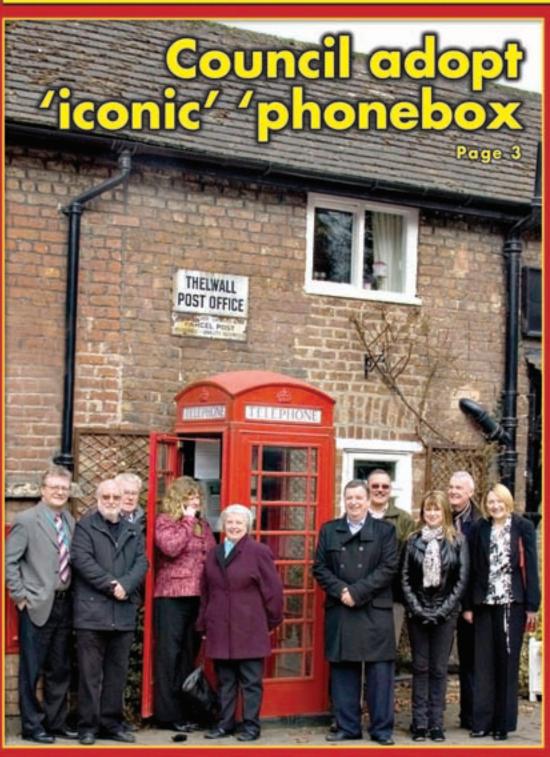


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# ditor's Comment



THE lack of public toilets in Stockton Heath is reported on elsewhere in this issue - and it is not the first time the issue has been aired in this column.

It now seems the battle to re-open the facility near The Forge shopping centre has ended – and ended in centre has enaeu — una control defeat. So we face the long term of the village having nowhere to spend a penny.

What will be the consequences? People of a certain age will tell you that the availability of public toilets is

one of their prime concerns when deciding where to go shopping. For many, the absence of toilets may be of more than just an inconvenience.

So these people - many of who are from that section of the community which has the highest disposable income - will shop elsewhere. Not good news for Stockton Heath!

The marathon takes place on April

25 and readers can sponsor David

by visiting justgiving.com and typing

# Marathon task for gardener David

his name into the link

SELF-employed gardener David Hepworth, 39, from Thelwall will put down his spade to take part in the London Marathon in aid of St Rocco's Hospice.

He has run in the race twice before and will be bidding to beat his best three hours and 36 minutes, which he set seven years ago.

He ran again three years ago but his time was affected because he had to start late because his train broke

David is running 60-70 miles a week training for the big event and is on a strict diet of sardines as well as indulging in chips, cheese, pies and

He hopes to raise more than £400 for the hospice

should make their private toilets available to the public and for some businesses this may well be possible. But many small shops are just not

It has been suggested that traders

But many small shops are just not designed to accommodate large, or even small, numbers of people wishing to relieve themselves.

The borough council, when it first closed the toilets, claimed it was necessary because of the unsavoury activities of a tiny minority of undesirable people. With its latest decision, to close the disabled toilets also, they have at least come clean also, they have at least come clean and admitted cost is the real issue.

At the end of the day, we, as a community, have to decide whether we are prepared to pay for public toilets. We pay up - or we shut up.

But the council isn't even giving us

that choice.



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#### Beer festival should not be missed

GRAPPENHALL'S annual beer festival will take place on Friday and Saturday May 14-15 – and promises to be an event not-to-be-missed.

There will be a selection of more than 35 real ales and ciders and live music on both nights at The Old Barn

music on both nights at The Cia Burnin Bellhouse Lane.

On the Friday, the event starts at 7.30pm while on the Saturday the doors open at midday. Closing time is not until midnight on both days.

Tickets and further details are available from 0871 237 2377 or by emailing beerfest@grappen

hall.com

# Council adopt 'iconic' phone box

# iSite support for St Rocco's

A LETTING agent is giving a 10 per cent donation to St Rocco's Hospice for every new residential letting they sign up in South Warrington.

iSite is a dedicated residential letting agent established five years ago and specialising

in the Warrington area.

