

VILLAGE

Cheshire's Community Magazine

Issue 149 August 2013 FREE

life


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**Cheshire
Steam
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Pictures: David Edvardson


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David Mowat

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David Mowat
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School's recipe for success

THREE Mums of pupils at St Matthews CE Primary School, Stretton have produced a recipe book to raise funds for the PTA and children at the school.

The book, which went on sale on Stretton Walking Day, features recipes by pupils, parents, local MP David Mowat, the police and fire services, local business, a number of celebrity chefs and food writers including Delia Smith, Annabel Karmel and Mary Berry

- and even William and Kate, the Duke and Duchess Cambridge.

Sarah Pearce, Claire Mann and Mandy Dedee were the three Mums who organised the publication.

Claire said: "A similar book was produced at the school six years ago and was a huge success, so we decided it was time to do another."

"Everybody entered into the spirits of things and children and parents came up with some great recipes."

There are 140 recipes in the book, with favourites such as "Rumbling Tummy Roasties", "Smoke Alarm Chilli" and "The Most Dangerous Chocolate Cake In The World"!

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Opinion

WE keep hearing about council cutbacks and the steps that local authorities are being forced to take to save money.

But we find it surprising that when residents from Willow Drive, Stockton Heath approached Warrington Borough Council with a suggestion that trees be planted at the rear of their homes to attract birds into their gardens and make the area more attractive, they were told the council was looking to remove trees to save work.

The residents were not asking for money, nor for trees to be planted. They were simply seeking permission to plant trees.

Just what extra work a dozen saplings would bring we are not sure. Surely the authority is not reduced to the stage that sweeping up a few leaves would be a problem?

Stockton Heath Parish Council is backing the residents. Members believe the area is crying out for trees.

We would suggest the residents keep pushing the borough who might, eventually, come to the conclusion that by continuing to say no they are simply making themselves looking foolish.

CLOSING a shopping street to traffic while a local festival takes place is one thing. But making it a permanent pedestrianised area is another.

For two half days, King Street, Knutsford was closed for an innovative celebration of the town's heritage – the Knutsford Promenades.

Schools, churches, community groups and individuals enacted scenes from the town's colourful past, in effect transforming the street into a giant theatre. Thousands of local people turned out to watch and the event proved so successful that there is talk of doing it again next year.

But now the Town Council has

commissioned a design study to pave the way for a pedestrian priority scheme for the street – a decision that has been described as a milestone in its history.

It is certainly true that in parts of King Street, pedestrians and motor vehicles do not mix well and it is also true that a "pedestrian priority" scheme does not necessarily mean a total ban on traffic.

So we hope we are preaching to the converted when we caution against too drastic a "solution" to the street's traffic problems.

Knutsford is a significant shopping centre, with busy day and evening economies, which relies on more than the local population if it is to prosper.

Any plan that makes it difficult for car owners to reach the shop, the restaurant or hotel they wish to visit could be perilous.

Sisters in charity ride

TWO sisters have completed a 140-mile charity cycle ride in aid of a charity close to their hearts – Hospice at Home.

Physiotherapist Sheila Nesbitt, from Stockton Heath, did the three-day Whitehaven to Tynemouth ride with her sister Sarah.

Sheila said: "This was by far the hardest thing I have ever done, not helped by really poor weather and an unexpectedly long climb on Day 3, but the feeling of achievement at the end made it all worthwhile."

A team of 50 women were involved in the ride and raised a total of more than £25,000 for the Hospice at Home charity.



■ Sheila and Sarah celebrate completing their ride.

Village festival a huge success

THE sixth annual Stockton Heath Festival was a huge success – attracting record numbers of people and more contributors than ever before.

The Festival Field buzzed with different types of family entertainment with live music including choirs, local singers and groups as well as visiting attractions.

There were puppet shows, a dog show, Morris dancers, the busy markets, a scout camp, sporting groups and much more.

Joint co-ordinating director Deborah Cook said: "The main aim of the festival is to provide the area with a celebration of arts and culture. We are proud of our programme this year as we feel it upholds this goal. We were also delighted that our provision was endorsed by having mainly sell-out shows."

Fellow co-ordinating director Sue Clarke added: "There are so many people to thank, it is hard to know where to begin and impossible to mention them all. However we want everyone to know how much we appreciate the support they give us. Without the local businesses and organisations that are sponsors we couldn't afford a festival.

