promoting welfare of children so the successful candidate must be able to obtain a satisfactory Enhanced DBS Disclosure
Further details and an application form can be obtained from the school’s website at www.range.sefton.sch.uk
Closing date: 12pm on Friday 24 January 2020

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Thank you to all who attended the family’s farewell. We would like to thank friends and neighbours for their kind messages of comfort and to the many who attended the recent service and reception. Extra special thanks to [Name] for his help during the funeral arrangements.

CLARK
RITA

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**MOON JEAN**

Who passed away 14th January 2018

Remembering Mum with love who we lost 2 years ago. There are no tomorrows for us, but yesterday's memories will always be there. Never more than a thought away.

Love

Deborah, Jasmine and Elliott, Ian and Family.

xxx

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**THOMAS ALAN**

25th December 2018

Aged 86 Years

Died suddenly after a tragic accident in London. Alan will be greatly missed by all his family and friends.

Service at Southport Crematorium on Friday 31st January at 12.00pm. Family flowers only please but if desired donations are being gratefully received for The Salvation Army.

Enquiries to Howard’s Funeral Directors, 1-5 Roe Lane, Southport, PR9 9DR. Telephone: 01704 500086.

---

**OLDFIELD ALICE**

Nee Roberts

4th January 2020

Peacefully aged 92 Years

Devoted Wife of the late Jim, Mum to Jan and a much-loved Auntie to her Nieces.

Funeral Service is to be held at St. Giles Church, Aintree on Thursday 23rd January 2020 at 1:00pm. Family flowers only please, donations if desired to St. Joseph’s Hospice, Thornton.

For all enquires please contact Graham J. Clegg

Funeral Service, 7 Dover Road, Maghull, L31 5JB
Tel 0151 520 3330

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**JONES GARETH WYNE GRIFFITHS**

Former Head of Modern Languages at the Language College at Greenbank High School. Peacefully at home on 1st January 2020 after a long illness, borne with courage & dignity. Dearly loved Husband of Barbara. Devoted Father of David and Elizabeth. A loving Grandpa of Rhianon, Glyn and William. Gareth will be sadly missed by all his family and friends.

Funeral Service and Committal will take place at West Lancashire Crematorium on Saturday 18th January 2020 at 11.00 am. Family flowers only please but the family are gratefully receiving donations for the RNLI.

Enquiries please to Ms Patricia Gosling, L21 2PA.

Tel 01704 575282

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**NELSON JOHN RUSSELL**

Passed away peacefully after a short illness on the 28th December 2019

Aged 87 Years

The dearly loved Husband of Kath, dear Brother to Jim and Hazel, loving Father of David, Val, Judy, and Chris, much-loved Grandad and Great-Grandad. John will be sadly missed by both family and many friends including the Formby Church community.

The Funeral service will take place at St. Lukes Church Formby, on Monday 27th January 2020 at 11.30am followed by a private committal at Southport Crematorium for immediate family.

Family flowers only please, but donations may be made, if so desired, in favour of the RNLI c/o Cloud Bros, 3 Old Mill Lane, Formby L37 3PE.

Tel 01704 873899.

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**SUGGIS FRED**

2nd January 2020

Passed away peacefully at Bowmont Lodge Nursing Home, Wirral

Loving Husband to Lilka. Father to John and Geoff and special Nonno to Jennifer, Daniel and Matthew and Thomas, Daisy-Mae and Michael.

He will be greatly missed.

Funeral service at St. John’s Church, Formby at 12:40pm.

Family flowers only please but requests, donations if so desired for Alzheimer’s Research UK.

Enquiries please to Sally Hunter, MILS Independent Funeral Directors, 20, Moss Delph Lane, Aughton, Ormskirk, Lancashire, L39 5E2.

Tel 01695 424888

---

**GOSLING KEN**

1st January 2020

Passed away peacefully at home aged 88 Years

Dearly loved Husband of Ann. Devoted Father of Andrew and Jane and much loved Grandad of Jamie and Brenda, Jennifer, Emily and Harry. Funeral Service at St. Michael’s Church, Church Lane, Aughton, L39 6SB on Friday 24th January 2020 at 2:00pm, followed by committal at West Lancashire Crematorium, Bootle.

Family flowers only by request, donations if so desired to the RNLI.

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**MEADOWS ELSIE**

(NEE BLAGROUGHT)

Peacefully at home on 28th December 2019

Aged 95 years

The funeral will take place at Thornton Crematorium on Friday 31st January at 11:20am.

Family flowers only.

Donations if desired to WaterAid (www.wateraid.org.uk)

c/o H. Leslie Humphreys, 69 Liverpool Road, Crosby, Liverpool L23 5SE.

