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Editor

Gary Skentelbery

Production

Paul Walker

Account Executives

Jan Baker James Balme Tony Record

Advertising

Freephone 0800 955 5247

Editorial

01925 623632

Email

info@warringtonworldwide.co.uk

Websites

www.culchethlife.com www.frodshamlife.co.uk www.lymmlife.co.uk www.village-life.co.uk www.warrington.tv www.warringtonworldwide.co.uk

Address

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Opinion

IT doesn't seem 12 months since we were reporting the axing of the mobile library service covering villages to the south of Warrington, the closure of Grappenhall Library and the efforts of local volunteers to provide alternative services.

Yet on Monday, April 16, the volunteers who run a book exchange at Appleton Parish Hall, are holding a "party" to celebrate their first "birthday."

There will be tea, coffee, cakes and biscuits and, from all

accounts, plenty to talk about.

The volunteers are from two local Women's Institutes and a local church and we are told they are doing a magnificent

Appleton Parish Council made the parish hall available, together with shelving for the books and this enabled the volunteers to swing into action swiftly after the mobile service ceased.

Hundreds of books are now available to borrow and the

number of titles is growing all the time.

But perhaps equally important is the social exchange that is taking place. The Tuesday morning sessions, in particularly, bring the parish hall to life, with tea, coffee and cakes on offer as well as books. New friendships have been forged and community spirit kindled in a way the mobile library could never have achieved.

The volunteers who, as we reported last month, re-opened Grappenhall Library, took rather longer to get their act together, because of the red tape which had to be cut through to enable the building to be transferred to the community.

But they too are finding the new voluntary service has a certain appeal that the old library struggled to create. Again, it is not just the books, but the camaraderie as well. We salute both groups of volunteers.

WE have always been a strong supporter of "localism" even before it became a buzz word for the present government. Indeed, one of this publication's main reasons for being is to champion local communities, the small towns and villages that make up so much of Cheshire.

So we applaud Knutsford Town Council's decision to join the pioneering Love Local Life campaign, which offers incentives to both businesses and customers to "shop local."

The scheme, the brainchild of businesswoman Amanda Fazelynia and supported by Cheshire East Council, offers shoppers a discount card which will give them savings at participating businesses. It was launched in November and is now available in eight towns, with more than 240 businesses involved.

In Knutsford, it is estimated about 30 businesses need to sign up to ensure the scheme's success locally.

Of course, it has always made sense to shop local. Big stores in far flung places may offer lower prices, but if they are more than a few miles away, travel costs will soon wipe out any savings made.

A discount card makes staying local even more attractive. It is to be hoped the scheme can be expanded to cover other

New kids on the block!



Rosie Barker, Sophie Knowles and Gracie Hague, who were all enjoying a day out at the former stately home of the Daresbury family.

The three nursery friends, aged three and four were thrilled to meet the tri-colour African Pygmy goats who were

all born on the same day.

Peter says the new arrivals will all remain part of the herd and he expects them to be a big attraction at Easter.

Top: Peter with local youngsters and the goats and above with the baby rabbits



Bigger crowds warning at Creamfields!

BIGGER crowds are expected at the Creamfields music festival when it returns for another three day music extravaganza at Daresbury near Warrington, with mixed blessings for those living in the area.

While electronic music fans will flock from Warrington and across the world to attend "the world's best dance festival" during the August Bank Holiday weekend, it will cause misery for many people living in the vacinity with the constant thud of music going on well into the night and traffic congestion.

Local Councillor Paul Kennedy said: "Creamfields has been granted a licence until 2013, and I expect there to be a further application for future years.

"It might be recalled that a couple of years ago, two Walton residents appealed the decision to allow the event, that appeal was rejected by the Judge and unfortunately substantial costs were awarded against those residents.

"The current licence allows for an increase in capacity from 50,000 in 2011 to 55,000 in 2012 and 60,000 in 2013 and there is, rightly, some concern with this substantial increase in numbers, and to put 60,000 in perspective, the adult

population of Warrington is in the order of 160,000.

