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Issue 182 May 2016 FREE

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**Natasha
bounces
back to
win
another
title**

Page 4

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Property Investment

At the moment I must be getting 6 -7 emails a week from property developers and people wanting to market property. They are offering everything from guaranteed rental incomes to low cost mortgages. Mark Twain was reported to have once said "history never repeats but it rhymes". I say this because of course at different times of the economic cycle we certainly see this. Personally when I see these advertisements it feels like 2006 all over again. And we all know what happened 2 years later.



Don Wernham,
Financial Planner

Without doubt property as an investment can be a very good investment. But like any other investments it very much depends on a number of factors, for instance, the price you pay to get into it. If you are prepared to take the long term view of say 10 to 20 years, I have no doubt that it will prove worthwhile. However, there are many people that would look upon property as the financial equivalent of the Holy Grail. This is not always the case and like any other investment and asset classes, property has its ups and downs. Anyone that owns an investment property will tell you that looking after a 2nd house can cause more than a few headaches, from rental voids to bad tenants. Then there are the tax implications to consider when you decide to sell the property, as well as the additional 3% Stamp Duty that Mr Osborne has now introduced when you purchase your property.

So why does buying a property as an investment make people feel the way they do about it? Maybe because a property is a more tangible asset than other investments. If I was asked the question of whether I would rather have a house valued at £200k or the same amount invested in an ISA? The answer for me personally doesn't even come close. The ISA investment can be sold down in a matter of weeks, therefore it is a liquid investment – unlike a house that in most cases, could potentially take months to sell. In addition, an ISA is sold without any tax liability, such as income tax or capital gains tax. An ISA can also provide you with a tax free income unlike income from property that is taxable.... So for me the investment choice would always be an ISA..... But maybe I just like to keep things simple!

Disclaimer - Please note views are my own and do not constitute advice

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New Media Centre
Old Road, Warrington
Cheshire WA4 1AT

Distribution

Village Life is distributed freely to selected homes throughout the area as well as being available to pick up from various outlets, some of which are listed below.

Appleton:
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Grappenhall:
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Printed by TwentyFourSeven

Editor's comment

WE are always a little suspicious of surveys of public opinion, whatever subject is under scrutiny. When the subject is related to health care we become doubly suspicious because it is easy for most people, when they are ill, to begin to have unrealistic expectations.

So when a national survey into patient satisfaction showed that Stockton Heath Medical Centre had a satisfaction rate of only 61 per cent – the worst in the borough – we took little notice.

We know too many people who have used the practice for many years and have nothing but praise for it.

Now, thanks to a report to Stockton Heath Parish Council, we know that only 70 patients out of a total of 18,000 registered with the practice actually took part in the survey. Hardly a reliable estimate of patient satisfaction!

The practice acknowledges it has had difficulties with its appointments system. But it cannot be accused of ignoring the problem. It was one of the first locally to introduce the "Doctor First" system, which aims to give patients same day access to a doctor.

While we have received conflicting reports on the effectiveness of the

system, it has to be admitted that it is clearly an attempt to bring about improvements.

There is a national shortage of GPs and we are told the Stockton Heath practice was two short at the time of the survey. Whether this contributed to a tiny minority of patients expressing dissatisfaction in a survey most probably didn't even know was taking place, we don't know.

But we have a good deal of sympathy with GPs everywhere and our advice to patients is – be patient!

IT doesn't seem all that long ago that this magazine was reporting on the first-ever Stockton Heath Festival. But in fact, this month's festival will be the ninth.

Each year it seems to get better and there is no doubt it has become a much anticipated event – not just for Stockton Heath but for a much wider area.

So much so, in fact, that we wonder how on earth the village managed without it.

Of course, it would not have happened without parish councillor Tudor Pole, the man who first thought of the idea and for so long was the driving force behind it. We doubt if



even he, however, realised in those early days what a success it would prove to be.

Tudor has taken a back seat now, but worthy successors have come along to ensure the show goes on.

What is remarkable, for an event of its size, is that it is run by volunteers.

We salute them – and look forward to another celebration of all that is good about village life.

