

VILLAGE

Cheshire's Community Magazine

Issue 155 February 2014 FREE

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Harry scoops special award!

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jobs fair

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David Mowat - MP for Warrington South

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Jazz concert for charity

THE annual concert by the Chicago Teddy Bears Society Jazz Band in aid of charity group Contact the Elderly takes place at Grappenhall Community Centre on Friday, February 14.

national charity dedicated solely to tackling loneliness and social isolation among older people.

Always a sell-out, the evening includes a two course supper and starts at 8pm.

The Lymm and Thelwall branch organises monthly afternoon tea parties for the Over 75s and special events such as a canal boat trip, an Easter tea at Statham Lodge Hotel, Lymm and a Christmas dinner at the Lymm Hotel. All the events are run by volunteers.

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Branch chairman Colin Melrose said: "Our tea parties are a real lifeline of friendship for our older members, who have little regular contact with family or friends. They bring together people of all ages, develop fulfilling friendships, and give everyone involved something to look forward to each month."

Anyone interested in attending the concert or who would like more information about the charity should contact Mr Melrose on 01925 756742.

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Editor
Gary Skentelbery

Production
Paul Walker

Account Executives
James Balme
Nick White
Tony Record

Advertising
Freephone
0800 955 5247

Editorial
01925 623632

Email
info@warrington-
worldwide.co.uk

Websites
www.culchethlife.com
www.frodshamlife.co.uk
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Opinion

HS2 continues to divide opinion across Cheshire. Major councils, such as Warrington and Cheshire East are keen to accept the economic benefits we are told will flow from construction of the high speed railway but are concerned about the environmental damage likely to occur in rural areas.

Parish councils in areas likely to be affected, such as High Legh, Pickmere, Lymm, Warburton, Rixton-with-Glazebrook, Culcheth and Glazebury, etc., are understandably more exercised by the damage to local communities and the need for adequate compensation for displaced residents.

Of course, for some people there can be no adequate compensation. Someone with a family home, perhaps handed down through several generations, will not feel adequately compensated by any amount of money. All they want is to be left alone.

One cannot but feel sympathy, for instance, for residents of High Legh, who face the possibility of their quiet village, which boasts a thriving community even though it does not even have a shop, being decimated not just by HS2 but also by proposed A556 road improvements. You cannot expect these people to welcome such disruption because of the possibility of a boost to the economy of a town as far away as Crewe in 20 years' time.

We don't actually believe the economic case for HS2 has been proved and think there is a very real possibility that it will never happen. But it won't be stopped by councils arguing that they should have their cake and eat it too – and

in the meantime we hear disturbing stories of people already experiencing difficulties in selling properties.

Society changes rapidly these days and with the growth of the internet, video conferencing and e-commerce, coupled with the need to reduce carbon emissions, surely we should be looking to reduce travel – not increase it.

JUST how seriously it is being taken, we cannot pretend to know, but the possibility of using the Grade 2* Listed Knutsford Sessions House as a much-needed medical centre for the town has been discussed at a Town Council meeting.

Well, it is true that it is an iconic building in a convenient central location which needs to be used. But it is nearly 200 years old and was built at a time when style was more important than future maintenance needs. No court hearings have taken place there for several years so we can expect the building to have suffered from all the problems associated with disuse.

We would love to see such a prominent building restored and put to good use – but not at the expense of our cash-strapped health service.

Elsewhere in this issue we report on a promising partnership between two councils, a housing trust, the Environment Agency and a group of residents at Stockton Heath.

Lengthy negotiations have led to an agreement which should result in a neglected, eyesore site being transformed by the planting of trees.

It is good to see such an initiative and praise is due to all involved, particularly the residents who did not just sit back and complain about the problem but were prepared to get involved – even if it meant raising some money to pay for the work to be done.

IN this column last month we drew attention to the proposals for an "open café" to serve users of the Broomfields Youth Project at Appleton and the opposition mounted by nearby residents who feared it could result in an increase in anti-social behaviour and criminal damage.