"It is also important to remember that the organising, running and manning is done entirely by

volunteers so we are grateful for all their time and enthusiasm that made it all happen. Perhaps the most pleasing and immeasurable aspect is the mutual benefit that comes from the community spirit in the area."

There was art, drama, music, dance, local history, story telling, poetry reading and creative competitions.

Winners of the various competitions were:

Art exhibition: 1, (The People's Prize), Paula Lang; 2, Dennis Rogers, 3, Sian Halfpenny.

Photography (18 and under): 1, Beth Roberts; 2, Madgey Thompson; 3, Jessica Rowe. (Over 18): 1, Aggie Jankowska; 2, Carmen Goulden; 3, Len Curwen. Public vote: Paul Curnane.

Treasure Hunt: Andrew Bean; Scarecrows: 1, Pet's Pantry; 2, St Rocco's; 3, Panache Hairdressing.

The committee is still busy doing the final sums. In addition to the festival being a charity and also raising money for a number of other charities, it will take time to collate the final amount.

More details can be found on the festival website www.stocktonheathfestival.co.uk



Young and old enjoying a canal boat ride from Thom Marine.



Left, Elinor Mayo and Ilona Reid both 11 at the arts and crafts display.



Right, Linda Williams buy a floral display from Kevin Brear at the Long Lane Garden Centre and Walton Lea Partnership stall.



4th Warrington 1st Stockton Heath Scouts Parkgate HQ putting up a tent at their camping demonstration.



Seven year old Oliver Hunter-Robinson takes the controls watched by Brian Johnson founder of the Thelwall and Grappenhall Model Railway Club.

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There are a good range of Hotels and Quintas (these are beautifully restored manor houses or villas set amidst gardens and each one has its own personal charm) You can explore Madeira by car, taxi, hop on hop off bus tour, local bus or organized excursions. There are numerous walking trails, nature reserves and forests. Why not treat yourself to Afternoon Tea at Reid's Palace in Funchal with a flute of champagne on the terrace overlooking the sea. You will need to book this as it is very popular - cost is approx 32 euros excluding champagne per person.

A trip on the cable car up to the Monte - here you can visit the tropical gardens Monte Palace and take the Monte Toboggan (Monte's famous wicker baskets) three mile slope down between Monte and Livramento. Each wicker carriage is controlled by two conductors in traditional dress. Other activities include cruises, jeep safari, catamaran trips, walking tours, mountain biking, horse riding, surfing, wind surfing, paragliding, canyoning, tennis, squash, mountain climbing, fishing, sailing, sea kayaking, diving, golf etc. End your trip with your favorite choice of Madeira wine to take home.

It is possible to do a twin centre between Madeira and Porto Santo ie 4 nights and 3 nights or Lisbon and Madeira or Estoril Coast and Madeira.

Porto Santo is a small island measuring 7 miles by 4 miles and can be reached by 20 minute flight from Funchal or by 2 hour 30 mins ferry crossing. Here you will find golden beaches and as the island is virtually flat and little agriculture. Porto Santo's



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■ Linda Crowder - Stockton Heath Travel

temperatures average from 19 - 26 degrees between May and November, December to April temperatures range from 16 - 21 degrees C. There is little rain in Porto Santo and there are a series of springs here ie Fonte da Area where the belief is that drinking its waters restores body and soul and bestows longevity!!

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World Champion brick layer!

APPLETON'S Ashley Terron is celebrating after taking the gold medal at WorldSkills Leipzig 2013.

The 20-year-old, former Warrington Collegiate student, won in the Bricklaying event, with the highest marks ever awarded in an event at WorldSkills, the world's largest international skills competition featuring more than 1000 young people.

He said: "To win Gold in Bricklaying is just amazing. It still hasn't really sunk in that I am the best young bricklayer in the World. The last few months have been really tough fitting my training for WorldSkills around work and family responsibilities but it has been totally worth it. I want to show the UK how Apprenticeships and vocational training can enable young people to gain a real qualification and a real future."

Proud and delighted with his former student, Paul Gould, Curriculum Manager for Construction and the Built Environment at Warrington Collegiate sent the following message to the staff at the college as soon as the news broke, "We have a World Champion! It's official, Ashley is the best Bricklayer in the World!"

Ashley's Brickwork tutor, Rob Holmes, at Warrington Collegiate has supported Ashley from the start and was out in Leipzig to witness Ashley's success.

