



TUNEFUL: Guisborough Salvation Army Band mark 125 years of playing

Making musical history

GUISBOROUGH Salvation Army Band members were happy to relax in the historic Priory grounds as they marked 125 years of playing in the town.

Afterwards, the current band presented a programme of music to a crowd of local listeners.

Commanding officer Major Mark Price, of Guisborough Salvation Army Citadel, said: "This is a fantastic record of achievement over the years and ministerial work in the area."

"People love the music the band plays. It's principally Christian music, along with more contemporary pieces which people recognise like Jesus Christ Superstar."

"The band is a mixed age group and covers the Guisborough, Great Ayton, Stokesley, Redcar and Saltburn area."

"Hopefully, it will continue for the next 125 years!"

GREAT GOOSEBERRY

Bryan smashes fruity record

By MIKE MORGAN

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CHAMPION grower Bryan Nellist has blitzed the world record at the Egton Bridge Old Gooseberry Society Show with a 35-dram whopper!

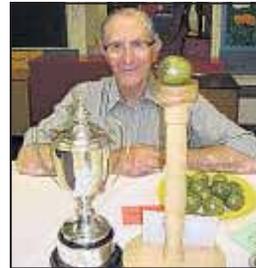
Bryan, 73, of Egton Bridge, near Whitby, has already had four "best in shows" at the historic, 209-year-old event which draws competitors from far and wide.

But this year his massive Woodpecker, which also smashed the previous 2002 heaviest club berry record of 33 drams, 21 grains by a clear one dram, seven grains, was absolutely exceptional, according to show chairman Eric Preston.

The former Egton Bridge show record was held by Geoff Bielby, of Nether Silton, near Thirsk. But at the end of the show, after checking the existing world record, officials confirmed that this had been wrenched from the hands of a top Cheshire show grower by green-fingered Bryan.

The previous world record was set in 1993 by K Archer, of Marton in Cheshire, with a Montrose berry weighing 34 drams and 25 grains - Bryan and his berry beat that by a 2.5 grains.

This is the first world record ever set at Egton Bridge and the



CHAMPION: Bryan Nellist, of Egton Bridge, with his record breaking gooseberry

growing gooseberries for 53 years and showing his prized crop at Egton Bridge for more years than he can remember.

With 54 points in total in the show, including also the heaviest 12 at 1lb 4oz 12 drams 4 grains he also landed the Graham Challenge Cup for Champion Grower and the Raw Trophy for the heaviest 12 - a historic triple.

The quaint, but hard-fought, rural event has been going since 1800 and, if this year's large and enthusiastic crowd was anything to go by, it's going from strength to strength with a host of categories to compete in, including heaviest and best twins, fours, sixes and groups of 12, all of various varieties.

However, the fluctuating weather has played havoc with many of the growers efforts this season - including some of the most experienced.

Mr Preston said: "It's been a strange year weather-wise. We've had some very good berries, but others have been very poor indeed."

"It's been hot, cold and wet and some berries have just rotted on the trees."

"But Bryan's Woodpecker is a really exceptional world record which I'm sure will stand for many years."



PRIZE CROP: Egton Bridge Old Gooseberry Society Show
Picture by IAN McINTYRE

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