Your Community Magazine

Issue 174 September 2015

FREE



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Stockton Heath • Appleton • Grappenhall • Thelwall • Stretton and surrounding areas



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Financial Rocky Horror Show

In my job you do see some horrendous financial horror scenarios. But I saw one just recently with a new client. The husband told me it was his 55th birthday and he was planning on retiring in the next few months. Now unlike a lot of people I meet he had prepared for this by making a large pension contribution 12 years ago. His wife then took over the meeting, showing me a series of pension statements going back 13 years to when her husband put £250,000

into his pension.



Don Wernham. Financial Planner

Each year's statement showed the figure of £250000 and another figure of 0.01%. They asked me if the 0.01% was the charges for the plan. But unfortunately it wasn't – it was the growth. After charges his pension was still only worth what he put in. This client had to delay his retirement by at least another 5 years as he simply could not afford to retire.

Believe me, not all pension & investment funds are the same. Investment performance is different, charges are not the same, and investment risk differs enormously. I would recommend that if you are in your 50's I would say there needs to be an annual review with an adviser, if only to prevent a story like this one.

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

TECHNOLOGY

Simple Solutions uses the latest technology to keep you updated, even when you are on the move or abroad, check out our website for more details.







PENSIONS

· Pensions are changing due to the March 2014 budget and you now have a lot more options to consider'

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Editor's comment

THERE is considerable concern in the Appleton Thorn area over the borough council's draft Strategic Availability Assessment (SHLAA), which identifies land off Stretton Road as suitable for 80 homes some time in the next 10

True, the planners stress that inclusion of land within the SHLAA does not imply that planning consent will be granted for any form of development on it.

But members of CARE – the Appleton Thorn Campaign Against Ruining our Environment - cannot be blamed for being a little sceptical

about such assurances.

The document identifies four different categories of land within the area. There is Green Belt land, which has not been assessed at all. There is a small amount of land described as "constrained" which would presumably be difficult to develop. There is land said to be "suitable" and " likely to become available and achievable.

And there is land already said to be "suitable, available and achievable."

Needless to say, the land off Stretton Road falls into this latter category – and it is also the land which has for some time attracted the attention of house-builders interested in building...yes, you've guessed it,

So while inclusion in the SHLAA might not imply that development will be allowed, there can be little doubt about which land is most at

CARE believes such a development would completely alter the character of Appleton Thorn village and lead to traffic problems. They are urging local people to object, in the hope that the land in question might be removed from the document. It might then even be considered for a village

Closing date for comments is September 8 so there is no time to

RESIDENTS of Grappenhall Village were dismayed when the long-awaited refurbishment of their iconic cobbled street was not carried out during July.

However, we are assured that the work - which was unavoidably delayed - will now be done during the October half-term, thus avoiding any difficulties for parents taking their children to the village school.

The project, which includes the carriageway and the pavements between the school and Bellhouse Lane, will complete the replacement of the full-length of the picturesque village street.



OPINION seems to be divided as to whether the arrival of Marks and Spencer in Stockton Heath will be a good thing or a bad thing for the

Most people, it is fair to say, seem to think only good can come of the move and those WITH doubts seem to hold them only because they don't know exactly what to expect. The sort of M&S one sees in motorway service areas, they point out, would hardly be suitable for a busy village shopping centre.

An opportunity to find out exactly what M&S plan for the former Co-op store will come at Stockton Heath Parish Council's meeting on September 8 when Clare Birch, the store manager, will be attending to answer councillors' questions. Members of the public are welcome.

Given the size of the store – somewhat larger than most M&S food stores - it seems to us there could be advantages to be seized for the company as well as for the village.

Honour for festival founder

One of the founders of the popular Stockton Heath Festival, Cllr Tudor Pole has stepped down from an active role in the organisation.

But the festival committee is not letting him disappear altogether.

They have decided to honour him by making him the festival Honorary

Cllr Pole, who over the years has been an inspirational hands-on director and trustee.

He said: "The festival has been an important part of my life. I have seen it develop over the years and am delighted that it continues to thrive.

