

Village Life

Issue No. 106
January 2010

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Teddies join team

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Editor's Comment



IS Stockton Heath – or, indeed, south Warrington as a whole – a 'cash cow' for the rest of the borough.

We ask the question because of a comment made at a meeting of Stockton Heath Parish Council.

It is not a new question, of course, nor indeed a new comment. For as long as we can remember, people south of the Manchester Ship Canal have complained that the borough council concentrates its resources on the north.

But anyone who talks to people from the north will quickly find they think exactly the same.

A case of the other man's grass always looking greener perhaps?

We are at the start of another year and, not unusually, we have been inundated with the outpourings of the prophets of doom. We have seen our borough, as a whole, described

nationally and quite unfairly, as "the worst in the country."

With the approach of a General Election we have been, and will continue to be, made numerous promises we know are unlikely to be kept. We have been warned, and will continue to be warned, of dire consequences if we vote for one political party or another. Or if we fail to vote at all.

Yet we will carry on with life in our local communities, Stockton Heath, Appleton, Grappenhall, Thelwall, Walton, Stretton, etc. We will endure the traffic, the weather, the misjudgements of the planners and the politicians and, probably, another Creamfields festival!

And we won't be doing too badly.

Community wardens

TWO new neighbourhood wardens have been appointed to patrol the Cobbs and Latchford areas. Their job is to support community activities and safety and to liaise with residents, especially older people.

Coun Judith Walker told Appleton Parish Council: "This is great news for the area and it should provide some reassurance, particularly for our older residents. I've already been out on patrol with them and we've asked them to put their pictures up outside Broomfields so that everyone can get to know them."

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Teddies join the festival team

THREE cuddly newcomers have joined the team behind Stockton Heath Festival.

Floss, Theo and Benjie were actually born in the Channel Islands but they have settled in quickly in Stockton Heath, where they have already made many friends.

The three are Teddy Bears and they made their debut at the festival's Winter Market where they were on

sale in aid of Festival funds.

Festival chairman Tudor Pole said: "They proved very popular and have settled in at many homes across the village."

"But they are still available and can be obtained by visiting our website,

www.stocktonheathfestival.co.uk or by calling our secretary, Helen Dutton, on 01925 601904.

The attractive Teddies, each wearing a brightly coloured hand-knitted scarf, cost £5 each.

Pictures shows Yasmin Lomax and Mandy Riley from Jasper's Cafe with Teddy Bears for sale in aid of Stockton Heath Festival.



Village is cash cow

STOCKTON Heath is seen as a 'cash cow' by Warrington Borough Council according to a parish councillor.

Coun Stephen Taylor told the parish council: "Traders think the borough council see Stockton Heath as a cash cow, and not a place to invest."

Investment

Although the village brings in lots of income, he said, there is poor investment in footpaths and parking. He suggested that next year a Park and Ride service could be introduced for the village at Christmas.

"A lot of development money has been invested in Latchford," he said.

Parked cars hazard for parents

PARENTS pushing buggies have to step into a busy road as cars block the pavement according to residents.

One resident told Stockton Heath Parish Council that problems arose near Egerton Mews in Egerton Street.

He said on the other side of the road cars park outside the terraced houses. The mews houses had driveways, but some drivers were also parking in front of the properties

between the drives.

"We then get parents with children in buggies having to go onto the road, because they cannot pass on the pavement," he said. "There will be an accident."

"People also cannot get their bins past and pedestrians regularly have to step into the road. It is a dangerous spot."

The road was busy, as it was used by people visiting The Forge

shopping precinct. There were also a lot of children around because of the nearby school.

John Redmond, operations manager, urban traffic management with the borough council, said he would look at the road to see what improvements could be made. He would get traffic wardens to patrol the road and also look at other trouble spots highlighted by members.

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Japanese restaurant approved

BOROUGH planning chiefs have given the go-ahead for a new Japanese restaurant.

The eatery - which will involve the change of use of a vacant shop - will be in West Avenue, Stockton Heath and will have capacity for about 40 diners.

Local councillors Celia Jordan and Sue Dodd had objected to the proposal on the grounds of possible noise, smells and impact on residents' amenity.

They also feared traffic problems caused by delivery vehicles.

Three neighbours also objected on similar grounds - but planning chiefs decided there would be no significant harm caused to the amenity of nearby houses.

Phase one of revamped church hall is opened

THE first phase of the redevelopment of the hall at Stockton Heath Methodist Church has been completed - with the help of a £50,000 grant.

Miss Elsa Smith (pictured right), aged 101, performed the official opening ceremony of the redeveloped west wing of the hall.

Afterwards she was presented with a bouquet of flowers by one of the youngest present, Albie Jones, aged one.