Our view was that the fears of residents were unfounded – particularly as the whole purpose of the Youth Project was to keep young people off the streets.

We are pleased to now be able to report that planners have approved the proposals and to note that, with incidents of anti-social behaviour in the area down by 63 per cent since the Youth Project was established, it seems to be achieving its aims.

Rare chicks hatch at zoo



WALTON Hall & Gardens zoo keeper Peter Cookson is celebrating the arrival of some rare chicks at the popular Warrington visitor attraction.

The Marsh Daisy chicks were born earlier this month and will be on show at the childrens zoo next summer when they are fully grown.

They will also be paired with unrelated birds to boost the gene pool at the zoo.

Passion for photography pays off

APPLETON based photographer Satish Lad has transformed his hobby and passion for photography into a business – including a commission to photograph a high profile wedding in Sri Lanka!

He has always had a great passion for photography from childhood.

He trained as an international award winning graphic designer and art director where he directed professional commercial photographers to help them gain a more creative edge to their work.

Using his skills as an art director his own work took on a unique style and creativity which lead to creating satishlad.com.

Four years on he is now working with a diverse range of clients. His work includes portraits, weddings and unique wall art for private clients and businesses. He also sells some of his own personal work as limited edition prints.

His work has taken him across the world and recently completed an eight day shoot in Sri Lanka where he was commissioned to photograph a high profile wedding.

On a more local level he has been commissioned to produce artwork for the walls of the new offices for First Recruitment Group in Birchwood.

As an ongoing personal project he has been photographing different parts of Warrington over the last few years to build up a collection of photographs showing the town through the seasons.

He said: "For me photography is simply about the sheer joy of seeing and my work connecting with people on all levels. Coming from a design background enables me to be to produce striking images which can then be reproduced and presented in very creative ways that have a real wow factor."



■ One of Satish Lad's photographs of Warrington.



Law firm unifies as FDR

CHESHIRE law firm Forshaws Davies Ridgway (FDR) has decided to rebrand all its private client legal services under one unified 'FDR' brand.

The decision has been prompted by the arrival of a new chief executive, Oliver Burton, who has carried out a thorough review of the business, which has offices in Warrington, Stockton Heath and Frodsham.

He and the firm's 16 partners have decided that the future interests of the law firm and its many loyal clients will be best served by trading under a single brand for all services.

From February 1, all solicitor services dealing with wills, probate, family, litigation, conveyancing, criminal and personal injury law will re-join the commercial department under the FDR banner, with one website www.fdrlaw.co.uk serving the entire firm.

Mr Burton said: "We have decided our future strategic direction lies in

consolidating all our legal services under a single name. FDR has a long established history and excellent reputation in north Cheshire. We believe we offer a first class, professional service in all departments and are confident we have sufficient expertise in-house to respond to today's challenging markets."

All the previous branding and signage will be replaced by FDR's distinctive bright blue in readiness for the firm's re-launch at the beginning of February."



Advertiser's announcement

Has Father Christmas brought you a proposal of marriage this year? If so, please read below for a couple of 'different ideas'.

We offer a wedding gift service - wedding guests ring and 'gift' money towards your wedding or honeymoon package.

Elephants in Thailand

If a bride wants to be delivered to her waiting groom on the back of an elephant, check out The Sarojin in Khao Lak. Its dedicated weddings team can sort out music, flowers, entertainment, hair and make-up, photography, videography, fireworks and even invite the odd elephant or two! Luxury Wedding package at The Saojin. Anantara Golden Triangle in northern Thailand also has a Regal Elephant Wedding package.

Dolphins in the Bahamas

Dolphin Encounters, based on Blue Lagoon Island, will tailor a wedding to a couple's wishes - they can be married in or out of the dolphin pool. Staying at the Sheraton Nassau Beach Resort will provide easy access to Dolphin Encounters.

Game drive in Shamwari Game Reserve

Weddings in Shamwari which includes the registrar, legal fees, licence and marriage certificate, plus the game drive and a private dinner. A dearer option is Sir Richard Branson's private game reserve, Ulusaba. For a minimum three night stay, the package includes twice-daily game drives and unlimited champagne throughout the stay.