Tel: 0151 924 4805

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**GRIERSON JOSEPH ANTHONY (TONY)**

30th December 2019

Aged 94 Years

Died peacefully at Elm House Nursing Home. Dearly beloved Husband of Ma, Deeply missed by his loving family, Veronica, Austin, Alan, Katherine, David, Cara, Rian, Zelle, Gordon, Christine and friends.

Service at Southport Crematorium on Thursday 23rd January at 10:40am. Donations are being collected in lieu of flowers for Elm House Nursing Home.

Enquiries to Howard’s Funeral Directors, 1-5 Roe Lane, Southport, PR9 9DR.

Telephone: 01704 500086.

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**LEECH NADINE**

Margaret Nee Pyne

Passed away peacefully on 12th December 2019

Beloved Wife of Bryan and loving Mother of Clive and Adrian.

Funeral Service and committal will take place at Southport Crematorium on Friday 24th January 2020 at 11:20 am.

Family flowers only please but requests, donations may be made, if so desired, in favour of the RNLI.

Tel: 01704 873899.

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**BEALE BRIAN**

RICHARD

5th January 2020

Peacefully at Aintree Nursing Home aged 74 years of Skelmersdale

He will be sadly missed by all who knew him.

Funeral service at West Lancashire Crematorium on Monday 20th January 2020 at 4:00pm.

All enquiries to Melanie Handman at H Handman & Co., Independent Family Funeral Directors.

Tel: 01695 722122/720012

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**CLARKE TERENCE**

PATRICK

Suddenly died 3rd January 2020.

Aged 88 years

Father to James. Husband to The Late Catherine. Father in law to Elaine. Grandfather to Gary and Shaun.

Brother to Joan, Kath, Marie and Brian.

Funeral service to take place Monday 12th January 2020 at St Benet’s Church at 11:15am.

Followed by committal at Thornton Crematorium at 12:40pm.

Family flowers only.

All enquiries to The Co-op Funeralcare, Netherton.

Tel: 0151 525 4881

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**MOOK PAT**

7th January 2020

Aged 92 Years

Peacefully after a short illness.

Loving mum of Paul, Tracy and Kelly. Cherished Grandmother and Great Grandma to all of her Grandchildren. Much loved Sister of Lynne. Pat will be greatly missed by all her family and friends.

Service at Southport Crematorium on Monday 27th January 2020 at 1:00pm. Donations are being collected in lieu of flowers for the RNLI.

Enquiries to Howard’s Funeral Directors, 1-5 Roe Lane, Southport, PR9 9DR.

Telephone: 01704 500086.

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**BENBOW PATRICIA**

(SAT) Nee Murphy

December 28th 2019

Aged 72 years


Service at Southport Crematorium on Monday 27th January 2020 at 1:00pm.

Donations to be made in memory of all her family and friends.

Tel: 01695 722122/720012

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**MARTLAND ALICE**

11th January 2020

Peacefully aged 83 years of Ormskirk

The dearly loved Wife of the late Bill, loving Sister of Betty (deceased) and Doris (deceased) and Sister in law of Fred (deceased) and Gordon (deceased). Alice will be sadly missed by all who knew her.

Funeral service at Southport Crematorium on Monday 27th January 2020 at 2:00pm.

All enquiries to Melanie Handman at H Handman & Co., Independent Family Funeral Directors.

Tel: 01695 722122/720012

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**FALLS-HAND THELMA**

November 2nd 1925 to January 10th 2020

Thelma passed away peacefully with her family by her side and in the wonderful care of Westcliffe Manor Nursing Home, at last reunited with her beloved Husband Harry.

Thelma was a much loved Mother to Mandy, Tessa, Nigel and Melanie and a wonderful Gabby to her Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren.

The funeral service will be held at St John’s Church, St John’s Road, Birkdale (PR8 4JL) at 12 noon on Monday 20th January. Family flowers only please.

Donations may be sent to Thehma and Harry’s favourite charity: Queenstown Hospice, Southport.

All enquiries about the funeral arrangements should be made to Broadand and Seddon, 33 Liverpool Road, Birkdale.

Tel:01704 778143.

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I loved Tarleton's show - where a shed load of nostalgia was enough!

BURNOUTS in brand new McLarens. Gourmet grub from TV chefs, and evening performances from prog rock bands. The Leisure Lakes Steam & Vintage Vehicle Rally had none of these things - and was all the better for it.

I've been to plenty of car shows that have had all sorts of clever gimmicks – and the eye-watering ticket prices to go with them – so it was always refreshing to park up at Tarleton's annual motoring bash and revel in a show devotedly devoid of pretentious add-ons; you got sheds loads of nostalgia, some stands from community organisations, a couple of old fairground rides borrowed for the weekend, and that was about it.

