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December 2009

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See page 3

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"I HAVE seen the effect of traffic on Stockton Heath and it is not acceptable. We should be doing something about it."

A statement of the obvious if ever there was one - and particularly when it comes from John Redmond, operations manager at the borough's urban traffic management and control centre.

Fortunately, Mr Redmond said a good deal more when he attended a meeting of Stockton Heath Parish Council.

He revealed a £175,000 improvement plan for Victoria Square traffic lights is expected to be approved in January with work implemented soon after. This is intended to improve the crossings and provide a right filter for drivers turning from Grappenhall Road into London Road

Changes are also likely at the

crossing by the post office to allow more people to cross at each phase of the lights and other plans include improvements at the London Road/Fairfield Road junction and restrictions on parking in Fairfield Road near the junction.

We suspect that whatever changes are made, they will not be welcomed by all. Solving one person's traffic

problem in Stockton Heath will probably create another for someone else. Advance warning that the swing bridge is "off", for instance, could simply send more drivers down "rat runs" to the dismay of local residents.

So, while we welcome news that the borough council is "doing something about it", we fear in the absence of a modern day miracle, it is unlikely to be enough

Happy Christmas to all motorists and pedestrians!

Charity looking to make Headway

A CHARITY which helps people who have acquired a brain injury is looking to raise awareness and recruit new members.

Headway Warrington help to provide a social network for anyone who has an acquired brain injury. They meet from 7-9.00pm on the first Thursday of every month at Birchwood Youth Centre, Delenty Drive.

Further details during office hours from Kathy Guest, tel 01925 852942

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A TRADITIONAL Christmas atmosphere is guaranteed at the annual Walton Winter Wonderland, taking place each weekend in December leading up to Christmas.

There will be a range of festive fun and activities for all the family to enjoy.

The heritage yard within the grounds of the gardens will be at the heart of a very Victorian Christmas.

On the weekends of December 5

and 6, 12 and 13 and 19 and 20 the yard will be transformed into a winter wonderland, featuring children's entertainers, music, food and craft stalls, a Victorian Carousel and more.

Father Christmas will be visiting his grotto with a one off evening opening on Friday December 4 from 5 - 9pm this year. Usual opening times 11am - 4pm.

For more information please call 01925 262908 (option 2), email waltonhall@warrington.gov.uk or visit www.warrington.gov.uk/waltongardens



New floor for Parish Hall

RESIDENTS who use Appleton Parish Hall will benefit as a result of refurbishment work to the flooring.

The Parish Council is paying £475 for the floor to be re-sealed, which should remove scuff marks, make it cleaner and ensure the surface is durable for several more years.

The council is also making plans to clean the stage and window curtains in the hall, which is regularly booked by local groups for meetings. It follows the redecoration of the walls over the summer.

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Rotary's silver lining



Rotary members with the Challenge Cup.

DESPITE the recession the annual Grappenhall based Warrington Rotary Club Oktoberfest proved to be a great success, raising an estimated £15,000 for local charities and good causes.

The event at the Parr Hall ran for three nights, with local businesses sponsoring barrels of real ale beer.

The event had an extra silver lining when the Challenge Cup, won by the Warrington Wolves at Wembley, made a special guest appearance thanks to Neil Kelly at the Wolves Foundation.

Over the past 13 years the annual festival has now raised an estimated £140,000 for good causes.

Warrington Rotary Club meet at the Rams Head pub, Grappenhall on Monday evenings at 6pm and always welcome prospective new members.

Parking restrictions to be challenged

RESTRICTIONS on use of the Church Farm Shopping Precinct car park are to be challenged by Stockton Heath Parish Council.

Coun Stephen Taylor complained that signs on the car park say use is restricted to 'customers only'.

But when management from the new Aldi visited the parish council, they had stated that the car park would be for general use.

Coun Sonia Boggan said: "People know they can park there free for an hour and a half and go wherever they want."

Members heard that the time limit applies to parking between 8.30am and 8pm. Coun Peter Walker suggested it should be amended to two hours.

He said: "A man I know went into the village for an early dinner with his kids. He couldn't park there at 6pm. So maybe they could extend the time limit to two hours or stop the restriction at 6pm."

Clerk Peter Briggs said he would follow up the complaints.

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I am absolutely thrilled and would like to thank my staff for all their hard work and dedication in arranging travel for our clients both new and repeat. Without their help we would not have achieved this result, we work together

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will send you a selection of quotes and full descriptions of accommodation and flights to read at your leisure. We can also do group bookings i.e. schools,



Linda Crowder – Stockton Heath Travel

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Charity golf day success

St Wilfrid's Primary School, Grappenhall, held a Charity Golf Day at Lymm Golf Club in aid of the Alder Hey Imagine charity.

Lining up at the event from the left, event organiser Peter Barrett of Big Red Events, John Woodward, Jim Goldthorpe, Aidan Dorman, John Bygate and Hazel Fryman, deputy head of the school.



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FRI 4 - SUN 6 DEC
French Market, Time Square

SAT 5 DEC
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Saving money - and the environment!

