



Lighting up at hotel

SANTA Claus and his two elves paid a special visit to Bredbury Hall for its Christmas lights switch-on event.

They handed out chocolate to children, and were also accompanied by two live reindeers - Rudolph and Dancer.

Entertainment was provided by Bredbury Green Children's Choir, who sang carols on the hotel step, and visitors were treated to food and drink, plus a disco.

Marple Brass Band also entertained with their rousing renditions of Christmas songs and carols to get everyone into the spirit of the festive season.



● Santa and an elf at Bredbury Hall

Songwriter success

A SONGWRITER from Marple Bridge has reached the finals of an international competition with a song that was written to help the refurbishment of a 500-year-old bell tower.

Linda Lamon composed The Bells of Bere Regis while living in Dorset, where the local parish church is mentioned in Thomas Hardy's book Tess of the d'Urberville's.

When she heard the church needed £60,000 to refurbish the bells she wrote the song to help with the fundraising efforts.

A CD recorded by Linda, with Dorset musicians and local schoolchildren, was released earlier this year and has reached the final of the Christian and Gospel section of the UK Songwriting Contest.

Linda has also released two songs - The Badger & The Wren and The New Woodland Song - in support of the

environmental efforts of Queen guitarist Brian May, who has featured them on his social media sites.

Linda said: "It has been a busy and exciting time for me as I am putting

together an album of my own songs.

"Brian May and his team have been very supportive and this semi-final place in the competition is the icing on the cake."



● Linda Lamon with Brian May

● Noticeboard

● **TIME** is running out for people to showcase their photography skills in a competition being run by Stewart Milne Homes.

The competition closes on December 22 and gives people aged from 12 upwards the opportunity to win a digital camera worth £250, plus see their picture displayed in Stewart Milne Homes' Mill Green showhome in Marple.

There are two categories - 12 to 17

years and over-18s, and judges are looking for pictures that really capture the local area.

This could be community-focused - for example a local knitting group - or a rural scene such as the Goyt River.

Lynne Vogel, sales manager at Stewart Milne Homes, said: "Creating and enhancing a community is at the heart of what we do at Stewart Milne Homes and this competition will showcase just what a great spirit Marple and Stockport has and what

it means to those who live here."

Entries can be submitted by e-mail, post or on the Facebook page - for more information visit facebook.com/stewartmilnehomes.

● **JANUARY'S** pantomime at Marple's Carver Theatre will be Aladdin.

It will be on between January 9 and 17, with matinees on the Saturdays and Sundays.

Tickets cost £9 (£8 concessions) - visit carvertheatre.co.uk or call 449 8363.



● Pupils at Brabyns Preparatory School during their international week

Youngsters get a taste of international flavour

PUPILS at a Marple primary school took part in a wide range of activities during an 'international week'.

The youngsters at Brabyns Preparatory School were able to explore countries such as France, the USA,

Spain, Scotland, Wales, India and Japan - plus their own town with a local history walk.

Activities included playing American sports, learning new languages, tasting different cuisines, and even making famous

French landmarks out of lego.

Headteacher Lee Sanders said: "Theme weeks like international week provide a great opportunity to enrich our normal timetable, building on the specialist teaching that all our

children receive every day and allowing connections between different subjects, as well as pupils of different ages.

"The children have all accomplished a great deal in terms of their own learning and personal development."



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