"As always I will be working with the residents to ensure that their concerns are brought to the attention of the organisers, that the licence conditions are adhered to and that any breaches are brought to the attention of the Licensing Authority, Halton Borough Council, and that the Police take a firm line with festival goers who break the law.

"Finally, I hope that the lives of the residents whom I represent are not disrupted too much and that the event itself goes off without incident.

But for local electronic music fans they will be delighted Creamfields have secured some of their biggest DJ line ups and performers ever for the final fling of the summer.

Last year sold out nearly three months in advance and this year there is expected to be even greater demand.



New playground is a big hit

A NEW adventure playground for youngsters aged 8-15 has been officially opened at Walton Hall and Gardens by the town's Mayor Cllr Mike Biggin.

Within minutes of the ribbon being cut, the state of the art play area was packed full of families.

Playground equipment includes a cableway, basket swing, orbit roundabout and

multi-play unit and it's all housed on a soft pour cushioned rubber surface.

The brilliant new addition to the park came about after ongoing visitor surveys highlighted requests by children, young people and families for more play equipment suitable for an older age group.

In a joint venture, the council and Waste Recycling Environmental Limited (WREN), who both provided the £76,000 funding, together with the Friends of Walton Hall and other key partners, stepped into action and designed and delivered the playground.

Cllr Kate Hannon said: "People have put a lot of time, hard work and dedication

into making this possible and it all paid off when we saw all the families having fun on Sunday. I must thank everyone who has been involved in this fantastic

Richard Smith, grant manager for WREN Cheshire, Cumbria, Halton & Warrington, WREN, added: "The provision of quality play and recreational facilities make a real difference and I am pleased that the new adventure playground is completed at Walton Hall. The project is an excellent example of a dedicated friends group working with the council and park staff to create a facility that can benefit all users. I hope that the area will be used and enjoyed for many years to come."

The playground is a welcome addition to existing favourites on the estate such as the children's zoo, gardens and games areas.

Fancy a few days away in the UK?

We can book 2 night hotel breaks B&B with dinner included on your first night ie Stratford upon Avon from only £72.50 per person, the Lake District on a 2 night break with dinner from only £60 per person, Edinburgh from only £77.50 per person for 2 night break, Birmingham for only £49.30 per person for 2 nights with dinner on first night, Blackpool the same offer from £65 per person or Bouremouth same offer from £69 per person. We can book rail to go with the offers and also theatre tickets.

Another suggestion is a tour whilst in London:-

Harrods Champagne Tea & Tour Take your seat on board the Harrods Vintage double decker bus, the former 1960's routemaster bus has been beautifully restored and is the perfect way to experience London, if the

classic open top bus. A professional guide will take you around all the major sights of London, including Buckingham Palace, Big Ben, Westminster Abbey, London Eye, Nelsons Column, St.Pauls Cathedral, London bridge and the Tower of London.

Board a luxury Catamaran, to see

Board a luxury Catamaran, to see some of London's hidden treasures, including Cleopatra's Needle, Shakespeare's Globe and the Golden Hinde Boat. Back on board the Vintage Tour - the bus heads to Horseguards Parade to watch the World famous guard inspection ceremony, which takes place daily at 16.00.

weather is good they will use the classic open top bus. A professional

The tour ends back at Harrods for a Champagne Tea served in the famous Georgian restaurant where you can relax and enjoy the music from the live pianist while the waiters served delicious homemade scones served with strawberry Jam and clotted cream, a pot of Georgian blend tea and a glass of Champagne.

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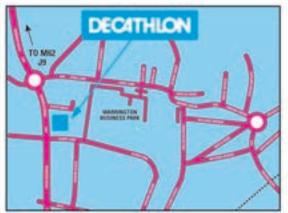




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Village Life



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Entries can be made by emailing to info@warrington-worldwide.co.uk entitled Decathlon Competition or by post card to Lymm Life Decathlon Competition, New Media Centre, Old Road, Warrington WA4 1AT. Please include your name, full address and a day time telephone number. The winning entry will be drawn randomly. Closing Date Saturday, April 14. Full Terms & Conditions available by request. Editor's decision is final.