WITH borough and parish council elections looming in many areas, many will no doubt be reflecting on councillors, their value to the community and whether in fact they really do all that much work.

An article in a recent edition of the Clerk & Councils' Direct magazine might provide an answer.

It told how a councillor disappeared for so long his daughter reported him missing to the police. It turned out he had been attending a series of back-to-back meetings!

Health clinic's £900 boost for Adventure Farm Trust

REFLEXOLOGY and massage sessions at a local health clinic helped raise £900 for the Children's Adventure Farm Trust.

More than 60 people attended the charity day at Cheshire Natural Health, in Tarporley Road, Stretton, and took part in the treatments on offer and listened to a series of talks.

Nine of Cheshire Natural Health's therapists were on hand during the course of the four-hour event.

People were asked to make a minimum donation of £20 per treatment session.

A number of 45-minute talks were popular among visitors.

To boost the charity coffers, staff at Cheshire Natural Health sold homemade cakes and held a raffle of prizes, which included treatment vouchers for the clinic.

Tracey Turton, owner of Cheshire Natural Health, hailed the charity day a massive success.

She said: "We had a fantastic day. It exceeded all our expectations.

"All of our clients who took part in the treatment sessions and talks really enjoyed themselves. It was a great success and a wonderful way to help such a worthy local cause."

The Children's Adventure Farm Trust (CAFT) provides help and care for children from all over the North West who are terminally ill, disabled or disadvantaged.

It was founded in 1985 by Tim Grundy and is based at Booth Bank Farm, Millington.



Natasha bounces back to win another title!

LOCAL gymnast Natasha Coates is celebrating again after being crowned Disability British Floor Champion for 2016 – less than 10 weeks after breaking her leg.

Natasha, aged 21, from Appleton, who also suffers from a rare condition which makes her allergic to exercise, alongside other health complications, also came third on beam, vault and floor, during the Disability Masters at the Liverpool Echo Arena.

Commenting on her latest success Natasha, an Elite Disability Gymnast at The Wire Gymnastics club, said: "I am feeling pleased with my results considering everything that's happened. I'm taking six weeks off now to let my leg and knee injury heal properly before aiming for British Championships again in September."

Looking to the future she added: "I got diagnosed with another rare condition called Ehlers Danlos Syndrome a few weeks ago, so I'm still learning about that and I'm still undergoing tests on my heart but I'm just taking it a day at a time really."

Last September Natasha bounced back to be crowned Number One Disability Gymnast in the UK just 14 weeks after being in intensive care fighting for her life.

Suffering from a rare condition which makes her body allergic to exercise, she also won a further five gold medals at last year's Disability British Championships at Bolton Arena.

She suffers from a condition which affects cells in her body known as Mast Cells. The full name is Spontaneous Urticaria and Spontaneous Angioedema leading to Idiopathic Anaphylaxis.

Alongside this she also suffers from Asthma, Eczema, Allergic Rhinitis and

Oral Allergy Syndrome.

Prior to competing in Liverpool, Natasha posted on social media: "Tomorrow I compete at the British Disability Apparatus Finals, and I'm excited to let you all know that I will be competing on all four pieces of apparatus less than 10 weeks since breaking my leg. It's been a whirlwind few months with injuries, intensive care stays and ending up bald, so tomorrow I'm not chasing for medals, I just want to go out there and have

the time of my life.

"Thank you to everyone who has believed in me, you are the reason I am competing tomorrow."

■ Pictures show Natasha competing at the Disability British Championships



Former Sunday School teacher to "run away" with a circus

A FORMER Miss Cheshire is preparing to "run away" with a circus – touring the country in a traditional showman's caravan.

Catriona Cameron – at one time a Sunday School teacher at Daresbury – is shortly to join Giffords Circus at their base in Stroud, Gloucestershire, for rehearsals ahead of their "Painted Wagon" summer tour.

The former beauty queen has previously worked at a theme park but will now swap the catwalk for the circus ring.

She said: "One of my earliest memories as a little girl is making my parents hold either end of a curtain pole, whilst I dressed up in my favourite polka dot swimsuit and performed a 'daring tight-rope walk'. I even made my mother do the ringmaster's commentary whilst my father sang the traditional circus theme!"

