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Your Community Magazine

Issue 161 August 2014 FREE

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**Address**  
New Media Centre  
Old Road, Warrington  
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the area as well as being  
available to pick up from various  
outlets, some of which are listed  
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# Editor's comment

WE have never been convinced that the scrutiny system operated by borough councils to keep a watch on themselves is particularly effective – if only because it involves them keeping a watch on themselves! Poachers can, and sometimes do, turn gamekeepers, but they don't do both jobs at the same time. Scrutiny committees are dominated by the same political party that controls the council so opportunities for voicing differing opinions are somewhat limited.

But the system seems to be working in the case of the controversial decision, which we reported last month, to close the Sandy Lane Recycling Centre at Stockton Heath. Not only did Warrington's scrutiny committee refer the issue back to

the executive board but the executive immediately agreed to carry out a four week consultation, not just into the closure of Sandy Lane but into a recycling strategy for the whole of the borough.

It can still all come to nothing, of course. The recycling centre may still close. But the decision should never have been made without consultation with the public, with parish councils and with other interested parties, in the first place.

There remains the issue of the timescale. Four weeks is not long to organise a meaningful consultation on such a wide-ranging subject – particularly in August, when councils are in recess and people are away on holiday.

We see no need for haste. The original decision caused a storm of



protest from people living over a wide area and if the consultation turns out to be little more than a paper exercise, with no change in the eventual outcome, we confidently predict there will be a further uproar.

## Concert raised £1,200 for foodbank



**A CONCERT at St Wilfrid's Church, Grappenhall to raise money to help ensure needy families have enough food raised £1,200.**

In addition, the concert organised by music student Meera Maharaj received 250kg of food donations given by members of the audience.

Flautist Meera enlisted some friends from the Royal Northern College of Music to give the concert in aid of the Warrington Foodbank.

The former Lymm High School pupil, who lives in Grappenhall, said: "It was a thrill to perform for a such a

large and appreciative crowd. I am delighted that we have been able to raise a lot more than I ever dreamed would be possible.

"I am hoping that we can put together another similar project in the future, because the demands on the Foodbank are increasing all the time.

"As musicians, we love what we do, and concerts are such fun. It has been inspiring to be able use my skills and those of my friends to provide practical help for people who are in difficulties. Thank you to everyone who has supported us and contributed to the success of the event."

# Radio hams set up a 5,700 mile link

**A LONG-standing link between amateur radio enthusiasts and a school only a few hundred yards away has led to another link – with another group more than 5,700 miles away.**

Members of Warrington Amateur Radio Club are based at Grappenhall Community Centre and each year get together with pupils from nearby St Wilfrid's CE Primary School during National Science Week.

The club invites pupils to their headquarters and also sets up a radio station at the school allowing the youngsters to understand and experience amateur radio.

This year, St Wilfrid's teacher Sharon Sarjeant visited South Africa as part of an exchange scheme and met Johannesburg electronics teacher Shipo Mzangwe, who was to be part of a return visit to Grappenhall.

She discovered his hobby was amateur radio so, on returning home, lost no time in contacting the club – and as a result Shipo was invited to attend one of their weekly meetings.

Minutes after arriving at the club, Shipo found himself with a microphone in his hand exchanging greetings with other stations all over the world.

He then gave a talk about his own club, the East Rand Amateur Radio club.

Coincidentally both clubs are pioneering and experimenting with amateur TV and satellite communication.

The two clubs – approximately 5,778 miles apart – are now to maintain a regular link.



■ Shipo is seen with Grappenhall club president Mike Isherwood in contact with an amateur station in Beirut.

## Heritage Watch – a campaign to save our history

STOCKTON Heath Parish Council is to give its full backing to Cheshire's unique "Heritage Watch" – a campaign to combat thieves who are targeting churches and other historic buildings.

Time was, the council was told, when church burglars headed straight for the altar.

But now they are more likely to be after the lead on the roof, Stronger Communities manager Andy Williams told members.

The theft of lead and other metals from heritage assets is costing the public many thousands of pounds in repair bills when roofs are left open to the weather, he said.

Even worse, some thefts can lead to the loss of a priceless

piece of history for ever.

Cheshire's Heritage Watch scheme is the first of its kind in the country.

A network of police, community groups and other partners with special knowledge of heritage locations in their areas have come together to look at ways of combating heritage crime.

They are looking for people to become Heritage Watch champions, start up Heritage Watch groups, share information with other people and report anything suspicious they see.

To find out more on how to get involved visit [www.cheshire.police.uk/get-involved/watch-schemes/heritage-watch.aspx](http://www.cheshire.police.uk/get-involved/watch-schemes/heritage-watch.aspx)

## Meller Braggins estate agent puts the customer first in Stockton Heath

Stockton Heath Estate Agent, Meller Braggins has introduced a new look and website to improve its offering to customers buying, selling, letting and auctioning property in Cheshire.