ANDREW Miller's new ink cartridge business in Stockton Heath was given a flying start – by a visit from a carbon zero racing car.

Cartridge World have not only been helping to save the environment by refilling and remanufacturing ink and laser cartridges for more than 20 years, they also sponsor carbon zero racing in the British Touring Car Championships.

A hotted-up Seat Leon which runs on "green" sustainable, environment-friendly fuel blend E85-Bio-Ethanol arrived in London Road to mark the opening of Andrew's new shop.

Family-man Andrew – he's married to Karen and has two children, Rebecca, 17 and Jordan, 12 – has been in the ink and laser cartridge business for seven years.

He and assistant, John Forster, can refill almost all cartridges to at least the same standard as the original.

They offer a 100 per cent money back guarantee if the refill is not

satisfactory and stock a wide range of Cartridge World compatible cartridges at competitive prices. A wide range of papers, photo papers, printer and computer accessories are also available, along with photocopying facilities.

Andrew is finding Stockton Heath a warm, friendly community and is delighted he can help people save money – and the environment.



Andrew is pictured with John Forster and the carbon zero car.



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What's On in the Villages

December 1
STOCKTON HEATH FLOWER CLUB
 Lois Gill, of Clitheroe. A handful of stars
 Appleton Parish Hall, Dudlow Green Road.
 7.30pm

December 8
STOCKTON HEATH PARISH COUNCIL
 Sandy Lane Centre, 7.30pm

December 15
Appleton Parish Council
 Appleton Parish Hall, Dudlow Green Road,
 7.30pm

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

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

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

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

Every second Monday
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.

ST MARY MAGDALENE BINGO
 2-3.30pm

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

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

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

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

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

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 740272.

GRAPPENHALL WI
 Grappenhall Community Centre, Bellhouse Lane
 2.15pm

Every Friday
APPLETON'S 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

Car drivers branded as 'selfish'

PEOPLE who will not give up their cars to save the environment were branded 'selfish' by a councillor.

Coun Robin Wilson, a Green Party member of Stockton Heath Parish Council made the comment during a discussion on traffic in the village.

He complained that there was a major increase in traffic movement in the village, and that people always put the needs of the motorists first.

"I was walking along the swing bridge recently and the traffic was backing up. There were many cars with just one person in - they should be on the buses.

"These are just selfish people and they should get out of their cars and

onto the buses."

Earlier members were discussing the increasing number of times the Northwich Road Swing Bridge was 'off' to road traffic.

One reason was that a major retailer was taking its wine supplies on boats along the Manchester Ship Canal, the meeting was told.

Coun Wilson said: "People should be glad about this as it is moving lorries off the road.

"We have to be careful not to prioritise just the needs of motorists. We have to consider pedestrians as

well."

But local resident Patrick Mullee said buses were not always an option for people commuting to work and having to be at railway stations early in the morning.

People would not abandon car travel while the buses were so inadequate.

He added: "I waited 20 minutes for a bus on Sunday, and then it was delayed for another 20 minutes."

Air ambulance grant

A GRANT of £250 for the North West Air Ambulance Service has been approved by Stockton Heath Parish Council.

Members heard that the service now has a second aircraft and that £3.9 million is needed to deliver services.

Footpath risk to children

CHILDREN using the footpath on Windmill Lane could be at risk unless residents cut back their hedges, Appleton Parish Council heard.

Coun John Price said hedges on this lane were overgrown and making the footpath difficult to use. He asked the council to bring this to the attention of the borough council, who should write to residents asking them to take immediate action.

He said: "We fought long and hard to get a pavement on Windmill Lane and now it is almost impossible to use it. This is a particular worry now that winter is approaching and children who use the path may be forced to step on to the road. This is very dangerous and the residents need to be asked to sort this out."

Parish won't pay for PCSOs

STRETTON Parish Council has pulled out a scheme to provide funding for Police Community Support Officers as they have 'minimal problems.'

As a result, other parish councils which do contribute to the cost will have to pay more.

Clerk Peter Briggs told Stockton Heath Parish Council that he had attended a meeting to look at future funding for PCSOs.

Nine PCSOs were provided in South Warrington partly funded by parish councils, excluding Hatton and Walton. Cheshire Police Authority proposes increasing the cost to the parishes of each PCSO from £11,000 to £11,800.

Mr Briggs said Stretton planned to withdraw from the scheme from November next year and this would mean a slight increase in costs to the other parishes.

Stretton reported "minimal problems" in their area. But police had reported there had been an incident where the PCSO attended and had asked the parish to reconsider.

Chairman Coun Peter Walker said: "Stretton Parish Council does have a very small budget."

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Wolfie teams up with Cats!

THE Cheshire Cats Junior RLFC hosted two VIP Guests at their final Coaching Club session at Bradshaw Community primary School, Grappenhall.

Ben Lazenby, Player Performance Manager at Warrington Wolves brought along Wolfie, the club's internationally famous mascot.

Both Ben and Wolfie joined in the sessions adding to the carnival atmosphere.