"My parents realised then that they should probably send me to dance classes, and I remember hoping that one day I'd perform in a real circus!"

Catriona studied at the prestigious Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts and has performed professionally as a dancer and actress across the world.

But she only began learning specific circus skills a year ago.

She was soon hooked and has studied Trapeze, Aerial Hoop, Clowning, Gymnastics and Acrobalance.

Catriona added: "I am really excited about life on tour. We will live in beautifully restored 1930's caravans and everything is traditional, just like village green circus used to be. I've toured a lot with theatre companies before, but never for as long. I'll be away for six months and I've literally no idea what to pack!"



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 Pick-up an Event Guide (from mid-May) at Lymm Library
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£1 million project nearing completion



A £1 million cable upgrade under the Manchester Ship Canal which has caused road closures and traffic hold-ups in the Stockton Heath area over the last seven months, is nearing completion.

The project, carried out by SP Energy Networks, which owns and operates the electricity cables and power lines for most of the Cheshire area, is set to finish work this month.

The project will strengthen the electricity network area connecting more than 30,000 customers.

Underground cables which pass through tunnels constructed when the canal was originally built 120 years ago have been replaced.

A crew of 20 staff from the company and its civil contractors have been involved in the operation which started in October last year.

The work in the tunnel required the pulling through of heavy power cables in demanding working conditions due to the layout of the tunnels, which are normally filled with water. However workmen succeeded in replacing the cables and will restore the area to normal working conditions without any delays.

All the strategic supply cables and associated communication circuits have now been installed in the tunnel running under the canal. The pumps that have been keeping the tunnels free from flooding while the work was carried out to help replace the electric cables will now be removed and the tunnel will slowly fill back up with water over the coming weeks. The final phase which is currently being completed is to connect these cables back onto the network and restore the main Warrington electricity network to its normal operating configuration.



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All proceeds from St Rocco's Will Week go towards caring for hospice patients and their families throughout Warrington.

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If you would like further information about 'Make a Will Week' call St. Rocco's Fundraising Team on **01925 575780**

Please remember St. Rocco's Hospice when you write your Will.

Perth, Western Australia

When most people think of a trip Down Under, they usually think of travelling to Sydney or Melbourne. Well why not consider a trip instead to Western Australia's capital, Perth. One major benefit of thinking about visiting Perth is that after a long flight from the UK with one stop in maybe Dubai or Singapore, Perth will be the first port of call when you reach Australia thereby not having to travel further for another four hours!

Perth has been voted as one of the world's most liveable cities and visitors can expect plenty of sunshine,

stunning beaches, beautiful parks, and magnificent wineries so close to the city. Perth has one of the largest inner city parks in the world, Kings Park, which overlooks the very pretty Swan River, and is an inspirational venue for walkers and runners. It offers fantastic views across Perth's landscape.

Perth is bursting at the seams with cultural events, concerts, and festivals. You will be totally spoilt for choices where to eat with all the various quirky cafes and restaurants to enjoy. There are many microbreweries in and around Perth. Take time to visit these and

sample one or two of the many local beers on offer.

In January of this year, the new Elizabeth Quay was officially opened and Perth's new city skyline was born. From here you can catch a ferry to nearby Rottnest Island and spend a day there exploring the various beaches and bays, take a boat ride along the Swan River, or hop on the ferry and take the short trip across to South Perth and visit Perth Zoo.

A visit to Perth would not be complete without a trip to Fremantle, Western Australia's chief port and located just 25 minutes west of Perth. Fremantle retains its ornate Victorian and Edwardian architecture and has a very relaxed and casual atmosphere. Enjoy fish and chips down by the harbour or sit and watch the world go by at one of the famous cafes on the Cappuccino Strip.

Margaret River is situated 3 hours south of Perth and is most definitely one of Australia's most beautiful wine regions. Take a drive from winery to winery along country roads shaded by



■ Linda Crowder – Stockton Heath Travel

tall gum trees. There are also magical caves to explore and world famous surf breaks for the enthusiastic surfer.