Now one of the largest dedicated letting agents in the area with a managed portfolio of over 300 properties and regularly letting and re-letting 30 properties per month. iSite have continued to grow even through the past two years of recession and with the recruitment of two new posts (Property Maintenance Manager and Business Development Manager) now employ eight people. iSite is continuing to expand through continued quality of service that sets them apart for the more traditional estate agents and letting agents in the town

iSite Property Rentals has its focus clearly set on quality of service and while many are cutting corners to reduce costs, iSite remain one of the most competitive but probably the most thorough and attentive letting agents in town.

Continuing with their expansion plans is lite are pushing south and targeting areas in South Warrington (Grappenhall, Stockton Heath, Walton, Lymm) and North Cheshire. iSite have continued to support St Roccos and are donating 10% of their letting fee income to St Roccos for all new properties signed up in South Warrington.



GRAPPENHALL and Thelwall Parish Council have adopted an 'iconic' phone

box outside the old village post office in Thelwall village centre.

Coun Mike Biggin said. "This is such an important and iconic piece of street furniture and as part of Thelwall's landscape the Parish Council was most anxious to save it.

"We intend to adopt or sponsor it for future generations to enjoy".
Pictured with the phone box are (L-R) Mike Biggin, lan Fountain, Brian
Johnson, Wendy Johnson, Elizabeth Fountain, Dave Hockenhull, Paul
Wenlock, Janet Richards parish clerk, Cliff Taylor, and Elaine Welborn.



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# Spring in the air at Walton Gardens

SPRING is certainly in the air at Walton Hall and Gardens following the birth of three baby African Pygmy goats - including a rare tri-colour billy goat. The three youngsters are certainly proving to be a handful for Childrens Zoo Ranger Peter Cookson (pictured right).

Despite the bitterly cold winter the baby goats arrived on schedule at the beginning of March and will make their public appearance at Easter.

Peter is planning to run a competition for local school children to name the baby goats.

baby goats.

### Dog fouling complaint

DOG fouling is a problem in Stockton Heath and a risk to children according to

She told the parish council the problem was bad along a walkway near Greenbank Road.

"The dog mess in the area is terrible," she said.

Coun Dutton also complained about dogs running loose around Mill Lane Field. She said it was "terrible" as children were playing there.

Members agreed to report the problem to the borough council.



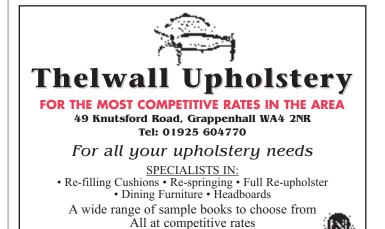






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Advertiser's announcement

# Travelling Australasia

By Michelle Crowder (Linda's daughter)

I have always wanted to travel and was drawn to Australasia. In 2008, I said goodbye to my wardrobe, shoes and straighteners and headed off with my 20Kilos, on a 24hour journey 'down under'.

What I realized was that while, like myself so many 'backpackers' head to Australia and New Zealand, they have something for everyone, hostels, lodges, hotels and even the new fad 'couch surfing'. Whatever you want to get from your experience there is a tour or some

your experience there is a tour or some other mode to help you achieve this.

My journey started with a 5\* stopover in Singapore, this would be the last bit of luxury I would see for a while!

When I arrived in New Zealand, I scoured the lonely planet looking for accommodation, as I didn't want to work for a while. Budget was best which meant that I was destined for ACB a hostel in the centre of Auckland which meant that I was destined for ACB a hostel in the centre of Auckland which was definitely a reality check after a few days of VIP lifestyle in Singapore, partying at Clarke Quay, and sipping Singapore slings at Raffles.

As I only had a limited amount of time

in New Zealand and wanted to see as much as possible. I decided to do a bus

friendly' companies-Kiwi Experience. This was a low cost way of touring, which meant that while you had control of timing, the driver did all the work-told me est sites to visit, what activities were available at each location, where photo opportunities were, when the next bank was, which accommodation was on offer, and even when the next toilet stop was! New Zealand has so much to offer, from amazing and diverse scenery, to extreme sports! I had an amazing time extreme sports! I had an amazing fitme spent visiting Maori villages, hidden coves, heli-hiking across the highest ice fall on a glacier, taking a dip in hot springs, ski-diving, doing a bungee jump at the original bungee site, Kawarau Bridge, white water rafting and swimming with wild dolphins & whale watching in Kaikoura.