The redevelopment work will provide a more comfortable, energy efficient and flexible community hall.

A £50,000 grant from the Waste Recycling Group, administered by WREN through the Landfill Communities Fund has enabled the metal-framed, single glazed windows to be replaced with double glazed

units and a much-needed new toilet block and baby changing facility to be constructed.

The church's own fundraising over a period of two years has provided loft insulation, alterations to meeting rooms to allow greater flexibility of use, replacement rear and front access doors and heating and power modifications.

While raising the money with a wide variety of events, the church has also given 10 per cent to charitable causes so as to benefit the wider community.

Kit Heald, fundraising co-ordinator at the church said: "Further work will be carried out over the next year to complete the vision for the use of this hall as a major community resource in the village."

Richard Smith, project manager for WREN, said: "We are delighted that



Picture by Hazel Bradley.

the first phase of the improvement works at Stockton Heath Methodist Church Hall has now been completed.

"The building is an important community resource and is very well used. It is an excellent example of a true community meeting facility and is a credit to the dedication and hard work of the volunteers who manage the building on a day to day basis."

Advertiser's announcement

Make do and mend

THE downturn in the economy has been good for one local firm as householders adopt a "make do and mend" approach instead of buying new.

Professional oven-valeting firm Ovenu is achieving record trading figures as people decide to put off buying new white goods and instead give their existing appliances a new lease of life.

Ovenu's Paul Clark said: "We have seen an increase in bookings from householders keen to get their hard working oven looking good as new. We are seeing a knock on effect from a shift towards a 'make do and mend' attitude, as householders are putting off buying in new white goods and instead turning to us to help preserve and prolong the life of their existing appliances."

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Advertiser's announcement

Valentines Day/UK Weekend Breaks

Why not treat your loved one to a weekend away - here are some ideas for a UK break.

We can book rail down to London along with a hotel plus top class tickets to see the show of your choice, either matinee or evening performance. Why not indulge in afternoon tea at Claridges or a dinner cruise. The best way to get round London is on the Tube - we can purchase an Oyster card for you. This can be topped up with money if it starts to run out while you are there. This can be used on the Tube, Bus, DLR etc.

Rail prices start from £36 return to London/Glasgow/Edinburgh etc for standard class, when booked with a hotel.

Some of the tours and attractions bookable are:-Shakespeare's Globe, London Eye, London Duck Tours, City Cruises, London Bridge Experience, Historic Royal Palace tour, Madame

Tussaud's, the London Dungeon, London Zoo tickets.

Spa weekends to include free time for shopping are very popular with the ladies-this could also include tickets to see a show or one of the many attractions that London etc has to offer.

Other UK breaks include Murder Mystery weekends which are a 2 night break i.e. in Harrogate, Bath, Windsor etc. If you enjoy watching Fawlty Towers - book a weekend and experience the tribute to this comedy, watch out for Manuel!!!! We can also book Haunting breaks, want to experience ghost exploration and what are those noises in the night? Your stay will include an evening entertainment from 7pm to 2:30am, includes seances etc.

On a lighter note we can book

Edinburgh Tattoo, British Grand Prix, Ladies Day at Ascot, Wimbledon Experience, Windsor Castle Private Evening Tour. Want to take the children away for a weekend - 'stay and play' at Alton Towers, Legoland, Camelot, Drayton Manor,



Linda Crowder - Stockton Heath Travel

Chessington World of Adventures, Thorpe Park etc ring for more details.

Attraction tickets can be added on to your weekend break i.e. The Beatles Story in Liverpool, Manchester United Museum and Tour, Blenheim Palace, Ironbridge Gorge, Cadbury World, The Jane Austen Centre, Guinness Storehouse in Dublin, Eden Project, Warwick Castle, Jorvik in York to name but a few.

Theatre breaks can be booked throughout the UK i.e. The Sound of Music in Edinburgh, see the show between 19th Jan and 20th February 2010. We also can book theatre and weekend breaks in Manchester, Liverpool etc these include good rates with the hotels and top class seats for evening or matinee performances.

Stratford-upon-Avon is a lovely place to visit and we can book the Royal Shakespeare Company productions with these weekend breaks.

Contact us for more details on 01925 269400 or pop in for a coffee while we prepare a quote for you.



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New estate agency built on 40 years experience

A NEW estate agency has opened in Stockton Heath - built on the solid foundations of more than 40 years' experience in the North Cheshire housing market.

Ashall Glover Land and Estate Agents is led by Patrick Ashall FNAEA who has operated in Stockton Heath for nearly 30 years.

He said: "Ashall Glover is a family run estate agency with high professional and ethical standards. "We provide a real alternative to the

corporate style of home selling. We align with the traditional values of integrity, trust and transparency and couple these with modern solutions. Our online presence and office environment are key examples of this."