Whatever you are looking for in a holiday, you are sure to find it in Perth. You will leave full of heart warming experiences and many fond memories.



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New church bells set to ring in Christmas and New Year

ELEVEN "new" bells installed at St Thomas' Church Stockton Heath - will hopefully be ready to use to ring in Christmas and the New Year.

The bells, which replaced the old Crosfield's bell, will need to have time to settle in before they can be rung.

They include eight ringing bells from a church at Bollington near Macclesfield, where St Thomas's vicar Rev Michael Ridley was a former curate and two new bells donated by former local resident Ashley Pugh and daughters in memory of Helene his wife. The final bell is the old school bell from St Thomas' school.

The work is being carried out by contractors John Taylor & Co from Loughborough the same company who installed the original Crosfield's Bell.

Rev Ridley said: "Although everything is going to schedule we won't be able to ring the bells until Christmas. The cement being used is very soft and takes a long time to dry.

"Every time bells our rung the tower can move up to an inch, so we need to ensure the cement is properly set.

"All being well we will be able to ring in Christmas and the New Year."

He said a Church Service to bless the bells had been well attended, attracting around 200 people.

"It is generating a lot of excitement in the village," he said.

It is costing around £80,000 for the new bells with a further £250,000 Heritage Lottery funding being spent on repairing the church tower.

Fund-raising is still ongoing, with around £30,000 donated last year.

Rev Ridley would also like to hear from people interested in becoming bell

ringers.

"It takes about 12 months to learn and although we have around a dozen people learning now, there is always room for more."

Anyone interested should call 01925 261396.

Meanwhile Warrington Civic Society still need about another £5-6k to secure the future of the Old Crosfield's Bell which was removed from the Church.

They are also in discussions with Warrington Borough Council about possible locations around the town. One suggestion has been as a feature in the new market.



Rev Michael Ridley with one of the new bells.

Top award for local cancer nurse

A LOCAL nurse has been named "Oncology Nurse of the Year" for her work at Manchester's famous Christie Hospital.

Lorraine Turner, from Grappenhall, has been honoured by the British Journal of Nursing.

She is an advanced nurse practitioner (ANP) working within the field of experimental cancer medicine, a post which is a relatively new phenomenon.

When she joined the experimental cancer medicine team (ECMT) at The Christie in 2012 she was the first qualified ANP working within the clinical research facility both at The Christie and nationally.

The British Journal of Nursing Awards acknowledges the enormous contribution individual nurses make towards the development of the profession as a whole. National professional awards such as these shine a light where it is most deserved, and also raise the profile and understanding of how nursing is at the centre of all patient care.

The judges were impressed by Lorraine's efforts to increase the number of patients at The Christie

offered early phase clinical trials. Many of these patients have exhausted all other treatment options and involvement in clinical trials remains their only hope.

Lorraine led an audit looking at patient referral pathways into early phase trials within the ECMT.

The results have led to a change in practice and an increase in collaboration amongst disease groups within The Christie. The referral process has been simplified meaning that patients are referred

and assessed earlier, and if eligible have the opportunity to gain access to early phase trials.

Lorraine said; "I was absolutely overwhelmed to win the award. There is some amazing work going on in the field of oncology nursing as shown by my colleagues who were shortlisted, and to win was both humbling and an honour.

"This really was a team effort from everyone at The Christie. I have amazing and supportive colleagues and our aim is to put the patients at

the heart of everything we do. Before I started this piece of work I thought we may be missing some patients who could benefit from early phase trials, now I'm confident we're offering this cutting edge option to those who need it most."

Allowing patients access to information and the opportunity to participate in a Phase I trial is paramount as it is a potential treatment option for patients with advanced cancer.



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Money Column

By Margaret Black

Tax free childcare

Since 1 April 2016 you must register for VAT if your non-exempt turnover in the previous twelve months exceeds £83,000. However, you'll usually be better off by registering even where turnover is less than that.

The de-registration limit has been increased from £80,000 to £81,000.

Where non-exempt business turnover exceeds the registration limit the business must be registered within the next 30 days. However, anyone can register for VAT where they have some business activity which is not exempt. As a general rule, if the majority of the customers are VAT registered it is advisable to be registered even where turnover is lower than the registration limit as it does mean that the VAT can be claimed on purchase costs.