For more information about Decathlon visit www.decathlon.co.uk



Double delight for Rose Queen

BEING selected Thelwall Rose Queen in the Year of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the London Olympics has provided a double

The Year Eight pupil from Lymm High School said: "I am really excited and honoured to be Thelwall's Rose Queen in this special year of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the London Olympics.

'My family has been involved with Thelwall Rose Queen celebrations for many years and I was an attendant in 2009."

Larissa's favourite subject at school is drama. She is also a member of Thelwall Guides where she is working towards gaining her 'Baden Powell' Challenge Badge.

Her main hobbies include roller skating and spending time with her family and friends.

Larissa added: "I can't wait for June 16, to wear my beautiful dress, see all my lovely attendants and all the decorated floats on the day.

'I hope the sun shines on us all and thanks to my family for their support and making my day special.'

Inquiry into village green dispute

A PUBLIC inquiry will be held into a long-running dispute over the future of a "green oasis" which local residents believe should be designated a village green.

Plans were approved four years ago for more than 50 affordable homes on the site, known locally as Cartwright's Field, off Chester Road and Montclaire Crescent, Stockton Heath.

But they have never been implemented because of a campaign by more than 200 local residents who claim the land should be a village green because it has been used regularly by the public since at least 1947.

A four-day inquiry, presided over by an independent barrister, will be held at the Pyramid Arts Centre, Warrington, starting on April 16. The final decision will be made by the borough council, acting on the advice of the barrister.

A storm broke more than four years ago when the borough council agreed to sell the field to Warrington Housing Association for a nominal £1.

This meant the council would secure £3.7 million from the Housing Corporation for the provision of affordable homes.

affordable homes.
Local resident Phil McConnell launched an action group to fight the proposals but the council subsequently granted planning consent for 51 houses, despite opposition from the residents and Stockton Heath Parish Council.
Residents claimed the field had been used for informal regression dog

Residents claimed the field had been used for informal recreation, dog walking, a children's play area, etc., since shortly after World War 2 and could qualify for village green status. More than 70 people have made statements saying they used the field regularly from 1947 onwards.

But the borough council caused more anger when it fenced the field off at a cost of £18,000.

Mr McConnell says the site has become even more of a wildlife haven since it was fenced off in 2009.

Stockton Heath Parish Council will be represented at the inquiry, supporting the residents' application for village green status.



Missing chapter in building's history

IT was in 1988 that the Groundwork Trust invested £100,000 in renovating the 17th century timber framed building that is now Knutsford Heritage Centre.

There was evidence of the building's previous use as a tinsmith, ironmonger and brazier, with a forge, anvil and set of bellows now all preserved and on display. But a small piece of the building's history was missing, despite

the best efforts of the charity which now runs the centre to protect and promote Knutsford's rich heritage.

In 1954 - the year that finally saw the end of food rationing in Britain following World War 2.- there was for a few short years a flourishing "unofficial" youth club operating in the building.

Also in that year, Knutsford College, the independent boarding school for boys at Woodside, closed its doors for the last time after more than a quarter of a century in the town.

Two local students acquired the school's table tennis equipment and, through a family connection, gained permission to install it on the upper floor of what they called "The Old Barn." The idea was, simply, for them to practice table tennis. But as other youngsters found about the new facility, demand grew for more activities and the two boys, showing

considerable entrepreneurial skill, started to put on silent film shows, ranging from Charlie Chaplin comedies to Alfred Hitchcock dramas. Hot and cold soft drinks were sold to provide funding.

funding.

An old record deck was installed on the ground floor and connected to an even older radio upstairs through which old 78rpm records could be played, with a "DJ" making announcements through a crude PA system. Paraffin heaters kept out the cold - and the club even launched its own newsletter.

Membership was around 20, although fortunately they probably never all turned up at the same time as it is doubtful if the floor would have taken the strain!