"I was thrilled when they invited me to be their Honorary President."

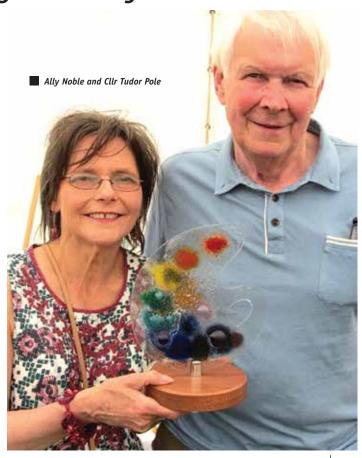
enthusiastic artist, Tudor has always helped organise the art exhibition - not just by hanging pictures but also by submitting his

So it is particularly fitting that there is now to be an annual Honorary President's Prize awarded for the work of art receiving the most public votes.

The winner will receive a beautiful piece of glass work made by local craftswoman Ally Noble, who has been selling her work at the festival for some years.

This year's winner was Alex Koenig for a picture of his dog Pearly.

In addition to presenting award, Cllr Pole won the first prize for his own painting called Country



Cheshire Steam Fair -'best ever'

THE annual Cheshire Steam Fair took place at Daresbury, with some visitors proclaiming it "the best

Steam enthusiasts from across the UK descended on the event as various vintage vehicles rolled into the Cheshire village.

Pictures show Peter Thomas with his four inch to the foot scale Burrell Traction Engine, George Coles and Clayton Shuttleworth get their steam traction engine ready for the grand parade, steam traction engines getting up steam and a vintage tractor parade.







Emily's hair-raising charity achievement

A NINE-year-old Grappenhall girl has raised an amazing £1,142 for charity - with a little help from her family.

Mum Louise Simmonds, step dad Tony and brother Hugo were so proud of her achievement they arranged a surprise for her – this article in "Village Life".

Emily will know nothing about it until she reads the magazine!

Kind hearted Emily, a pupil at Thelwall Junior School decided about 18 months ago she wanted to do something to raise money for children battling cancer.

She and her mum looked at lots of options

and Emily finally chose the Little Princes Trust.
At that time her hair was shoulder length –
but she decided she would grow it down to her
bottom! And that is what she did.
Then she had 14 inches cut off at Rod's

hairdresser's in Stockton Heath!

At first Emily aimed to raise £250 through Facebook, the Just Giving website and the

school's web site.

But she did that in one night – so the target was raised to £500

She raised this within a week to the target was put up again - and in the end she raised

Louise said: "So many kind and generous people – including some who have never met her - supported her challenge.

"Emily is a very kind, mature and caring nine-year-old with such a big heart. "She is currently in Year 5 at Thelwall Junior

School where she was awarded the Head Teacher's award at the end of term for her generous act of kindness.











After Simple Sid, it's his smarter twin!

SMILEY Sid is a simple fellow – and he does a good job in persuading motorists to slow down.

But he has a smarter twin brother who is even more effective – and the residents of Grappenhall and Thelwall are shortly to be introduced to him.

Parish councillors decided to buy two "Simple Sids" – Speed Indicator Displays – some time ago.

They are used by volunteers at various locations across Grappenhall and Thelwall to encourage motorists to stay within legal speed limits.

But because they are only "simple" they don't collect data.

Čllr Mike Biggins, who originally proposed bringing Sid into the twin villages to crack down on speeding motorists, said: "Smart Sid DOES collect data, which means we will know how fast motorists are driving, where they are doing it and at what time of the day or night.

"All this will be useful information

to pass on to the police.

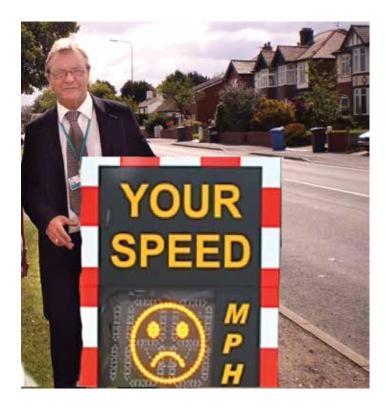
"We have been very pleased with the performance of Simple Sid, but we think Smart Sid will be even better.