When must you charge VAT on tips?

Where customer pay a gratuity with their bill this can, depending on the circumstances, trigger a VAT liability which must be accounted for out of the money received. What steps can be taken to avoid this happening.

Tips from customers are normally made voluntarily to whoever has served them, however, if a restaurant owner includes a service charge on the bill, the percentage of that service charge is subject to VAT and that element should also be paid over to HMRC. Alternatively, VAT can be added to the service charge which will effectively increase it by 20%, but this might well put customers off returning.

When is VAT payable?

Assuming a supplier is VAT registered, where a payment also known as a "consideration" is made in return for the supply of goods or services, it is subject to standard rate VAT which is currently 20%. This does not automatically mean that a service charge is a supply for VAT purposes. That depends on why tips are paid. It does not matter whether tips are paid in cash or by debit/credit card, or whether they are paid to the business owner, employer or direct to the staff, these factors do not affect the tax position.

Why are tips being paid?

So VAT only applies where there is both a supply and consideration given. If a specific service charge is not made, but the customer pays a tip anyway, there has been no supply on which VAT is payable. Whereas if a specific service charge is made then VAT must be accounted for either by adding it on top or incorporating it within the amount charged. In essence, if a tip is voluntary VAT doesn't apply, but if it's not, VAT is due. Be aware that if you have different arrangements for service charges, i.e. normally voluntary but mandatory for large groups, make sure you have your tills and other payment arrangements set up to differentiate between them. What counts as voluntary? if a charge for VAT is to be avoided it must be clear to all customers that they are not required to pay a tip or service charge.

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Honorary degree for chamber chief

WARRINGTON & Vale Royal Chamber of Commerce Chief Executive Colin Daniels has received an honorary degree from the University of Chester at their annual graduation day.

Mr Daniels, who lives in Thelwall and was also Chairman of Governors at Warrington Collegiate chairman until retiring recently, was honoured with the degree of Doctor of Business Administration, *honoris causa* at the ceremony at Chester Cathedral.

Mr Daniels was being recognised for his outstanding contribution to the university as a member of the university council and as chief executive of Warrington Chamber of Commerce.

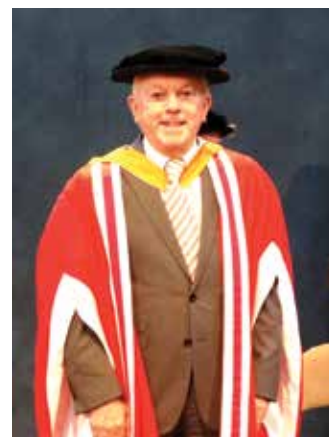
Chairman of the Corporation of Warrington Collegiate since 1989, he took a very proactive and strategic role, including the complete rebuilding of the college. He played a significant role in the successful transfer of the Collegiate's Higher Education provision to the University of Chester in 2002.

Mr Daniels served continuously on the board of the Colleges National Association, now the AOC, and was chairman of the National Employment Committee and the National Joint Forum for Further Education until 2002. He was one of the joint architects of the introduction of the flexible employment contract for the Further Education Sector. He is a former member of both the Further Education Governors National Council and the National Self-Regulation Group for Further Education.

He is a Senior Council Member of the University of Chester and a former member of the Court of the University of Salford. From 1978 until 2012 he was chairman of Governors of his village school, which featured in the top 8 per cent of schools in the UK. He served on Cheshire County Council's education committee from 1994 to 1999.

A past President and Treasurer of the Warrington and District Association of the National Builders Federation, and a former member of the North West Regional Council of the National Federation of Building Trade Employers, he is a Life Member of the National Builders Federation.

He is chairman of Warrington 2000+ Ltd, which owns and operates two office developments which act as



start-up and incubator units. He is deputy chairman of Warrington & Co (Regeneration) Ltd, which actively promotes the economic expansion and inward investment of Warrington.

