

# VILLAGE

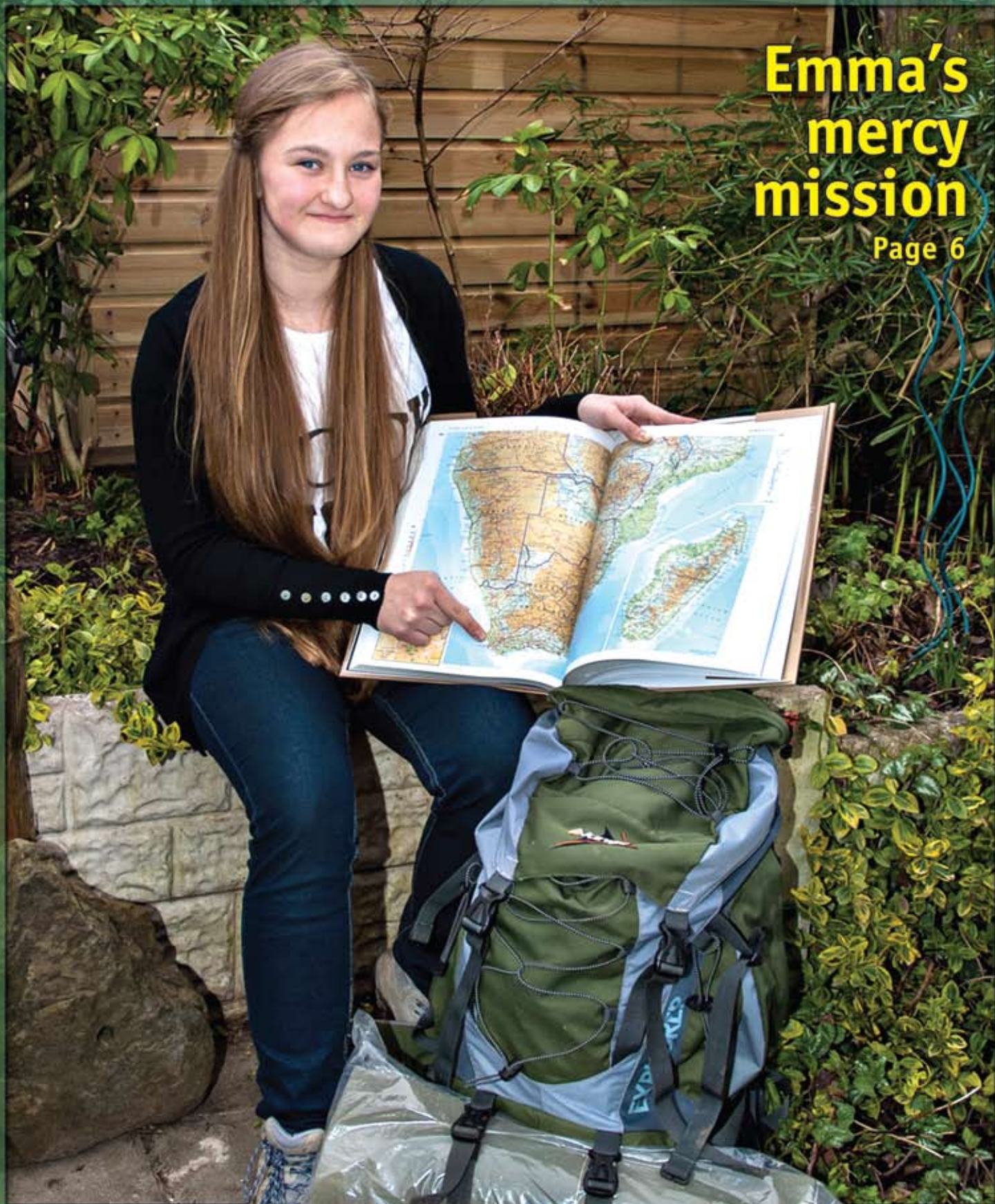
Cheshire's Community Magazine

# life

Issue 145 April 2013 FREE

  
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## Emma's mercy mission

Page 6

# Meet your MP

## David Mowat

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**David Mowat**  
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However, there is a finite supply of gold in the market. And demand for gold is high.

The Central Banks, have been diversifying their liquid assets away from US Dollars into Gold, The Chinese Central Bank has said, 'We want a reserve currency. We are going to continue to accumulate

# 'Know your village' quiz

CHILDREN from two primary schools in Stockton Heath are to be tested on their local history knowledge in a heritage quiz dreamed up by a local councillor.

Pupils from Stockton Heath Primary School and St Thomas' CE Primary School, will be asked to identify prominent local buildings and landmarks from a set of 32 photographs taken by Cllr Graham Roughsedge.