"He looks just the same as Simple Sid so drivers won't know which is which."

The volunteers who work with Sid wear high visibility jackets and receive special training from parish council chairman Cllr Paul Wenlock.

They work in pairs at various locations including Stockport Road, Thelwall, Thelwall New Road, Grappenhall and the corner of Cliff Lane, Grappenhall – but also in residential roads between Knutsford Road and Chester Road, Grappenhall where residents frequently complain of speeding traffic using their roads as "rat runs."

Cllr Biggin with one of the Sids.



Miracle escape for motorists

A COLLISION between two cars at Walton left one vehicle on its roof – miraculously no one was seriously injured.

The crash took place at the T- junction of Brookwood Close and Hill Cliffe Road, Walton and involved a Renault scenic and red Renault Clio.

The Renault clio ended upside down at the junction. Miraculously, the occupants of the upturned Clio – two local residents and their two dogs emerged unharmed, although eye witness reports said one of the dogs ran off out of an open window in a panic but was later recovered.

The elderly woman driver of the Renault Scenic also appeared to be unscathed by the ordeal.



Church seeks relatives

A STOCKTON Heath church is seeking relatives of a woman whose family gifted a cross in her memory – before sending it on to a link church in Nigeria.

The cross was gifted to St Thomas' Church at Stockton Heath "In memory of Jesse Borthwick Finlayson who departed this life December 4th 1951".

In recent months St Thomas' and St Mary Magdalene's, Stockton Heath and Appleton, have been raising money for their link Parish of St David's in Osi. Nigeria.

They have been so successful, they have recently replaced their Church doors and windows and, in future months, they hope to replace the floor and put in a ceiling.

Now their representative in Nigeria, Chief (Dr)

Oluwashe.O.Olojugba, will be visiting the Church in September and the Parochial Church Council have voted overwhelmingly to give St David's a gift of a cross and candlesticks which are surplus to requirements at St Thomas'. St David's have not got a proper cross for their altar table.

Rev Michael Ridley, Parish of St Thomas and St Mary Magdalene's said: "We have received permission from the Diocese for this, but the cross was given "In memory of Jesse Borthwick Finlayson who departed this life December 4th 1951".

"We are seeking any family of the Late Jesse Borthwick Finlayson, to see if they have any objections to the cross and candlesticks being gifted?

Please contact the vicar on 01925 261396.



Berlin

This is now once of Europe's most glamorous capital cities with superb museums, fine churches, wide boulevards and a thriving cultural life. Berlin is the symbol of a unified Germany and it is more than just a symbol of the old and the new.

There are direct flights from regional airports and we can combine these with a choice of hotels and return transfers from the airport to the hotel of your choice.

the hotel of your choice.

The Brandenburg Gate is one of the major attractions standing at 368 metres tall, this is the former border between East and West, the

views from the observation level in the great dome will take your breath away. Another must see is the Reichstag - this is the home of the German Parliament and has been almost destroyed and rebuilt several times. There is a Glass Dome where you can take the internal walkway to the top for the fantastic views. Checkpoint Charlie is a must to visit and have your photo taken with the soldiers! This was the crossing point over the Berlin Wall and now houses a small museum showing the escape methods used to get from east to west, was also featured in James Bond film Octopussy. There is still part of

the Berlin wall standing overlooking the River Spree and now houses an open air gallery with images depicting the events leading up to the fall of the wall in 1989. There are numerous museums including some of these on the famous Museum Island, art galleries, Olympic Stadium, Radio Tower, Bell Tower in Olympic Park, UNESCO National Heritage Site, many parks including the Tiergarten-which is the oldest in Berlin, you can visit the zoo while in Tiergarten. There are also 3 opera houses and the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra.

Kurfurstendamm is the main shopping street with excellent department stores, shopping malls and the new Potsdamer Platz arcades. The best boutiques are found along Friedrichstrasse. There are several markets including Prenzlauer Berg's Mauerpark which is open every day.

