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ACHIEVEMENTS

FABULOUS RESULTS FOR WIGAN ROTARY 2017 XMAS COLLECTION

The annual collection made by members of Wigan Rotary Club in the company of Father Christmas throughout December 2017 has been a huge success with the total amount raised reaching £14,063!

Wigan Rotary President Gwyneth Millard said "Thank you to all the great people of Wigan who have donated so generously throughout December to Wigan Rotary Club's Santa collection. We have met some fantastic people on the routes and at the supermarkets and with this record collection we can continue to support the work of community groups in Wigan."

ROTARY CLUB OF LEIGH PRAISES 'GENEROSITY' OF RESIDENTS AFTER SANTA'S SLEIGH TOUR

The Rotary Club of Leigh has praised the 'generosity' of residents after they donated more than £14,000 in its Santa's Sleigh tours for the second year in a row.

St. Nicholas rode his sleigh on the streets of Leigh and Lowton for four weeks across November and December as well as stopping at supermarkets to give children the chance to see him before his busiest day of the year.

Residents dug deep to donate £14,000.70 to the Rotary on the tours which was close to matching last year's record of £14,250. Club president Brian Mills said: "The people of Leigh and Lowton have once again been so generous, especially at such difficult financial times."

5TH TYLDESLEY SCOUT GROUP TURN A BANANA INTO £4,000 TRAILER TO HELP THEM WITH FUTURE ADVENTURES

A Scout group has completed a challenge to turn a banana into a £4,000 trailer to help them to carry their equipment on their adventures.

Assistant Cub Scout Leader John Worrall of the 5th Tyldesley Scout Group came up with an uptrading idea in July where they started with one banana and managed to swap it for a plastic dog house, a baby push toy and three children's bikes. One of the bikes was then exchanged for an adult's bike.

Cub Scout Leader David Simpson said: "We are delighted to get our new trailer and cannot wait to take it over to Ireland with us in April "When John came up with the idea, everyone- including me- thought he was crazy and would struggle to raise the £4,000 we needed. "But against all the odds, we did it and the trailer will enable us to take all of our young people camping for years to come."

To speed up the progress of reaching their target, the group set up a Justgiving fundraising page which generated more than £2,100. A Wigan Council Brighter Borough funding grant of £1,500, a £275 cheque from Tyldesley with Atherton Rotary Club and £250 donations from councillors in their area also helped the scouts to achieve their goal.

David added: "We would like to personally thank 5th Tyldesley Scout Group members' parents, the general public and all of the local businesses for helping us to reach our target." All remaining funds after the

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purchase of the trailer will be spent on future activities of the scout group and any additional equipment they may need.

ACTING AWARDS FOR OPERATIC SOCIETY PAIR

The acting talents of two members of the Three Towns Operatic Society have been rewarded with Association of Community Theatre (ACT) awards.

Lowton's David Kay, 68, won the most original character actor award for his role as Sir Joseph Porter in the society's production of HMS Pinafore.

Victoria Goulden, 32, who played Josephine in HMS Pinafore and the plaintiff in Trial by Jury, picked up the most accomplished actress gong.

As director David was also nominated for the most original production concept award for both productions

DEMENTIA CHARITY MAGICAL MEMORIES CELEBRATE SIX-MONTH SESSION BOOST AFTER BEING CROWNED A CHAMPION

A charity group for people with dementia is celebrating after being given a six-month session cash boost for 45 people in a homebuilder's community scheme.

Magical Memories, based in Tyldesley, has named a Persimmon Homes Community Champion with the homebuilder awarding the group £1,000.

The volunteers group hosts Happy Timers sessions, which are free and feature activities such as live musical entertainment, reminiscing past times, bingo, quizzes, looking at old photographs and participating in crafts with a two-course meal included.

Magical Memories founder Marlene Chadwick said: "Very often, when a person is diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease, the role of a spouse often changes from partner to carer and I have seen how difficult this can be.

"People often miss doing things as a couple and can feel cut off from an outside social life. "What they need is a safe place to go to talk to people in a similar situation where they can share ideas and discuss experiences.