After touring both islands and arriving back in Auckland, it was time to say good-bye to NZ and good-day to

Australia!

Australia completely different to NZ which did surprise me. But I was looking forward to a year of throwing shrimps on surfing barbie, and experiencing a night under the stars outback!

As I travelled up the East Coast via Greyhound Coach, I had the chance to go to Surf school, spend 3 days on Fraser Island doing a self-drive camping trip and chilling with the dingoes. The Whitsundays is a cluster of 74 islands in the heart of the Great Barrier Reef, here you can choose from a range of different sailing tours, which take you out to the islands and offer sailing, diving, snorkelling and a range of other activities around the beautiful sights.

Cairns is like Queenstown in the sense that it has so much to offer, whether you

that it has so much to offer, whether you want to dive the great barrier reef, ski-dive on the beach, white-water raft, head in to the rainforest or explore the nearby towns.

on the peach, white-water rath, read in to the rainforest or explore the nearby towns. From the East, I travelled to 'The Red Centre', where I did a 4 day tour of Uluru (Ayers Rock) and other sacred Aboriginal sites. It was after this I experienced the life of the 'True Aussie'. Darwin is in Australia's northern territory, it is the land of crocodiles and surrounded by a number of National Parks. I fell in love with the place and ended up spending almost a year there after my 3 month stint living and working on a pearl boat to gain another 12 month visal

Travelling across the Kimberleys from Darwin to Western Australia was one of the most amazing experiences of my life.

I did a 9 day tour in a 4WD and slept in a swag, next to a campfire under the stars surrounded by dingoes, kangaroos and

a swag, next to a camptire under the stars surrounded by dingoes, kangaroos and crocs-only freshies though so it was 'fine' apparently! The sights here words could not describe-scaling down the sides of a gorge to swim under a waterfall, swimming down a river surrounded by bats to sun bake on the rocks next to a Goanna is just unreal.



Linda Crowder - Stockton Heath Travel

Western Australia is completely different to the rest of Aus. With it's famous vineyards Margaret River and famous vineyards Margaret River and Swan Valley, it is a must for any wine connoisseur. Ningaloo Reef is between Broome and Perth and is right off the shore meaning you can grab a snorkel and jump in to be faced with the reef immediately and whale sharks and whales in the right season. Ningaloo is unspoilt by tourist as, for reasons unknown, it does not draw the masses like the Great Barrier Reef.

If you are interested in experiencing

If you are interested in experiencing the wonders of Australasia, then come and see Linda and the team at Stockton Heath Travel, experts at arranging holidays to cater for your individual expectations. Michelle is around to offer advice or tell you more about what Australia and New Zealand have to

Australia and New Zealand have to offer! Happy Travels!

Contact us for more details on 01925 269400 or email for your quote enquiries @islandvillas.co.uk. Why not pop in for a coffee while we prepare a quote for you.

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## Recycling centre to stay open

A CONTROVERSIAL plan to close Stockton Heath's Sandy Lane community recycling centre has been abandoned.

Town Hall chiefs decided not to go ahead with the closure - along with a similar recycling centre at Woolston when a number of proposed cutbacks were abandoned at the borough

council's annual budget meeting.
The proposals had caused a storm of protest from people in the Stockton Heath and Appleton areas who would have faced a trip to the Gatewarth recycling centre on the other side of Warrington had they gone ahead.

For people living close to the Sandy Lane site, however, the council U-turn was not so welcome

They have campaigned for years for the tip to be closed, but the absence of a suitable alternative site to serve the south of the borough has meant the site has stayed open



Campaigners at Stockton Heath

Youth bus saves residents from nuisance youths

RESIDENTS of Stockton Heath have been "saved" from the noise of nuisance youths thanks to a church bus.
Chairman Coun Peter Walker told the parish council that churches were providing a youth activity bus at Broomfields Leisure Centre which was attracting up to 120 youngsters a night.
Their behaviour was "fantastic", he said.

said.
PCSO Peter Crellin told members the leisure centre had been very helpful and were opening their all-weather pitch for

youngsters to use.