An easy way of exploring is to hire a bike (helmets can also be hired) or take the Berlin hop-on hop-off Bus Tours - there are several different ones each with a different route. These can



■ Linda Crowder – Stockton Heath Travel

be purchased singularly or a good rate is to book 3 and do a different one each day. The commentary is both in English and German and is via headphones. To totally chill and relax after all that sight seeing visit one of the many 'Beach' bars on the banks of the river and listen to soft background music. In the city there are a good selection of cafes for coffee/cake or lunch during the day and numerous different cuisines to try in the evening - something for everyone. Traditional German food and drink consists of Currywurst, falafel or the famous mulled warming wine Gluhwein.



Keep the village alive support your local traders!

We are open Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm and Saturdays 9am to 4pm. If you cannot make these times we are happy to arrange an appointment at your convenience.

80 London Road, Stockton Heath 01925 269400

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Record breaking open garden weekend

A THELWALL couple who opened up their garden for charity attracted a record breaking 661 visitors - raising a total of £6733.

Howard and Wendy Platt opened up their gardens at Laskey Farm as part of the National Garden Scheme.

With the sun shining on both days the event also included an exhibition by Lymm artists.

Money was raised by charging £5 admission and from the sale of refreshments and from some earlier private visits and donations.

Howard said: "It will be hard to follow such a successful event next year."

Since 1927 the National Garden Scheme has raised more than £45m for nursing and caring charities.







SIXTH FORM OPEN EVENTSFOR SEPTEMBER 2016 ENROLMENT

Wed 7 Oct 5:30pm - 8.00pm

Thur 8 Oct 5:30pm - 8.00pm

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Money Column

Business Mileage

Keeping a record of business mileage can be one of the trickiest elements in the claim for business expenses. You must first ask the question, "what is a business mile"? if the wrong answer is reached then it could lead to extra tax and National Insurance costs to the employers and to the employees based on either 'excess' mileage rates repaid, or the full annual fuel scale charge. If the Inland Revenue decide to check this area of a company's



David Watkinson and Margaret Black

business and adequate records

Margaret Black

are not kept distinguishing between business and private mileage
then the company cannot confidently say it did not provide private
fuel. Business mileage can be claimed by an employee for travel
undertaken in the performance of their duties with the employment
i.e. travel from the normal place of work to a customer or a supplier
etc. Or it also covers the travel between home and a 'temporary place of work'

Business mileage does not include:

Travel from home to a normal place of work (ordinary commuting)
Private travel – non work-related journeys
Travel from home to near the normal place of work (i.e within 10 miles of the work base)

Please note that the rules are no different if the journey is taken outside of normal working hours. This includes an employee driving to their normal place of work in response to a call out e.g. an alarm call in the middle of the night.

Please Note:

To gain the relief for the cost of travel when attending a temporary

workplace it has to be a genuine business need to be there and not just a decision taken by the employee

The employee cannot make it a business journey by stopping to make phone calls to a client or a supplier etc. All journeys taken between workplace and home where the presence of the employee is not necessary for the duties of the employment is classed as ordinary commuting

Make sure you receive adequate expense claims and/or business mileage logs from your drivers! HMRC may look to determine that the claims made do no more than reimburse the cost incurred

In order to prove their claims, drivers need to record each claim for

each trip as follows:

Journey date
Where the journey started (location/post code)
The name of place or Company visited
Where the journey ended (detailed location/post code)

The start and closing mileage Business miles travelled

Please note that employers can reimburse the maximum at the authorised statutory rates as follows:

• .45p per mile for the first 10,000 miles per year, 'pro rata' i.e 833

miles per month

.25p per mile on the excess number of miles per month thereafter

If the Employer decides to reimburse a greater amount per mile there will be tax charged to the employee on the difference, however, there will be no NIC

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Return of the legends at Grappenhall Cricket Club



Grappenhall Over 40s v Timperley Over 40s

Wasim Akram and Neil Fairbother... two players whose careers had overlapped in the past, as opponents in the 1992 World Cup Final, and as teammates for Lancashire were joined by nine unsung Grappenhall heroes led by inspirational captain Steve Newell.