Tropical fish in the Maldives

Conrad Maldives Rangali Island, with not one but two spas, where brides can preen themselves and there are plenty

of fish on view in under-sea restaurant Ithaa. Vow renewals can take place in Ithaa, which is unique because it's the world's first all-glass, under-sea restaurant. Packages can include spa treatments, wedding cake, a sunset cruise and gourmet dinner.

Penguins on Boulders Beach

Couples are driven to the beach in a limousine, where they swap vows before lining up some classic 'black and white' shots with the penguins. These are known as Boulders Beach Weddings. We would recommend checking into the nearby Twelve Apostles Hotel & Spa.

Mickey in Florida

The big-eared, big-hearted rodent will make a 30 minute appearance at a Walt Disney World. However, it is not possible to have him present for the vows. Make sure you request Mickey's presence at the wedding when you book the package. Disney weddings are bookable through us.

Europe

There are wedding packages at a former 17th century monastery in Cyprus. The Ayii Anargyri Natural Healing Spa Resort is situated in the picturesque Nerades Valley, a 20 minute drive from Latchi. While the old monastery church is available only for Greek Orthodox weddings. Also there are beach weddings in Santorini and yacht weddings in Limassol resorts, the Four Seasons, Le Meridien Limassol

Spa & Resort and the all-inclusive St Raphael Resort.

Le Meridien Limassol Spa & Resort are offering barefoot weddings on the beach. They are proving popular because an abundance of public beaches in Cyprus and Greece meant that few hotels would arrange a ceremony on the sand by the water's edge. Next year, the quaint chapel of St Sotiris, which is 600 years old, will form the backdrop for ceremonies taking place on the beach at Lindos on Rhodes.

We are open Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm and Saturdays 9am to 4pm. If you cannot make these times we are happy to arrange an appointment at your convenience. Alternatively email enquiries@island-villas.co.uk or call 01925 269400. 80 London Road, Stockton Heath.



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Harry scoops special award as school celebrates achievement

MORE than 100 youngsters celebrated achieving Duke of Edinburgh awards at Bridgewater High School, with one star pupil collecting a special volunteering awarding memory former Rugby League star Steve Prescott, who tragically lost his brave battle with cancer last year.

Rugby League star and former Warrington, St Helens and Great Britain captain Paul Sculthorpe MBE and English Mountaineer Alan Hinkes OBE, were special guests at the Appleton based school, as they celebrated young people's achievements, with 15-year-old Harry McKenna collecting the special Steve Prescott volunteering award.

A total of 112 pupils from the 2012-13 academic year school intake have completed their Duke of Edinburgh awards, with seven completing their award to Gold level and set to receive their award from HRH Prince Philip at St James Palace in London.

This makes Bridgewater, in terms of numbers one of the largest operating units in the North West of England.

Harry was proud winner of the special Steve Prescott Volunteering Award for his outstanding work in the community at the Warrington Peace Centre.

After doing six months volunteering helping coach football, Harry who plays for Appleton Boys Under 16s and the school team as a goalkeeper, extended his stay by a further four months - and is continuing to do volunteering once a week on an ongoing basis - going above and beyond the call of duty.

As well as helping out with the football he also mentors other youngsters.

Harry, who also received a DoE Bronze award, says he loves the volunteering work and when he goes to college he plans to complete the DoE Gold Award.

For the last few years Bridgewater built a very strong working relationship with the Steve Prescott Foundation set up by the former St Helens and Hull Rugby League star. The aim of the foundation is to raise funds for two organisations close to Steve's own heart The Christie and Try Assist. He died last year after helping raise hundreds of thousands of

pounds for research through a variety of sponsored events.

Harry was presented with his award on behalf of the foundation by former Warrington and St Helens Rugby League star Paul Sculthorpe MBE.

Bridgewater has been awarded the rights to run DoE within the school by North West DoE.

They have their own AALA license for the delivery of Outdoor Pursuit related activities.

They are approved to deliver the National Navigation Award Scheme.

