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Your Community Magazine

Issue 173 August 2015 FREE

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Summer Budget

The first budget after a general election is traditionally the time for introducing unpopular measures and reforms. At this budget the present incumbent at No 11 was not constrained by a coalition partner, and has five years until the next election. Mr Osborne's stated aim is to move the UK from a low wage, high tax, high welfare economy to a higher wage, lower tax, and lower welfare economy.

There was unexpected news for wealthier individuals with the introduction of higher taxes on dividends from next April, together with a new dividend allowance. The consultation on possible radical reform of pension tax relief could herald further major changes. There are further planned reductions of Corporation tax which shall reduce from 20% to 19% in the financial year of 2017, and to 18% in 2020. You have to remember that when this Chancellor took office in 2010, Corporation tax was 28%. This reduction of corporation tax is vital to small and medium businesses in order that they grow in a competitive environment.



Don Wernham,
Financial Planner

There was also good news on Inheritance Tax (IHT), although the nil rate band remains frozen at £325,000, generally people's biggest asset is their main residence. There is to be an additional nil-rate band available when a residence is passed on death to direct descendants.

In the main there was a lot of positives in these proposals. People sometimes say there was nothing in the budget for me. Well that is not the chancellor's job. He has to run the finances of the country as a whole for the benefit of the country. And if you look at all of the detail of the budget, yes we have been given things, and had some things taken away. But generally, the country is getting back on the right track, financially anyway.

Disclaimer – views expressed here are my own, they do not constitute advice and are based on understanding of the current system.

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Editor's comment

SENIOR police officers have been visiting parish councils spreading the word about the new policing system which came into operation across Cheshire early in July – and trying to allay fears that it could result in frontline police officers and community support officers spending less time “on the beat.”

The extent to which they succeeded seems to have varied from one area to another, with many councillors expressing the view that the service will be diminished because of a requirement that officers must start and finish their shifts at a central point, meaning they will have to spend time travelling to and from this central point instead of on their patch.

Police have admitted the change is not just for operational reasons but also to save money. We have heard the argument put several times by different senior officers and remain unable to see quite how money will be saved. But we accept the police may not be able to go into too much detail about operational matters and that they presumably know what they are talking about.

We are relieved to know that there

are currently no plans to close police stations such as those at Stockton Heath, Risley and Frodsham. We are also heartened to know that new technology is enabling officers to stay on the beat longer without the need to return to base to report incidents as and when they occur.

We are also pleased to hear that the new system will be flexible enough to be changed if it falls short of expectations.

But we do worry a little when we hear one senior officer say they were faced with the choice of bringing in the changes or making people redundant.

The good news is that the changes should make response times to 999 calls three minutes quicker and that, for now at least, crime in Cheshire is at its lowest level for 25 years.

We just hope it will stay that way.

This issue of Village Life, perhaps more than any before, illustrates how lucky we are to live in a Cheshire village. It is packed full of “good news” – including reports and pictures of the various festivals, walking days, carnivals and galas which brighten our



summer days irrespective of what the weather is. Long may they continue to do so, for they are certainly more dependable than the weather!

These events, and the people – usually volunteers – who organise them, do an awful lot to make rural life as pleasant as it is.

Unfortunately, there have been so many of them since our last issue that we are unable to fit them all in the magazine. To those we have been forced to leave out, we apologise – and promise to use them next month!

**Deadline for the
September issue
of Village Life is
August 18**

New Timebank launched

A NEW voluntary Timebank initiative known as ‘Time4Sharing’ has been launched in Stockton Heath, with the aim to strengthen social bonds.

Warrington South MP David Mowat and Mayor of Warrington Cllr Geoff Settle were in attendance for the launch event at St Thomas’ church and eager to help promote the Timebank founded by local residents Marsha Roberts and Joanna David-Goddard.

Timebanks are neighbourhood clubs in which local people give and receive time from each other – by exchanging favours, trading talents and swapping skills.

The timebank is more flexible than traditional volunteering because people can donate spare time as and when they have it – activities can take place when it best suits members.