It wasn't, as the name rightly suggests, even a car show – it was the Leisure Lakes Steam & Vintage Vehicle Rally, which meant that you were as likely to see a lovingly steamed train traction engine or an old David Brown tractor as you were a Ford Prefect or an Austin Cambridge.

In fact – keep this quiet, as I know this is supposed to be a car-related column – I think Fred Dibnah's Land Rover might have been narrowly pipped to the post by the vast array of vintage lorries built up by the hugely impressive William Hunter Collection.

Over the past decade or so this event's grown into a carefully curated overdose of motoring nostalgia, and I've loved every one of my outings.

So I was saddened to learn the other day that the organisers have decided to go out on a high after raising more than £330,000 for charity – not bad for a small-ish, volunteer-run event that's had to contend with date clashes with other events, venue switches, horrendous weather and waterlogged fields along the way.

In a letter put out on the show's website, the team behind it said that no one had stepped forward with offers to help out with the months of planning needed to organise the two-day show, so the team's decided to call it a day.

There are, of course, plenty of events going ahead later this summer if you love nothing more than a Sunday of peering winfully at old Wosleys – the Ormskirk MotorFest and Lydiate Classic Car Show to name just two – but the cancellation of the Leisure Lakes event definitely leaves a void as it had a wonderfully warm atmosphere all of its own.

I'm keeping my fingers crossed that some enterprising car nut decides to hold a vehicle rally of their own to plug the gap, because there's definitely an appetite in this part of the world for this sort of show, where you're as likely to hear the tone of a faded fairground organ or the chuff of a steam engine as you are the clatter of an old sidevalve engine.

My one request to whoever does, though – tell the companies hoping to flog overpriced gourmet grub and brand-new McLarens to do one. We've got plenty of shows for them already...
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Total Charge for Credit: £1,902.18
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APR: 4.9%
Annual Mileage: 5,000
Excess Mileage: £0.09/mile

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Deposit Allowance: £1,750.00
Amount of Credit: £12,310.00
Total Charge for Credit: £1,892.88
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Cash Deposit: £499.00
Deposit Allowance: £4,000.00
Amount of Credit: £13,287.08
Total Charge for Credit: £1,845.14
Total Amount Payable: £15,132.22
APR: 4.9%
Annual Mileage: 5,000
Excess Mileage: £0.09/mile

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PCP Duration: 48 Months
47 Monthly Payments: £299.98
Option Final Payment: £6,167.00
Cash Price: £23,008.08
Cash Deposit: £499.00
Deposit Allowance: £5,000.00
Amount of Credit: £17,509.08
Total Charge for Credit: £2,195.24
Total Amount Payable: £19,704.32
APR: 4.9%
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Cash Price: £14,030.00
Cash Deposit: £999.00
Deposit Allowance: £1,000.00
Amount of Credit: £12,031.00
Total Charge for Credit: £1,754.07
Total Amount Payable: £13,785.07
APR: 4.9%
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Excess Mileage: £0.09/mile

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PCP Duration: 48 Months
47 Monthly Payments: £229.94
Option Final Payment: £3,033.00
Cash Price: £15,993.00
Cash Deposit: £999.00
Deposit Allowance: £5,000.00
Amount of Credit: £10,993.00
Total Charge for Credit: £1,915.24
Total Amount Payable: £12,908.24
APR: 4.9%
Annual Mileage: 5,000
Excess Mileage: £0.09/mile

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**SPORT**

**Bucks win again to keep in touch with leaders**

**Congleton Town 0**
**Bootle 3**

BOOTLE continued their impressive form with a hard-fought 3-0 win over Congleton Town at the weekend, writes Conor O’Neill.

The victory, Bootle’s seventh in a row, saw them move into third place behind league leaders 1874 Northwich.

Bootle picked up from where they left off on Tuesday night when they beat Runcorn Town 4-0 and opened the scoring on 18 minutes.

Kieran Halligan and John Connolly combined down the right before the latter crossed for Carl Peers who swept the ball home from 12-yard out.

Jack McGovern then denied Dan Cope at the other end before the Bucs doubled their lead 10 minutes before the interval.

Daniel Brady released Michael Carberry down the left. The full-back then ghosted past Kieron Bridlen before his inch-perfect cross was headed home by Rob Doran at the back post.

The hosts started the second half brightly, but it was the Bucks who created the first meaningful chance of the half when Peers and Doran combined inside the box with the ball eventually finding its way to Connolly, but the midfielder dragged his effort wide of the far post.

Liam Loughlin saw his header cleared off the line by Lewis Bergin as Doran’s side went in search of a third.

