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Cheshire's Community Magazine

Issue 129 December 2011 FREE

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## Secret garden success

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# Opinion

**PEOPLE in Grappenhall may well look back on November 28, 2011 as a very important date in local history.**

It will mark the formal signing of an asset transfer agreement between the Friends of Grappenhall Library and Warrington Borough Council.

To put it more simply, the old library building, closed to save the council money, will be handed over to local people prepared to run it on a voluntary basis.

It won't, strictly speaking, be a library, although it will have a collection of more than 1,500 books and some of the volunteers are ex-librarians.

But it will be a centre for the local community providing access to computers, meeting rooms for older people, mothers-and-tots, etc, etc, as well as a limited book lending service. Importantly, it will be open far more than the meagre 17 hours a week the former library was open.

Back in May, we said in this column that something good often comes out of adversity.

The new centre is not yet open but we venture to suggest that the signing ceremony on November 28 proves that we were right and that those pessimists who said a service relying on volunteers would never work, were wrong. Let us hope so, anyway.

**ANOTHER important date for the diary is Thursday, May 31, when the Olympic Torch will be in our neck of the woods.**

Even though it is claimed the symbolic flame, carried in relay by 8,000 torchbearers, will pass within 10 miles of

most people in the country and pass through 1,018 communities, Cheshire can count itself pretty fortunate.

It was predictable that Warrington would be on the route, as its Orford Park "sports village" is the only Olympic legacy project in the North West.

But the torch will also pass through Chester, Crewe, Congleton, Macclesfield, Runcorn, Widnes and Knutsford.

For a town as small as Knutsford to figure alongside much bigger communities is indeed an honour.

The Olympic Torch relay will provide a wonderful opportunity for Cheshire's towns to share in the Olympic spirit.

It is to be hoped local people - and in particular school children - turn out to greet the torchbearers and that local councils can organise other events to run alongside the relay.

## Secret garden success

THE Walled Gardens at Grappenhall Heys (pictured on the front cover) are no longer a secret - thanks to the fantastic work of the dedicated team of volunteers who have helped restore them to their former glory.

The picturesque location, which was once the site of one of Warrington's stately homes, is now becoming a popular attraction.

Volunteers who have helped transform the gardens are now busy fundraising towards the regeneration of old glasshouses on the site, with a target of £20,000 to achieve the match funding required for a Heritage Lottery Fund Grant.

The volunteers are busy every Sunday serving refreshments to help raise funds towards the glasshouses and various other events planned including a Christmas fayre taking place on Sunday November 27, with Santa arriving at 12.45pm.

The gardens were once part of the ancestral home of the Parr family who vacated the premises around the time of the Second World War, at a time when many stately homes became too expensive to upkeep. The main building was demolished in the 1970s by the development corporation.

For more details on the local history and forthcoming events visit [www.ghwalledgarden.org.uk](http://www.ghwalledgarden.org.uk)

## 'New' school celebrates 10th anniversary!

**Grappenhall Heys Community Primary School celebrated its 10th Birthday with a school concert and Birthday Cake.**

The school first opened its doors 10 years ago as the new school serving the Grappenhall Heys area of Warrington. Deputy Mayor of Warrington Cllr. Steve Wright cut the cake watched by from left, Kate Hesketh, Oakley Stewart, Davina Woods head teacher, India Harrison, Ben Carr and Jack Crawley.

# The North West's Top Secret is out...

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# Village green battle at critical stage

A LONG-running battle to save a "green oasis" has reached a critical stage.

Members of the Save Our Field action group at Stockton Heath have submitted an application for the open space, known locally as Cartwright's Field, to be designated as a village green.

But Warrington Housing Association, which won planning consent to build affordable homes on the site back in 2009, but has never implemented the scheme, is seeking an extension to the three year time limit.

Stockton Heath Parish Council, which objected to the original scheme, believes the original consent should

be allowed to lapse pending the outcome of the Village Green application.

Spokesman for the action group Phil McConnell says the site, off Chester Road and Montclare Crescent, has become even more of a wildlife haven since it was fenced in 2009.

He says 77 residents, representing more than 200 local users, have submitted evidence that they had used the field regularly since 1947.

It is likely a public inquiry will have to be held to consider the Village Green bid.



