

## Christmas Carol Service 2023



The Shevington Federation of Schools, which consists of Millbrook and Shevington Vale filled Wigan Parish Church on 20 December to celebrate the real meaning of Christmas for Christians around the world.

The service was led by the children of both schools and beautiful music filled the church with a performance of choirs from both schools plus mass singing of 150 children from aged 7 through to 11. Christmas is not Christmas without the sound of children's voices singing a mix of songs.

It was simply stunning and at the end the families and friends were asked to raise the roof - some mean feat in the church, but it got very close. Cheers and whoops filled the air. The church was beautifully decorated with the centre piece being the stunning tree lit with twinkling multi-coloured lights adding to the atmosphere. A huge thank you goes out to all at Wigan Parish Church, especially Peter, who looks after us so well.

## Forest Fold Bowling Green ~

Opening for the 2024 Season on 1 April

Have Pride in Your Parish  
DON'T Fly Tip  
Take it to THE Tip!

Nestling in Forest Fold (off Miles Lane, Appley Bridge – near Broadriding Road) Shevington Parish Council have a bowling green. For a small membership subscription of £20 per person for the season you may play there in daylight hours over the weekend and during the week, when it is not being used for team fixtures or other events. Anyone under the age of twenty may play for FREE. Membership forms are available from Shevington Library, from our websites or by contacting the Clerk.

Every Thursday evening members of Shevington Garden Club hold a practice session at the green. Beginners wishing to learn how to bowl or experienced bowlers wishing to bowl with others in a friendly session are welcome to join them. The other three teams that form Shevington Village Bowling Club play at home on alternate Monday and Wednesday evenings and on Wednesday afternoons. The SVBC teams are always on the lookout for new team members – both experienced and beginners. Interested? – Please contact the Clerk for more information.



Teams are welcome to book the green for their fixtures. The fee for the 2024 season remains unchanged at £100. If, as a group, you would like to have sole use of the bowling green for a single session event lasting up to a day, we ask you to make a contribution of £30, payable in advance. Interested? - Please contact the Clerk.

Bowling is a good form of exercise for people of all ages.

## How Do You Add 'Tram & Train' to Your Bus Pass?

If you have a TfGM-issued older person's travel pass, to benefit from unlimited off-peak travel on trams and trains in Greater Manchester you need to pay an annual £10 fee. This does not affect your entitlement to free, off-peak bus travel across England and, if you only use buses, you can choose not to pay to add tram and train. The £10 charge does not apply to concessionary passes for disabled people.

You'll be covered for a full year from the date you pay. After this you should renew when you next need to travel by tram or train. You can pay online, by taking your travel pass into a TfGM Travelshop or in your local PayPoint store – look for the 'P' logo.



### Online

To buy online, you will need to link your concessionary pass to a Bee Card account. Once you have paid online, please allow 24 hours for the transaction to complete. After this you will need to touch-in with your concessionary pass at a

Metrolink smart reader within 14 days at any tram stop, and your pass will be updated to show you have paid to add tram and train.

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## Christmas Shop-Front Award



Pam Powell – our judge for a number of years – was unable to judge the Christmas Shop-Front windows this year. However, Cllr Helen Thompson – a relative newcomer to the Parish Council scene – stepped into the breach and very ably took Pam's place.

The Parish Council agreed with Cllr Thompson's recommendations. First prize went to Appley Blossom of Miles Lane, Appley Bridge - a relative newcomer to the area - who nominated Woodlands Animal Sanctuary at Ormskirk as the recipient of the £60 donation.

Second prize saw a welcome return of an old favourite: Barnet Fayre of Broad O'th Lane, Shevington, who nominated the British Heart Foundation as the recipient of the £40 donation. Jordan's Fish & Chips (of Gathurst Lane, Shevington) - another old favourite - won third prize and nominated Wigan & Leigh Hospice for the £30 donation.

Cllr Jess Diggle, Vice Chairman of the Parish Council, visited the winning shops to make the presentations on Friday, 19 January - at the end of a week which had begun with gridlock on roads in the Parish due to heavy snow. The photograph on the left shows Andrea Loake, owner of Appley Blossom, receiving her award from Cllr Diggle.

In 2023 we decided that special commendations would not be made. However, we would like to thank all shops that made an effort to decorate their windows. Even if you did not receive an award this year, you will have achieved something worthwhile by lifting the spirits of local residents at a time when this was needed.

Shevington Parish Council has small grants available for local community groups. If you are interested, please contact the Clerk for an application form or download one from our website.