

Museums scoop two awards for inspiring and educating children



Phil Robinson (medieval servant), Jonathan Nash, Gina Cottam, Cllr Louise Gittins, Kate Herland and Colin Mann (Viking)

TWO Northwich museums have been recognised for excellence in imaginative teaching and activities. The Lion Salt Works Museum, and Weaver Hall Museum and Workhouse have both been presented with a Sandford Award.

The museums offer a wide range of workshops and activities that support the national curriculum and include a history detective workshop, geography session, sessions on the Vikings and Great Fire of London, a workhouse experience and town trail. Cllr Louise Gittins said:

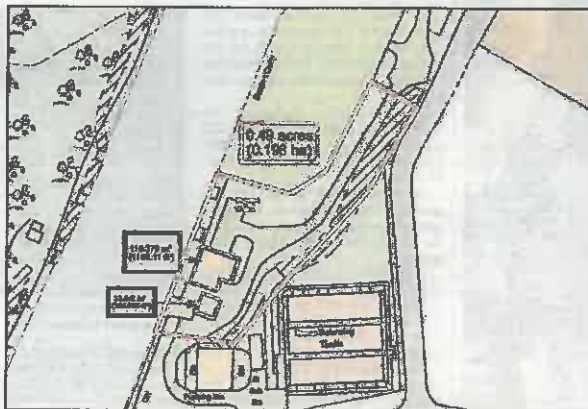
"Our dedicated learning staff work tremendously hard and imaginatively to inspire a love of history in everyone who visits their museums. Using costumed characters, artefacts, educational storylines and fun they inspire the children

to engage with history. The comments from the Sandford Award show just how well they succeed." For information about courses call Lion Salt Works on 01606 275038 or Weaver Hall on 01606 275040 or visit westcheshiremuseums.co.uk/venues.

Developer sought for Barons Quay site

Former pumping station surplus to requirements is a 'unique riverside leisure opportunity'

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An artist's impression of the site

DEVELOPERS are being sought to transform a former riverside pump works on the edge of the Barons Quay development. The 0.49 acre site together with two vacant buildings is fronted directly on to the River Weaver. The site is owned by Inovyn Enterprises Limited - part of the Ineos Group - so is not part of the Cheshire West and Chester Council-owned Barons Quay development. Fifield Glyn has been instructed by Inovyn Enterprises to market this property, which has become surplus to requirements, to potential investors. John Fifield, chairman for Fifield Glyn, described the site as a 'unique riverside leisure opportunity'. "We think it makes a good leisure opportunity," he said. "There will be some shops on there and direct access on to the river. There are a couple of buildings there already, they could be converted and developed." Mr Fifield said the site is ideal for a riverside pub or restaurant, or even a leisure facility. He said moorings could also be installed at the site to make it more attractive to the boating community. "I think there is a great opportunity for somebody to put moorings in there," he said. "It could even be made into a floating pub, who knows. We're

just looking for ideas really." Mr Fifield said the site would be easier to sell to potential developers if the £80 million retail scheme had more tenants signed up. He said he was confident the site could be made into a successful venture and give Barons Quay a much-needed boost. Mr Fifield said: "This is an opportunity for somebody to come in and help Barons Quay. CWAC are in their own world,

they're not really interested in what anybody else wants to contribute, but they desperately need some ideas." Mr Fifield said he is willing work with the council to help develop the site. The site is now listed on Rightmove and Fifield Glyn has begun circulating information about the site to developers and agents. Currently Fifield Glyn is only considering offers starting from £500,000, subject to contract.

Work commences on Delamere development

BUILDING work has started on a 166-home development in Delamere. Due for completion in 2020, the multi-million-pound 'Earlsbrook' development is being undertaken by north west property developer Laurus Homes. The new build properties on a former brownfield site at Station Road will consist of two to five-bedroom homes, 30 per cent of which will be affordable housing. The development is a joint venture between Trafford Housing Trust, parent company of Laurus Homes, and housing association London and Quadrant (L&Q), and follows its Spinning Gate scheme in Davyhulme.

The joint venture aims to provide 2,000 mixed-tenure, new build homes over the next four years across Greater Manchester and the north west. Larry Gold, deputy chief executive of Trafford Housing Trust, said: "We're anticipating strong demand for these high-quality homes from first-time buyers and young families possibly priced out of a vibrant housing market in Cheshire West and the surrounding area. "Trafford Housing Trust sees its role as more than a developer because we have a wider responsibility to create sustainable communities where people want to live."

Boat Lift spectacular

THE Anderton Boat Lift will once again stage a fireworks spectacular next month. On Saturday, October 28, visitors can watch the fireworks display from the lawned terraces overlooking the River Weaver. The event will also feature live music from Kira Mac. Graham Wood, Anderton Boat Lift duty manager, said: "The Anderton Boat Lift's musical fireworks spectacular is a wonderful family event and not like other firework displays. "It is always a magical night and that's why people keep coming back.

"It is a combination of factors that make it so special - the way the fireworks burst and reflect in the water and the clever way the music and the fireworks are synchronised. "But also the terraced setting means that everyone gets a good view and the event feels intimate and friendly. "This is one of the most popular events of the lift's calendar of events and we hope everyone will come along and bring their friends." For more information call 01606 786777.

MP vows to back farmers

TATTON MP Esther McVey has vowed to lobby Government ministers to ensure British farmers continue to provide safe and affordable food after Brexit. The National Farmers Union (NFU) says Britain must increase home-grown food production and building stronger supply chains as Britain prepares to leave the EU. Tatton MP Esther McVey met with representatives from the NFU in Westminster to listen to their

concerns. She said: "British farmers are responsible for securing our fantastic British food supply looking after our world-renowned countryside and sustaining a dynamic rural economy. I am proud to back the NFU's Back British Farming and I will push Government to ensure decisions in Parliament reflect the importance of British farming. "Farming is an important industry in the area and I will do all I can to help."

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