They can cover everything from befriending, cooking and sharing meals, shopping and giving lifts to learning a new skill, accompanying members to doctors appointments and litter picking.

The scheme is supported by Warrington Voluntary Action who have also helped with establishing timebanks in Orford and Birchwood.

Timebank Development Officer Philip Blocksidge said: “Timebanks are the fastest growing way in the UK to promote community skill exchanges that strengthen neighbourhoods and bring people together.”

Marsha and Joanna are currently recruiting new members and warmly welcome anyone who wishes to offer their support and get involved. They can be contacted via time4sharing@outlook.com and also found on Facebook.



Village keeps alive ancient tradition of Bawming the Thorn

DESPITE overcast skies the unique Bawming the Thorn ceremony at Appleton Thorn, managed to dodge the showers.

Appleton Thorn is the only village in England where the "Bawming of the Thorn" ceremony takes place each June.

The thorn tree which stands beside the local church is believed to be an offshoot of the Glastonbury Thorn, which grew from the staff of Joseph of Arimathea. Adam de Dutton, a knight of the crusades and local landowner, brought it to Appleton Thorn.

Bawming – decorating the tree with flowers and ribbons, takes place each year while pupils from Appleton Thorn Primary School dance and sing the Bawming song.

The Thorn tree is now designated one of just fifty great British Trees after being nominated by co-founder

and original landlord of the village hall to commemorate the Queen's Golden Jubilee in 2002.

A tree is said to have grown at the spot since 1178, although the current one is a relative newcomer.

This year's event was officially launched by local vicar Revd Alan Jewell, who was attending his first bawming ceremony.



■ Knight, Alex Buckley and Page, Adam Power.

For more pictures and video coverage visit: www.warrington-worldwide.co.uk

Grappenhall Walking Day

CHURCH members, school children, and uniformed organisations took part in the annual Grappenhall Walking Day Walk of Witness.

Izzy Collins (pictured below) was crowned St. Wilfrid's Rose Queen 2015 while Rose Bud was Mia Gilby (pictured right).

Following a short church service there was a Walk of Witness around Grappenhall village and back to the school field for the annual summer fair.





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Stockton Heath Walking Day



Parish council chairman, Celia Jordan.

DESPITE grey skies and the threat of rain the weather remained fine for the annual Stockton Heath Walking Day.

Starting with a service in Alexandra Park the walk of witness involved members of local churches, schools and scout/brownie groups joining together in praise.

This year's service was led by Canon George Browne of St Monica's RC Church, who is celebrating his 50th anniversary as a priest and the theme for the day will be "Freedom".

After a service of hymns and prayers the procession set off from the park, accompanied by marching bands, passing through the centre of Stockton Heath, cheered on by large crowds, before continuing along Ellesmere Road and back along Walton Road.



Canon George Browne.



More pictures are available at www.warrington-worldwide.co.uk

Parish council to pay the "Living Wage"

GRAPPENHALL and Thelwall Parish Council has decided to pay all its staff the Living Wage or more – and hopes other parish councils and other organisations in the Warrington area will follow their lead.

The move will cost the council an extra £1,799.72 a year, plus employers' national insurance, and will

involve pay rises for the two park wardens and the parish warden

Cllr Mike Biggin proposed the increases at the monthly meeting of the council.

He said: "I don't think it right that the council should simply pay the Minimum Wage and I am hoping that other parish councils will follow our lead,

as well as other employers.

"We have introduced this even before the borough council."

The Living Wage is currently £7.85 per hour while the Minimum Wage is £6.50.

Advertiser's announcement

The Algarve

The Algarve has become a favourite destination as it offers glorious year round sunshine, mile upon mile of clean sandy beaches and a sultry Mediterranean feel. The summer months can be very hot although the beautiful beaches and innumerable freshwater swimming pools are never far away if you need to cool down coupled with a cool Atlantic breeze most afternoons!

The airport is situated in Faro, the capital of the Algarve. Most budget airlines fly to Faro from Liverpool or Manchester. Faro itself is an attractive and easy city to explore with a

historic old city and a pretty harbour where you can sit and enjoy a coffee or cocktail!