The former police officer knows the Stockton Heath area well and came up with the "Know Your Village" competition as a means of getting local youngsters more interested in local history.

He said: "The children will be asked to name the buildings and say where they are. The landmarks are all on a defined route around the village, and another aspect of the competition will be road safety. Pupils will have to have a responsible adult with them as they go around."

Entries to the competition will be judged by members of the parish council with monetary prizes for the best three entries from each school.



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# Opinion

## ANOTHER year, another plan for a disused rugby ground at Appleton.

Warrington Rugby Union Club has put forward proposals for 55 houses on the ground off Bridge Lane, which is rather less than their last suggestion, but still quite a few considering the constraints of the site.

The new plan did not exactly find favour when the club gave a presentation on it at the monthly meeting of Appleton Parish Council.

Local residents gave it the thumbs down, just as they did on the last occasion. They are worried about the traffic implications for Bridge Lane but also see the scheme as an attempt by the club to make money from the development of land they do not own but control by virtue of a long lease for which they pay a peppercorn rent.

The club deny this, of course and it is not for us to dispute their claim.

But it does seem a shame that a first class sports ground has been standing idle for years when local amateur football and rugby clubs are crying out for facilities.

Is it too much to ask that the

various people involved - the club, the residents and Warrington Borough Council, who own the land - get their heads together and come up with proposals acceptable to all?

## ANOTHER year, another master plan for Knutsford.

This time one suggesting 600 new homes, which is rather less than was proposed last year in Cheshire East Council's draft strategy for the town

It is early days yet and, of course there is no reason to believe the new scheme, drawn up by Tatton Estate Management and Crown Estates - the two biggest landowners in town - will eventually be adopted. That will be a matter for Cheshire East.

But we prefer the look of the new proposals which seem to respect Knutsford's heritage and the existing landscape rather more than earlier suggestions.

For instance, Knutsford Football Club would not be moved from their present ground in Manchester Road.

The club can trace its origins back to 1888 and while in its early days in played on The Heath and at Mere Heath Lane, it has been in Manchester Road for at least 60 years.

Similarly, Knutsford Sports Club would remain at its present ground in Mere Heath Lane, where cricket has been played for more than 100 years.

Equally important, the new master plan makes provision for a rugby ground further long Mere Heath Lane, which should put an end to the controversial suggestion that the rugby and cricket clubs should share the same ground.

The Egerton Youth Club would also be undisturbed and there are proposals for new facilities for golf and bowls.

All of which would bode well for the town's sportsmen and women.

# Walking backwards for Red Nose Day



■ Pupils walking backwards for Red Nose Day.

PUPILS from St Matthews' CE Primary School, Stretton were backward in coming forward when it came to thinking up ways of raising money for Comic Relief on Red Nose Day.

The youngsters, aged five and six, decided to walk backwards to school - accompanied by school mascot Mat-tie.

The stunt raised plenty of smiles and more than £1,200 as well!

Meanwhile, down the road at Appleton, staff at computer peripherals firm Flextronics raised more than £1,000 for the charity.

There was a "bake off" to find the best baker on site and the day was designated a "bad shirt day" as staff donned their red noses and got into the spirit of things.

Cake sales, face painting and individual donations meant that staff raised £523, which was matched by

the company to give an overall total of £1,046.

General manager, Mike Meades said: "It's always nice to get involved in raising money for charity and our staff were particularly creative with their ideas this year.

"There were some very impressive cakes on show and whilst I can't say the same for some of the shirts, we're really pleased to have raised a good total for Comic Relief."

# Village festival comes early - and promises even more!

THE annual Stockton Heath Festival will this year, for the first time ever, be held in June - a full fortnight before the traditional village Walking Day.

When the festival was launched, six years ago, it coincided with the 100-plus-year-old Walk. But last year the two events were separated - without affecting support for either.

This year, the festival will span four action-packed days from June 20-23 while Walking Day will be on Saturday, July 6.

The festival team is now headed by co-directors Sue Clarke and Deborah Cook, following the retirement of founder Tudor Pole.

Great things are planned, building on the success of last year when record numbers of people visited from all over Cheshire and beyond and most shows sold out.

A wide range of entertainment has been lined up and the festival's main site will again be in Mill Lane, but with some events taking place in other surrounding areas.

Sue Clarke said: "We have a bumper programme this year as we want to

appeal to all ages and interests. Our aim is to provide a variety of high quality shows and events. It also gives people the chance to have a great local night out at very reasonable prices. Most of all we want everyone to enjoy themselves."

Events manager Andrew Renshaw said: "There will be a mixture of festival favourites returning and some new ideas. We have a wide choice of shows and concerts each evening. This year we will be having lots more free family entertainment on the Saturday and Sunday daytime."