He added: "It was apparent from the first day four years ago when Ashley started at college that he was

a highly talented student. He proved this by winning both the Junior and Senior Skillbuild competition, then taking the bronze medal in the national competition. Ashley wasn't satisfied with being third and when he was invited to train with Team UK for the International competition he was determined to come away with nothing less than the gold. After an outstanding few days at WorldSkills Leipzig 2013 Ashley was the winner by a clear 2%, which is a huge margin in world-class competition."

The event took place over four days of intense competition, with Team UK winning two Gold, one Silver, three Bronze and 17 Medallions for Excellence in skills ranging from Bricklaying, Autobody Repair and Aircraft Maintenance. Medallions for Excellence are awarded to those competitors who reach the world class standard in their skill.

Prime Minister David Cameron said: "British ambition and ingenuity has once again taken on and beaten the best in the world and I extend my congratulations to Team UK. As we compete in the global race, this Government is on the side of ambitious young people who want to work hard and get on and we will continue in our efforts to build the biggest and best apprenticeship programme."



Ashley Terron celebrates his success.



Ashley with his tutor Rob Holmes.



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Online petition opposes housing schemes

AN online petition has been launched for people who want to fight plans for nearly 400 new homes at Mobberley.

It has been started by action group RAMS – Residents Against Mobberley Sprawl – to try and persuade Cheshire East Council to reject the plans when they are submitted.

Developers LPC Living want to build the homes on part of the 39-acre Harman Technology site, off Ilford Way. The scheme would include a new headquarters for Harman, which employs 200 people.

There would be open space provision, footpaths linking the site to Mobberley and existing footpaths.

Members of RAMS attended a consultation exhibition at the Rajar Building and claim the vast majority of local people are opposed to the scheme.

RAMS are also opposed to proposals put out for consultation by Cheshire East Council itself for another housing development in Mobberley.

The group says: "Our local amenities are already overstretched and will not be able to cope with the hundreds of new families these developments will bring to the area."

"Both sites border onto Smith Lane, a road that narrows to a single track in places that is completely unsuitable for the amount of traffic these developments will create."

"Residents understand the need for new housing in the borough and Mobberley has expanded significantly in recent years. These proposed developments are simply too large for the local infrastructure and will permanently destroy the character and identity of the village."

The online petition can be found at www.rams.epetitions.net

Heritage spectacular could be repeated

THE spectacular success of the Knutsford Promenades –the two-day event celebrating the town's unique heritage – could result in it becoming an annual event.

Thousands of people turned out to watch performances by local groups and schools illustrating key events in the town's past – and many called for it to be repeated next year.

Among those present were Chancellor of the Exchequer and Tatton MP George Osborne and former Tatton MP Martin Bell.

Local businesses entered into the spirit of things and many acknowledged they had benefitted from increased trade. But a minority complained that King Street – focal point for the event – should not have been closed to traffic.

A number of issues could make organisers think twice about making the Promenades an annual event – not least the fact that the inaugural event received a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund, which could not be guaranteed in future.

Among organisations taking part in the event were the Knutsford Musical Theatre Company, Brook Street Unitarian Chapel, Knutsford Heritage Centre and various local schools.

Expansion keeps it in the family

AN oven cleaning business is keeping things in the family after its owner appointed his ideal work colleague – his wife.

Andrea Clark, 46, has decided to link up with her husband and owner of Ovenu Warrington, Paul, 50, in the oven valeting business after seeking a career change.

Paul, who averages three oven cleans a day, was looking for a sub-contractor to help handle the increased workload, which could potentially see the business expand into a new area.

Andrea was inspired by Paul's success in business to create the ideal partnership for the couple, who have been married for 19 years.

She previously worked as a Learning Manager, where she taught at a local primary school for 12 years. She also had an affiliation with the business, as she did the bookkeeping, but her duties from now on will be more hands on.

Andrea is set to complete her Ovenu training in August, when she will swap her marker pen for an oven scourer as she embarks on her new career.

Paul said: "I am delighted that Andrea has decided to come into the business with me and I am relishing the opportunity to work with her. It was a difficult decision for her to change careers, but one that she won't regret."

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Sun blesses Stockton Heath Walking Day

GLORIOUS sunshine ensured a bumper turn out at Stockton Heath Walking Day as local churches teamed up for their annual walk of witness.

After a short service on Alexandra Park, the churches walked through the village watched by large crowds lining the streets.

Parish Council Chairman Graham Roughsedge took the salute in the village centre.