They are also approved by Mountain Training to deliver the new Hill and Mountain Skills courses.



■ Pictures how former rugby league star Paul Sculthorpe MBE presents the Steve Prescott Award for volunteering to Harry McKenna and four of the seven Bridgewater High School students who will receive the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award from HRH Prince Phillip at St. James Palace in London. From left, Matthew Williams, Charlotte Eaves, Inzamam Rashid and Aaron McLoughlin.



Pantomime cancelled after storm damage

A VILLAGE drama group has been forced to cancel its annual pantomime after their venue suffered serious damage during the recent high winds and rain.

The roof at Thelwall Parish Hall was left in danger of collapse, according to insurers. As a result, the Bridgewater Players had to cancel their production of "I'm a Celebrity Pantomime Dame - Get Me out of Here."

The group looked at alternative venues but could not find one at short notice.

Spokesman Andy Rushman said: "The hall's insurers have assessed the damage and found that water has been getting in through the roof and has saturated the insulation between the roof and the plaster board ceiling. As a consequence, the plaster board ceiling is also wet and is taking the

additional weight of the saturated insulation and is, in the insurer's opinion, in danger of collapse.

"In view of this, the insurer has withdrawn public liability insurance cover until the roof is repaired and the and the ceiling replaced. This means the hall is closed for the foreseeable future."

It is not clear yet whether the society will be able to stage its April

play although alternative venues are being sought.

The society is arranging refunds for people who have paid for tickets.

Mr Rushman added: "The safety of both society members and our audience is of paramount importance to the society. We will return just as soon as

Thelwall Parish Hall is passed safe to re-open."

Are you entitled to a higher annuity at retirement?

When they reach retirement too many people just accept the annual income that they are offered from their existing pension provider; this can prove to be very costly.

There are sizeable differences between the rates offered by the various annuity providers so it is important that you take independent advice from an Independent Financial Adviser (IFA) before you purchase your annuity.

Your IFA will take the value of your pension pot, known as the open market option (OMO) and shop around to find the best rate.

There are various factors that can influence the income you are offered, your health is the most obvious, if you are in poor health or are taking regular medication, for example, if you have diabetes, then you are more likely to be offered a higher annuity than if you were in good health. Enhancements of as much as 35% are common so make sure you don't miss out.

Some specialist providers will also offer better terms if you are a smoker or are classed as obese.



Where you live can also be a factor; life expectancy is influenced by where you live, for example people living in the North West tend to die younger than those living in the South East so location is often taken into account in the amount of income that you are offered.

Even if you are in good health it is a competitive market and annuity rates are always being reviewed so if you don't know which provider is currently offering the best rate then you could miss out on a higher annuity.

So the message is clear; make sure you get the highest level of income from your pension pot, speak to an IFA before you make any decisions.

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Super head has positive impact

THE appointment of a 'super head' with an outstanding track record of turning round problem schools is having a 'positive impact' in all areas at Lymm High School according to the latest Ofsted report.

Executive principal Tarun Kapur CBE was drafted in following the suspension of controversial Principal Angela Walsh last September.

Previously an outstanding school there were fears in the local community that it could be put in special measures following a large turnover of staff and poor morale.

But the latest Ofsted says the school is good with the recently appointed executive principal's vision for success and determination to drive the academy forward "having a positive impact in all areas."

The school converted to become an academy from September 2012.

The report says the school is a good school where the quality of teaching is good overall and much is outstanding, leading to students making good and outstanding

progress in the majority of lessons.

Students' attainment is consistently well above the national average and achievement in mathematics is consistently outstanding.

The sixth form is good. The diverse curriculum and high-quality enrichment experiences in the sixth form results in students' good success rates. Students with specific needs are also supported extremely well.

Students also behave well in lessons and around the school. They have a positive attitude to learning and make the most of their experiences in the classroom and in the wide range of extra-curricular activities. This contributes well to their good spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

Attendance is above the national average and improving whilst

exclusions are in line with or below the national average, and declining.

But the report highlights that staff turnover has been very high in recent months with 48 new teaching staff appointed to the academy in September 2013.