Mr Daniels is chief executive of Warrington Chamber of Commerce and Industry that serves Warrington and Vale Royal, and chairman of Cheshire Chambers Enterprise Ltd, which serves the sub-region of Cheshire and Warrington. A director of Chambers of Commerce North West Ltd, he co-ordinates the work of the 16 Chambers of Commerce in the North West Region. He was very involved in the establishment of the Cheshire and Warrington Local Enterprise Council and is directly involved in a number of important sub-groups including enterprise, international trade and skills development.

Mr Daniels was both a borough councillor and parish councillor from 1977 to 1986, leader of the Conservative Group and chairman of the parish council.

In 1992 he was a Parliamentary Candidate at the General Election and, for five years, chairman of the Warrington South Conservative Association.

He served with the Royal Artillery in BAOR (British Army of the Rhine). His charitable work has included Cancer Macmillan Nurses, Ryfields Retirement Village and as a trustee of the Warrington Charities Trust.

Mr Daniels said: "I am delighted to receive such an honour."

Anyone for tennis?

STOCKTON Heath Tennis Club is organising a number of events to attract new members and promote the sport generally this summer.

On May 7, they plan to set up a mini tennis court in Alexandra Park and organise games for youngsters between 2-4pm. The park café will be open for tea and cakes and club members will be on hand to offer help and advice.

The club's annual open day will be on May 14 when the courts in Delphfields Road, Appleton will be

open to visitors who can join in games with members and sample the club's facilities, including tea and cakes in the clubhouse.

On Saturday, July 2 the club is joining in with the Stockton Heath Festival and plan to borrow a pop-up tennis court from Cheshire Lawn Tennis Association which will be set up on the festival field to promote the club and tennis in general.

Games will be organised and there will be a stand to give out details of the club.

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Jen follows her dream and launches new beauty salon



A NEW beauty salon has opened at Beehive House in Stretton offering a variety of services.

The Wonderland Salon has been opened by locally based Jen Colbourne. It includes a duo room to enjoy treatments with a loved one, friend or family member, a tranquil therapy room, a beauty room and a relaxation area. Jen said: "After working in beauty salons and teaching beauty therapy at college I decided after years to follow my dreams and open a beauty salon. "My vision was to open a salon that offers affordable luxuries and beauty maintenance treatments but in a spa like environment, offering treatments using high end products, carried out by passionate and qualified beauty therapists.

"We focus on quality over quantity and want to give 100% of our attention to each individual client."

Treatments are available throughout the week between Tuesday - Saturday and as a qualified teacher Jen also offers private beauty therapy training courses outside of salon opening hours.

They also offer a selection of Spa days when you can choose one of their packages or tailor make one to suit your individual needs or budget. Exclusive use of the salon can be arranged for that extra special occasion.

Chance to join Early Birds Swimming Club

BASED at Broomfield Leisure Centre in Appleton, The Early Birds Swimming Club was started 30 years ago by a small group of people who wanted to swim early in the mornings in a quiet pool.

They took a private booking slot from 7.45 – 8.30am Monday to Friday which they still use today.

The club keeps limited membership numbers to prevent overcrowding but are pleased to announce that there are openings now for new members.

The club has a relaxed, quiet atmosphere and is just about swimming, maintaining health and fitness and making new friends with like minded people.

Getting to the pool before the rush hour traffic gets under way and being able to swim before the working day begins are just two benefits. They also have retired members who find it a great way to start their day.

The health benefits of swimming are well known. A report commissioned by the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges concluded that 30 minutes swimming or other physical activity per day could reduce the chances on contracting serious diseases by 25 – 30%

NHS Choices recommends that to stay motivated – make it a habit. Join a club and set aside time every week to swim

For a free taster session please call Julie Mainwaring 07942 141614 or Bill Clay 01925 266906

What's on in the villages

May 10

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

May 17

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

May 19

GRAPPENHALL & THELWALL PARISH COUNCIL
Council Offices, Bellhouse Lane. 7.30pm

May 21

LIVE AT ST WILFRID'S
Chetham's School of Music. An evening of chamber ensembles and soloists performing with a string orchestra.
St Wilfrid's Church, Grappenhall, 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

COFFEE TIME, St Mary Magdalene's Church, Appleton, 9-11am.