Many of the youngsters who had caused disturbance to residents by gathering in Alexandra Park, had now

gathering in Alexandra Park, had now moved on to visit the bus.

"Alexandra Park has completely died at the moment re youth activity," he said. PCSO Crellin said there had been noise complaints from residents living near the leisure centre. But disturbance was minimised as the bus left at 9pm.







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#### HAZELBANK, SANDY LANE, ANTROBUS

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In order to market your property, an estate agent must have a clear plan as to the most appropriate methods of communicating with potential buyers. This is only possible if there is a clearly defined and ongoing marketing plan which guarantees exposure on a regular basis. After all, why instruct an agent to sell your property if they do not have the plan or resources to market it to potential buyers?

At Ashall Glover we implement a rolling 12 month national marketing plan. To find out more about how we ensure that our clients receive the highest levels of marketing support visit our website www.ashallglover.co.uk

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#### What's On in the Villages

April 11 ART & CRAFT FAIR. Supporting the British Red Cross Appleton Parish Hall, Dudlow Green Road from 1.30pm

April 13 STOCKTON HEATH PARISH COUNCIL Sandy Lane Centre, 7.30pm

April 20 APPLETON PARISH COUNCIL Appleton Parish Hall, Dudlow Green Road, 7.30pm

April 22
LIVE AT ST WILFRID'S
London Concertante - one of the finest chamber
groups in Europe playing Strauss,
Francaix, Schubert.
St Wilfrid's Church, Grappenhall. 7.30pm.

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

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

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

Every second Monday

Appleton Parish Hall, Dudlow Green Road. 7.30pm

Second and fourth Monday WARRINGTON ART GROUP Bellhouse Community Centre, Bellhouse Lane, Grappenhall. 7-9pm. ST MARY MAGDALENE BINGO 2-3.30pm

Every third Monday STOCKTON HEATH FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY St Mary Magdalene's Church, Dingle Way, Appleton. 8 pm. Contact: Linda Pearson 01925 602803.

Every fourth Monday MARLFIELD WI Independent Methodist Chapel, Knutsford 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.

Second and Fourth Tuesday of each month TOCKTON HEATH & DIS am's Head, Grappenhall.

Every Wednesday Lymm Afternoon Bridge Club Appleton Parish Hall. 1.15-4.15pm

Every first Wednesday

Walton WI. St John's Church Community Hall. 7.30pm

First and third Wednesday each month NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS

Sandy Lane Centre, Stockton Heath 8pm. Details: 01925 268311 Every third Wednesday

HIGHER WALTON WI, St John's Community Hall Details 01925 262001.

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

Every second Thursday

SIREITON WI Appleton Parish Hall, Dudlow Green Road. 2.30pm.

Every third Thursday
NORTH EAST CHESHIRE FLOWER CLUB
Appleton Parish Hall,
Dudlow Green Road. 2pm
Details: 01925 740272.

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





# Police and public defeating the criminal

### THE police and the public are joining forces to beat criminals in Appleton and Stockton Heath.

In Appleton, a police crack down on a gang targeting expensive cars has been hailed a success and there has been hailed a success and there have been no burglaries reported since a team of marked and unmarked police cars started patrolling more than a month ago.

At Stockton Heath, police have reported that increased vigilance by residents has led to a reduction in string with only two burglaries.

residents has led to a feduciron in crime, with only two burglaries reported.

PCSO Peter Crellin told Stockton Heath Parish Council that during the previous month, 16 incidents of suspicious activity were reported by

The public.

He said: "They did not result in any crimes being uncovered, but it is reassuring to know that the public is prepared to report suspicious activity

to police."

During the month there were 10 incidents of anti-social behaviour, including two of youths gathering on The Forge shopping centre car park. There were nine thefts including shoplifting and theft from motor vehicles.

PCSO Dave Mahon told Appleton Parish Council that at the end of February and beginning of March, police had flooded the area in cars and on foot, stopping suspicious vehicles and quizzing locals for information.