The academy also works closely with the Dean Trust which is a multi-academy trust and, although Lymm High School is a separate entity, it is part of the Dean Trust Teaching School Alliance.

The school is not yet considered outstanding because although much of the teaching is good or better, a significant minority requires improvement because the activities in lessons do not match the students' needs and abilities sufficiently well.

The marking of books is inconsistent. Not all teachers give students enough information about how they can improve their work.

The gap in achievement between pupils eligible for the pupil premium and their peers in English is not closing rapidly enough.

Inspectors observed 46 teachers in 48 part-lessons including three joint observations with members of the academy's senior team. Inspectors also held meetings with approximately 50 students from all year groups.

Meetings were held with the executive principal, the chair of the Governing Body, a local authority representative, senior and middle leaders, teachers and other academy staff. Informal discussions also took place with staff and students.

Inspectors took account of the 343 responses to the on-line questionnaire



(Parent View) and the 97 responses to the staff questionnaire.

Mr Kapur said: "It is five years since the school was inspected and the educational landscape has changed significantly during that time and to achieve a good outcome is a real credit to the school community, particularly the staff and students"

"We can return to the task of ensuring that we are consistently good as we look to further improve examination results and progress of students, as well as developing even greater opportunities for students and staff."

Chair of Governors Kieran Walshe added: "This report is really a tribute to the hard work and professionalism of the school staff, the whole leadership team, and of course the students. The school has made great progress under Mr Kapur's leadership over recent months, as OFSTED observed, though we all recognise there is still more to do."



Congratulations to all students and staff at Lymm High School for their successful Ofsted report.

"The quality of teaching is good... and much is outstanding..." (Ofsted)

For further information please contact the school on 01925 755458 or via email - info@lymmhigh.org.uk

Lymm High School
Oughtrington Lane
Lymm, Cheshire
WA13 0RB



"The diverse curriculum and high-quality enrichment experiences in the sixth form results in students' good success rates." (Ofsted)

"...the governing body has played an important part in strengthening considerably the academy's leadership..." (Ofsted)





Two little piggies went to market

... WELL, actually, they didn't. They went to the rare breed working farm at Tatton Park, Knutsford.

They are pictured here with farm assistant Lisa Kennedy – but they could feature in Tatton's adult and family learning courses.

There are nearly 60 learning activities at Tatton this year, ranging from watercolour painting and hat making to vegetable growing, keeping poultry and pig rearing.

New activities this year involve drama workshops, a young poet's workshop, upholstery taster workshop and learning how to sew children's clothes.

Booking is essential for all. For more information and to book, contact Tatton's education department on 01625 374428 or email tattoneducation@cheshireeast.gov.uk

Rob's World Cup dream comes true

A PROMISING young Cheshire cricketer has been selected to play for England in the U19s World Cup.

Rob Jones, from Stockton Heath and plays regularly for Toft in the Cheshire County League.

The 18-year-old, who is studying BTEC Performance and Excellence Level 3 at Warrington's Priestley College, received his call up after captaining a successful U17s tour to South Africa last year.

He said: "I feel I've worked hard for my place and I can't wait to get out there."

"I'm really happy to be going to the World Cup because it has been my goal for over a year now."

Rob will compete in the ICC World Cup – which is held every two years – and which is being staged in the United Arab Emirates.

England's first fixture of the tournament is against the UAE on February 14 and it will be televised on Sky Sports.

All-rounder Rob impressed for Lancashire 2nd XI last summer and during England's winter tour in the UAE.

He will be taking 20 hours of college work with him on the tour, which will see him out of the country for a month.

He said: "Knockout cricket is the toughest and most intense that I will play. We have a good team and if we can get that first win I am sure we can get on a roll."

Katie Jones, a sports tutor at Priestley College, said: "We're so happy for Rob and all he has achieved so far. It doesn't get any better than representing your country at a sport you love so we wish him well and believe he will do his college, town and country proud."



Charity treatment event

CHESHIRE Natural Health in Stretton is organising a charity day on Saturday February 22 in aid of the Walton Lea Project.