Eventually the club closed as its members - including the two original entrepreneurs - reached the age of 18 and were called up for National Service. As far as is known, the building was never used again, except perhaps for storage by the adjoining shop in King Street.

Renovating the building in 1988 meant complete reconstruction. But the Heritage Centre today is a faithful reproduction of what was there in 1954, except that then the access to the upper floor was by external stone stens

Knutsford had an "official" youth club, of course, through the largesse of Maurice, Lord Egerton, who still resided at Tatton Hall. But for a handful of youngsters, it couldn't compare with "The Old Barn."



■ The Heritage Centre as it is today.

TUPE what does it mean?

YOU may have heard the term and wondered what it means. It stands for Transfer of Undertakings, (Protection of Employment).

Put very simply, if you take over/merge with, and continue to run, an existing business, or part of one, or alternatively, are awarded a contract for services which was previously undertaken by another company, you also become the employer of the staff who worked in the other business or on the previous contract. This applies regardless of the size of the business/contract and whether you operate in the private sector, public sector or are a registered charity.

Transferred employees are legally entitled to retain both their jobs and their current terms and conditions of employment. There is the opportunity,

to the contracts, by agreement with staff, although the employees are protected by law from dismissal, either

protected by law from dismissal, either before, during ,or after the business, or contract, changes hands for any reason relating to the transfer. Both the previous employer (the 'transferee') and new employer (the 'transferee') are required by law to carry out certain duties to ensure that the employee's rights are upheld and the employee's rights are upheld and that relevant information is exchanged in good time. Employees are entitled to know that their employment is being transferred, who to and when, be told about anything that might

change as a result and to be consulted about the changes before they happen. Information relating to the terms and conditions of employment must be provided to the new employer at least 2 weeks before the transfer is

So if you are thinking about buying So if you are thinking about buying a business, or merging with one or are tendering for contracts, particularly those awarded by local government (special rules apply!), you need to be sure you know what you would be taking on before you sign on the dotted line as you may not be able to change things afterwards.





Kieron Hill Tel: 07879 551256 Email: kieronh@khes.co.uk

Last ditch bid to save care home

A LAST-ditch chance to save Knutsford's Bexton Court residential care home for people with dementia will come at a meeting on Friday, April 13.

Cheshire East Council's cabinet has approved the closure as part of a review to improve adult social care services across the borough.

But the decision has been "called in" and, as a result, the council's adult social care scrutiny committee, meeting at Westfields, Sandbach, at 9.30am, will consider whether the decision should stand.

Botton Court is currently not being used and hundreds of people including

Bexton Court is currently not being used and hundreds of people, including service users and carers, took part in a three month consultation.

More than 6,000 people signed a petition in support of retaining the facility, along with the Stanley Centre, for people with learning disabilities.

Cheshire East decided to retain the Stanley Centre but said there was "no business case" for retaining Bexton Court.

Shoppers get a chance to show loyalty

SHOPPERS in Knutsford are being offered the chance to show their loyalty to local, independent businesses through an innovative discount card scheme.

The Town Council has voted to join the pioneering Love Local Life campaign and the search is now on for about 30 local businesses to sign up to ensure the success of the scheme. Mayor of Knutsford Councillor Stewart Gardiner said: "This is a wonderful opportunity for businesses in Knutsford and I would urge them all to sign up and create a strong network that will help the town to thrive, even in these difficult economic times." The Love Local Life card is supported by Cheshire East Council. It was launched in Sandbach in November and is now available in eight towns. More than 240 businesses have joined the scheme and more than 28 000 discount cards are now in circulation.

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www.barchester.com

April 2012 Motoring

Another notch on the awards post

THE Audi A1 has earned another notch on its awards post by being named Best Luxury Small Car of the Year by CarBuyer's expert panel of road testers and reviewers.

Editor-in-chief of CarBuyer, Steve Fowler, explained: "The Audi A1 continues to be the best luxury small car for CarBuyer users. It's posh, but not too pricey, while running costs are super low. We love the way it looks, the way it drives and the quality for the cash is unbeatable."