Drama, music, heritage and special interest events will feature strongly.

During the day there are local history and genealogy talks on Thursday and Friday. For the children there is a production of Charlotte's Web on Saturday afternoon and the return of Presto Puppets on the Sunday.

Each evening is offering three contrasting events, catering for different tastes.

Thursday night June 20 has the Managers Big Band in the marquee, the Orpheus Male Voice Choir in concert at St Thomas's Church and



■ Sue Clarke.



■ Deborah Cook.

the Comedy Night at the Cape.

Friday night has Showtime with CODYS and Priestley College Performing Arts Students in the marquee, a Folk Evening in Appleton with Bram Taylor and the Country Folk and comedy drama from the Stockton Heath Methodist Drama Group.

Saturday night has a Ceilidh in the marquee, Oddsocks in the walled garden at Grappenhall Heyes performing Shakespear's "The Comedy of Errors" and a pop up cinema at Appleton showing Oscar winning film The Artist.

For the grand finale on the Sunday night top Queen tribute band QE11 will be rocking Stockton Heath.

There will be an art exhibition at Grappenhall, where local artists can display and sell their work. There will be a preview evening on June 19 and the exhibition will be open June 20-22.

Arts and Crafts and Farmers Markets will be held on the Saturday and Sunday and the popular scarecrow competition will again take place around the village with the public able to vote for their favourite.

There will be boat trips on the

Bridgewater Canal from Thorn Marine, the allotments at Walton will be open to the public and a family fun dog show run by The Merseyside Retired Greyhound Trust will take place on the Sunday.

A grand draw will give people an opportunity to support the festival and win great prizes.

The festival will be supported by Stockton Heath and Appleton Parish Councils and a large number of local businesses.

A number of charities and other good causes will benefit from the festival including Macmillan Nurses, The Merseyside Retired Greyhound Trust, Grappenhall Walled Garden, RSBP, The Credit Union, Walton Lea Project and Marie Curie. Another local charity, still to be announced, will get the money raised at the finale night raffale.

The festival team would welcome more help from volunteers and anyone who wants to get involved should contact Claire at volunteers@stocktonheathfestival.co.uk

More details are available from the website [www.stocktonheathfestival.co.uk](http://www.stocktonheathfestival.co.uk)



## Solicitors have a hoot for Red Nose day

STAFF at Cheshire solicitors Forshaws Davies Ridgway got funny for money and raised £370 for BBC's Comic Relief charity.

More than 100 solicitors, secretaries and clients at all the firm's offices in Warrington, Stockton Heath and Frodsham got into the comedy spirit by dressing in red, buying cakes and raffle tickets and taking part in a Guess Who baby photo competition. Raffles prizes were donated by Warrington Wolves and Neuhaus Chocolates.

The event was organised by paralegals Tara Cavanna and Jeyran Abson.

Tara said: "It was a fantastic effort from everyone in the practice. The cake sale and the embarrassing baby photos were particularly popular and we were really pleased to raise so much for such a worthwhile charity."

■ What a hoot! Forshaws Davies Ridgway secretary Hannah Davies models the 2013 red nose.

## Love food — hate waste

THE Love Food Hate Waste campaign is a national campaign to help people make the most of the food they buy, helping to save money, reduce waste while enjoying food whilst it's still at it's best.

Did you know each year the average family with children wastes £680 on food that could have been eaten.

There are two main reasons why people throw food away, they cook or prepare too much, or they don't use it in time.

Check the dates on the food - the 'use-by' date is key in terms of food safety - never eat food after this date. However it can still be frozen right up until the 'use-by' date.

The 'Best before' date refers to quality and food can still be eaten after this date.

By planning meals, writing a shopping list, cooking the correct portion sizes, storing food correctly and cooking leftovers people can waste less food and save money.

The Love Food Hate Waste website has lots of useful information. Try the on-line portion calculator, get ideas on how to produce a meal, plan for the weeks ahead and get tips on how to make fruit and vegetables last longer. There's even a recipe finder, so cooking with leftovers has never been tastier!

Visit [www.lovefoodhatewaste.com](http://www.lovefoodhatewaste.com) to find out how to save money and waste less.

# New Zealand/Australia Maui Campervan Experience

We were fortunate to have the Maui Campervan on 20th March 2013 10am til 2pm in the carpark of Grappenhall Community Centre, Bellhouse Lane, Grappenhall. I would like to say thank you to the Manager and staff of the Community Centre for all their help.

We were fortunate to spend time to experience first hand the facilities the Campervan had to offer.