As a result of careful analysis, review and comprehensive customer feedback, Meller Braggins has revamped its brand identity, and launched a comprehensive new website, all intended to improve the company's service to its customers.

The company's brand identity has been brought up to date with changes to its logo, a focus on brighter colours and a new brand element to highlight that the company was established in 1836, proving its extensive experience in the property industry.

The new website has been strategically developed in response to in-depth analysis of the Meller Braggins customer journey and existing website. Approximately 50% of visitors to the Meller Braggins website use mobile or tablet devices, so it was vital that the new site is easily accessible to everyone, no matter how they visit.

Nigel Lammas, Managing Director at Meller Braggins said: "It's been an exciting few months while we've been working on improving our branches to

create a better environment for our customers, revamp our established brand identity and launch the fantastic new website!"

"Analysis of our old website showed that 50% of our visitors were using mobile and tablet devices, so it was really important that our new site was responsive and worked just as well for those customers, as it does for people on a desktop."

"The new website is so much more than just a list of properties, it showcases each one of the properties to rent and for sale to their best potential, and also offers a comprehensive resource of information to help every customer during their association with us with us, whether they are buying, selling, letting or coming to one of our auctions to buy and sell."

"What's more, the website is just the beginning of the exciting changes taking place at Meller Braggins. We have lots of ideas about how to get involved with the local community and continue to contribute to the local economy."

### About Meller Braggins

Meller Braggins, established in 1836, is an independent estate agent

that uniquely combines extensive experience, local knowledge and a proactive, added value approach to buying, selling, letting or auctioning property.

With an extensive range of services, Meller Braggins also provides accessible guidance and support tailored specifically to each

customer's requirements.

A wealth of resources and information are easily accessible on the comprehensive Meller Braggins website, and in branch, where friendly and knowledgeable staff are available to give customers all the support and guidance they need.







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# Grappenhall Walking Day

**VILLAGERS** braved the showers to take part in the annual Grappenhall Walking Day.

Following a parade through the village led by St Wilfrid's Church, Aphra Proudfoot was crowned Rose Queen while Lucy Newall was crowned Rose Bud. Various activities then took place on St Wilfrid's school field.

For more pictures check out [warrington-worldwide.co.uk](http://warrington-worldwide.co.uk)



■ Incoming 2014 Grappenhall Rose Queen and attendants from left, Eleanor Neal, Rose Queen Aphra Proudfoot, Torrie Keogh, and Anna Dybell.



■ Incoming 2014 Grappenhall Rose Bud and attendants from left, Ava Kirk, Rose Bud Lucy Newall, Isabella Gilby and Charlotte Griffiths.



■ Outgoing Rose Queen was Rebecca Collins and outgoing Rose Bud was Gabrielle Groves,



■ Grappenhall Beavers.



■ Grappenhall Rainbows.



■ St Wilfrids lead the procession.



■ Grappenhall Pre School.



## Lapland

Christmas seems so far away but when I am writing this article it is only 162 days 4 hours 34 minutes and 11 seconds away!! What better way for the younger children (3 years of age up wards) to experience the lead up to Christmas than a trip to Lapland to see Father Christmas.

A magical trip all everyone including the parents, grandparents, godparents.

A day trip will let you experience all the magic of Lapland in a single day ie huskies, reindeer, snowmobiles and an enchanting family meeting with Father Christmas Included is a snowmobile trip, husky sled journey, reindeer sleigh ride, search for Santa, private family meeting with Santa, gift for the children, two course lunch, snow activities ie tobogganing, snowballing and snowman making, supply of thermal suits and boots

Alternatively there are 3 night trips available staying in a log cabin or a hotel with saunas, fitness rooms etc where you can relax and enjoy all of the above plus Christmas crafts, festive dinner 3 nights full board accommodation, snowmobile safaris into the pristine wilderness which are great fun for both adults and children. While you are here- as an

extra excursion (book before you go to ensure your place - certain costs will apply) you can go to the husky camp to meet the husky puppies and hear stories from real mushers. You will have the opportunity to visit a reindeer gathering place where you can learn more about herding and how to lasso a reindeer. There is even a trip to head out into the wilderness on a snowmobile to a vantage point in search of the Northern Lights. Fancy trying ice fishing by snowmobile - travel to a nearby popular ice fishing where you just drill a hole in the ice and lower your baited hook into the icy waters. Not afraid of the cold! an extraordinary experience - spend a night in an Igloo- there is a real bed for a comfortable nights sleep with a snow surround covered by reindeer hides, extra costs will apply for this. if you require any further information or availability checking on any of the above please

contact us on 01925 269400 or email for a quote enquiries@stocktonheathtravel.com or pop in to 80 London Road Stockton Heath. Follow us on twitter @stocktonhthtlv & like us on facebook and linkedin.