## Woodland is a 'hidden gem'

A SECRET woodland, well off the beaten track, is through to the regional final of a new tourism award.

It is not accessible by car, so few people know about it. It is a haven for wildlife and a SSSI - a Site of Special Scientific Interest.

The woodland was nominated by Edmund Myerscough for the "Northern Hidden Gems Award," a new tourism award scheme organised by Northern Rail.

It's actually part of Tatton Park, near Knutsford - but although the park attracts thousands of visitors every year, few ever see it.

Nominating the site, Mr Myerscough

said: "It is at the far end of Tatton Park and not accessible by car so not many non-locals know it's there. It is an area of special scientific interest due to its wet woodland habitat, which is rare in Cheshire, and less common birds such as the willow tit."

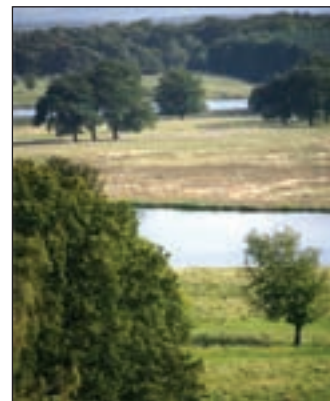
Tatton Park and visitor economy manager Brendan Flanagan said: "There are many 'hidden gems' at Tatton. Areas such as the mansion and gardens are well known, but the deer park offers many delightful areas full of character and wildlife."

Ian Bevan, managing director at Northern Rail, said: "We have had a great response to the Hidden Gems Awards and have uncovered some real

hidden gems in Cheshire and Merseyside, thanks to local people.

"The Northern Hidden Gems Awards are all about celebrating the best, and we feel Cheshire and Merseyside have some great contenders for the Network-wide final."

The project is aimed at highlighting and driving tourism, customers and footfall to the best of the region's 'hidden gems,' including quality restaurants, shops with a personal touch, well-loved attractions, hidden beauty spots and great journeys by foot, bike, car or rail which can be missed out or overlooked by tourists or people travelling through the area.



# School leavers pick up national awards

THE Cheshire-based Canal Boat Adventure Project was the lead organisation in a group of school leavers who picked up two of seven national prizes in the Catch 22 National Citizen Service awards at a prestigious ceremony in London.

The awards - for the best social action and media/film projects - were presented by Princess Anne.

Jordan Harvey, a former student at Warrington's Priestley College, won the best media/film award.

To win the social action award, the youngsters turned an abandoned youth centre into a promising social enterprise in just one month, after being spurred on by news that there would be no funding for the work for the next 15 years.

After repairing the building and opening it again to the public the young people are expected to secure the lease or ownership.

The Canal Boat Adventure Project, based on the Bridgewater Canal at Preston Brook, operates narrow boats suitable for use by young people and the disabled. It is supported by Frodsham and Helsby Rotary Club, Warrington Rotary Club and Cheshire Police. It is managed by Norma Horny, of Appleton and Peter Berryman, of Walton.



■ Princess Anne chats to some of the youngsters.

## New Year New You at Sculpt Medi Spa - Win £500 worth of treatments!

THE new Sculpt Medi Spa based in Stockton Heath is offering Village Life readers the chance to win a new look for the New Year in an easy to enter competition.

The package includes four non-surgical laser lipo treatments, four power plates sessions and a face peel at the plush new premises on London Road, with the total package worth £500.

Simply email your name, address and contact details, entitled "Sculpt Medi Spa Competition" to [info@sculptmedispa.co.uk](mailto:info@sculptmedispa.co.uk) for a chance to be entered into the prize draw. Please include a day time contact number.

Alternatively entries can also be sent on a postcard to "Sculpt Medi Spa Competition" 165 London Road, Stockton Heath, WA4 5BG.

Everyone who enters will receive a special discount offer and one lucky winner will win the £500 prize.

Closing date for the competition is January 6 and there are no cash alternatives.

Full terms and conditions can be supplied on request.



Advertiser's announcement

# Fascinating Fiji

Beautiful romantic destination ideal for weddings and honeymoons, or a 5 night break on return back to the UK.

