

MEETING MY MP AT 104



WORDS OF WISDOM: Wilhelmina Williams, who celebrated her 104th birthday recently, gives Ashton MP Angela Rayner a hug (below).

Ashton MP Angela Rayner spent time with residents and staff at the town's Kings Park Care Home recently to mark Care Home Open Day.

The national event, now in its seventh year, sees care homes across the country open their doors and invite members of the public to look round and take part in the activities on offer.

Angela, who worked as a carer in Stockport before she became an MP, said: "It was great to meet the staff at Kings Park and see how truly dedicated they are in the care they give to residents.

"I loved chatting to the men and women that live in the home and the highlight was meeting Wilhelmina - who is 104 years old."

We featured Wilhelmina's story last month in the Reporter when she celebrated her birthday.

Angela added: "When I asked what her secret to a long and happy life is she said it was all down to having a loving family. I thought that was beautiful."



ALL CREATURES TO BE BLESSED

St Peter's Church is holding its annual pet service this weekend, featuring a mini dog show from Manchester Dogs' Home.

All are welcome to bring along pets large and small. Pet-friendly businesses and charities are also welcome to attend the service at the church on Manchester Road on Sunday, July 14, at 2.30pm. Refreshments will be available.

(SOLAR) POWER TO THE PUPILS

BY Lee Wild

An Ashton school has joined the eco revolution with the installation of solar panels on its roof.

Ashton West End Primary Academy has had 108 of the electricity generating panels installed on its roof by the team from Solar For Schools.

The panels will help reduce the school's electricity bill and their reliance on fossil fuels and the national grid.

As part of the package, students were treated to a workshop explaining how solar panels work and the benefits of having them.

They worked in groups to find out the biggest users of electricity in the classroom and discovered the best ways to conserve energy.

The entire school was delivered an assembly on the way solar panels work and were taught how to track their statistics on generation and usage.

Assistant head teacher Kim Pizuti was one of the driving forces

behind the school signing up to the clean energy generation scheme after a chance meeting at a schools' conference in Birmingham.

"We want to cut down on our own energy bills and help the environment - but all that will be in the years to come," she explained.

"Initially it was to ensure the children were aware of why we had the solar panels installed and what we were doing for the environment. Eventually over the years the school's bills will reduce."

The panels are part of a Solar For Schools scheme, an all inclusive package that includes the panels, set up and education for the school's pupils.

As part of the workshops the children found out how much electricity was being produced by the panels and how much electricity the school uses to provide an understanding of the benefits of the solar panels."



FULLY CHARGED: The panels on the school roof and children taking part in the workshop.



Less than 10 per cent of schools nationally have this kind of renewable energy and the school is keen to

be at the cutting edge of the eco revolution.

"We're really proud," added Kim.

"We try our best in school to save energy. We turn lights out, we have monitors checking on water and we have a recycling and eco club.

"We feel really passionate about it and we're happy that we're part of that 10 per cent of schools that now have solar panels."



SPECIAL OCCASION: Ashton Soroptimists are joined by The Mayor of Tameside and his consort for the annual event.

Soroptimists celebrate date

Ashton Soroptimist International held their Annual Charter Dinner at Stanley House in Audenshaw recently where the Civic Mayor of Tameside Cllr Leigh Drennan and his consort Cory James were among the guests.

The thriving club was chartered in 1943, and proudly upholds the Soroptimist ideals of service to the community at local, national and international levels; high ethical standards and human rights for all. The Soroptimists are also passion-

ate about advancing the cause of women throughout the world.

The club currently meets at 6.45pm twice a month (except throughout August) on the first and third Monday of each month at Stanley House.

The friendly club offers a warm welcome to all visitors and prospective new members.

To find out more about the local Soroptimists visit <https://sigbi.org/ashton-under-lyne/>

Bag a bargain

Ashton's Willow Wood Hospice is planning a massive clearance sale next week at its distribution centre in Langham Street, Ashton.

Bargain hunters will be offered the opportunity to fill a bag with children's or adult's clothes for just £5!

Doors open at 10am on Friday, July 19, for the sale and there will be great offers on clothes, books, small electrical goods, toys, furniture and more.

Gemma Coy, distribution centre manager said: "Shoes and bags start at just £1, and with our newly extended furniture section you can not only buy a



DON'T MISS IT: Centre manager Gemma Coy.

new outfit for all the family, but may even find a wardrobe to put it in and all at rock bottom prices!"

The monthly pre-loved sales are extremely popular with record collectors too, with a large section devoted to vinyl.



A community picnic was held at the Station Hotel in Ashton to mark this year's recent Great Get-Together event.

Inspired by the MP Jo Cox, the event echoed her dream of bringing people together to show 'we have more in

common, than that which divides us.'

The event was organised by Pauline Town at the venue and included stalls and special guests, including the Civic Mayor of Tameside Cllr Leigh Drennan and his consort Cory James.