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# Stockton Heath Walking Day blessed with wa

WARM sunshine ensured a great turn out at the annual Stockton Heath Walking Day as local churches joined together for their annual walk of witness through the village which was packed with onlookers.

The walk followed a short service on Alexandra Park, led by St Thomas' Church vicar Revd Michael Riley. The sun shone brightly during the service on the field and although dark clouds gathered during the walk the threat of rain held off.



For more pictures and video check out [warrington-worldwide.co.uk](http://warrington-worldwide.co.uk)



## Advertiser's announcement

### Free womens health event

REPRODUCTIVE Health Group are delighted to invite women of all ages to their Women's Health Information Evening, to be held on Thursday, September 11, 6pm – 9pm, at the Centre for Reproductive Health, Daresbury Park.

The Centre offers comprehensive gynaecology, fertility and urology care in state of the art surroundings.

The Information Evening will be held in conjunction with Cheshire

Natural Health, whose therapists offer professional natural healthcare to complement the expert medical care provided by our team of specialist consultants, nurses and embryologists.

The programme will offer a series of informal talks on a wide range of women's health issues including:

- Infertility
- The IVF journey
- Pelvic pain

- Menopause – conventional and natural treatments
- Balancing hormones through nutrition and herbs
- IBS and digestive health
- Acupuncture for hormone balance
- Mindfulness/hypnotherapy for stress and wellbeing

Refreshments and free parking are provided.

The evening is free to attend however places must be reserved. To reserve

your places please contact Annette Eckersley, Education Manager, at [education@reproductivehealthgroup.co.uk](mailto:education@reproductivehealthgroup.co.uk) or book online at [www.reproductivehealthgroup.co.uk](http://www.reproductivehealthgroup.co.uk)

To learn more about the Centre for Reproductive Health and why we are different, please see [www.reproductivehealthgroup.co.uk](http://www.reproductivehealthgroup.co.uk)



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David Mowat, MP for Warrington South, holds regular surgeries throughout the constituency. If you would like to arrange an appointment to discuss an issue of concern to you please

e-mail him at [david.mowat.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:david.mowat.mp@parliament.uk)  
or telephone **01925 231267**.



### David Mowat

Member of Parliament for Warrington South

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## ISA reforms encourage saving

Four in 10 people who are aware of the ISA changes say they will help them to save more, according to consumer research group Which. The survey of over 2,000 people revealed that 54% say the new rules will encourage them to shop around for the best ISA deals. The research found that many ISA-holders had never switched their accounts before the reforms. More than half (55%) of those with instant-access cash ISAs and 42% of people with notice cash ISAs had never searched for a better deal before.

Separate research found that:

- half of people admit they could save more
- 12% of people plan to save more in the next year
- 36% of people still haven't heard about the new ISA rules.

Which group is calling on providers to stop limiting transfers into new savings accounts. Earlier in the year the consumer group revealed that 72% of instant-access cash ISAs allowed transfers in, dropping from 88% in 2012.

From 1 July 2014, ISAs were reformed into the New ISA with a £15,000 annual limit for cash and stocks and shares. You can now also transfer a stocks & shares ISA from a previous tax year to cash, something not permissible in the past.

Please remember however, a cash ISA is not an investment. It is a bank account, that's all. What the rules do mean however, is that if you have saved for your child's education or wedding in a stocks and shares ISA and you have done well out of it., at a time you think right, you can transfer the proceeds to a cash ISA for safety. And as long as you use it for these kinds of reasons I think that is fine.



### World Cup fever over again for another 4 years

Generally I have enjoyed the world cup. I think it was great to see the emerging countries like Chile, Columbia, Costa Rica, and the USA playing such attractive football. I think somebody should tell Roy Hodgson to possibly watch them. But an article in the Financial Times recently said that on average a football player is only in possession of the ball for around one minute every game. And it is statistics like that as well as the huge wages of players that continues to alienate most of us - and me for certain!

Don Wernham, Financial Planner



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# Money Column

By Margaret Black

## Rental Income

**Please note: If you are a landlord, and you are not already aware you do need to register with the Inland Revenue for Self Assessment.**

Just like employment income rental income is subject to Income Tax, and many landlords believe that as the amount they receive in rent only pays the mortgage, or is not even as much as the mortgage repayments, then this is not taxable. Unfortunately this belief is incorrect. It is only the interest element of the mortgage repayments which can be offset against the 'Rental income'. 'Rental income' is taxable in the same way as any other investment income, i.e. savings' interest etc.