Whilst in New Zealand or Australia a campervan can give you the flexibility to tour at your leisure, staying in one area for as many nights without being tied to a hotel booking

Why would you choose a campervan:- it is designed for apartment living on the road, providing you room to live with style and comfort plus all the extras All vehicles are quality European Mercedes or Volkswagen models. The services included are valet service, linen exchange, express return, LPG bottle swap, ipod connectivity, GPS included in all rentals, automatic transmission, 24/7 Customer Care if you need a helping hand, Ecro-accreditation . You can chose from a 2 berth upwards, they include genuine leather couches, fridge/freezer, gas stove, microwave, external slide out BBQ on some models, toilet & shower, slide out LCD TV and DVD player, Awnings on some models, storage for your suitcases etc. There is apartment style kitchen equipment ie crockery, cutlery, glasses, pans, electric kettle, microwave, includes all bedding, towels, tea towels etc Plus other useful items eg pegs, matches, some toiletries, clothes hangers etc

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# Emma's African mercy mission

AN Appleton schoolgirl is busy raising funds for a trip to South Africa in July, where she will join a team working at an orphanage.

Emma Flanagan, 14, of Bridgewater High School, needs to raise £700 for the two-week trip. She is busy fundraising with schemes such as baking and selling cakes and a sponsored walk on April 9.

Her family, mum Denise Charlesworth, dad Andrew Flanagan and brother Matthew are all helping with the fundraising.

Emma attends the Bright Sparks Youth Club at St John's Church, Wilderspool Causeway. She heard about the trip when a speaker from the organisation Agape, who run the Christian orphanage in the Cape Town area, attended her church.

The family, of Landseer Avenue, Warrington, are all proud of Emma. She wants to give the children a gift when she leaves the orphanage, so family friends are making friendship bracelets for her to take. Emma will be allocated a task, ranging from painting and decorating to working in the classrooms, when she gets to South Africa. Mum Denise said: "We're really inspired by her decision - she will be the youngest on the trip. She's amazed me at wanting to do this and for someone of her age to make this commitment is fantastic."

Emma hopes to be an architect when she leaves school and will soon be doing a two-week placement in an architectural office. In her spare time she enjoys boxing, acrobatics and is a guide leader.



## Manchester's iconic schools take to road

Manchester's three iconic schools – The Manchester Grammar School, Manchester School for Girls and Withington Girls' School – have teamed up this year to run a series of roadshows throughout the North West.

They will be in Warrington at the Halliwell Jones Stadium on Wednesday 1 May.

Anyone who lives in the area and interested in educating their son or daughter at one of the three schools is invited to attend the event and meet pupils, parents and staff who live in their area and travel in each day utilising the

excellent transport links available.

During the evening The Manchester Grammar School will be hosting an informal panel of pupils and parents, who will answer questions from the audience.

There will also be plenty of opportunity to meet the children, parents and staff before and after the Q&A session.

The event runs from 6:30-8:30 pm and children are most welcome to come along. To reserve your place or find out more information please email Sally at s.rogers@mgs.org.

## Bats, newts and a dead badger defeat housing plan

IT was a plan to build four houses in the grounds of a historic farmhouse, which would blend in with a conservation area and enhance a picturesque village.

Planning officers believed it should be allowed to go ahead - after all, permission had already been granted for two nearby barns to be converted

into dwellings.

But the scheme at The Bridge House, Stockport Road, Thelwall upset nearby residents and councillors.

They enlisted the aid of bats, great crested newts, a dead badger and even memories of the navvies who built the Manchester Ship Canal around 1887 to fight the proposals.

Grappenhall and Thelwall Parish Council opposed the scheme - only the fifth time they had recommended a planning refusal in three years.

Around 50 people opposed the scheme - and finally it was refused.

Planning officers said the houses would be designed to reflect the local vernacular, following an appraisal of

the character and style of existing properties.

They believed they would make a positive contribution to the contribution of the Thelwall Village Conservation Area.

Only four trees would have to be felled - and they would be replaced by 19 new ones.

But objectors produced evidence of bats in adjacent barns and said it was believed great crested newts bred in a nearby pond. A mammal track was found across the site which may indicate the presence of badgers - particularly as a dead badger was found nearby, victim of a road accident.

Cllr Dave Hockenhull, of Grappenhall and Thelwall Parish Council, said the land surrounding The Bridge House was a haven for wildlife.

It also contained a historic bothy, which had housed navvies constructing the Manchester Ship Canal and which would be lost forever if the development went ahead.

Borough planners visited the site before reaching a decision - and voted 4-1 to throw it out.

# The three great schools of Manchester are coming together to host a Roadshow at the Halliwell Jones Stadium in Warrington on Wednesday 1st May

**This is a wonderful opportunity for anyone who is interested in educating their son or daughter at one of the three iconic schools in Manchester, all of which are renowned centres of academic excellence.**

Academic results are among the very best in the country and students go on to study at some of the most prestigious universities in the world.