■ Stockton Heath Christian Fellowship provide some colour.



■ Stockton Heath Scouts.



■ St Thomas Sunday School.



■ 1st Higher Walton Brownies.



■ St Monica's youngsters Grace Whittaker, Grace Williams and Natalya Dalden.



■ Parish Chairman Graham Roughsedge.



■ GFS Queen Abi Narraway.

Steam fair drew the crowds

Pictures: David Edwardson

GLORIOUS weather attracted big crowds to the annual Cheshire Steam Fair at its new venue at Daresbury.

There were more than 30 steam engines, 200 classic cars, 150 vintage commercial vehicles, 150 classic motor cycles, 80 tractors and lots of other attractions.

The show – established more than 30 years ago – also had numerous other family fun attractions, trade stands, food and drink and a fairground.

There was a model boat display, miniature railway, birds of prey and hundreds of other exhibits.

Visitors came from all over the UK.



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Money Column

By Margaret Black

Tax investigations

All UK trading businesses must submit an annual Self Assessment Return and every Return is a potential target for an investigation and please be aware taxpayers are not immune either. Tax investigations regularly produce in excess of £10billion of additional funds for the treasury each year.

Any UK taxpayer can be selected at random for an investigation.

You never know when an investigation might start as HMRC are continually gathering data, from third parties, which could relate to you or your business. Armed with this information the Revenue may have prejudged the outcome before the investigation starts leaving you to prove why they are wrong.

The enquiry process can be extremely stressful and time consuming and due to the technical nature of the questions, expert advice is needed to ensure that you only pay the right amount of tax.

Unfortunately the costs of a thorough and proper defence can easily mount up to thousands of pounds. Expert professional advice is essential in order to deal with the highly trained Tax Inspectors and ensure the best results for you. Most agents who defend their clients during even a basic tax enquiry will require many hours of their time and we believe that no one should have to concede

to the Revenue's demands purely on a commercial basis. It can take thousands of pounds in professional fees to prove your innocence – unexpected costs which are unwanted and unnecessary.

Hospital Consultants continue to be targeted, but HMRC has widened the scope of its attack to include Locum Pharmacists. Enquiries still centre on potential undeclared income, mileage expenses and use of home as office claims.

HMRC has launched the Plumbers Tax Safe Plan Amnesty, to encourage traders working within the plumbing industry, to voluntarily declare any undisclosed income. HMRC has obtained data from Gas Safe and Corgi which will allow them to 'check' any disclosures and also to enable them to select future enquiry cases.

There has been a noticeable increase in company enquiries. Common queries revolve around Associated Companies, Loan Relationships and Directors Loan Account. Other current topical issues include 'goodwill' and 'losses' where HMRC believe the loss may have been generated from a non commercial activity.

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Tea can now be served — officially

PLANNING bosses have given the green light for an unauthorised tea room to carry on trading in a disused farmhouse – after visiting the premises.

Planning committee members decided to visit the tea room at Dingle Farm, Dingle Lane, Appleton.

It had been operating at the former farm for some time when Town Hall planners discovered it was trading without planning consent.

Robert Bilton Estates Ltd applied for retrospective planning permission for a change of use from a dwelling to a tea room, workshop/artist's studio and gallery, and beauty treatment room.

More than 600 people signed a petition supporting them.

But Appleton Parish Council said Dingle Farm was on a blind bend, Dingle Lane was too narrow and the development would worsen traffic conditions adversely affecting road safety.

Planning officers recommended the change of use be approved, however.

They said the continued use of the farm as a workshop, studio/gallery, tea room and beauty treatment room was acceptable and provided a sustainable and appropriate form of development in the Green Belt which would not lead to significant harm to the amenity of nearby residents nor lead to any significant harm to highway safety.

Advertiser's announcement

Bees keep Steve busy as wasp season wings in!

LOCAL pest controller Steve Caslin has been kept busy in the spring and early summer, collecting honey bee swarms and bumble bee nests - relocating them unharmed back into nature.

Steve said: "I relocate the bumble nests - unharmed, to places who are kind enough to accept them. Allotments always welcome them as they are "super pollinators" of tomato plants. Many thanks as usual to Brian Webber who has allowed me to place many colonies in Moore Nature Reserve and Warrington Borough Council for giving excellent advice to residents with bee problems. Bees are protected and must never be treated with insecticides except in extreme cases.