Ashall Glover operate from individually designed offices in Walton Road, with oak panelling, hand built oak desks and bespoke displays created to make the client feel at home.

But the traditional values of the office are complemented with cutting edge technology including a 300-page website - www.ashallglover.co.uk - which provides a wealth of research resources for anyone considering moving house. This provides source of commentary on movements in the housing market with a monthly review covering Lymm, Stockton Heath and Knutsford citing industry figures to discuss trends and forecasts.

Advertiser's announcement

20% Off Schüller at JD Kitchens

Not only does JD Kitchens design, supply and install gorgeous kitchens, they now offer 20% off Schüller kitchen furniture. Simply order a stunning new kitchen by February 13 and start the New Year in style!

JD Kitchens is the exclusive supplier of German-designed, Schüller kitchens in Warrington & South Manchester and has just completed a stylish makeover of their showroom at Gorsey Lane, Padgate, showcasing the new Schüller ranges.

Explained Manager, David Charlton: "At JD Kitchens we focus on Affordable Excellence. Our extensive range of Schüller kitchens is just one more example of this. Schüller are renowned for their superb craftsmanship, innovative styling and precision engineering - all at amazing prices."

"With a huge choice of contemporary, modern and classic styles, exciting colours, exceptional finishes and premium materials, we can create a Schüller kitchen to match your personality and lifestyle, using clever, ergonomic designs to maximise and organise your storage."

All Schüller kitchens are rigid built, with a five year manufacturer's guarantee. All JD Kitchens's customers are also provided with the ConsumerCare Plus Protection Scheme - absolutely free - which covers their deposit, advance payments, work-in-progress and a 6-year warranty.

Added David: "Customers can see more about Schüller - and our other fabulous kitchen ranges - at our brand new website, www.jdkitchens.co.uk. They can also discover why we have been awarded membership of The Kitchen Bathroom Bedroom Specialists Association, accredited as a TrustMark supplier and granted Neff MasterPartner status."

All this plus 20% off Schüller kitchen cabinets until February 13! Why not see for yourself at JD Kitchens's beautifully styled showroom or visit www.jdkitchens.co.uk

Hospice grant

A GRANT of £50 has been given by Stockton Heath Parish Council to a hospice for terminally ill children.

The donation went to Hope House Children's Hospices which provides services for people in Cheshire, Shropshire, Mid and North Wales, and is setting up a new service on bereavement counselling. Members heard a family in Stockton Heath had been supported by the charity.

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What's On in the Villages

January 12
STOCKTON HEATH PARISH COUNCIL
Sandy Lane Centre, 7.30pm

January 14
LIVE AT ST WILFRID'S
Cello Masterclass. Alice Neary with students of
the Royal Northern College of Music,
St Wilfrid's Church, Grappenhall. 7.30pm.

January 19
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



Soulers keep tradition alive for charity

THE ancient tradition of the Souling Play has once again been kept alive in local pubs thanks to the Halton Soulers.

The Soulers performed the traditional Halton Souling Play in pubs around local villages where they had enthusiastic audiences.

They visited various hostleries including the Ring O' Bells in Daresbury, the Red Lion in Moore, the Ring O' Bells in Lower Stretton, the Walton Arms and the Hatton Arms.

Traditional

The play has a variety of comical characters and the traditional Cheshire Old Horse.

There are currently five groups of Soulers carrying on the tradition with their own local versions of the play in various parts of Cheshire, always around the period of All Souls Day. The Halton Soulers have now



performed the play for 10 seasons, having revived the local version for the Millennium.

The words of their play are virtually identical to those recorded in Halton in 1886, although the style of the performance is very different. In

Victorian times, Soulers used to go begging from door to door at wealthy houses, but nowadays they collect for charity; the Halton Soulers have always collected for Halton Haven Hospice.

Advertiser's announcement

**New
year,
new
you**



OWN up! Who doesn't make at least one New Year resolution? Lose weight, stop smoking, eat healthily or tackle stress. And how many resolutions do we manage to keep?

Cheshire Natural Health is challenging people to forget about New Year resolutions and make just one commitment to a healthier lifestyle.

Clinic Director Tracey Turton

(pictured left) says: "Making a New Year resolution sometimes backfires as it can set people up for failure. Here at Cheshire Natural Health we want people to embrace a healthier lifestyle in a holistic way. If that means giving up smoking or losing weight then that's great."

The therapy team at the Stretton clinic are on hand to guide clients towards their healthier lifestyle; and not just in January!