Travel a little further west along the quiet motorway and you will come to the popular seaside resorts of Albufeira and Vilamoura. The historic town of Silves is well worth a visit and the walk up to the castle is a must with fabulous views across the town. This was once the old Moorish capital of the Algarve.

The capital of the Western Algarve is the wonderful town of Lagos. It was from here that the explorers set off on voyages of discovery. Lagos has a pretty Marina where boat and fishing

trips can be arranged and a trip on the dolphin watching tour is a must! Travel even further west from Lagos and a visit to the lighthouse at Cabo de Sao Vicente is interesting. Here the landscape is wild and desolate and you can watch the thunderous Atlantic rollers collide with the waters pouring from the Mediterranean.

The cuisine in the Algarve is influenced mainly by the wonderful range of fresh food and seafood which is caught daily by local fishermen. This includes sardines, tuna, sole, lobster, squid and crayfish. The traditional dish of the region is cataplana which is a mix of ham, sausage, cockles, clams, onions and garlic. Chicken piri piri is a firm favourite in most of the restaurants in the Algarve.

The Algarve is an excellent destination for all sports lovers. It has a number of superbly designed golf courses. For the watersport enthusiast the Algarve would never disappoint with jet-skiing, sailing, windsurfing, and scuba diving all available in most resorts.



■ Linda Crowder – Stockton Heath Travel

There are numerous wonderful golf courses situated along the Algarve and with the great weather on offer, the region has developed an excellent reputation for offering world class golf.

For those who prefer shopping to the beach or sporting activities, Portugal is renowned for its colourful pottery and handpainted tiles, and of course there is plenty of excellent locally produced wine to purchase.

The Algarve is well known as one of the sunniest areas of Europe and offers much more than just a beach lover's paradise, and has something for everyone to enjoy!



Keep the village alive support your local traders!

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CHESHIRE Natural Health is celebrating 10 years of helping provide natural health care from their premises at Stretton, Warrington.

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Conveniently located just off the M56 Motorway yet in the heart of beautiful Cheshire countryside the clinic has seen over 12,000 clients since opening.

Clients come from all over the North West from Manchester, Liverpool, Stoke on Trent to Preston.

The clinic offers specialist treatment programmes including: Natural

Fertility Clinic; Sports Performance Clinic; IBS support; Natural Weight Management; Menopause Support.

Tracey said: "Our aim has been to bring together highly qualified and experienced professional therapists under one roof, in a caring professional environment.

"Therapists work as a team, referring to other therapists if required to give the best treatment for the individual."

Free consultations are always available with the Clinic Director putting together the best treatment

plan for your health problems.

Cheshire Natural Health has worked closely with Reproductive Health Group, supporting patients undergoing IVF treatment.

The clinic has advertised with Village life, Lymm Life and warrington-worldwide since their

launch and believes it has helped to bring in many new customers and raise awareness of our services to clients in South Warrington and beyond.

For more information on any of the services available call 01925 730123 or visit www.cheshirenaturalhealth.co.uk



Record crowds at Stockton Heath Festival

A RECORD number of visitors attended the 8th annual Stockton Heath Festival despite extreme contrasts of weather from sunshine to thunderstorms and torrential downpours.

The Festival Field was buzzing with activity throughout the Saturday and Sunday daytime with live music, exhibitions and displays, family entertainment and special shopping experience at the popular markets.

Scarecrows in the village in the preceding week included Alice in Wonderland, Little Bo Peep and her sheep in the porch at St Thomas' Church, a nurse outside Stockton Heath Medical Centre and even an undertaker on London Road!

A host of evening events were held in the festival marquee and other locations in the area. There were drama productions and many types of music including gospel, country, swing and the Mersey Beatles on the closing night.

Ian Simpson, chairman of the Festival Trustees said: "We are delighted with the continuing success of the Festival which is now established as a true community event on the annual calendar.

"A big thanks go to everyone who supported us, too many to mention but they include the local councils, our sponsors, local traders, organisations and businesses and, of course, everyone involved with the organisation and all our visitors.