He said: "The operation has been a success in that we haven't had any burglaries reported in the area for a

"We're still asking residents to be vigilant, make sure everything is locked away and to talk to their neighbours if they're going on holiday. But we're really pleased."

However, erring motorists continue to cause problems. Councillors were told that in just six hours of speed watch duties, police caught 73 speeders - 60 per cent of them locals. PCSO Crellin said: "These are not

people from out of the area but local people who obviously feel blasé in their own area."

### Socks appeal

AN appeal for socks for the troops in Afghanistan was reminiscent of World War One days according to a Stockton Heath councillor.

Coun Robin Wilson expressed surprise at the appeal from Cheshire Police at a meeting of the parish council

council.

He said: "This is like something from World War One. It sounds a bit anachronistic to be sending socks out to them - do they not get socks from the Government?"

Police are inviting people to a coffee morning at Stockton Heath Police Station on April 24.

The invitation states: "Our troops in Afghanistan are desperately short of a

Argnanistan are desperately short of a supply of fresh socks.

"We would like donations of socks - not just any old socks...they have to be large black and made out of towelling material. Please drop them off at Stockton Heath Police station. Any cash donations, we will use to buy new socks for the troops."

#### School run parents to be moved on

PARENTS who park on Bridge Lane in Appleton while dropping their children off at school could soon be "moved on" by Police Community Support Officers.

Residents there are fed up with school traffic which they say is ruining stress varieties their homes.

grass verges outside their homes.

Bob Swainbank, who lives on the road, asked Appleton Parish Council for help in tackling the problem which

he says is causing long term damage and potential safety issues.

He told how cars often mount the kerb on both sides of the road up Wood Lane and on to Cobbs Infant School.

He said: "It looks terrible and we they park is unreal and when we have politely asked them to move, the drivers are very insulting.

"One said 'Why are you so bothered? It's only a council estate' -

how do you answer that?
"What can we do? We're very worried about road safety as cars are parked on both sides and many of the owners open the doors onto the road to let their children in and out. We need these people to be more responsible."

Mr Swainbank has already been in contact with the highways department at the borough council, who have now offered to fill in the holes in the grass verges caused by the cars

But he said he feared parents would continue to park there and the situation would be just as bad again

Chairman Coun Dot Edwards said the council would ask Police Community Support Officers to patrol the area to see if they could help and suggested that Mr Swainbank continue to pursue the highways department.

### Pay freeze

STAFF employed by Stockton Heath and Appleton parish councils will not receive approved pay rises this year - because of the "economic climate."

The loint Employing Committee of

climate."

The Joint Employing Committee of the two councils has decided not to increase the salaries of the joint clerk and parish ranger from April, despite increases approved nationally.

Coun Peter Walker said that although the staff could not be rewarded "monetarily" due to the economic climate - their continuing hard work was "much appreciated."



### Triplets help launch charity appeal

STOCKTON Heath triplets Gabriella, Zachary and Alexander Jenkinson are helping front a garden centre's fundraising efforts for Ronald McDonald House at Alder Hey, as its charity of the year for 2010.

Proud parents Rebecca and lain Jenkinson have already experienced the care and support provided by Ronald McDonald House and to help celebrate the launch of the charity received some VIP treatment from Bents Garden Centre at Glazebury.

Following the huge success of the garden centre's 2009 charity appeal a raising over £7400 for Marie Curie Cancer Care - Bents has once again set itself a challenge and, with Rebecca, lain and the triplet's help,

Rebecca, Iain and the triplet's help, hopes to beat last year's total and raise enough money to buy 15 beds for the family arranged.

for the family support house at Alder Hey Hospital in Liverpool.
Gabriella, Zachary and Alexander were born in Dec 2009 and Alex was immediately diagnosed with a congenital heart condition; at the time of diagnosis he was just a day old. of diagnosis he was just a day old and was transferred to Alder Hey for intensive treatment. Having the opportunity to stay at Ronald McDonald House allowed the new

Alex during his time in care.

Now fully recovered, Alex and his family are back home and are helping Bents with their 2010 campaian.