But with just over 20 minutes remaining, the Bucks were reduced to 10 men after Connolly was shown a straight red card following a coming together with Cope. However, despite being a man down, Doran’s side would add a third from a penalty.

Substitute Warren Jevons was brought down inside the penalty area by Bridlen with the referee having no hesitation in pointing to the spot and Ste Hoy stepped up and coolly converted from 12 yards out. Bootle visit Hanley Town on Saturday.

**Captain Cummins bags all four goals for free scoring Mariners**

**Maghull**

Impressive win boosts Remyca survival bid

Litherland Remyca 4

Hanley Town 1

REMYCA put in one of their best performances of the season to earn a much-needed three points. Goals from James Law, Paul Foy and the debuting Einar White, all of whom were travelling Mariners.

Cummins could have been one goal up in the opening five minutes, but Thomson scuffed a shot wide of Travis Wilson’s net.

White, recently signed from Skelmersdale, played the opening 45 minutes for Remyca and looked a class above his opponents. He threaded a ball across the pitch to Paul Foy, the resulting early chance saw a powerful shot saved with one hand by Worrich.

The deadlock was broken on 18 minutes when Foy took the ball from moments of his own hand and ran at the Hanley defenders. Cutting in from the wing, he unleashed a shot, that was saved by Worrich, but the resulting flurry fell to the feet of Law who blasted his shot into the back of the net.

Not long after this, it was 2-0. A beautiful pass from the constantly impressive James Hammill, was played to White. The attacker rounded the keeper with ease and dinked his shot in.

Two minutes after the second half whistle was blown, Remyca were 3-0 up. This time, substitute Duff made a powerful pass to Foy in the box and the forward showed class, as he beat a defender shot into the bottom corner.

Chances were few and far between in the second half and Litherland added another to their score tally in odd fashion. A loose cross was attacked into the box, but Cope reacted first to win the header for Hanley butte ball came off his head and looped over Worrich for an own goal.

Cummins grabbed a consolation goal through the back of the net on 87 minutes.

Remyca are due to host Whitby Alport tonight (Wednesday) and have no match on Saturday.

**Maghull pay for missed chances**

Upton 1

Maghull 0

MAGHULL return to action after a four week lay-off did not go too well as they returned from their West Cheshire First Division match at Chester pointless at the hands of hosts Upton.

The visitors were the better side in the first period against a very good Upton outfit but they paid the ultimate penalty for missed chances in that time as a sloppy 15 minute period after the interval saw Lee Guiando grab the decisive goal which earned the home side all three points.

Maghull visit Capenhurst Villaon Saturday with the Reserve to host Litherland REMYCA. Both kick off at 2pm.

**Firwood Waterloo show they won’t be rolled over in impressive win**

**Firwood Waterloo 49**
**Douglas (Isle of Man) 20**

FIRWOOD Waterloo’s unbeaten home run this season continued with an impressive 49-20 win over Douglas, writes Harry Jones.

‘Loo came into the fixture having won six out of their last seven games so confidence was high and this showed as they made a blistering start scoring two tries and two conversions.

The first try was scored by Alex Ward and then the second by Gabe Davies as ‘Loo made a great break, allowing Davies to skip past the backs to put the home side in a comfortable position.

Both conversions were scored by Daragh O’Brien.

Douglas came back with a good response putting pressure on the Waterloo defence and got their first try and conversion. Douglas where then awarded a penalty to make the half time score 14-10.

The second half picked up the scrappy nature of the first but ‘Loo did manage to score a try, Gabe Davies’ second which was followed with another O’Brien conversion.

Douglas battled back to score three tries and one conversion in quick succession, catching out the Waterloo defence to bring the score to 21-20 and leave the game in the balance.

‘Loo were being frustrated going forward but had managed to get more of a foothold in the game and get what would turn out to be a decisive try to extend their lead, coming from vice captain Alex Tenev with the conversion being followed up.

Following this, the Douglas defence completely broke down and a relentless ‘Loo took advantage of this.

Firstly the Douglas scrum back was caught taking too long on the ball by captain Jack Weir who pounced to win the ball for him to score a try with the conversion being followed.

Alex Ward then profited from another missed kick to secure his second try of the game and another conversion.

There was still time for Luke Clifford to bag himself a try and O’Brien to score another conversion meaning he had scored all the conversions he had taken in the game.

Backs coach and fly half Alex Ward said he was happy with the way they reacted to the visitors nearly levelling early in the second half.

He said: “Last year we probably would have rolled over and not got back into the game. We just need to push on and I’m sure we can beat any one in this league now.”

The result also means Firwood Waterloo are unbeaten at home this season. They are now third in the league table and travel to Vale of Lune on Saturday.
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