Come along and meet pupils who live in the Warrington area and travel into their respective schools together each day utilising the excellent transport links available. Staff will also be on hand to answer any questions.

**Space is limited so please email Sally-Anne Rogers at [s.rogers@mgs.org](mailto:s.rogers@mgs.org) to reserve your place(s), or if you would like further information.**

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# Girl who dreamed of being a dragon tamer!



A GRAPPENHALL girl has won a regional writing competition - with a fantasy story about becoming a dragon tamer.

Madgey Thompson has become a regional winner for Kip McGrath Education Centre's national competition Dream a Big Dream. The competition was open to 9-14 years olds who were invited to write about their dreams for the future whether they wanted to save the rainforest, fly to the moon or become a world-renowned author. Madgey's entry was a dream of pure fantasy in which she explained how her big dream was to be a dragon tamer and that she wanted to set up a fictional version of the RSPCA that could campaign against cruelty to dragons.

Madgey said: "I'm so pleased that my big dream has been selected as a regional winner. I'd never really spent anytime thinking about what my dreams for the future might be but winning the regional competition has inspired me to hold onto my dream and go for it."

Over 200 Kip McGrath Education Centres were involved in the competition with many offering writing workshops for local children. Madgey attends the Kip McGrath Warrington centre, on Bewsey Road. The owner, Joanne Manfredi, said: "All young people should be encouraged to have a big dream. By working with aspiring children everyday, Kip McGrath teachers experience first hand the potential children have to do great things."

Madgey will now join the other 14 regional winners shortlisted to wait and see who will be selected as the two overall winners and get national recognition for their big dream. The results of the national competition will be announced at the end of March 2013.

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# Abby heads to world's top college for nannies

A 17-year-old student from Appleton Thorn has realised her dream to be accepted into the world's top college for nannies.

Abby Mellis, will start at Norland College, Bath, in September. Currently, she is studying childcare at Priestley College in Warrington.

She said: "I've volunteered at nurseries, babysat for family and been an au pair in France to get the experience I needed so I am over the moon to have made it."

At Norland College, students still wear the respected uniform and receive the very best early years education and training.

Norland has been running courses since 1892, boasts its own Norland Diploma qualification and is recognised internationally as the best in its field.

Nannies who have studied at Norland often go on to work for celebrities and are therefore trained in safe driving at high speeds and self defence to prepare them for potential future scenarios.

However, Abby's plan is to work with a family for a few years before setting up nurseries that specialise in care for children with learning difficulties.

She has dyslexia and has received extra support at both Cransley School, Priestley and from her mum to help her achieve her goal.



Bev Devlin, head of Health and Education at Priestley, said: "This is a very prestigious opportunity and we are very proud that Abby has attained her place."

"The qualifications that she has studied at Priestley and her experiences with children have served her very well."

## Three students bound for Oxford

THREE students from Warrington's Priestley College have been accepted into Oxford University to study Medicine, Politics and English.

Chris Hammond, Niamh Costello and Connor Simpson have all made it after studying A Levels or the International Baccalaureate alongside Priestley College's unique graduate programme.

Chris, who is 18, from Stockton Heath will be going to Pembroke College Oxford to study medicine after completing his Maths, Biology, Chemistry and Psychology A Levels.

The former Bridgewater High

School student, who wants to be a consultant, said: "The graduate programme at Priestley definitely helped because it gave me the opportunity to see Oxford, which started to convert me into wanting to go there in the first place."

"The essay competition was marked by Pembroke tutors so that really helped you to understand what was expected of you."

The graduate programme is unique to Priestley and works with the very best students aiming to unlock their potential and raise their aspirations.

It focuses on making students competitive in the national and

international market place for universities and employment.

Also heading to Pembroke College Oxford is another former Bridgewater High student, Connor Simpson, who studied the International Baccalaureate at Priestley.

The 17-year-old, who will be studying politics, philosophy and economics, said: "I'm trying to think about my career options and am considering politics because I want to make a real change and help people."

Fellow International Baccalaureate student Niamh Costello, who is 18, is heading to Mansfield College, Oxford, to study English.

The former Lymm High School student from Thelwall, said the IB had prepared her well for the university interview process.

"The IB interested me because of the way it appeals to universities," she said. "You get to keep a breadth of subjects without losing the depth of knowledge and it helps you to keep your options open."

Chris, Niamh and Connor will begin their studies at Oxford in October.

Chris, added: "My advice to first year students would be to aim high. If you want to go to Oxbridge, and feel you have a chance, then keep going for it because there's no reason why it can't work out."