"We are a registered charity and the only entirely voluntary led and organised event of such size, complexity and quality in the area."

More details, including the winners of the various competitions, can be found at the festival website www.stocktonheathfestival.co.uk

■ Right: One of the events on the Festival field.

■ Below: Stockton Heath Flower Club.





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Money Column

By Margaret Black

A look back on Real Time Information

Real Time Information ("RTI"): has now been with us for over 12 months, and the tax office has started to issue penalties for returns which are late, incomplete or incorrect. All employers who are within the RTI regulations must make a complete RTI return prior to making payment to an employee. However, we have witnessed evidence that the rules are still not being fully understood by employers.



David Watkinson and Margaret Black

If an employer is required to register under PAYE then they fall within the RTI regulations. These regulations require the employer to make a return of all wage payments made including wage payments from which the employer is not required to make a deduction under PAYE! The return must be made before the wages are paid to the employee.

Any employer who is required to operate a PAYE scheme must include all employees in their RTI returns even if no tax or national insurance is payable on the wages paid to their employees. It is important to be aware that you do not need to have a business to be an employer if it is classed as employment when hiring an individual for personal reasons, i.e. as a cleaner or home help.

So let us look at who does not need to operate a PAYE scheme. You do not need to operate a PAYE scheme if you:

- do not employ anyone, or
- you employ someone but they are not paid above the NI lower earnings limit, they have signed a P46 stating that they do not have any other earnings and there is nothing to suggest that you have pressurised them into making a false declaration on a P46, or
- you employ a number of people, all of whom satisfy the above criteria.

In all other circumstances, you must register for PAYE and are caught by the RTI regulations.

Example

You could have three employees who are all paid £20 per week. If they have all signed a P46 without any undue pressure being applied then you do not need to register under PAYE as they are all below the NI lower earnings limit. However, if one of those employees is unable to sign the P46 then you must register under PAYE as you must deduct tax from payments made to that employee, and in these circumstances payments made to all three employees must be reported under RTI.

So what evidence have we seen? We have seen accounting records of employers operating a PAYE scheme for most employees but who also show payments to "casual" labour in their records. These employers are not operating RTI correctly, and may find themselves being penalised if the tax office enquires into their affairs.

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Please note that these ideas are intended to inform rather than advise and you should always obtain professional advice before taking any action.

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Showers fail to dampen spirits at Thelwall Rose Queen



SHOWERS failed to dampen the spirits at Thelwall Rose Queen where 13-year-old Jennifer Tipping was crowned Rose Queen.

Jennifer, a pupil at Lymm High School who lives in Grappenhall is the 51st Thelwall Rose Queen.

Her attendants were Emily foot, Teegan Hindle, Elizabeth Lewis, Amelia McGerty, Ellie Schofield and Jadine Tomkins. Crown bearer was Juan Mottram.

Theme for the floats which took part in the festival procession were "book characters".



Rainbows, Alice in Wonderland.



Rose Queen, Jennifer Tipping



Tigger and Winnie the Pooh.

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Pupils go “Walking with Heroes”

PUPILS from Appleton’s Cobbs Infants School got a chance to go “Walking with Heroes” – and learn some vital road safety tips at the same time.

Soldiers, police officers and firefighters made an early morning visit to the disused rugby pitch in Bridge Lane and then walked pupils to the school, answering questions posed by the youngsters and also driving home the message of the Green Cross Code.

The exercise had the dual-purpose of teaching the children about road safety but also encouraging them to walk, rather than ride, to school.

Officers from Stockton Heath Fire Station organised the event.



Fire crews rescue ducklings

FIRE CREWS came to the rescue when a duck and a number of ducklings became stuck in silt in a reservoir overflow.

The incident was near Appleton Reservoir and a fire engine from Warrington Fire Station was sent to the scene.

Firefighters helped a RSPCA inspector rescue the frightened duck and her ducklings from the overflow.

They did not appear to have been harmed by their ordeal.

Pictures: The firefighter rescued ducklings.

Architects rise to a challenge



GAINING planning consent for new build houses is never straight forward and when the site is in a conservation area in Lymm Village, things are bound to get even more complicated.