COUNTRY DANCING CLUB

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

BRIDGE CLUB

Belong Warrington, Loushers Lane 7.20pm. Details: 01925 262534

LADIES' FRIENDSHIP CLUB

The Quays Community Centre, Thelwall New Road, Thelwall. 8pm. Details: 01925 264099

HIGH LEGH BRIDGE CLUB

Village Hall, 7-10pm. Rubber, Duplicate and Chicago played. 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

BOOK CLUB

Bizzie Beans Coffee House, Bridge Lane, Appleton 11am-12 noon

Every Wednesday

APPLETON HALL BADMINTON CLUB
September - May 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

Belong Warrington, Loushers Lane 7.20pm. Details: 01925 262534

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.

To list your event call Village Life on

01925 623632

APPLETON PARISH COUNCIL

STOCKTON HEATH PARISH COUNCIL

GRAPPENHALL & THELWALL PARISH COUNCIL

Village festival promises four days of fun

PLANNING is well advanced for the ninth annual Stockton Heath Festival – a four-day programme of events running from Thursday, June 30 until Sunday, July 3.

A varied and exciting programme of events has been arranged by festival events manager Andrew Renshaw, backed up by hard-working members of the committee.

The main festival site will again be on the QE11 Diamond Jubilee Field in Parkgate Road where an arts, crafts and farmers market will be held on Saturday and Sunday.

But there will be a wide range of other activities, including a magic and puppet show, a musical performance of The Jungle Book and "mad scientist" Professor Seltsam.

On Sunday there will be a fashion show, a dog show, classic cars and other events.

Closing the show each night on the festival field the main marquee will showcase a great line up, with the Swing Commanders playing 40s

and 50s swing and jump jazz on Friday night, soul and funk sensations Tripitaka, playing disco floor fillers on Saturday night and as a finale Abba's Angels performing an authentic tribute to one of the greatest bands of all time on Sunday night.

Other events organised in and around Stockton Heath and neighbouring villages include:

Thursday: the third annual primary school gospel concert at Hill Cliffe Baptist Church and a choral concert at St Thomas' Church.

Friday: an illustrated talk on local history at Appleton Parish Hall and musical theatre classics from Gemini Musical Theatre Company at St Thomas' Church Hall.

Saturday: an open-air production of "A Midsummer Night's Dream" at Grappenhall Heys Walled Garden and poetry reading in Stockton Heath Library.

Sunday: fruit and vegetable sale at Red Lane Allotments, canal trips and Songs of Praise at St Thomas' Church.

Other features throughout the festival include an art exhibition at St Thomas' Church and the village scarecrow competition.

More details: www.stocktonheathfestival.co.uk

IT man Paul celebrates 10 years in business



IT'S 10 years since information technology expert Paul Burton took the plunge and went self-employed – 10 years in which the IT world has changed enormously.

In that time we've seen the advent and growth of tablet computers, smart phones, smart TVs, high speed internet, social media etc. – enough to keep Paul's job interesting and very varied.

Now his Grappenhall Computer Services business is celebrating its 10th anniversary – and Paul is keen to thank each and every one of his customers for helping to make his venture a success.

In the beginning, he was working in Manchester and facing a daily commute that was eating into family time.

His many years in IT enabled him to identify a growing need from home users and small businesses for help with their computers.

Paul said: "I also recognised the value of being a mobile service as many people were unable to carry their computers to a shop. Being able to solve problems and offer advice on their premises also meant that I would ensure the computers were operating correctly in the environment they were being used in."

Still working in Manchester, he at first carried out his local work during evenings and weekends but as the workload expanded he decided – with the support of his wife, Angela, to make Grappenhall Computer Services his full time job.

He said: "Working within the local community has brought me into contact with a lot of people I would never otherwise have met and many longstanding customers have become friends. I have always placed great importance on having a strong customer service ethic and hope customers have always found me to provide a friendly, knowledgeable and reliable service."

In his spare time Paul keeps fit by cycling, plays the guitar and sings in local band The Retrobeats.



Revellers enjoying the sunshine and entertainment at last year's Festival.

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