Senior tutor Mark Salmon said: "We'd like to congratulate Chris, Niamh and Connor on achieving their place at Oxford and all other Priestley students who have gone on to leading universities."

"Those who have completed Priestley's unique, two-year graduate programme have taken part in many challenging tasks designed to support their HE applications and to make them more competitive."

"These students have also helped mentor first years on Priestley's graduate programme to help prepare their applications for Oxbridge and other leading Russell Group universities."



■ Priestley principal Mike Southworth with Oxford-bound Chris Hammond, Connor Simpson and Niamh Costello and tutor Mark Salmon.

# Tatton Park: Time to 'wise up' say campaigners

MEMBERS of the National Trust in Cheshire are being asked if they are aware of the Trust's controversial stance over plans for a £5 million theme park within Tatton Park.

The Knutsford-based Save Tatton Action Group (STAG) believe many Trust members do not know about plans for a theme park the size of 100 football pitches within Tatton Park - and may well be opposed to it.

A STAG spokesman said: "During the past 12 months we have spoken

to many National Trust members who were unaware of the plans for Tatton Park and by contacting the North West supporter groups, we will make more members aware of this potentially damaging planning application.

"It's time the National Trust wised up to the strong feelings of the people of Cheshire and beyond who expect the Trust to protect the quiet, uniquely local spirit of Tatton Park."

The Trust's support for the theme park plan has been questioned by the Information Commissioner in relation

to a Freedom of Information request from a Knutsford resident to Chester East Council - main drivers of the theme park plan.

The Commissioner said: "the public perception of the National Trust as an institution set up to conserve historic buildings and environments might be affected or damaged by its stance."

The STAG spokesman said: "When the Information Commissioner questions the National Trust's role in such a contentious planning application, surely it's time for their

executive to re-think their support for Cheshire East's plans?"

Cheshire East Council plans to loan Norfolk-based developers £5 million to create the Tatton theme park - and also spend £1.5 on essential infrastructure.

More than 400 objections have come from the public, as well as from bodies such as Council for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE), the Woodlands Trust, and the Garden History Society.

STAG has already questioned the proposals and their detrimental effect on the Tatton Park environment, farmland and ancient woodland. But now they are also concerned about council tax payers in Cheshire East having to underwrite a £5 million loan for 20 years.

The spokesman added: "We have the growing support of many Cheshire East residents and businesses who are horrified that our local taxes will be used to fund a Norfolk business. By contacting the North West supporter groups we aim to put pressure on the National Trust's executive to re-think their stance.

"Our supporters want to see Tatton Park's quiet, uniquely local spirit preserved for generations to come."

In its 2010-2011 annual report, the National Trust stated: "We will never turn our outdoor places into giant adventure playgrounds. Peace and beauty are supreme gifts in a high-pressured, uncertain world. Our overriding duty will always be to protect that quiet, uniquely local spirit which speaks to us from each special place in our care."

The Information Commissioner says the public may perceive a conflict between this statement and the Trust's position in relation to the Tatton theme park.

## What's all the bleating about

A NEW rare breed has arrived at Tatton Park's Home Farm - totally unaware of the controversy raging about the proposed theme park within the grounds of Cheshire's premier stately home.

Six Whitefaced Woodland Sheep have moved in - on permanent loan from the conservation charity the Rare Breeds Survival Trust (RBST).

The RBST worked closely with the Whitefaced Woodland Sheep Society to choose the lucky sheep to join the Cheshire set.

The breed is classed as vulnerable by the RBST with only 500-900 breeding females left in the country and Tatton will carry out an important role in promoting the breed through a conservation breeding programme.

Whitefaced Woodland Sheep in the Pennines on the borders of Derbyshire and Yorkshire.

It is one of the largest hill breeds and is very hardy and able to thrive on harsh terrain and poor quality grazing.

It is hoped the first lambs to be



born at Tatton will be on show around this time next year.

■ Ellie and Ruth with one of the sheep.

Ruth Dalton, field officer for the RBST, said: "The Whitefaced Woodland has superb qualities and is a very appealing sheep, I'm sure visitors will enjoy seeing them grow and produce lambs of their own next year."

Home Farm assistant Ellie Edwards

said: "We are so excited to be welcoming these very rare sheep, and feel privileged that we've been chosen to help promote and support them."

## Flamingo garden to open

CHESHIRE'S gardens are at their spring-time best in May - and none more so than Hillside, Mobberley with its collection of rare birds, including 90 flamingos.

It is one of a number of local gardens which will be open as part of the National Garden Scheme (NGS).

NGS gardens are great places to visit, with proceeds going to very deserving causes.

Admission charges are modest - in most cases, kids go free - and there is usually an afternoon tea available.

