

In Brief

Council launches list of its countryside events

EAST YORKS: East Riding Council's countryside access team has launched its list of events for the year.

Sessions range from searching for bats and moths, to walking disused railway lines and photography.

Councillor Richard Burton, the authority's portfolio holder for civic wellbeing and culture, said: "This is a superb programme of events for East Riding residents in a range of locations across the area, offering a wide variety of activities."

"People can enjoy interesting and healthy pursuits while gaining the access to the best public viewpoints, the best landscapes and the best wildlife to be seen in the East Riding."

The programme is available online at www.eastriding.gov.uk/events or a brochure is available from Tourist Information Centres, the council's leisure centres, libraries and customer service centres.

Tribute to charity worker

EAST YORKS: A new exhibition in Goole Museum will look at the charity work of the late Olive Hunt, pictured.

Charity Begins At Home will run from Friday, January 23, to Tuesday, March 31.

It has been created by Goole Museum volunteers and with the support of East Riding Museum Service and looks at one woman's charity fundraising.

In particular, Mrs Hunt helped Humber Rescue in Hessle.

Goole Museum curator Debbie Hardy said: "We would like to thank Olive's family and friends who have worked with us to make sure we get things right."

Goole Museum is in Carlisle Street and is open Tuesday to Friday, from 10am to 5pm; Wednesdays, from 10am to 7pm; and Saturdays, from 9am to 4pm.

Vintage fair at church

HULL: A celebration of all things vintage will be held in Holy Trinity Church on Friday, January 30.

The event, which features music, food, drink and clothes, takes place from 5pm to 10pm. There are still a few stall spaces available.

Visit www.almightyfundraising.com/vintageaffair for details.



'When given his soup and parcel, he was so grateful he not only had food for today, but tomorrow as well'



CHARITY FOUNDER: Christine Metcalfe started Bulgaria Aid 16 years ago.

Some of the poorest people in the world have been given a lifeline thanks to generosity of an East Yorkshire charity.

Danny Longhorn reports on the efforts of Bulgarian Aid

IT IS just soup and bread, but for the people given the handouts it is vital food to take back to their families.

For 16 years, Christine Metcalfe has been handing out vital aid in Bulgaria, but the experience does not get any easier.

"We cannot walk away with a clear conscience, but must make the effort to raise more funds to send more food," said the co-founder of Cottingham-based charity Bulgaria Aid.

"One of the soup kitchens I visited feeds up to 800 people a day.

"Here there were young people who collected soup and bread for their families.

"I was overwhelmed by the thanks for the food parcels and blessings for our work to help them."

Christine first experienced the poverty in the country after hearing about the



COMPASSION: Christine Metcalfe with orphaned children in Kichevo village, Bulgaria.

plight of its residents from Bulgarian Rotarian delegates at a conference.

She sent a load of aid in 1998, after she was shown around two orphanages in the Bulgarian city of Rousse.

She was surrounded by hundreds of children poorly dressed, badly fed and with little hope for the future.

On the latest trip, Christine, along with family members, friends and eight members of the Rotary Club of Market Rasen sent 20 pallets of food, four pallets of school books and 450 boxes of medical aid and new clothing.

They handed out more than 1,500 food parcels.

"During the trip, we visited all the institutions that had received donations," said Christine.

"At many of them, the work they were doing was impressive, but the situation was heart-rending.

"Our donation of other items meant,

that in addition to the soup, some people were given a carrier bag with some extra jars and tins of food.

"My lasting memory is of a little decrepit old man who, when given his soup and parcel, took off his hat, bowed his head and crossed himself. He was so grateful that he not only had food for today, but tomorrow as well."

The stop-offs included a visit to an old train station on the outskirts of Provadia, which was a home for disabled people.

Christine said: "Fourteen years ago, the home these people lived in was burned down accidentally and it was rehoused temporarily in the old train station. Seventy-six disabled people, most of whom use wheelchairs, are housed here."

"The old booking hall is their dining room and social area and the old offices are the bedrooms and total living space for those who are bed-fast - three, four, five beds to a room, end to end, with a commode at the far end. Not a curtain in site, no privacy at all and precious little dignity. There is one shower and one toilet on each floor for up to 40 people."

It is the poverty suffered by elderly people which is of particular concern to Christine.

"The situation regarding the old people has not improved and they are

still in desperate need," she said.

"These elderly people have worked all their lives and should have had a comfortable retirement, but because of political changes at the end of the last century, through no fault of their own, they are in the position of having to depend on soup kitchens to keep body and soul together."

"I visited a 65-year-old woman with mobility problems, who looked after her 85-year-old mother, who suffered with dementia and was incontinent, in their one room apartment on the eighth floor of the block.

"There was no heating. They had a wood-burning stove, but it smoked so badly they couldn't use it.

"They couldn't afford the fuel anyway, as half their income, £12 each per week, went on the mother's medicine."

"Their gratitude for the food parcel was overwhelming.

"As the lady explained how they would use the food and what it meant to them I was very close to tears."

"That a bag full of tins and packets of food means so much and could bring such genuine pleasure was very humbling."

Follow Danny on Twitter @DannyLonghorn



LIFELINE: Some of the poorest people are supported by Bulgaria Aid.



VITAL HELP: Christine preparing food for a soup kitchen, below.



WIN A SHARE OF £1000 ASDA GIFT CARDS

ASDA GIFT CARD ASDA GIFT CARD ASDA GIFT CARD

SEE MONDAY'S HULL DAILY MAIL

hulldailymail.co.uk



WIN A 4-NIGHT STAY IN SUFFOLK FOR TWO

SEE MONDAY'S HULL DAILY MAIL

hulldailymail.co.uk

TEN LUCKY READERS WILL EACH WIN £200

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SPEND £200 ON?

HOW TO ENTER: COLLECT THREE OF THE FIVE TOKENS WE HAVE BEEN PRINTING SINCE MONDAY, JANUARY 12TH, AND ATTACH THEM TO THE COMPLETED FORM AND SEND THEM TO: CASH DASH COMPETITION, HULL DAILY MAIL, BLUNDELLS CORNER, HULL, HU9 1XS. CLOSING DATE FOR ALL ENTRIES IS 5PM ON FRIDAY, JANUARY 23, 2015.

ATTACH TOKENS HERE ATTACH TOKENS HERE ATTACH TOKENS HERE

NAME:..... MALE/FEMALE (DELETE AS APPROPRIATE)
 ADDRESS:.....
 POSTCODE:.....
 TELEPHONE:..... MOBILE:.....
 EMAIL:.....
 DO YOU HAVE YOUR LOCAL NEWSPAPER DELIVERED? YES/NO

At Local World we take your privacy seriously. By responding you agree that Local World may offer you products and services by Post, Email, SMS and Telephone. See our privacy policy and terms and conditions at www.hulldailymail.co.uk/houserules for details. Local World would also like to allow selected third parties to contact you. If you object to receiving third party communications please tick here []

WE'RE GIVING YOU THE CHANCE TO WIN A SHARE OF £2000 WHICH CAN BE SPENT ON ANYTHING FROM PAYING THE BILLS TO PAYING THE DEPOSIT FOR THAT DREAM SUMMER HOLIDAY!

Terms and Conditions: Standard Local World promotions rules apply, visit www.hulldailymail.co.uk/houserules for details. Entrants must be aged 18 or over. All entries must include a valid phone number and address as winners will be sent a cheque in the post. Ten winners selected at random from all postal entries received by the closing date, will receive a £200 cheque. Prize is as stated and no alternative will be offered. No photocopies will be accepted.