But local architects’ practice Dove Architecture rose to the challenge when they were commissioned to convert and extend a small outhouse at Lymm Hall into a new family home.

The building had long since fallen out of use and was in need of rescuing from dereliction.

As Lymm Hall and the adjoining Moat House are both listed buildings and the site is an Ancient Scheduled Monument, Listed Building consent and change of use consent was required.

It was not an easy site to develop and required a sensitive design approach.

But Dove Architecture’s approach won the support of English Heritage and Warrington’s planning officer and the application was approved.

The original building is to be sympathetically restored and converted to provide a sitting room and master suite while a large two storey extension will provide the main living accommodation.

A contemporary design was chosen for the new element of the property, mirroring the simplicity and form of the original buildings, yet standing out as an addition through its modernity.

The clients are thrilled they are able to realise their dreams and build their new home - something they feared might not be possible on such a historic site. The project is due to start on site later this year.



VACANCIES FOR COMMUNITY GOVERNORS

Lymm High School has two vacancies for community governors on its governing body.

Further information is on our website at <http://www.lymmhigh.org.uk/governor-vacancies>

To arrange an informal discussion contact Mrs R Warburton, Clerk to the Governors email: rwarburton@lymmhigh.org.uk, phone: 01925 750707

Please email applications to Mrs Warburton. Closing date: 28th August 2015. Interviews in September 2015, with appointments later that month.

What's on in the villages

August 13
GRAPPENHALL & THELWALL PARISH COUNCIL
Recess Committee
Council Offices, Bellhouse Lane. 7.30pm

Every Sunday
GRAPPENHALL HEYS WALLED GARDEN
Witherwin Avenue, Grappenhall Heys, WA4 3DS.
Café open from 12 noon-4pm serving teas, coffee,
home-made cakes and savouries.

Every Monday
ST MARY MAGDALENE MONDAY CLUB
St Mary Magdalene Church, Appleton 1.30pm

COUNTRY DANCING CLUB
St Thomas' Primary School, Parkgate Road,
Stockton Heath.
8-10pm. Details: 01925 262356

BRIDGE CLUB
Belong Warrington, Loushers Lane 7.30pm. Details
01925 262534

LADIES' FRIENDSHIP CLUB
The Quays Community Centre,
Thelwall New Road, Thelwall.
8pm. Details: 01925 264099

HIGH LEGH RUBBER BRIDGE CLUB
Village Hall, 7-10pm. Details: Audrey Greaves 0161
904 0120

Every second Monday
PARK (APPLETON) WI
Appleton Parish Hall, Dudlow Green Road. 7.30pm

Second and fourth Monday
WARRINGTON ART GROUP
Bellhouse Community Centre, Bellhouse Lane,
Grappenhall.
7-9pm.

Every third Monday
NATIONAL VEGETABLE SOCIETY
Cheshire District meeting
Grappenhall Ex-Servicemen's Club, Chester Road,
Grappenhall.
8pm. Details: 01925 265773.

Every fourth Monday
MARLFIELD WI
Grappenhall Community Library, Albert Road,
Grappenhall. 7.30pm

Every Tuesday
COFFEE MORNING
St Cross Church, Appleton Thorn. All welcome.
10am-12 noon

PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY
Quays Community Centre,
Thelwall New Road, Thelwall. 7.30pm.
Contact: 01925 757582.

COFFEE MORNING
Appleton Independent Methodist Church
Appleton Parish Hall, 10am-12 noon

Every second Tuesday
STOCKTON HEATH LIONS CLUB
London Bridge Inn, 8pm
Contact: Grahamclisse58@outlook.com. Tel 01925
262669

Every Wednesday
APPLETON HALL BADMINTON CLUB
September - April at Hall Drive, Appleton. 7.30-
10pm.
Details: 01925 262356

Every first Wednesday
WALTON WI
St John's Church Community Hall. 7.30pm
Details: 01925 604384

STOCKTON HEATH PROBUS CLUB
Warrington Sports Club, Walton Lea Road,
Higher Walton.
Details: 01925 268540

Every third Wednesday
HIGHER WALTON WI, St John's Community Hall,
7.45pm. Details 01925 262001.