The judges also highlighted the A1's "sleek good looks and an incredibly upmarket cabin" and build quality. The arrival of the more versatile five-door Sportback version means the A1 is now as practical as it is desirable.

It's the A1's second award this year and also its second consecutive CarBuyer award.

Prices for the A1 start from £13,420 OTR (1.2 TFSI 86PS SE model) and go to £21,810 OTR for the top of the range 1.4 TFSI 185PS Black Edition model.



WINE COLUMN

by Ruth Yates from





New Zealand, the full picture

My recent trip to New Zealand in January was just amazing, 3 weeks 36 wineries and 6 regional tastings later gave me an insight into a country that I would say is very new, very exciting, un-spoilt and completely underrated as far as I'm concerned. Modest in their approach to winemaking, most of which is organic or biodynamic and undiscovered when it comes to grape varieties.

Not only is this the most picturesque country I have ever been too, Lord of the Rings had it spot on I would say. No, this country has so much more to offer in terms of regionality, grape varieties and a style all of their own.

If you think it's about Sauvignon Blanc, but you couldn't be further away from the truth. This cool climate country is producing some wonderful European grape varieties that are punching way above their weight. The simplest of all is Chardonnay, a grape grown all over the world but it's roots are in Burgundy, France, where it produces fresh Chablis and full flavoured Meursault or Puligny Montrachet and I must admit there were many times when I closed my eyes whilst tasting and it took me right back to Burgundy. I just don't think New Zealand realise what they have here, the climate here makes elegant, divine Chardonnay with great longevity.

Other whites of interest were Gruner Veltliner, with its steely, mineral, citrus character, perfect for a warm summer day, Verdelho with its fruity, honeysuckle and guava character, great with food and Pinot Gris, traditionally from Alsace, France, and this low acid, full flavoured wine is moving away from the sweeter styles to dryer, fresher character. Now, we can't forget Riesling, a grape that produces such a variety of wines from bone dry to dessert sweet, most of the styles in New Zealand seem to be a little sweet but what comes over to the UK is mainly dry.

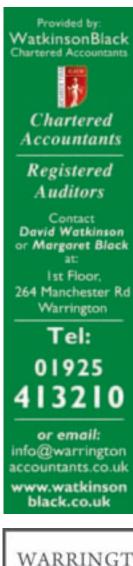
Now, you could be forgiven for thinking that all New Zealand Sauvignon Blanc tastes the same, that's because a lot of the big brands out there do all taste the same, high acid, raw fruit, lots of typical Cat's Pee character and not a lot of anything else. However, I was amazed at the variety here from region to region, with each winemaker trying to do something a little different, and boy are they succeeding.

On the reds you would expect them to make great Pinot Noir and yes, there's a lot of it around and it's very good when it's in the right region. Now, I like my Pinot true to its roots, Burgundian in style, and I must admit, most of what I tasted blew me away, especially in Martinborough and Central Otago, delightful, elegant styles that are right up my street.

I discovered a lot of Bordeaux Blends out there that were certainly great value for money and would have Pomerol and Margaux shaking in their boots. However, it was the Syrah that impressed me the most and Hawkes Bay was where my love for Syrah really got me excited, especially the Gimblett Gravels, not cheap but then neither is Cote Rotie or Cornas when you come to think of it and these wines certainly gave them a run for their money.

So, there's more to New Zealand than you think and my daily diary of where I visited and what I tasted can be viewed weekly on my Blog. 'My journey through an amazing country'.

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Money Column

Factsheet - Income Tax for Self-Employed and Directors

If you operate a business either as a sole trader or in partnership then you will need to register with the tax office to pay Class 2 NIC. Failure to do so within 3 months of starting to trade will result in an automatic penalty of will result in an automatic penalty of £100. If you become a director of a company, then you must register by 31st October following the tax year during which your directorship commences.

When do I need to submit a tax return and when are they due?