I was lucky enough to take a trip to Hong Kong for 2 nights then on to Fiji for 11 nights. The flight was from Manchester via Heathrow to Hong Kong where I stayed at the Harbour Grand Hotel at North Point which is on the waterfront in the heart of Hong Kong Island. The guest rooms all enjoy views of the world famous harbour. The hotel is a short walk from the Fortress Hill MTR train station and there is a free hourly shuttle bus which takes guests to Central. Then it was back to the airport for the flight down to Fiji (which is 10.5 hours)

Fiji is a paradise of 333 islands dotted throughout the Pacific Ocean, situated 2100 km north of Auckland makes it easy access for a beach

extension after visiting New Zealand or Australia. Visitors to the large islands of Viti Levu and Vanua Levu can experience the beauty of Fiji with its rivers, rainforests, waterfalls and wildlife. The capital, Suva, is located at the south-eastern end of Viti Levu and is the nation's major port and largest city. I stayed on the main island for 1 night at the Westin before going on a 50 minute boat transfer to Malolo Lailai Island to spend 4 nights at Musket Cove.

The island has 400 acres of coconut trees, 11 beaches and 150 dedicated staff. Musket Cove is one of Fiji's oldest resorts, which has been operating for 40 yrs and is a haven for visiting yachts from around the world



■ Linda Crowder – Stockton Heath Travel

*Keep the village alive support your local traders!*

and enjoys many water sports. The accommodation ranges from traditional thatched Fijian Bures to large 2 bedroom luxury villas. There is a golf course adjacent to the resort but the championship golf course is on the main island at Denarau.

From here it was back to the Port Denarau to take a 2 hour trip to the other side of the island and a 2 night stay at the Warwick hotel. Beautiful beaches, watersports, tennis, archery, squash etc

First Landing was the next hotel on the agenda for 4 nights, and it is here where the first Fijians arrived over 3,500 years ago. This resort is set amongst 6 acres of tropical gardens with white sandy beaches. There are 39 Bures and 4 villas at this beachside resort with its fresh water swimming pool, boutique, internet service, health & beauty spa. Daily trips to Bounty Island, a marine reserve, for snorkeling and lunch, PADI diving, charter fishing trips and many island hopping tours are offered. Any more information is available by contacting Linda Crowder 01925 269400 or email enquiries@island-villas.co.uk

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12 YEARS

# Eight years on Ruth is still passionate about her wine business

**CORKS Out based in Stockton Heath is set to celebrate its eighth anniversary in December.**

Starting out as one little shop in Stockton Heath owner Ruth Yates saw a vision for a quality wine and spirit store with a point of difference.

Now with 5 shops, a national web business and 25 awards behind her, entrepreneur Ruth says she is still as passionate now as the day she started.

She said: "It's been an amazing journey that started with me selling my car to put a range of 500 products on the shelves.

"I put all my experience and efforts into buying a range of wines to attract both the regular wine enthusiast and those new to wine appreciation and we now have over 2000 wines, spirits and gifts available.

"I also felt I wanted to demystify wine and help people to understand a

little more about what's in their glass, which is where the tasting machines come in. Customers are now finding the whole new Wine Bar experience a real joy.

"I have a passionate team across the stores who are constantly striving to meet the needs of our customers and I think basic manners and courtesy should never be difficult and go a long way. We are grateful in this economic climate that our customers go out of their way to shop with us and understand the importance of supporting their local independent."

Join Corks Out on Sunday December 11 at the Stockton Heath store where it all started for a glass of Fizz and some special treats to celebrate.



## Tea for two?

TWO women have embarked on a new business venture - mobile cream teas.

After a decade of selling antiques together neighbours Helen Rimmer and Jane Griffiths have decided it is time for change and set up their new business "Violet's Vintage Teas."

Named after Helen's grand mother, Helen and Jane offer a unique service delivering cream teas direct to peoples' homes or businesses, using the finest bone china - and of course

the most important ingredient - home made cakes.

Both women confess to having a passion for baking and have decided to turn one of their favourite pastimes into a business.

Based in Grappenhall they offer a complete service which includes a selection of finger sandwiches, fresh scones, clotted cream, a cutting cake and all the ancillary items including a china tea service, cutlery and table linen - they even wash up as well.

They even offer "Tiny teas" for "little ladies."

In the New Year they will be offering "secret tea parties" including a special charity event in aid of St Rocco's Hospice.

