

**NEWSBRIEF**

**Horse race prize winner**

A WEST Lancashire woman has been picked to ride in the Cheltenham Festival.

Elaine Curran, 33, of Bickerstaffe, Ormskirk, was one of 12 women chosen to compete in the Festival Ladies Charity Sweepstake in aid of Cancer Research UK.

She will be competing against others including Elisabeth Murdoch, 42, daughter of media magnate Rupert Murdoch.

**Grapple time at Guild Hall**

AN "American wrestling spectacular" is being lined up for Preston.

The Guild Hall event on February 27 promises "high flying superheroes" and "mean and massive monsters". It is set to start at 7.30pm. Call 01772 258858.

**Car targeted by vandal**

A VANDAL scratched a car's bonnet and doors while it was parked in Beech Grove, Ashton, Preston.

It happened between 3pm on February 4 and 7.10am the following day.

Anyone with information should call Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

**Register to get your vote**

WYRE residents are being urged to register their chance to vote in the forthcoming general election.

Voters can also register to have their say by post if they cannot turn up to a polling station on the day. Visit [www.wyrebc.gov.uk/Find/Vote](http://www.wyrebc.gov.uk/Find/Vote) by Post or call 01253 891000 for details.

**Thief stole from shop**

A SHOPLIFTER stole a woman's top in BHS on Fishergate, Preston and hid it in a pram. It happened at 4.20pm on February 4

**Car windows are smashed**

VANDALS smashed a car windows in Goldfinch Street, Deepdale, Preston, some time between 9pm on February 4 and 12.15am the next day.

**Car sprayed by vandal**

A VANDAL spray painted a car on Stratford Road in Chorley between 6.20pm and 11pm on February 4.

**Help pay the owl's ferryman**



A BIRD of prey sanctuary helped save a rare owl found on the brink of death more than 500 miles away.

And now, Turbary Woods Owl and Bird of Prey Sanctuary, Whitestake, Preston, needs your help so its dedicated volunteers can continue their work.

Visitor numbers plummeted during recent bad weather and the centre is in the midst of its quietest period.

Andy Bilsborough, manager, says it has only made £100 in the past six weeks and is struggling to pay vets' bills and rent.

The latest creature to need care was a badly hurt Short-eared Owl from the Scottish island of Sanday.

Andy sent volunteer Stephen Crook to collect the bird, whose species is on the amber list for conservation.

Andy said: "Ian

arranged for the bird to be transported on an overnight ferry to Aberdeen.

"Our very helpful volunteer, Stephen, went on the long drive to meet the ship.

"It cost us £200 for the fuel and overnight accommodation for him to be at the dockside at 6.30am one morning.

"The bird was then rushed to a specialist vets in Lytham where it was diagnosed as having a severe broken wing."

Its bones had calcified, so an operation was carried out to shorten them in the hope they would heal and the owl would be able to fly.

Andy said: "She is recovering and eating well but we have to wait three weeks before we know if the expensive operation has been a success."

The sanctuary is holding a photography day on February 20 with flying displays and picture opportunities.

Tickets cost 10 per person or £20 for a family ticket.

Outdoor clothing will also be displayed by Paramo, a company which donated jackets and trousers to senior volunteers.

For more information, call 01772 323 323.

**Free space to flog your wares in Mall**

ENTREPRENEURS have the chance to trade for free in a Preston shopping centre.

The Mall has launched Make Your Mark in Retail in a bid to find the retailers of the future.

It offers people the chance to showcase their product in The Mall Preston for two weeks, free of charge.

Following the local heats, one lucky winner will be chosen to go through to the national final and could win six months rent-free trade in their local centre.

Ken Williams, general manager of The Mall Preston, said: "There really is no other competition of this kind available to budding retail entrepreneurs."

"The competition has been a great success over the past two years and is just getting better and better."

To enter, go to The Mall Preston's Ask Me Point for an entry form. The closing date is Sunday February 14.

**The Bill backs the Bec in fight to rescue pub**

**TV detective joins community campaign**

A TV detective has thrown his weight behind a campaign to save a Lancashire village's only pub.

Andrew Lancel, Detective Inspector Neil Manson in ITV1's *The Bill* since 2003, was upset to hear the Becconsall Hotel, Station Road, Hesketh Bank, could be bulldozed.

It closed in June 2009 and locals fear houses or flats will be built there.

In August, 92-year-old former landlady and mother-of-four Una McBride - known to people in Hesketh Bank as 'Mrs Mc' - issued a battle cry to save the building which was once the jewel in the village's crown.

Along with local residents, including Maureen Baldwin, and her daughter, also called Una, the Save the Bec Action Group was formed.

Andrew, whose other television credits include *Soldier*, *Soldier and Queer as Folk*, remembers the pub from when he lived nearby.

by **Melanie Wallwork**  
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He said: "Before moving away, and way before I joined the cast of *The Bill*, I lived in Tarleton and fondly remember the area, its people, its shops and of course its pubs.

"The Bec being one of those pubs and Mrs Mc and the staff of The Bec being some of those people - a place and people who added to and matter greatly to the community.

"I give my support to the Save the Bec Action Group and hope it continues its priceless tradition."

More than 60 people, including councillors and a CAMRA representative, attended a recent public meeting to discuss the campaign - which also has the backing of Lancashire-born celebrity chef Marcus Wareing.

Una said: "There's a North West developer who's very interested in that site and a planning application is expected soon.

"It's really important that people send in letters of objection once it goes in.



**SAVE THE BEC: Una McBride and Kate Maughan**

"People are concerned about the impact of more housing on the infrastructure - the sewage, roads, traffic and schools."

The group plans to research various options including contacting breweries and hotel chains who may be interested in reinstating The Bec, which is on the market for £2.2m, as a family pub.

Other ideas include creating a retirement village with a pub, community social enterprise or co-operative scheme such as the Hesketh Newmarket Brewery co-op in Cumbria which re-opened

the only pub in the village of Melmerby.

Una added: "We're planning a coach trip to visit one of these.

"This campaign is about community and community spirit.

"People are starting to realise that if we work together there are possibilities and we could create something fantastic."

Youngsters in the village have set up a Save the Bec Facebook page which has 169 members.

And people can write to South Ribble MP David Borrow - see [www.heskethbank.com](http://www.heskethbank.com) for a sample letter.



**SUPPORT: Andrew Lancel**