Rebecca said: "We are delighted that Bents has chosen Ronald McDonald House as their 2010 charity and even more pleased to be invited to help out with their

"We received fantastic care and support from all the staff at the House, none of which could be done without constant fundraising as it is run on donations alone. To be able to stay on site at Alder Hey and be close to Alex when he was poorly meant so much. Bents raised a fantastic figure last year and we hope 2010 will be just as successful."

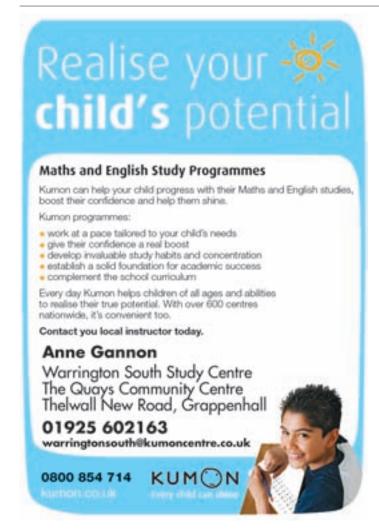
Matthew Bent, Managing Director of Bents Garden & Home added: "My family has had personal experience of the care provided by Ronald McDonald House so this year's charity is very close to my heart. We have set ourselves a target to raise enough money to buy 1.5 beds for the home so we need at least £5000.

"We look forward to being joined by Rebecca and her family at events throughout the year as our VIP guests and hope they enjoy being involved with Bents.

The Ronald Macdonald House at Alder Hey is the largest such house in the world and as a completely independent charity depends entirely upon voluntary donations.



Matthew Bent managing director meets Rebecca Jenkinson who has used the house with her nine week old triplets from left, Zac, Gaby and Alexander.









## Show goes on for **Bridgewater Players**

THE show must go on for a local "am dram" group who had to cancel their latest production after half the cast were forced to drop out.

Bridgewater Players had already started rehearsals for "Steel Magnolias" but just five weeks before opening night, the show had to be

Three of the six female cast leads heard about other commitments that clashed with the show and just couldn't be moved - including interviews for University places and work courses.

After a hasty "hands up" on who After a nasty nanas up on who was available, the cast will now perform 'The Ex Factor' from April 22 to April 24 at 7.15pm at Thelwall Parish Hall. The play is about a husband and wife who are trying to propule a bod and breakfurt against. open up a bed and breakfast against the odds - including an ex-wife, a hotel inspector and a Chippendale.

Group secretary Maxine Dixon said: "It was bad news for the production but positive news for those

individuals involved.

"This has never happened to us before but then we've not really had an all female cast before and we have quite a few younger members

now.

"The fact that we have younger members is great news for us and we're always looking for new players." of any age, but it does mean that these types of things happen. "We have a much shorter rehearsal

time for this production but I'm sure we'll get there. It will be a great show."

Anyone who bought tickets for Steel Magnolia's will be able to transfer them for the new production. Tickets for "The Ex Factor" cost £4 and are now on sale on March 16 and can be bought by calling 0845 331 2958 or emailing bwplayers@ ntlworld.com

### Special meeting on 20mph speed limit?

THE possibility of a 20mph speed limit throughout Stockton Heath village may be considered at a special meeting later in the year.

A call for cuts in the speed limit and the volume of traffic in the village was

A call for cuts in the speed limit and the volume of traffic in the village was made at a meeting of the parish council.

Members were considering Warrington's Local Transport Plan 2011-2026.

Coun Maurice Leslie said: "The council needs to move away from the idea that road traffic growth will continue indefinitely.

"We should be working for a reduction of traffic in the long term."

He suggested that a 20 mph speed limit should be introduced in the village. Slowing the speed limit would result in a better traffic flow.

Coun Leslie suggested that reducing the speed limit might encourage people to consider other modes of transport, such as cycling, or walking. In countries like the Netherlands there was more of a culture of walking and cycling in towns.

But Coun Sonia Boggan said reducing the speed limit would be "ridiculous."

There were enough problems trying to get people to stick to existing limits.

She said: "If you want to go on a bike at 20mph then do so, but don't expect people with four wheels to do the same."