They have already achieved 5 Stars for hygiene with Warrington Council's "Scores on the doors."

For more information visit their face book page at [www.facebook.com/violetsvintageteas](http://www.facebook.com/violetsvintageteas)



## Howzat for a chiller?



CRICKETING scribe Pete Worrall is about to release his second novel, "The Doom of the Hollow" - and it looks set to be a real chiller.

It has been three years in the making and is a sequel to his first book, "They Grow Upon the Eyes" and expands on the strange, unnatural mysteries of the first.

Robert Bell's daughter has a new imaginary friend, but the deep monotone voice coming from the darkest corner of her father's garage suggests that he might not be so imaginary.

Sheila Doors has been murdered. During the autopsy Tabatha Gray finds DNA of a man who died 65 years ago in the wounds on her neck.

Robert and Tabatha's search for the truth leads them to the Earth's darkest secret and mankind's bleakest hour.

Pete - who when he's not penning mystery novels takes on the more down-to-earth task of playing for Appleton Cricket Club - said: "What started as an idea whilst walking my dogs across the Woolston Eyes has grown into a story spanning two books."

"They Grow Upon The Eyes" is available from Amazon Kindle and [www.lulu.com](http://www.lulu.com)

Pete is now working on his next project, "The Mechanical Systole Hypothesis."



# It's that time of year again...

It's Christmas again, the season when scaremongers and killjoys release surveys telling employers that Christmas parties are a legal minefield.

The fact is thousands of Christmas parties go off without incident apart from a few sore heads and embarrassed looks in the office the day after.

However I had one client contact me on a Monday morning in a state of barely controlled fury to say that none of her workforce had turned up for work, even though the company had paid for a plush Christmas party the Saturday before. Although she did not go because of childcare problems her husband the MD had attended and had not informed her of any problems.

What he had neglected to tell her is that he had decided that 2 o'clock in the morning was a good time to tell

his workforce what he thought of them, and proceeded to sack them all. These were the last words he spoke before sliding unconscious to the floor.

His workforce generously drove him home and planned their revenge. On the Monday they all congregated at a café around the corner from work and waited half an hour before going to work, explaining as they arrived what had happened at the works do. The client advised me some months later that the MD was sleeping on the sofa until well into the New Year.

The fact is that with a sense of proportion (and humour), such events become "workplace fables" and bind

people together far better than any motivational management tools or appraisal systems.

If you are worried about relationships in your company it's probably better to avoid Christmas Parties that involve large amounts of alcohol, perhaps organising a family based event. I know many stately homes and National Trust properties put on events like these every year. Then the more rumbustious of your workforce can slip off for a night of carousing on their own. One word of advice though. If you are the owner or senior manager of the company organising the Christmas do, don't go with them or you may find yourself searching the local cafes for your employees the next morning.

Happy Christmas!



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## The future of medicine?

STRETTON based Cheshire Natural Health director and founder Tracey Turton believes that healthcare in the future should combine both the wisdom of natural medicines and the advances in modern medicine.

This forward thinking approach is now offered at Cheshire Natural Health where Private GP Dr Simon Berrisford works closely with the clinic's therapists to give patients the best choices for their health issues.

"Patients can see Dr Berrisford to

have their health problems assessed and diagnosed, discuss the treatment options available, and either referred to one of the 16 therapists at the clinic, treated with conventional medicine, or a combination of the two. This is a unique and revolutionary approach which gives patients the best of both worlds" says Tracey.

A patient with high blood pressure for example may be referred for counselling to help them to cope with stress, and herbal medicine which is traditionally used to treat high blood

pressure. Patients experiencing fertility issues may be recommended various tests not normally available through their NHS GP, along with Acupuncture and Traditional Chinese Medicine which has been shown in numerous studies to have a beneficial effect on male and female fertility.

All new patients can take advantage of a free no obligation consultation with Tracey to discuss the most appropriate treatment for them. Call 01925 730123 or visit cheshirenaturalhealth.co.uk for further information.



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## Family honour at stake in the ultimate 'derby' game

IT'S hardly the Crucible, but when Mere A play Mere B in the Knutsford and district Snooker League, the atmosphere is pretty tense.

For not only is it the ultimate "derby" game, with 12 players all from the same club, it's also a matter of family honour, for up to 10 of them could be from just two families!