Hillside will be open on Saturday and Sunday, May 18-19 from 11am to 5pm.

It is a magnificent six-acre garden, home to a huge collection of rare birds, including the flamingos.

The various ponds are adorned with delightful palm trees, bonsais, agaves and citrus trees. On the opposite side is a woodland setting that features a large waterfall surrounded by many mature plants and trees. Home-made teas will be available and admission is £5, with children free.

Another local garden to open is Free Green Farm, at Lower Peover.

It will be open on Sunday, May 26 from 2-6pm.

A two-acre garden with pleached limes, herbaceous borders, ponds, parterre; garden of the senses and British woodland it features Topiary - and again, home-made teas. Admission is £5.00, with children free.



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# Money Column

By Margaret Black

## Tax free childcare vouchers

Employer provided childcare vouchers can be a valuable benefit enabling the user to choose their own registered childcare provider.

The amount of tax free vouchers that can be given will depend on when the employee joined the employer's scheme and on their level of pay. If the employee joined the employer's scheme on or before 5 April 2011 it is possible to get up to £55 each week free of tax and NICs. For employees joining later then if earnings are more than the higher or additional rate thresholds the amount that can be received free of tax and NICs is reduced. The amount for higher rate earners is £28 each week and £22 each week for additional rate earners. From 6 April 2013 the exempt amount for additional rate earners will be £25 each week.

For tax purposes persons are only entitled to receive up to the relevant exempt amount shown above regardless of number of employments held. For NICs the exempt amount can be received from more than one employer. If both parents are provided with childcare vouchers they are each entitled to an exempt amount of childcare vouchers. If the employer

provides childcare vouchers above these amounts tax and NICs will have to be paid on the additional amount.

Paper or electronic vouchers may be given by the employer or directly by the childcare voucher provider. The employer will tell the employee whether paper or electronic vouchers will be made available or they can give the choice to the employee.

Childcare vouchers do not have to be used in the week or month they are provided but can be saved up and used later. For example, the cost of childcare may be more than usual during school holidays and so they may be used then.

If an employee decides to get childcare vouchers, they need to check that the childcare provider will accept them and whether the carer would prefer paper or electronic vouchers. The employer or the employer's voucher provider will normally be able to answer any questions that the childcare provider has. It is possible that the childcare provider already accepts voucher payments from the voucher provider chosen by the employer. The childcare provider will need to make an arrangement with the employer or the employer's voucher provider to receive



David Watkinson and Margaret Black

payment. This is normally a simple process which the employer will tell the employee about. If the voucher doesn't cover the whole cost of the childcare, agree with the childcare provider how the extra costs will be paid. You will only receive Income Tax and NICs exempt vouchers after you have formally agreed with your employer to join a childcare voucher scheme.

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

Telephone 01925 413210 or e-mail margaret@warringtonaccountants.co.uk

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# Women's health in the spotlight

CHESHIRE Natural Health in Stretton hosted a highly successful open evening on women's health in conjunction with the Reproductive Health Group, who offer a comprehensive range of treatments from their GyneHealth and Conceive International clinics in Chester, Manchester and Nantwich.

More than forty women – and a handful of men as well – enjoyed informal and interactive talks by therapists from Cheshire Natural Health and consultants from the Reproductive Health Group – Nabil Haddad, Luciano Nardo and James Armatage, who are all experts in gynaecology and fertility.

Topics included menopause, pelvic pain, fertility, acupuncture for fertility, hypnotherapy for fertility and menopause, homeopathy and hormone balance, herbal medicine and nutrition, and ended with a very entertaining discussion by Dana Braithwaite, psychosexual therapist.

In between talks guests enjoyed wine and nibbles and were able to meet with the speakers informally for any questions. Private pre-booked consultations with one of the consultants were also available free of charge during the evening.

Reproductive Health Group and Cheshire Natural Health share a philosophy that combining conventional medicine with complementary care can help to create optimum health and wellbeing, and are planning to hold further similar events in the future on a wide range of women's health issues.

For more information please visit the following websites: [www.gyne-health.co.uk](http://www.gyne-health.co.uk), [www.conceiveinternational.co.uk](http://www.conceiveinternational.co.uk), [www.cheshirenaturalhealth.co.uk](http://www.cheshirenaturalhealth.co.uk)



■ James Armatage.



■ Nabil Haddad.



■ Luciano Nardo.

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## Strong objections to music and drink licences

STOCKTON Health Parish Council has lodged "strong objections" to applications for licences for the playing of recorded music and supply of alcohol at a new Japanese restaurant set to open in the village.

Planning permission has already been granted for the Wasabi Tappanyaki restaurant in London Road - despite an objection from the parish council.