Coun Peter Walker said that more information was needed and suggested a special meeting be held later in the year to discuss the plan.

special meeting be held later in the year to discuss the plan.

### Parking: "light at the end of the tunnel"

THERE is now "light at the end of the tunnel" regarding parking issues in Stockton

Heath according to Coun Celia Jordan.

She told the parish council she had met borough council officers to discuss

She told the parish council she had met borough council officers to discuss long term parking problems faced by residents.

People from Chapel Lane complained at the last meeting about not being able to park outside their homes. Similar problems have previously been reported by people from many streets near the village centre.

Residents complained that although some of the businesses have car parks, drivers do not use them and still park in the street. Many residents have been unsuccessful

residents complained that almogn some of the businesses have cat parks, drivers do not use them and still park in the street. Many residents have been trying to get residents' only parking for some years but have been unsuccessful. Coun Jordan said she had suggested echelon parking as operated in the streets behind part of Knutsford Road, Latchford. Streets were one-way and cars parked at right-angles to the kerb on one side of the street only.

But officers thought the streets in Stockton Heath may be too narrow for this. She said the borough council had now agreed criteria for residents' only parking schemes, and streets would be assessed against this.

"We are starting to see the light at the end of the tunnel," she said.

Coun Jordan said residents would pay an annual fee of \$60 for a parking permit if the scheme went ahead. Anyone parking without a permit would face a fixed penalty of \$60 to be dealt with by the enforcement officers.

She said the scheme would take up to five years to be fully operational and it is expected that several zones in Stockton Heath would be approved.

"Residents will at least feel that something is being done," she said.

But members were also concerned that if some roads were made residents only parking, the problem cars would move to other streets.

Coun Jordan said: "There will be all sorts of fallout and all sorts of flak from residents and businesses. People may say they are losing business - it is not all sweetness and light."

Chairman Peter Walker raid: "It may resolve some problems, it may again."

sweetness and light."

Chairman Peter Walker said: "It may resolve some problems, it may cause

others. We will have to consider it.

### Public toilet campaign ends in failure

THE campaign to re-open the public toilets at Stockton Heath appears to have ended in failure.

Not only are the men's and women's toilets at the

Forge shopping precinct to remain closed but the disabled toilets, which had remained in use, have now also been closed. Chairman Coun Peter Walker told the parish

council the borough council had decided the cost of re-opening the toilets was too high.

The door of the disabled toilet had broken and

the borough had decided not to replace it.
A sign directing people to the toilets is also to be

removed.

The parish council some time ago formed a working party to try to get replacement public toilets in the village. They won support from Appleton Parish Council. But their efforts were in vain.

Coun Stephen Taylor said: "We should have another meeting of the working

party.
"Now that the building is useless, we should have it removed and put the land

### Village festival to expand

THE successful Stockton Heath Festival is expanding this year to include Appleton

and Grappenhall.

Founder Coun Tudor Pole said the festival had been "extremely successful" and has raised £5,000 for charity during the past two years.

He told Stockton Heath Parish Council the plan was to make this year's festival, from July 8 to 11, "even better."

Coun Pole said: "We have a good, varied programme this year and will do Stockton Heath proud. We plan to widen the scope to include events in Appleton and Grappenhall."

Members approved a grant of £2,500 towards the event. Appleton Parish Hall will play host to three events during the festival Parish councillors agreed to the hall being used free of charge to host a talk on antiques, a charity musical

evening and a gardener's question time event. Appleton Parish Council will contribute  $\mathfrak L1,000$  towards funding the festival.



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### **Money Column**

### Recession-proof your business 10 top tips

Are you an entrepreneur who is concerned for the future of your businesses but have not had any plans in place to deal with potential risks from 2008 to current day. As the credit crunch has taken a further hold, research has revealed that four in ten i.e 38% of small companies do not have any procedures built in to cope with the risks which may threaten their business.

- business.