It could almost be the Jacksons versus the Owens - except that there are seven Jacksons and only three Owens.

When the two teams clashed for the

first time this season, the A team, with all three Owens, had a tense 4-3 victory. Possibly, the Jacksons might claim, because the B team only had four of the family playing that night!

Both teams play in the second division, with the A team pushing for promotion and the B team have a

respectable mid-table position.

The Jacksons consist of four brothers, Tony, Allen, John and Geoff, two nephews who are also brothers, David and Sam, and another nephew, Tom.

There are actually two more brothers but Chris plays for Shaw Heath at Knutsford and Andrew doesn't play at all.

Three generations of the Owen family play in the A team -

grandfather Geoff, who has been playing in the league for more than 30 years, son Richard and grandson Matthew, who at 14 is the youngest player in the league.

The B team quite often consists entirely of Jacksons and just occasionally the three Owens on the A team are bolstered by a Jackson family presence.

Any reader who finds themselves slightly confused by all this should not worry. This writer is also snookered!

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# Action-packed outing for sixth formers



Some of the students all kitted out for body boarding.

**MORE than 30 students and three teachers from Appleton College - the sixth form at Bridgewater High School - went on an action packed trip to a residential centre on Anglesey.**

The team-building trip to Tyn y Felin, set amid rocky creeks and heather clad moorland near Rhoscolyn, offered the youngsters a range of activities such as body-boarding, raft building, abseiling, climbing and many others.

Head of Appleton College Julie Burns said: "We wanted to give our year 12 students a completely different experience to that they would get in school. Through our

enrichment activity programme this trip certainly gave everyone lots of practical experience, particularly in teamwork. The activities helped build people's self-confidence and stretched them in many ways."

Student Katie Holland said: "I got to know people I have never spoken to before in college through excellent team building exercises and games. I had so much fun."

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## Purple flag may bring a bonus

THE award of a "Purple Flag" - for high standards of safety and security at night - may result in an unexpected spin-off for the village of Stockton Heath.

Local traders, delighted with the news that the village has become the first in the country to win an award usually only given to towns and cities, have agreed to help with a long-standing problem - the lack of public toilets.

Local resident Helen Curwen, who was involved in the Purple Flag campaign as a member of the village's Early Evening Economy working group, has persuaded 14 local businesses, including pubs, cafes and restaurants, to allow "non-customers" to use their toilets.

They will put "Purple Flag" stickers in their windows to say people can use their toilets.

The award came from the Association of Town Centre Management and follows the transformation of the village in recent years by the opening of numerous restaurants, bars and cafes.

The parish council is also delighted with its Purple Flag - particularly after receiving a note of congratulation from former local police chief, Inspector (now Detective Chief Inspector) Gary McIntyre.

He wrote from his new post in London to say it could not have happened to a better parish and community and wished the village well for the future.

## High school celebrates success

BRIDGEWATER High School has become one of the few schools in the country to be awarded a Duke of Edinburgh Award operating licence - hard on the heels of gaining an Adventure Activities Licensing Authority licence.

Paul Griffiths, from the North West office of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme officially presented the awards at the Upper School awards night.

Head teacher Tim Long said: "We are delighted to celebrate being among one of the few state school's to be awarded its own Duke of Edinburgh Award operating licence.

"Parents appreciate the important extra curricular activity available and

support their children in gaining skills and participating in activities which will benefit them in the future."

Currently, the school has 80 pupils doing the DoE bronze award, 35 on the silver and 20 on the gold.

Assistant head Bridget Neacy said: "The DoE award requires a lot of commitment to gain skills and participate in activities that can help students in today's competitive jobs market.

"Participating in the awards also offers adventure, fun and helps with gaining confidence while learning life skills at the same time. Potential employers tend to take more notice of applicants who have squared up to the challenges of these awards."

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# Motorists in for a bumpy ride

**MOTORISTS in rural areas look to be in for a bumpy ride as eight in 10 councils experience a loss in funding.**

Eighty per cent of councils say they have suffered a real term loss in road funding over the last 12 months.

And 89 per cent of RAC patrols - who use the roads more than most people - say they believe current road conditions show the effects of under-investment in road repairs.