People visiting the premises at Beehive House on Tarporley Road between 1pm and 5pm can experience a 30-minute treatment of their choice, with all proceeds going to charity. Treatments on offer include Reflexology, Acupuncture, Osteopathy, Sports Massage, Reiki, Endermologie (Natural anti-aging treatment), Nutritional advice.

There will also be a raffle being held and refreshments will be available throughout the day.

Please come along and support this worthwhile cause.

To pre-book your appointment please call 01925 730123 or email info@cheshirenaturalhealth.co.uk

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Historic house attracts record number of visits

A 44 per cent increase in the number of group visits to the Tabley House Collection, near Knutsford was recorded last year – the best year yet for the 18th century house.

Parties from as far away as London and Lincolnshire in the South, Kendal in the North and Sheffield to the East visited to see the art and furniture collections.

Clare Pye, chairman of The Tabley House Collection Trust, and also one of the very knowledgeable tour guides said: "As one of the smaller attractions in the East Cheshire area, The Tabley House Collection is a bit of a hidden gem.

"This is why it has been such a delight to welcome so many groups to enjoy one of the best painting collections in Cheshire and one of the most stunning Georgian interiors.

"Many group members comment on the amount to take in and we hope that

some of them will return under their own steam in coming years."

The Tabley House Collection offers a range of guided and special themed tours and study days to suit generalists or those with a particular interest in art, architecture, local history and life on a country estate.

Tabley House was built for the Leicester family by John Carr in 1767. It is Grade I listed and houses a famous collection of furniture by Chippendale, Gillow and Bullock and paintings by JMW Turner, Lawrence, Dobson, Devis and others.

The house is open from April to October in the afternoons from Thursday to Sunday and on Bank Holidays.

Further details are available on the website www.tableyhouse.co.uk

Advertiser's announcement

Reproductive Health Group plan Open Evenings

REPRODUCTIVE Health Group, a leading, innovative and comprehensive healthcare service for women and couples, committed to the highest quality care in gynaecology, fertility, IVF, reproductive medicine and surgery are planning to hold regular Open Evenings .

Their clinics are conveniently located throughout the North West including Manchester, Nantwich and their brand new facility at Daresbury Park, the Centre for Reproductive Health.

They are strongly committed to keeping patients up to date with the latest treatments and techniques available and offer regular opportunities to meet with members of their specialist team before deciding on a course of treatment.

For couples and individuals

contemplating fertility treatment, they offer free mini-consultations with their fertility specialists. Simply call 0845 600 9997 to book or alternatively book online at www.reproductivehealthgroup.co.uk.

They also hold regular Open Evenings for patients to come along and meet their team in an informal atmosphere, with question and answer sessions and informal discussion.

The first Open Evening of 2014 will take place on Wednesday March 19, from 6.30pm – 8.30pm, at the Centre for Reproductive Health, Daresbury Park.

The Open Evening will be held in conjunction with Cheshire Natural Health who share the philosophy of combining conventional care with complementary therapy to achieve optimum outcomes. All are welcome to come along and meet the team of

clinicians, embryologists and nurses along with therapists from Cheshire Natural Health including nutritionists, acupuncturists and reflexologists.

The programme will be as follows:
6.30pm – 7.30pm General Gynaecology,
7.30pm – 8.30pm Fertility.

Light refreshments will be provided and there is ample free parking. The evening is free to attend however as places are limited these should be reserved. To book your place please contact Annette Eckersley at aeckersley@reproductivehealthgroup.co.uk



Luciano Nardo, Consultant Gynaecologist and IVF Specialist

Provided by:
WatkinsonBlack
Chartered Accountants



Chartered Accountants

Registered Auditors

Contact
David Watkinson
or **Margaret Black**
at:

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Tel:
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or email:
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Money Column

By Margaret Black

The old Holiday stamp scheme – Are you entitled to part of £1m?

One of our clients called in at our offices this week and he advised us that he had established that there is a certain amount of money which has been left unclaimed in respect of the old 'holiday stamp scheme' used by employers within the construction industry.