Fourty young people aged 4 to 11 years attended demonstrating the extent of interest in Rugby League in South Warrington. In all, ten primary schools were represented over six weeks.

Everyone involved at Cheshire Cats is looking forward to more exciting times in 2010. There will be another series of Coaching Club sessions for six weeks starting on Saturday April 17 and concluding on Saturday May 22. These dates will

coincide with the start of the new summer season and details will be circulated to all schools in the New Year.

Ben Povey, Director of Player Development and Performance, said: "These Coaching Club sessions have been a fitting climax to a tremendously exciting inaugural season for Cheshire Cats. It has been so encouraging to see young people playing Rugby League for the sheer enjoyment of taking part. I want to thank every single young person who has attended these sessions together with their parents who have given such unequivocal support. Everything looks set for next season to build further on this excellent foundation."

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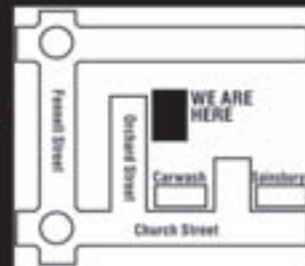
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Loch Fyne is famous, of course, for fish, and has come a long way since it was founded by two oyster enthusiasts on the banks of the beautiful loch in West Scotland in 1978. It was 10 years later that the Loch Fyne Oyster Bar opened and 1990 when the first restaurant opened.

Now the Stockton Heath restaurant

is one of 46 - all committed to serving fish cultivated, farmed or caught by methods which are not harmful to the marine ecosystem.

A glance at the menu reveals just how wide the range of seafood and fish dishes there are. Starters include oysters on ice, smoked salmon, chargrilled squid, classic prawn cocktail and homemade potted shrimps.

lemon butter sauce and whole grilled sea bass with caper and parsley salsa. We had a choice of new potatoes, chunky chips, vegetables or salad to accompany them and afterwards, for those with hearty appetites, there was an interesting selection of desserts.

Those who dislike fish should be aware that Loch Fyne also have starters and main courses to suit them, including duck and rib-eye steak and a range of vegetarian dishes.

The restaurant is bright and airy and we found the staff friendly and helpful. Everything was in accord with the old Gaelic saying "Nach Urramach an Cuan" -

How worthy of honour is the sea.

Main courses range from beer-battered fish and chips to kiln roasted salmon fillet with mushroom, whisky and horseradish sauce to cold lobster with mayonnaise.

We started our meal with a delicious, piping hot fish soup with garlic bread. We then went our separate ways to sample homemade salmon fishcakes with spinach and

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Money Column

By Margaret Black

Do you receive rental income from property? – Are you aware that this income is taxable?

Tax on rental income - an overview
If you let out all or part of a property (including your home), how you're taxed on the rental income depends on the type of letting.

If you let property abroad, you may have to pay UK tax on the rental income if you're resident in the UK for tax.

Tax on residential lettings

Letting residential investment property in this country is treated as running a business – whether you only let out one property or if you let out more than one property they'll all be treated as a single business. The tax is measured on the overall 'net profit'.

This should be reported on a self assessment tax return and the amounts should be taken for the period from 6th April of one year to 5th April of the following year, profit is worked out as follows:

- add together all your rental income
- add together all your allowable expenses, (you may need to seek advice on what are allowable expenses), then
- take the allowable expenses away from the income

By working out your net profit like this it does mean that if you should make a loss on a property you can offset this loss against profits made on any other properties,

however, if you do only have one property it does mean that you can bring the losses forward and offset against future profits the property may realise. Your net profit counts as part of your overall taxable income.

The 'Rent a Room' scheme

If you are letting furnished accommodation in your own home to a lodger and your total receipts (rent plus income from meals, laundry service, etc) are £4,250 or less (£2,125 if letting jointly), you can get this income tax-free under the 'Rent a Room' scheme. You will have to pay tax on anything over £4,250. Or you can choose not to use the scheme if you'd prefer to pay tax under the rules for residential lettings.

Letting all or part of your home

If you let your home while you live somewhere else, your profits from the rent are worked out and taxed in the same way as for residential investment lettings. The same rules apply if you let part of your home outside the 'Rent a Room' scheme. If you let part of your home this way, you can include a percentage of household costs like gas and electricity when you work out your allowable expenses.

Tax on rent from residential property lettings
Tax on UK furnished holiday lettings



David Watkinson and Margaret Black

The tax rules for furnished holiday lettings in the UK are different from the rules for residential lettings. The rules let you:

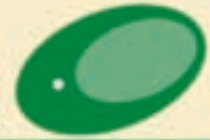
- reduce your profit by claiming 'capital allowances' for the cost of furniture and fixtures that you provide inside the property you let
- offset any losses against your overall income - not just against your rental income
- also, when you sell the property you may be able to take advantage of extra reliefs that'll bring down your Capital Gains Tax bill.

Please note that this column is designed to provide only general information, and you should seek professional advice before taking any action based upon it.

The Money Column is provided by WatkinsonBlack Chartered Accountants
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