



Landlady of the Lion and Lamb Inn in Horsley Gill Humble at the annual Horsley Village Show, which included entries from the whole village for the first time.

## Growing appeal of show as whole village joins in

A SHOW which was once exclusively for garden club members was opened to the whole village and branded a big success last weekend. Horsley Village Show took place at the Lion and Lamb pub in the village on Saturday, with new landlady Gill Humble, who had only been at the pub for a few weeks, agreeing to host the event.

The show has been organised by Horsley Garden Club since 2004, and moved to the Lion and Lamb three years ago when its previous venue, the Crown and Anchor, closed. While it was originally only open to members of the garden club, they were keen to get the whole village involved for the first time this year.

Members gave each household a sunflower seed and encouraged people to enter the competition for the tallest sunflower.

The baking categories were said to be popular, particularly the Victoria sandwich cake. In the gardening classes, "a small tray of vegetables" produced a great variety of entries. Local children got involved too, submitting entries of animals made from vegetables and lego models. A tombola raised £90, while baking items were sold off raising a further £45. The funds raised will be donated to local charities, which will be decided at the September meeting of the garden club.

# Rescued red kite returns to wild

## Bird of prey centre gave intensive care

BY BILL EDGAR

bill.edgar@newsquest.co.uk

A RED kite staged a remarkable recovery to be released back into the wild after being found almost lifeless on a roadside.

The injured bird of prey was handed in to the Falconry Days bird of prey centre in Simonburn on Saturday, August 4, after it was found by a passer-by.

The bird was placed in intensive care, which included feeding a high protein additive with rehydration fluid through a tube.

The process was repeated every two hours, and involved overnight supervision to ensure the bird regained its health.

Mark French from the centre, who supervised the red kite's treatment, believed that the bird had got lost and found itself on uncommon ground at Rye Hill Farm, near Slaley.

He said its near-death experience was probably due to the recent spate of hot weather and dry conditions.

"A problem that makes the care more difficult is that when stressed, the red kites often pretend to be dead," he said.

The North-East of England currently has 57 recorded red kites from three roosts, and they are often spotted in the Derwent Valley and County Durham.

And the centre was in contact with the Friends of the Red Kites' North-East group for advice.



Mark French from Falconry Days in Simonburn with the injured red kite, which is thought to have got lost.

"Getting it back on its feet in an aviary after two days was a huge milestone," Mark added.

"It was very much a step-by-step process ensuring he was fit and healthy to return to flying. "He was only here a week, but it's important not to keep them very long."

Before take off, the bird was ringed to easily identify it, if ever needed to return to the centre.

The red kite was released on Friday afternoon at Rye Hill Farm, Slaley, where it was found. Mark said: "We wanted to

release him back in a comfortable environment, so it was a bonus that he flew away nice and strong."

Falconry Days is a professional falconry business which trains and flies around 70 birds of prey.

The centre is regularly asked to rescue and rehabilitate injured wild birds which it then endeavours to reintroduce into the wild.

"We're not exactly vets, but I still get a buzz from being able to help birds recover and seeing them back in the wild," Mark added.