The difference is that as the \*\*net amounts are varied the tax on the income is not deducted at source, which is why it needs to be reported on a self assessment tax return. The great news is that the tax liability on this form of income can be reduced by all the associated letting and maintenance costs during the tax year

- The interest component of the mortgage repayments
- Buildings insurance
- Accountancy costs for

the preparation of Rental income&expenditure statements

- Letting Agents Management fees
  - Maintenance costs
  - Service charges (for apartments and leasehold property)
  - A wear-and-tear allowance for furnished properties of 10% of the gross rent. Alternatively you can claim a "renewals" allowance which are costs associated with replacing furniture or equipment. This is slightly more complex and you should check your claims with an expert. You cannot claim both 'wear-and-tear' and 'renewals'
  - Repairs but not improvements. While like-for-like repairs are deductible, any work to "improve" your property is not. For example, replacing an old kitchen with a new kitchen is normally allowed, but extending your kitchen into the side return is an improvement and not an allowable cost. If you are not sure where you stand, take professional advice.
  - The direct costs of letting the property, eg phone, stationery, mileage
- Other important criteria to bear in



mind,  
- you should keep the purchase receipts for everything you spend on the property .  
- If you are a joint owner of the property, then your proportion of the rental income is the same as your ownership proportion.  
If you need any further advice on this subject please do not hesitate to contact WatkinsonBlack - 01925 413210 or info@warringtonaccountants.co.uk.

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# Alexander makes a splash at Henley Regatta

FORMER Stretton schoolboy Alexander Constantinou, aged 20, starred in the 175th Henley Rowing Regatta, representing the Royal Chester Rowing Club.

Alexander, who lives in Appleton, is currently in his second year studying for a BSc in Prosthetics and Orthotics at Salford University.

He took up rowing at 14 while at The King's School, Chester on the River Dee. While at school he represented the North West in a coxed eight where he won silver at the National Regatta. He also, won a

gold in the junior mens coxed four and gold in the junior mens eight at the International Spring Regatta in Ghent.

His eight man team won a highly fought race which was started by former Olympic champion Matthew Pinsent and was reported to be the most exciting race of the day!

Sadly, they lost the following day to Thames Rowing Club.

Alexander is pictured right and with team members below.



## £38,000 grant for cricket club

GRAPPENHALL Cricket Club has won a £38,000 grant to enable it to replace the existing outfield at their Broad Lane ground.

The club – which fields three senior teams in the Vivio Cheshire County League ECB premier division, has obtained the money through Sport England's "Protecting Playing Fields" fund.

The Broad Lane outfield has deteriorated over a number of years due to disease and wear and tear and is no longer the flat, lush green surface it used to be many years ago.

But it is hoped the new outfield can be in place for the start of the 2015 season. Work will start as soon as the current season ends in mid-September.

The existing grass will be removed to a depth of 25mm and additional drainage will be installed. The outfield will then be levelled and re-seeded to hopefully dramatically improve the existing diseased outfield and inadequate drainage which has led to numerous matches and training sessions being cancelled in the last few years.

A club spokesman said: "The committee are delighted with the award and would like to thank Sport England for their help throughout the process and for recognising our need.

"These works will help to safeguard the future of the club and allow our junior and senior players to play cricket on a top quality playing surface."

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## What's on in the villages

### August 7

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

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

HIGH LEIGH RUBBER BRIDGE CLUB  
Village Hall, 7-10pm. Details: Audrey Greaves 0161 904 0120

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

Second and fourth Monday  
WARRINGTON ART GROUP  
Bellhouse Community Centre, Bellhouse Lane, Grappenhall.  
7-9pm.

Every third Monday  
NATIONAL VEGETABLE SOCIETY  
Cheshire District meeting  
Grappenhall Ex-Servicemen's Club, Chester Road, Grappenhall.  
8pm. Details: 01925 265773.

Every fourth Monday  
MARLFIELD WI  
Grappenhall Community Library, Albert Road, Grappenhall. 7.30pm

Every Tuesday  
COFFEE MORNING  
St Cross Church, Appleton Thorn. All welcome.  
10am-12 noon

PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY  
Quays Community Centre,  
Thelwall New Road, Thelwall. 7.30pm.  
Contact: 01925 757582.

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

Every Wednesday  
APPLETON HALL BADMINTON CLUB  
September - April at Hall Drive, Appleton. 7.30-10pm.  
Details: 01925 262356

Every first Wednesday  
WALTON WI  
St John's Church Community Hall. 7.30pm  
Details: 01925 604384

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.

GRAPPENHALL PROBUS CLUB  
Grappenhall Community Centre, Bellhouse Lane, 10am.  
Details: 01925 264427.

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.

Note: Stockton Heath and Appleton Parish Councils do not meet in August.

To list your event call Village Life on

**01925 623632**





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