Essentially, if you receive a Notice To Complete a tax return then you must always complete a return and submit it by the due date. The due date for submission is 31st January following the end of the tax year if the return is submitted electronically, or 31st October if a para return is and if a paper return is used, eg

The Return for the year to 5th April

2012, must be submitted by:
• 31st October 2012 if submitted on

• 31'st January 2013 if submitted

electronically With only a very few exceptions, WatkinsonBlack will always submit tax returns electronically.

A Notice to Complete a tax return will be issued once you have registered with the tax office. They may not, however, cease to be issued once self

employment or your directorship ceases.

To repeat, if you receive a Notice To
Complete a tax return then you must
always complete a return and submit it by the due date.

When is tax payable?

We will calculate the total tax payable on the Return, and reduce this by any tax deducted at source to give a net tax liability. This amount, less any



David Watkinson and Margaret Black

payments on account, must be paid by 31st January following the tax year. Also, if the net tax liability exceeds £1,000 then 50% of this amount must also be paid on account of the following year's liability, with a further 50% being payable on the following 31st July.

The above is a brief summary of a very complex area. If you want any further advice on whether you must or should register for Self Assessment, or submit a Tax Return, then please contact

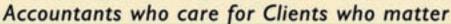
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■ David Mellor (left) with Ian Sprott.

Camera club clicks with new members

FIFTEEN new members were signed up by Grappenhall-based Warrington District Camera Club during a very successful year, members were told at the

Total membership is now more than 50, the meeting was told. During the year, the club purchased a considerable amount of equipment that can be used by members.

Competition judges had on many occasions commended the club on the quality of members' images.

Prizes for overall winners in competitions in the year were awarded.

Competition secretary Ian Sprott presented Tony Smith the WDCC club shield. There was also an honour for David Mellor, runner up. He was awarded a certificate from the Lancashire and Cheshire Photographic Union as one of his images was judged last year to be one of the best in region.

The club meets at Bellhouse Lane, Grappenhall every other Monday right through the year and can be contacted on 01925-653244 or through the website www.thewdcc.org.uk for more details.

Cup triumph for Grappenhall



GRAPPENHALL Sport FC U18s are celebrating after winning the Youth District FA Cup Final beating Witton Albion 2-0.

Joel Chaderton captained the team to victory with first half goals coming from Luke Gillooly and a penalty by Jon Ustabasi.

The final was played at Barnton FC in windy conditions.

The team is managed by Steve Ball and sponsored by Epica Health & Safety

Team: Lewis Clubley, Zak Stretch, Conor Sollitt, Joel Chaderton, Joe Woods, Joe Watson, Luke Gillooly, Jon Ustabasi, Sam Hartford, M Ball, Richard Marshall, Joe Ritchie, Sam Lister, Mark Napier-Hemy, Liam Burleigh.

What's On

in the Villages

April 1 EASTER CRAFT & FUN DAY Victory Hall, Mobberley. 10.30am-4pm Details: 07813 927103

April 3 STOCKTON HEATH FLOWER CLUB

Demonstrator: Liz Broad. Appleton Parish Hall, Dudlow Green Road. 7.30pm

April 10 STOCKTON HEATH PARISH COUNCIL Sandy Lane Centre, Stockton Heath. 7.30pm

April 12 LIVE AT ST WILFRID'S James Turnbult and Elizabeth Burgess, oboe, Cor Anglais and piano, play Clara Schumann, Brahms, Mendelssohn, Chopin, Vaughan Williams, Rubbra and Ponchielli. St Wilfrid's Church, Grappenhall Village, 7.30pm

April 17 APPLETON PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Hall, Dudlow Green Road. 7.30pm

Every Monday THE EVERGREENS Senior Citizen's Club Bellhouse Community Centre, Grappenhall. Details: 01925 261381

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

BRTDGE CLUB

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

LADIES' FRIENDSHIP CLUB The Quays Community Centre, Thelwall New Road,

8pm. Details: 01925 264099

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

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

MARLFIELD WI Independent Methodist Chapel, Knutsford Road, Grappenhall. 7.30pm

Every Tuesday COFFEE MORNING

St Cross Church, Appleton Thorn. All welcome. 10am-12 noon

COFFEE MORNING

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

Second and Fourth Tuesday of each month STOCKTON HEATH & DISTRICT LIONS

Ram's Head, Grappenhall.