However, 80 per cent of councils are confident they are well prepared to deal with another harsh winter.

Research conducted by the RAC among councils and its own patrols has revealed widespread concern about the state of the road network, particularly in rural areas, as cuts to council budgets are increasingly hitting home.

The survey reveals that a year on from the Comprehensive Spending Review, 80 per cent of local authorities have experienced a real term reduction in funding to their road maintenance budgets - with 55 per cent of councils seeing an outright reduction in funding.

A further 25 per cent reported that funding had stayed at the same level, meaning a loss in real terms due to inflation in materials and labour costs required for road maintenance.

Even with the budgetary constraints, 50 per cent of councils reported a focus on permanent long-term fixes but 20 per cent reported they are prioritising short-term fixes for safety reasons. Looking ahead to this winter, 80 per cent reported that they are well prepared for another winter of extreme weather and 50 per cent mentioned their well stocked salt

and grit supplies.

Three quarters of RAC patrols think the condition of rural roads is poor or very poor, with just two per cent

saying they are in good condition. In addition, two-thirds of RAC patrols think that suburban roads are in poor condition.

Motorists are equally concerned about roads - 92 per cent of those

questioned as part of the RAC's "Report on Motoring" said that they feel the condition of local roads is getting noticeably worse compared with 78 per cent who feel similarly about main roads.

## Five star safety rating

THE Hyundai Veloster has been awarded the maximum five-star safety rating by independent vehicle assessment organisation, Euro NCAP.

A rigorous test process resulted in class-best scores for the 1+2 door sports coupe.

The Veloster achieved a rating of 96 per cent in the "adult occupant" category, registering maximum points in the side barrier test and more severe side pole test.

In the "child occupant" category, the Veloster attained a score of 89 per cent.

The electronic stability program and seatbelt reminder systems contributed to the car's score of 71 per cent in the "safety assist" category.

The Veloster is the sixth consecutive Hyundai model to achieve the maximum five-star score in the Euro NCAP safety program. The all-new i40 is the most recent car before Veloster to be awarded the top rating.

Allan Rushforth, senior vice president of Hyundai Motor Europe, said: "The five-star rating for Veloster further demonstrates our commitment to the highest levels of safety for Hyundai customers. Veloster is attracting a new audience, combining practicality and 'fluidic' design in a unique 1+2 door package. Recognition of its class-leading safety performance will further add to its appeal."



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The Nutcracker  
Saturday 10 December, Parr Hall,  
2.30pm

Christmas Stress Buster  
Saturday 10 December,  
Warrington Market, 10am – 4pm

Lantern Parade  
Thursday 15 December,  
Queens Gardens, 6.30pm

## Merry Christmas Countdown Friday 16 & Saturday 17 December

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Crafty Christmas  
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# WINE COLUMN

by Ruth Yates from



## Great Christmas Dinner wines

Let me help you indulge this Christmas, not in quantity but in quality with some of my favourite wines that will complement a variety of dishes whatever your choice over the festive season.

Lets start with Champagne, not just because it's a celebration drink but because it's a great aperitif, it can also complement a number of starters such as Hors d'oeuvres, seafood, smoked salmon and cold soups. I have too many choices and lots of great offers in store so pop in and let me talk you through some of them. If you're not a Champagne person or you would like something a little lighter on the purse can I suggest our Sergio Prosecco or a nice glass of Lustau Fino Sherry.

For Christmas starters, if you're having shellfish or seafood then keep it dry and white, a glass of Merlin Cherrier Sancerre or Mosnier Chablis. For Pates and Terrines choose something off dry or medium like Bruno Sorg Gewurztraminer, Two Rivers Pinot Gris or Tuffiers Vouvray. For reds, a good quality Beaujolais Cru, such as our Chateau de Fleurie or our Haut Cotes du Beaune Billard would be perfect.

Onto Christmas dinner, now, whether it's traditional or something a bit different then there is always a perfect match out there! For white I would be to keep it off dry and fairly weighty as your dish may be quite rich, therefore, a very good quality Chardonnay with a gentle subtle amount of oak, our St Veran Valanges would be fantastic, the Chablis Premier Cru from Mosnier or how about the fantastic Italian Ca Dei Frati Brolettino. For Reds my personal choice would be a

quality Pinot Noir, either from Burgundy or New Zealand pop in and let me help you choose one! Not a fan of Pinot Noir? Merlot's and Shiraz are great and they don't have to break the bank they start at £6.99 and represent great value.