Now the restaurant is seeking licences for music, sale of alcohol and the supply of late night refreshments until midnight, Monday to Saturday.

On Sundays, the proposal is for the premises to close at 10pm. Stockton Heath is the only village in Britain to hold Purple Flag status - which recognises excellence in the management of entertainment areas at night.

The centre is also covered by a Cumulative Impact Policy which means anyone applying for a new licence is required to prove there will not be an impact on crime, disorder or public nuisance.

The parish council says the premises back onto terraced houses in Gaskell Street, only separated by a narrow access alley. Members believe noise from customers in the early hours of the morning as they leave the 100-seater restaurant will, without doubt, disturb nearby residents and lead to the possibility of an increase in crime and disorder.

# What's on in the villages

**April 9**  
STOCKTON HEATH PARISH COUNCIL  
Sandy Lane Centre, Stockton Heath. 7.30pm

**April 16**  
APPLETON PARISH COUNCIL  
Parish Hall, Dudlow Green Road. 7.30pm

**April 18**  
LIVE AT ST WILFRID'S  
Piatti String Quartet - winners of the St Martins  
in the Fields chamber music competition, playing  
Mozart, Schumann and Dvorak.  
St Wilfrid's Church, Grappenhall. 7.30pm

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

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

**BRIDGE CLUB**  
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**  
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  
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.

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

**Every Wednesday**  
APPLETON HALL BADMINTON CLUB  
Starting Decemberat Hall Drive, Appleton.  
7.30-10pm.  
Details: 01925 262356

**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

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

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

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

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

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

**Every second Thursday**  
STRETTON WI  
Appleton Parish Hall, Dudlow Green Road. 2.30pm.

**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**



APPLETON  
PARISH  
COUNCIL



# Housing plan for disused rugby field

MORE than 50 homes would be built on a disused rugby pitch at Appleton - if developers had their way.

Proposals for the 55 two-storey houses have been drawn up by Warrington Rugby Union Club - now part of the Walton-based Warrington Sports Club. A "linear park" and a small play area would also be included in the scheme, off Bridge Lane. Club representatives gave a presentation on the project at a

meeting of Appleton Parish Council. The Bridge Lane ground has not been used since a disastrous fire destroyed the clubhouse in 2002, forcing the rugby club to relocate to Walton and later merge with Warrington Sports Club. It is owned by the borough council, but the rugby club has about 50 years remaining of a 100-year lease on the land. A number of proposals have been put forward for the land over the years, including one for a

medical centre and an earlier, larger housing scheme which would have also included a community centre. Residents of the Bridge Lane area were opposed to the earlier housing scheme and the club says it will consult with them before pressing ahead with the proposals. But there are indications already that people in the area will be opposed to the proposals, mainly on the grounds that it would attract more traffic to an already overloaded Bridge Lane.

## New head for independent school

A NEW head teacher is to join Great Budworth-based Cransley School from September 1.

Simon Leyshon (pictured) will be joining the school after 11 years at Lord Wandsworth College, in Hampshire, where he is currently head of religious studies, the school chaplain and a key member of the senior management team.

He has a Bachelor of Arts degree from Trinity College, a Bachelor of Theology (Hons) degree from Salisbury and Wells Theological College, a Post Graduate Certificate in Management and obtained a Master of Education from Aberystwyth University in 2006.

A keen sportsman, being able to coach a variety of sports as well as enjoying cooking, walking, the theatre and film making. He is also an inspector for the Independent Schools Inspectorate.

Mr Leyshon said "I am delighted and excited to have been offered the position of headmaster at Cransley School and over the next few months I will be working closely with the



school to ensure a smooth transition into Cransley School life. I look forward to meeting all the children and parents in the coming months."

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## Book exchange plan

MEMBERS of Grappenhall and Thelwall Parish Council are to use a traditional, red telephone box to house a book exchange.

The council already sponsors the box, in Thelwall Village, to ensure it is retained as a feature near the old post office building.

They already have a number of donated books to set the scheme in motion and a small bookcase that would fit inside the kiosk so the idea will be given a three-month trial to see if it proves viable.

A similar 'phone box at Hatton is already used by the local parish council for a book exchange which is well used by villagers.

## Peppa the pig moves in



A NEW resident has moved into the children's zoo at Walton Hall Gardens - a pig named Peppa.

The friendly and inquisitive pig has quickly won the hearts of zoo staff and volunteers.

She was a "rescue pig" for although her previous owners took good care of her, circumstances made it impossible for them to keep her. She was living in the back yard and sleeping in a Wendy House!

Zoo staff are not sure what sort of breed Peppa is, although they think there is a bit of a mixture of pot-bellied and wild boar!

Peppa isn't bothered - she's just enjoying all the attention she gets in her new home.

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