Every Wednesday APPLETON HALL BADMINTON CLUB Starting April at Hall Drive, Appleton. 8-10pm. Details: 01925 262356

First and third Wednesday each month NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS Sandy Lane Centre, Stockton Heath. 8pm. Details: 01925 268311

STOCKTON HEATH PROBUS CLUB Warrington Sports Club, Walton Lea Road, 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

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.

Every third Thursday NORTH EAST CHESHIRE FLOWER CLUB Appleton Parish Hall, Dudlow Green Road. 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





Drama groups merge

A well known drama group has folded after a lengthy struggle against the problems of dwindling audiences and membership.

The Playmakers - formerly known as Stockton Heath Playmakers - was founded in 1946 and had presented more than 160 plays.

Six years ago they moved out of Stockton Heath to new headquarters at Cinnamon Brow Farm, Fearnhead.

But their audiences failed to follow them across town in sufficient numbers.

Now the decision has been made to amalgamate the group with the Thelwall-based Bridgewater Players, which itself has been established for more than 60 years, and presents three plays a year

Bridgewater Players chairman Ian Hornby and the last Playmakers chairman Norma Dransfield said in a statement: "It's always a pity when a group has to fold, but the Playmakers have been made well at Bridgewater Players."

Members of both groups figured in a successful pantomime, "Aladdin Dot Com" and the combined group is now looking forward to their next production, "Children's Day", a hilarious comedy by Keith Waterhouse and Willis Hall, which will be directed by Norma.

Holidaying in Italy this year?

A beginners' course in the romantic Italian language starts at Grappenhall Community Centre including a free taster session.

Starting in April, it involves 13 lessons on Tuesday evenings, 12x2 hours plus a free taster.

The course is being run by experienced tutor, Francis Egerton, who has a BA hons. in Italian (London University) and has lived, taught and travelled the peninsular for five years, experiencing the culture, administration and food. He taught Italian at Newcastle under Lyme College for six

The course is mainly speaking and listening with very little writing. There is NO examination.

It covers greetings and conversations in the restaurant, bar, buying tickets, tourist office, shopping, directions etc.

This enjoyable course has a lively friendly atmosphere with opportunity to meet and make friends with people with a common interest.

To reserve a place on the course taster session and to make further enquiries please call 07794306416 or Email: fran300835@talktalk.net.

Stockton Heath Lawn Tennis Club

Welcomes new players of all ages and abilities

Season starts 1st April Club Open Day 22nd April

Contact membership secretary 07587 265215 samantha839@btinternet.com

Despite an increased membership arising from the merger, Bridgewater Players are still on the lookout for new members who want to get involved either on stage or behind the scenes. The group meets each Tuesday at Lymm Village Hall and every Thursday at Thelwall Parish Hall. Anyone interested in joining should call Ian Hornby on 01925 485605 or visit the website www.bwplayers.co.uk

Members of the society also form the basis of a murder mystery group, Dying 4 Dinner.

💶 ITALIAN BEGINNERS' COURSE 👊

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Meet your MP David Mowat

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

David Mowat

Member of Parliament for Warrington South

ww.davidmowat.org

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PRINTER CONSUMABLES



PUBLIC NOTICE

Easter Craft and Fun Day Sunday 1st April 10.30am - 4pm

Victory Hall, Mobberley, WA16 7JQ.

Plenty of stalls to tempt, treat, amuse and delight everyone, plus hands-on craft workshops for the kids. Details, call Helen on 07813 927103.

PIANO LESSONS FOR ADULTS. Daytime lessons for anyone over 16. No upper age limit. £10 per half hour lesson. Qualified teacher, over 30 years experience. Ring 01925 571670 for more information.



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