Steve added: "Wasp season is upon us once again and the

colonies of this rather unpopular insect are growing daily. Wasps nests can be treated with insecticide and once destroyed, the nest can be left in place as it's never used again. Have you ever noticed grooves in wooden garden furniture and fencing? Wasps remove very fine layers of wood and mix it with saliva to make their paper nests."

Atlas Environmental Solutions are a Warrington based company, trusted by local people. Please be wary of some of the out of town or price comparison companies, their attitude tends to change once at your home and some have been known to be quite intimidating! Atlas charge just £35 for wasp treatment, it's guaranteed and only safe chemicals are used.

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What's on in the villages

August 11
LYMM RUSHBEARING CEREMONY
The Cross and St Mary's Church, 4pm

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

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

BRIDGE CLUB
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, Grap-
penhall. 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



Stunned — councillors in the 'most thriving village'

MEMBERS of Stockton Heath Parish Council were stunned when a planning chief informed them that theirs was "the most thriving village in Warrington."

Joanne McGrath, principal planning policy and strategy officer with the borough council, made the statement at the parish council's monthly meeting.

She said: "This conclusion is drawn from the Warrington Retail Centre Report which surveys all defined centres in the borough.

"Stockton Heath has the lowest vacancy rate and the most diverse offer of all the centres."

A number of councillors expressed surprise.

Cllr Tudor Pole said: "I think this came as a shock to most of us. There are plenty of empty shops in the village."

Chairman Cllr Graham Roughsedge said: "It does not say much for the others.

"We have a lot more empty shops than we used to have and whenever we get a new business it is nearly always a café or a restaurant.

"People who remember the village as it used to be are very disappointed at how the number and variety of shops

has dwindled.

"There is little we, as a parish council, can do about it. We do object when plans come in for a business we think is not appropriate and sometimes we are successful.

"But more often than not, we are unsuccessful."

Ms McGrath's visit to Stockton Heath came in the wake of complaints from local traders that footfall in the shopping centre is falling – particularly since the free period on the local pay-and-display car park was reduced from two hours to one.

A survey of shopkeepers in London Road found they were 100 per cent opposed to the reduced free parking period.

Amy's winning streak

APPLETON youngster Amy Dewsnip has cause to celebrate after impressing the judges at the prestigious Alderley Edge Music Festival.

Amy, aged 16, gained a first place with distinction in the Musical Theatre Class, singing songs from the musical 'Miss Saigon'. She added another first place by winning the Duet class, alongside her partner Emily Yarwood, gaining another distinction for their rendition of 'I Wish I May' from the 'Witches of Eastwick'.

She also won a respectable third in the open age group musical theatre class singing against women twice her age!

Amy has had a passion for musical theatre since she was very young, but has only competed in two festivals, so far, she has been very successful!

In addition to her achievements at Alderley Edge, she also won the Musical Theatre class at the Bowdon Festival earlier in the year.

Amy is a member of local Youth Theatre Group CODYS and appeared

recently at the Brindley Theatre as 'Ellen' in CODYS' acclaimed production of 'Miss Saigon'. She was also a Narrator in 'Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat'.

Amy is due to play the role of 'Patty Simcox' in CODYS' next production of 'Grease' at the Brindley Theatre in September.



Girls bring home gold and silver

TWO girls from Great Budworth's Cransley School brought home gold and silver medals when they competed in the ISA national athletics Championships in Birmingham.

Ellie Jackson won gold in the Year 7 (pre-junior) Girls 70 metre hurdles final, with a personal best time of 11.4 seconds and breaking a record which had stood since 2010.

Later she was narrowly beaten into second place in the 100 metres sprint to pick up a silver.

Lauren Owers claimed the silver medal in the Year 10/11 girls high jump, despite competing against much taller girls.

Ellie also secured the "Rising Star" award for the most promising female athlete at the championships.

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WHEN a bus full of school children from a Lowton Primary school broke down on the M56 it was the natural response for the team at the nearby Park Royal Hotel, Stretton, to provide shelter for the children from the soaring heat outside.

The team at The Park Royal have recently gained national recognition for their Customer Service excellence from Trip Advisor, Booking.com and Venue Verdict, swiftly set up a conference room and provided refreshments for the children while they waited for a replacement vehicle.

General Manager Paul Gallon said 'As many of the team here have children, it was a natural reaction to make sure the children were safe and comfortable as the temperature was 28 degrees outside'.

The staff from the school were happy that what could have been an unpleasant experience for the children actually turned out to be an exciting one.

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