Grappenhall opted to bat first, with Newell and Fairbrother opening proceedings. It was a partnership that didn't last long, as the club's record scorer Newell, departed with only four to his name. Out strode Mike Holden, who was having a fine season, to join Fairbother , who was soon into his stride, as sprightly as ever, working the ball to all parts...he soon reached the 30 mark, where batsmen have to retire.

Wasim entered the fray and was soon going through his repertoire of expansive shots, with Holden equally as destructive at the other end.

It was no surprise when Holden also reached 30, closely followed by Wasim, going for one more big shot, for an excellent 27.

There were now 118 runs on the board with five overs to go and the lower order all chipped in to take the home team to 143 after their 20 - a good score but certainly not beyond the visitors' capabilities.

Grappenhalls' attack was to be all

left-hand pace, Wasim at one end with his 356 One Day International wickets, and at the other end, Holden, with his...well...with his left hand.

The wicket keeper was almost standing on the car park as Wasim thundered down from the top end and unleashed an opening over of great pace and swing..to their credit Timperley's openers acquitted themselves with great skill and outright bravery against this opening salvo. At the other end Holden was just as hostile, operating on his long run, until changing ends to allow Hayes into the attack. N early breakthrough came, as the visitors weathered the storm, adding 60 at a good rate, both openers retiring.

Newell varied his bowlers, with King Of Spin, Wernham coming on, joined by Thompson and lastly Fairbrother...not normally known for

his bowling prowess.

This was to change this evening, as at this point, Timperely were within range of the Grappenhall score...40 needed in six overs, with seven wickets remaini. Fairbrother made the first breakthrough, closely followed by two more as Grappenhall slowed the run rate down. The returning Wasim, bowling even quicker, saw two further wickets fall and the match ended in victory for Grappers by 19 runs.



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Sun shone for Walking Day

THE sun shone and everything was perfect for the annual Stretton Walking Daythe first attended by the Rev Alan Jewell as vicar of St Matthew's Church.

Rose Queen Louise Mann was crowned in a ceremony at the church and then, with retiring Rose Queen Ellen Osborne, led the procession to the school field where there was a wide range of fun activities for all the family.

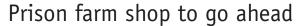
There were mini-fairground rides, beat the goalie, coconut shy, bouncy castle, face painting, donkey rides, fun tattoos and a wide range of stalls selling cakes, books, toys, sweets, etc.

The WI were selling garden plants, there was a barbecue, ice cream, lucky dip,

Stretton Walking Day has been an annual feature of village life for more than 40 years and as usual attracted hundreds of local people.







A PLAN to set up a farm shop in the grounds of Thorn Cross Young Offenders' Institution has been given the go-ahead – at the third time of asking.

Members of the borough council's development management committee

approved the proposals at the establishment Appleton Thorn, after twice deferring a decision because of local objections and worries about traffic issues.

A nearby resident and borough councillor Brian Axcell had lodged objections on the grounds the development would be an unacceptable commercial operation

in the Green Belt and would cause harm to the living conditions of a neighbour. The traffic worries related to the fact that the proposed access to the site would be right opposite an entrance to Appleton Thorn Primary School, in Arley

Members of the committee were told that the proposal involved a change of use of an existing agricultural building.

The shop would mainly sell produce grown or made on the site.
Planning officers said there would no external alterations to the existing building so there would be no impact on the Green Belt.

The small scale of the operation would mean it would not affect any retail centres, the nearest of which was more than a mile away. But it would fulfil a local need as there was no shop in Appleton Thorn.

About 70 per cent of the goods on sale are to be grown or made on the site with 30 per cent being imported goods which cannot be grown on the site such as potatoes, oranges, bananas and honey.

The aim was to serve the local community of Appleton Thorn – which has no existing shop.