The Cheese board is where I really get excited and can go completely over the top. If its hard cheeses like Cheshire, Mature Cheddar or Gouda then full-bodied reds are best, thinking Palazzo della Torre, my baby Amarone. Soft cheeses like Brie and camembert are best left to the medium whites like Vouvray Riesling Spatlese and Pinot Gris. Good old Roquefort, Stilton and other similar blue cheeses are a must with a dessert wine such as Sauternes, German Auslese, Tokaji or Ports.

Dessert, go on... save room for the good old Christmas pud and have a delightful Niepoort Tawny Port or Muscat, also great with Christmas cake and mince pies if you have room.

So whatever you are having for your Christmas Dinner this year then let Corks Out help you create that perfect combination, just tell the team your budget and we will do the rest.

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Yours in Wine  
Ruth

## Top award for Claire

**A WOMAN who has served on High Legh Parish Council for 10 years received a prestigious community award.**

Claire Hay, currently vice chairman of the council, was honoured at the Cheshire Rural Women's Awards at a ceremony in Winsford, which recognises those who have worked for rural communities in Cheshire.

She was nominated by parish council clerk Doreen Walker, through CHALC (Cheshire Association of Local Councils).

Cllr Hay has worked for the parish council for 10 years, serving as chairman three times. In 2007 she helped raise more than £40,000 to save and redevelop the local children's play area - which was officially opened by Tatton MP George Osborne.

She said: "I have also obtained funding to install and replace village notice boards, both in the village and outlying areas so all the community can access village information."

"I am currently working with a fellow councillor on the redevelopment of our website to ensure even more access to information about our parish and speed up communications in our rural community."

Cllr Hay, who has two children and also works as a teacher, was presented with her award by chairman of CHALC Stuart Hulse.



## Tributes to veteran councillor



TRIBUTES have been paid to Cllr Mike Stansfield - a long-standing member of Appleton Parish Council and local Royal British Legion stalwart, following his death at the age of 84.

Cllr Stansfield was a member of the parish council for 32 years, having been first elected on May 30, 1979, and was shortly to have been presented with a clock, bearing a plaque, to mark his years of service.

A farmer, he was also an enthusiastic yachtsman and a frequent visitor to Salcombe, in Devon, where he kept his yacht.

He was a long-standing member of the Conservative party and of Stockton Heath Royal British Club and a local Poppy Appeal organiser.

Cllr Stansfield was behind several recent initiatives by the parish council, including the special village sign for Appleton Thorn and the provision of street maps in bus shelters in the parish.

Parish clerk Peter Briggs said: "Mike was a great character and will be greatly missed."

The funeral service took place at St Matthew's Church, Stretton.

## Parishes show true grit!

STOCKTON Heath Parish Council has changed its mind over an offer of free grit and snow shovels from the borough council this winter.

Originally, councillors declined the offer - but after hearing a revised "winter resilience" scheme from the borough council, they have agreed to join in the initiative.

Five grit boxes will be placed in the village and will be re-filled by the borough council up to four times during the winter.

The majority of parish council across the borough originally turned down the offer - leading to the revised scheme.

Members were concerned that when the bins were sited there could be complaints from areas where there were none.

But they decided to play one in each ward of the parish and one outside the medical centre.

Grappenhall and Thelwall Parish Council and Appleton Parish Council have also agreed to accept five grit boxes after hearing of the borough's revised offer.



Provided by:  
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# Money Column

By Margaret Black

## For your information – The ‘Change Plan’

HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) is developing plans to concentrate on five key elements of compliance: Prevent, Detect, Correct, Punish and Deter. The HMRC ‘Change Plan’ believes that it will bring in £7 billion of additional revenue by the year 2014/2015.

As part of the ‘Change Plan’ HMRC are proposing to target the following areas of trade as part of its extensive drive to expose tax cheats:

- VAT dodgers,
- Private Tutors,
- Fitness/dance/lifestyle coaches
- Individuals and business’s trading in the e-marketplace during this summer included in the definition of e-marketplace will be ebay, Auto Trader, Amazon, Craigslist and Gumtree.