The scheme disappeared and over the years it has been questioned what has happened to the scheme and even more relevant the money held. Our client pursued this matter and found that he was entitled to make a claim which he subsequently did and received a lump sum of £2,000.

Having researched the matter on the internet, please read some of the findings below

Found on - Building.co.uk Forum

"Hi, For those of you who are old enough to have been in the "B&CE holiday stamp scheme, years ago. A bit of good news. I saw an advert in the SUN (only read it on Thursdays, cos of the jobs honest) a few years ago, it was from the B&CE holiday stamp scheme. Suffice to say that I had £3000 coming

from it. They promptly sent me the info regarding said dosh. Just google B&CE and the site will come up. You have to give your NI number, then they will tell you if you have any money coming. Obviously, you will have had to have worked in the construction industry circa early eighties if my memory serves me right. Good luck".

Reported in the Construction Industry News

Pensions boot lies unclaimed,
24 March, 1994

More than 3,000 former construction workers could be eligible for unclaimed pension payments worth £2.4 million. Now organisers of the B and CE Benefit Schemes are trying to trace members of its Retirement Benefit Fund Scheme who have finished work and not claimed their lump sums. Anyone who has been a member of the scheme for 80 weeks, and has retired since 1988, is entitled to a payment of up to £3,000 on retirement at 65. Former construction workers who think they may be entitled Retirement stamp cash goes begging,
4 December, 1997

Constructions holiday and benefits scheme, B&CE, is still sitting on £1.1



million in unclaimed money for retired builders. Former workers who were in the holiday stamp scheme after 1982 could be eligible for a lump sum payment of up to £5,000. Holiday stamps are bought by employers on behalf of their directly employed workforce but many builders do not realise they can claim cash when they retire.

Retired building workers who think they may be able to claim can phone B&CE on 0345 414142 or 0300 2000 555.

Reserve a free no obligation meeting
Find out what professional advice we can provide to complete your tax return.

Please telephone 01925 413210 or e-mail info@warringtonaccountants.co.uk

The Money Column is provided by WatkinsonBlack Chartered Accountants 1st Floor, 264 Manchester Road, Warrington, WA1 3RB.

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█ Extent of Works
█ Provisional Extension of Works

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STRUCTURAL MAINTENANCE**
 Works Commencing: 27 January 2014
 for up to 5 Weeks,
 Working Hours: 9:15am to 3:15pm

ESSENTIAL ROADWORKS

Motorists, Residents and Businesses are advised that major road works to resurface STRETTON ROAD, GRAPPENHALL LANE and LUMB BROOK ROAD in Appleton Thorn, are programmed to commence in January 2014 and will take up to 5 weeks to complete.

Daily Road Closures between 9:15am and 3:15pm, Monday to Friday, will be used to allow resurfacing of the roads.

Alternative Routes: The alternative routes will be as follows.

Stretton Road and Grappenhall Lane
 B5356, Stretton Road, A49 London Road, A56
 Grappenhall Road, A56 Chester Road, A50
 Knutsford Road, A50 Cliff Lane and B5356
 Grappenhall Lane

Lumb Brook Road
 B5356, Stretton Road, A49 London Road, Lyons Lane, Broom Avenue, Witherwin Avenue and Lumb Brook Road.

Pedestrian access will be maintained at all times during progress of the works.

Vehicular access will be under the control of the contractor as directed on site.

Cones, barriers and signs are there for a reason - to protect our workers from danger and to keep the public safe. We urge drivers to pay close attention to safety when driving near roadworks.

**Warrington Borough Council
apologises for any inconvenience
whilst undertaking essential
maintenance of roads in your area .**

David Boyer
 MEng, MBA, CEng, CEnv, MICE, MCIWEM
 Assistant Director
 (Transport & Environment)



For further information please contact:
 Simon Duggan on 01925 442533
 sduggan@warrington.gov.uk

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What's on in the villages

February 1
LIVE AT ST WILFRID'S
Kathryn Rudge (mezzo soprano) singing favourite opera arias and songs ranging from Mozart to Ivor Novello and Lerner & Loewe.
St Wilfrid's Church, Grappenhall. 7.30pm.