  According to the research the largest threats to small business, are as follows:

   competition 20%

   time and money spent on dealing with all the rules and regulations expected when you run your own business 19%, and
- the lack of ability to hire the right people also 19%,
  difficulty generating new business, and

possible problems securing finance These are the most likely business anxieties business entrepreneurs lose

Top 10 Tips on how your business

should cope with recession:

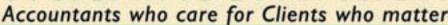
- 1. However optimistic things appear it is always advisable to have a "Plan B" case the business is hit by
- something unexpected
  Be pro-active don't wait for things to take a down-turn before putting plans
- Cash is king: have the best cash management approach it's simple and is the most important part of the business
- 4. Make sure all financial records are robust and up to date and you keep them stored safely. If you use software ensure you back up regularly and you store off-site as well as on-site
- 5. Keep in touch with the local business manager at the bank. It is sensible to keep them fully aware of the business' financial situation(s);
- 6. If you have any tax queries or you want

David Watkinson and Margaret Black

to know what can be done to improve cash flow and how to ease payments it is advisable to consult an adviser;

- Even if movement of your product/service is slow, always be in 7. Even charge of costs and know which are variable and can be acted on and
- for awkward prepared conversation you may have to have with suppliers, clients, customers, employees and financiers should the worst happen
- 9. Check your contracts of employment and identify who are the key members of your staff, in case you do have to trim back
- 10.Price your goods/services properly do not over-react to the market conditions, recognise whether demand is price-sensitive and do not give profits

The Money Column is provided by WatkinsonBlack Chartered Accountants 113, Orford Lane, Warrington.
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# Vision support from Miss Daresbury



NEWLY crowned Miss Daresbury Galaxy 2010 Catriona Cameron hosted a black tie ball in aid of Cheshire based charity 'Vision Support'. The event took place at the Grosvenor Hotel in Chester to raise funds for free

guipment, support and advice for people coping with blindness and visual

Catriona, who is also the current reigning Miss Cheshire, suffers from Irlens Syndrome, an eye condition which makes it difficult for people to read, so is

Syndrome, an eye condition which makes it difficult for people to read, so is keen to support the work the charity does.

After a three course meal and entertainment from, 'Casablanca Steps', local celebrity Mike James of Chester Dee 106.3 Radio stepped up as DJ. Guests then bid in a charity auction for items such as signed scripts and photographs from top films, limited edition signed football shirts and a unique record signed by the musical legend 'Michael Jackson'.

Catriona said: 'There was such a good atmosphere, the guests had great fun and were more than happy to dig deep with generous donations for the charity. "This is the first time that 'Vision Support' has staged an event of this scale. All the money raised will go directly back into the charity allowing 'Vision Support' to offer continued support within the local community."

To find out more about Vision Support and how you can become involved with the charity visit their website at www.visionsupport.org.uk

with the charity visit their website at www.visionsupport.org.uk

Please send your correspondence to: Village Life, New Media Centre, Old Road, Warrington WA4 1AT or email: info@warrington-worldwide.co.uk

#### **Public toilets**

I WRITE in reply to the letter from Mrs Brookes of Antrobus in respect of the lack

of public toilets in Stockton Heath (Village Life, March, 2010).

As both a parish and borough councillor I wish to assure Mrs Brookes that we have been trying for years to address the problem of the closed public toilets in Stockton Heath. It is even more unfortunate now the disabled toilet has had to Stockton Heath. It is even more unfortunate now the disabled toilet has had to be closed. I quote a letter from the Estates Manager at WBC dated 26.02.10 "I intended to write to advise you that the Disabled Toilet would be closed from 31.03.10 due to a lack of funding. Unfortunately the locks to this facility have been damaged and the cost of replacing these and the door are prohibitive". The Parish Council has tried to find a solution and considered the "cassette" type as seen at lymm Dam. This would cost £19,000 for one year's contract or purchasing for £72,000 plus £12,500 per year for maintenance and cleaning. Based on usage this would have cost abour £18 to "spend a penny"!

We have tried to find a business use for the building, hoping that the user would help to fund the toilets without success.

I am interested in the experience Mr and Mrs Brookes had in Scotland and we understand these schemes are working in Chester and Richmond among others. They are known as "Community Toilets" and we will ask traders to cooperate with us. There are more cafes and restaurants now so we may have some luck. Mrs Brookes' final comment that she may cease using Stockton Heath for shopping may help - we all want to find a way forward.

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