

TOWN DISTRICT



HAPPY COUPLE: Clarence and Violet Richardson who celebrated their 73rd wedding anniversary on Saturday. Picture: Steve Taylor.

Couple's extra special day

By Mike Cotton

NOT many couples have been married longer than the Queen and Prince Philip but this Athersley couple have – and they celebrated their anniversary on the day of the royal wedding.

Clarence and Violet Richardson celebrated their 73rd wedding anniversary on Saturday by watching Prince Harry and Meghan Markle – who became the new Duke and Duchess of Sussex when they married – tie the knot.

They married on May 19 1945 – less than two weeks after VE day and more than two years before Harry's grandparents did.

Clarence, 91 and Violet, 93, of Wingfield Road, Athersley South, married at Barnsley Register office.

Colliery surface worker Clarence, of Park Avenue in Cudworth, was 18 and cinema projectionist Violet, from Wilman Road, Burton Grange, was 20.

They've since raised eight children and have 19 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren.

Blighted Asda takes on security

A PERMANENT security guard will be employed by a supermarket plagued by thefts and antisocial behaviour.

It is the latest measure taken by Asda, in Grimethorpe, to deter incidents which have been regular occurrences since last year.

As well as youths loitering near its entrance, thieves have had 'easy pickings' from the store due to no-one being able to apprehend them.

But from next week, it is hoped the guard's presence will make opportunistic thieves think twice about targeting the store, which is also patrolled by

police due to the number of thefts.

Last year, it was claimed the store lost £100,000 in stock due to shoplifting in a 12-month period, leading locals to question whether Asda would close to cut its losses.

However, an Asda spokesman confirmed they have no intention of pulling the plug, and said: "We love being part of the Grimethorpe community and know our genuine customers love us.

"We're working hard with the local community and police to address the issues of antisocial behaviour around

our store and are grateful for their ongoing support."

Dave North, chairman of the village's crime and safety group, added: "I just can't see how they're managing to keep open given how much stock they're losing.

"I feel for the staff as they can't do anything about it and don't want to put themselves at risk.

"Hopefully the security guard will help to reduce the amount that's being taken. It'd be a great shame if Grimethorpe lost Asda."

Ardsley

Parish Church

On Sunday morning at Christ Church the vicar, Rev Fiona Kouble, led a service of Holy Communion to celebrate Pentecost. In the afternoon there was a joint mission partnership service of Pentecost Praise at All Saints, Darfield, which was followed by tea. This week the church has been praying for the people of St Clement's Close, St Andrew's Way, St Christopher's Close, St Leonard's Way, teachers and pupils of Hunningley Lane School, and leaders and members of the Cubs. Morning prayer on Monday was followed by a prayer meeting, while on Tuesday there was morning prayer and, in the afternoon, a service at Highgrove residential home. On Wednesday Bible Fellowship groups met in the morning and evening, and on Thursday there was morning prayer, the luncheon club and quiz night at the Oaks WMC. On Sunday, at 10.45am, there will be a service of Holy

Communion to celebrate Trinity Sunday and at 4pm there will be a meeting of the 4th@Four group for young people aged between 11 and 18. In the following week there will be morning prayer at 8.30 on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, and the men's group will meet at 7pm on Friday.

Wesleyan Reform

There was no service at the Stairfoot Hunningley Wesleyan Reform Church on Sunday, and there will be no service on Sunday because of the Bank Holiday weekend.

Over 55s

A social afternoon will be held in the Ardsley Oaks WMC at 1pm on Tuesday, when the usual invitation is extended to new members.

Oaks WMC

Ronnie's team took the honours in the weekly Thursday night quiz with a total of 31 correct answers out of a possible 40. Question mas-

ter was Bob Stansbury. The evening also included a free buffet. The Sunday lunchtime members' free draw now stands at £62 and the Open the Box prize money has risen to £750 as a consequence of this week's winning number being unclaimed. On Friday nights it is 'eyes down' at the weekly 9pm bingo sessions.

Concert

The band, 'Here's Johnny' will provide entertainment in the Ardsley Oaks WMC at 1.30pm on Bank Holiday Monday. All are welcome.

Keel Inn

The men's darts team stormed to a 12-0 whitewash victory on their visit to Barnsley Conservative Club in a Gawber and District League fixture last Friday evening, and the men's pool team were also dominant as they recorded a 6-1 success away to The Escape in a Kendal League encounter on Monday.



POPULAR EVENT: Rabbit Ings' bank holiday pond-dipping day on Monday. Pictured are people enjoying a similar event, held earlier this month.

Pond-dipping party at Ings

By Josh Timlin

CHILDREN have been invited to a nature reserve's bank holiday pond-dipping event on Monday.

Rabbit Ings in Royston had around 130 people to a similar nature day earlier this month and Monday's nature day will run from 10am until noon.

Park ranger Mick Birkinshaw said: "We have some new equipment for

pond-dipping that's been kindly funded by the People's Postcode Lottery, so we're better supplied than we were before.

"We did have a lot of people take part last year so if children have their own nets to use, they're encouraged to bring those along just in case.

"Anyone wishing to take part is asked to meet at the ranger hut in the main car park."