February 11
STOCKTON HEATH PARISH COUNCIL
Sandy Lane Centre, Stockton Heath. 7.30pm

February 18
APPLETON PARISH COUNCIL
Parish Hall, Dudlow Green Road. 7.30pm

February 20
GRAPPENHALL & THELWALL PARISH COUNCIL
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 LEGH 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 - March at 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.

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.

To list your event call Village Life on
01925 623632



Young ice skaters celebrate success



FOUR young ice skaters are celebrating after winning silver medals at the Wales and West International championships in Cardiff.

Competing as members of the Altrincham Synchronised Skating Club it was their first competition of the season with the teams getting off to

a great start.

Coach Sam Ozard is very proud of the result as they were competing against strong established teams from all over the country.

Katie Cliff, aged 16 from Lymm and Gina Rimmer 16 from Grappenhall who skate with the club's Silver Blades and attend Priestley College and Emily Severs, 11 and Jacob Molyneux 10

Left to right: Gina Rimmer age 16, Emily Severs age 11, Jacob Molyneux age 10, Katie Cliff age 16.

both from Gorse Covert, who skate with the club's Whizz Kids and attend Gorse covert Primary School, were delighted with their medal successes.

They all skate at Atrincham Silver Blades rink with training sessions every week at 6am and regular weekend sessions off ice and occasionally they train in Widnes.

For more information about the teams visit www.altrinchamsynchroteams.com

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'Gold award' for toilets

KNUTSFORD Town Council is feeling flushed with success after not only saving the town's public toilets but also winning a "gold award" for them.

Deputy Mayor Cllr Neil Forbes attended the Loo of the Year awards and saw the toilets, in King Street and Bexton Road, both classified as Gold Standard toilets.

The council took over the toilets from Cheshire East Council in July, after learning they could be closed. They immediately arranged to have them upgraded because of the number of complaints from the public.

Cllr Forbes said "I'm pleased we have been able to save these facilities from closure for our residents and many visitors, at the same time as improving their quality and keeping the overall cost to council tax payers low."

Cost of using the toilets is 20p - but the facility will cost the town council £907,000 over the next 25 years.

What a bit of togetherness can achieve

THIS is a story of what can be achieved when two councils, a landowner, the Environment Agency and a group of residents get together.

It concerns a small strip of land between Chadwick Avenue and Willow Drive, in Stockton Heath.

The land is bare, bereft of trees and something of an eyesore.

Even Lumb Brook, which flows through it and in other areas is an attractive stream, is made to resemble a deep drainage ditch.

For some time, attempts have been made to win permission to plant a row of trees on the land, but because of the complexity of who is responsible for funding and maintaining the project, no progress has been made.

But now a solution has been found and the area is about to get a facelift. A group of residents have promised to find the finance to buy saplings to line the area and to maintain them for the first five years of their growth.

Golden Gates Housing Trust, who own the land, have given their blessing to the project, subject to certain assurances from Stockton Heath Parish Council.

The parish council has promised a grant of £200 towards the purchase of the trees and has agreed to the project going ahead on condition that the residents first come up with the rest of the money needed to fund the plan.

The Environment Agency has added its blessing and Warrington Borough Council has agreed to plant the trees at no charge to the parish.

Clr Tudor Pole, of Stockton Heath Parish Council, said: "It's a very happy ending to the story, as long as the residents can keep their side of the bargain and find the funding to get the plan off the ground.

"How do they plan to find the approximate £750 they will need?"
 "They plan to hold fund raising events such as car boot sales and raffles until the target is reached."



The fabulous Fifties

THE 10th annual Ladies Lunch in aid of the Children's Adventure Farm Trust, Millington will have a Fifties theme.

A drinks reception will launch the event at Mere Golf Resort on June 11 at 10.30am and this will be followed by a three course lunch.

Live entertainment, special raffles an auction and other surprise events will enliven the proceedings - all with a Fifties theme.

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