HMRC are currently in discussion in respect of the above mentioned. It is expected that similar terms will be offered as before with reduced penalties as an incentive to those people who come forward voluntarily.

### Offshore compliance

Following the news contained in the ‘Change Plan’, HMRC will be creating a dedicated taskforce of investigators who will be looking further at any offshore compliance activity in order to pursue offshore tax evasion. HMRC have already obtained names and account details of thousands of British HSBC customers who hold assets amounting to billions in Switzerland. HMRC have already shown specific interest in 3,000 of the banks customers and they have already written to 750 of them with the remaining 2,250 to be approached in the very near future.

It has been found that approximately 500,000 British residents in total have money banked in offshore tax havens from Switzerland to the Channel Islands and the Carribean. HMRC have uncovered that it is not just the wealthy who hold accounts but taxi drivers, landladies from Blackpool and chip shop owners.



David Watkinson and Margaret Black

It is presumed that the new task force will work with High Net Worth Unit (HNWU). This department of HMRC handle individuals with wealth in excess of £20 million and according to HMRC around 5,000 people fall into this bracket. UK are third in the international wealth ranking of top billionaire countries after the USA and Germany.

The Money Column is provided by WatkinsonBlack, Chartered Accountants, 1st Floor, 264 Manchester Road, Warrington, WA1 3RB. Accountants who care, for clients who matter. Please telephone 01925 413210 or e-mail on margaret@warringtonaccountants.co.uk

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# What's On in the Villages

**December 13**  
STOCKTON HEATH PARISH COUNCIL  
Sandy Lane Centre, Stockton Heath. 7.30pm

**December 20**  
APPLETON PARISH COUNCIL  
Parish Hall, Dudlow Green Road. 7.30pm

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

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

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

**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.

**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

**Second and Fourth Tuesday of each month**  
STOCKTON HEATH & DISTRICT LIONS  
Ram's Head, Grappenhall.

**Every Wednesday**  
APPLETON HALL BADMINTON CLUB  
Starting December at Hall Drive, Appleton.  
8-10pm. 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 PROBUBS 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

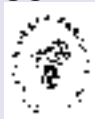
**Every second Thursday**  
STRETTON WI  
Appleton Parish Hall, Dudlow Green Road.  
2.30pm.

**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**



## £4,000 boost for jubilee celebrations

CELEBRATIONS for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee next June in Stockton Heath have been given a £4,000 boost.

The Parish Council has allocated the money as "additional expenditure" in its budget for next year.

Members have formed a working party to plan celebrations following comments from Cllr Graham Roughsedge that this year little had been done to mark the Royal Wedding.

Cllr Stephen Taylor said there were opportunities to work with other parish councils and Warrington Borough Council on joint celebrations.

## Let there be lights!

CHRISTMAS lights will be switched on at Stockton Heath and Knutsford on Friday, December 2 at 6pm

The lights at Stockton Heath should have an extra sparkle as they have undergone repairs costing £2,300, funded by the Parish Council.

The official switch on will be in Victoria Square and local schoolchildren will sing carols.

Stockton Heath Festival's annual Christmas Market will be on Sunday, December 4 from 10am to 3pm, with more than 50 pitches at The Forge Shopping Centre and on the car park.

At Knutsford, there will be a parade along King Street with Father Christmas and reindeer.

A Christmas Market will take place in Silk Mill Street and Princess Street on the Friday, from 1pm to 9pm and on the Saturday from 10am to 4pm.

## Young netball players wanted

YEAR 9 and 10 Netball players are urgently wanted to play in Sunday league team at the Ball Hall in Latchford.

Experience preferred but enthusiasm more important!

Please contact Tracey on 07740 421984

## Bulb planting

GRAPPENHALL and Thelwall Parish Council has planted 5,000 bulbs - dwarf tulips, daffodils and grape hyacinth - at various locations across the parish to provide a splash of colour in the spring.

## Football defence

GRAPPENHALL and Thelwall Parish Council has agreed to spend £241 on green powder coated mesh fencing to protect fruit trees and bushes in Euclid Park, Grappenhall, from damage caused by footballs.

Fencing already surrounds the trees, but this is itself being damaged by footballs.

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for Warrington South

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