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in the villages

September 8 STOCKTON HEATH PARISH COUNCIL Sandy Lane Centre, Stockton Heath. 7.30pm

September 15 APPLETON PARISH COUNCIL Appleton Parish Hall, Dudlow Green Road. 7.30pm

Appleton Parish Hall, Dudlow Green Road. 7.30pm September 17 GRAPPENHALL & THELWALL PARISH COUNCIL Council Offices, Bellhouse Lane. 7.30pm September 19 LIVE AT ST WILFRID'S Cataleya Wind Quintet. An exciting and talented young ensemble performing works by Debussy, Rossini, Nielsen and Poulenec.

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

01925 262534
LADIES' RIENDSHIP 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

Record and fourth Monday WARTINGTON 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
MARIFELD WI
Grappenhall Community Library, Albert Road

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.

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

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, 5t 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.

Ihelwall, Detaits: 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.

Appleton Parish Hall, Dudlow Green Road. 2.30p GRAPPENHALL PROBUS CLUB Grappenhall Community Centre, Bellhouse Lane, 10am. Details: 01925 264427. Every third Thursday NORTH FAST CHESHIRE FLOWER CLUB Warrington Golf Club, London Road, Appleton. WA4 5HR 2pm Details: 01925 740419 GRAPPENHALL WI Grappenhall Community Centre.

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 September. To list your event call Village Life on

01925 623632







What's on Callum heads for the States for soccer scholarship

A STUDENT at Appleton College will be heading to the US next month to take up a prestigious football

Callum Wallace, 18, who played for Warrington Town's reserves and youth team last season, will be joining Azusa Pacific, located in Azusa, California where he will study and play for the "Cougars" soccer team.

He will have the opportunity to combine business studies at university alongside playing high level football for the next four years.

The scholarship has been gained through the assistance of PASS4Soccer Scholarships.

Callum, from Grappenhall Heys, is no stranger to the US. He has family over there and has holidayed there for the last 10 or 11 years.

Callum's achievement in winning

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such a high value scholarship and placement is in recognition of both his academic achievements to date and his athletic ability as well as an impressive performance in the PASS4Soccer US Coach Showcase held at Bisham Abbey National Sports Centre in December last year.

He said: "I chose to attend a US school as it offers a much better balance between furthering my soccer career while I study to achieve my degree. The emphasis on soccer is so much more serious there than at any universities here in the UK. I am looking forward to the training and playing competitive games regularly as well as the chance to study in an amazing location.



"The location and the welcoming 'family' environment I experienced when I visited were amazing. The players also made me feel very part of the team and they also play football in the style of possession and passing football that suits the more technical side of the game I play."

Builder wins award for exceptional homes

CB HOMES Ltd Andy Oakes is a first-round winner in the annual NHBC Pride in the Job Awards, which recognises personal achievement of site managers in creating new UK homes of outstanding quality.

Andy won the award for working on their site Heyes Park in Northwich, joining 450 Quality Award winners from across the UK. Selected from around 15,000 entrants from across the country, they are in the top few percent of their profession.

Ian Davies, Regional Director for NHBC, the UK's leading standards setter and warranty provider for new UK homes, said: "Congratulations to Andy Oakes of CB Homes Ltd, who has been commended for building homes that are of an exceptional standard.

"For 35 years, our Pride in the Job Awards have played a pivotal role in NHBC's work to raise standards across the industry through the celebration and sharing of best practice. Put simply, site managers that win an award are creating houses of an outstandingly high standard.

"A Pride in the Job award is the highest industry accolade a site manager can receive. It represents success for the site manager, his team and associated trades as well providing a reputational boost for the building company. Most importantly, homeowners who buy a Pride in the Job award-winning home benefit from a high quality product.

"It's no surprise that Pride in the Job winning sites also have higher levels of customer satisfaction as these homes are without doubt among the best the UK has to offer."

Site managers are uniquely positioned to positively influence the quality of a build, being responsible for a project from start to finish, overseeing everything that happens on site.

The winners have excelled in a comprehensive year-long judging process, assessed against stringent criteria defined by NHBC's technical Standards for building new homes. They are now shortlisted for regional titles which will be revealed in the autumn.

The regional champions will then go forward to contest the national Supreme Winner title in their category at the Pride in the Job Gala Final in London in January.

For more information, visit www. nhbc.co.uk/prideinthejob

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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