Every fourth Wednesday
ALZHEIMER'S SOCIETY
Support Group, Brampton Lodge Day Centre, Bridge
Lane, Appleton. 6.30-8.30pm

Every Thursday
THE SILVER QUAYS Senior Citizen's Club
The Quays Community Centre, Thelwall New Road,
Thelwall. Details: 01925 753474.

BRIDGE CLUB
Grappenhall Village Sports Club
Stockton Lane. 7.30pm. Details 01928 712233

Every second Thursday
STRETTON WI
Appleton Parish Hall, Dudlow Green Road. 2.30pm.
GRAPPENHALL PROBUS CLUB
Grappenhall Community Centre,
Bellhouse Lane, 10am.
Details: 01925 264427.

Every third Thursday
NORTH EAST CHESHIRE FLOWER CLUB
Warrington Golf Club, London Road, Appleton.
WA4 5HR 2pm
Details: 01925 740419

GRAPPENHALL WI
Grappenhall Community Centre, Bellhouse Lane
2.15pm

Every Friday
APPLETOTS TODDLER GROUP
Appleton Parish Hall, Dudlow Green Road.
9.45-11.30am. Details: 01925 268153.
Note: Stockton Heath Parish Council and Appleton
Parish Council do not meet during August.

To list your event call Village Life on

01925 623632



New manager joins team at Park Royal Hotel



THE Park Royal Hotel at Stretton has a new manager at the helm with Annie Brown joining the award winning team following the departure of Paul Gallon to pastures new.

Annie has worked in the hotel industry for 20 years, the last nine as Hotel/General Manager, starting her career in hotels in her native Australia.

Annie said: "I have been with Q Hotels for 4 years where I started at The Stratford Hotel, and more recently have been covering a Cluster General Manager position across both The Stratford and Stratford Manor.

"The success seen at both these properties has led me to this opportunity at Park Royal.

"I am extremely proud to be joining the team at Park Royal, a hotel that is at the heart of the community and I look forward to continuing these partnerships.

Meet your MP David Mowat

David Mowat, MP for Warrington South, holds regular surgeries throughout the constituency. If you would like to arrange an appointment to discuss an issue of concern to you please



e-mail him at david.mowat.mp@parliament.uk
or telephone **01925 231267**.

David Mowat

Member of Parliament for Warrington South

www.davidmowat.org

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Walled Garden to host food fair

THE Friends of Grappenhall Heys Walled Garden are holding a Food Fair on Sunday, September 13, from 11am - 4pm, giving an opportunity for people to not only discover a wide range of foods made by local producers but also see the beautifully restored gardens in Witherwin Avenue.

Admission is free and there will be a wide variety of foods available including fruit and vegetables from the Walled Garden, delicious pies and quiches, cakes, sauces, sweet treats, fresh meat, smoked meat, homemade pate, cheeses, fine teas, Mediterranean and Middle Eastern foods and locally brewed beer.

Also, there will be hot and cold food available from the Walled Garden Cafe.

The walled garden is owned by Grappenhall and Thelwall Parish Council and consists of a beautiful formal area with three ponds, home to various species of wildlife and a kitchen garden, including an orchard and a range of glasshouses.

The gardens are open Monday to Saturday, 1pm - 4pm and Sundays 12 noon - 4pm.

"The Friends" is a charity set up to support the development of the garden and to provide horticultural education events. They run various fund-raising events during the year.

You can become a member of the "Friends" and, if you wish, join the volunteers by contacting Jane Coumbarides, 44, Tresham Drive, Grappenhall Heys, WA4 3DU. The cost is £10 a year per household and all funds generated are reinvested in the garden as a whole.

More details about the history of the garden are available at the website www.ghwalledgarden.org.uk

Grappenhall Heys Walled Garden

Food Fair
Sunday, 13th September
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Wide range of food on offer from small local producers. Hot and cold refreshments available from the cafe.

Contact Jean Heath on
01925 801395 for further info

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