Hypnotherapist Rosemary Reeves helps many people to get in the right frame of mind to tackle their problems. Anger, for example, is a strong emotion that can stand in the way of progress. Rosemary uses Emotional Freedom Technique (EFT) to calm and balance strong emotions. The effective mind/body balancing technique uses words and acupuncture to balance and clear emotional disturbances and issues quickly and permanently.

Cheshire Natural Health's successful Kick Start to Weight Loss is perfect for people who have struggled on countless diets only to find the weight they managed to lose has crept back on.

Using the power of the mind and the most up to date psychological techniques of Hypnotherapy, Neurolinguistic Programming (NLP) and EFT Rosemary helps her clients look forward to a healthy, natural weight loss and take back control once and for all. She says: "Those who successfully and permanently lose weight are those who manage to change the way they think about food and the role food plays in their life."

Choosing the right foods to eat is made simple with advice from Cheshire Natural Health's Nutritional Therapist, Angela Bailey. One of only a handful of nutritional therapists in the North West, to use the Vantage machine, Angela is able to pinpoint a patient's energy imbalances and build an accurate picture of nutritional health. Measurements can indicate stress or inflammation in the body, with a lack of nutrients possibly to blame for those energy imbalances.

For more information on Cheshire Natural Health, telephone 01925 730123.

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Left to right: Marie Broadbent, Richard Broadbent (Chair of St Josephs Family Centre), Alison Cookson, Tony Cookson (President Rotary Club of Lymm), Elizabeth Tatman (District Governor Rotary District 1280), Michael Tatman, Mayor of Warrington Brian Axcell, Mayoress Irina Axcell, Malcolm Ross (President Rotary Club of Warrington), Laurie Ross.

Rotary club celebrate 82nd Charter

THE Rotary Club of Warrington celebrated their 82nd Charter with a special dinner held at the Fir Grove Hotel, Grappenhall.

Special guests included The Mayor and Mayoress of Warrington, Brian and Irina Axcell.

After dinner, donations were made by the Rotary Club President Malcolm Ross to several charities represented at the event.

These included the Mayor's charity, Warrington Charities Trust, St Josephs Family Centre, Active Hope (Warrington), Life Education Centre, Agape Orphanage (Africa), The Narrow Boat Adventure Project, Sunshine & Rainbow Assessment Nursery and Sarnelli House (Thailand).

Entertainment was provided by Harmony in Blue, the young section of Warrington Male Voice Choir.

Appleton Cross facelift

PLANS to smarten up Appleton Cross and make it a place of interest are being discussed.

Appleton Parish Councillors are looking into the feasibility of making the plaque at Appleton Cross more prominent by cutting back overgrown plants and lifting it to a 45 degree angle to make it easier to read.

Coun Val Davies said: "At the

moment, you can hardly see the plaque. We'd like to clean up the sandstone and move the plaque in front of the base so that it can be seen more clearly. Many people don't even know that it's there and after the success of the new sign at Appleton Thorn, it would be good to create a place of interest."

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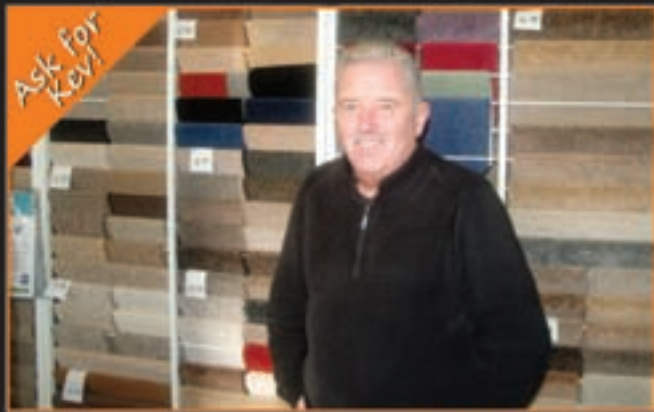
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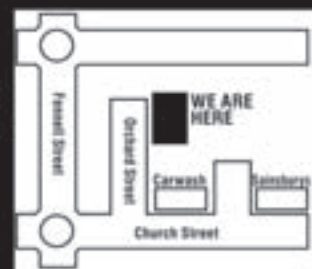
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History book provides images from the past

A FASCINATING collection of pictures from the past are featured in a new book on the history of Grappenhall and district.

The book is the third produced by Grappenhall Local History Group and among the more interesting images it contains are ones showing a horse drawn van in Church Lane in Edwardian days, the Old Dog and Dart decorated for the Jubilee of King George V in 1935 and the warship HMS Bristol pictured at Latchford Locks in 1912.

Motorists may be interested to see pictures of pedestrians given the freedom to walk over Thelwall Viaduct before it was opened to

traffic on July 29 1963.

Local life from the past, including school pictures, a 1914 wedding and old transport including antique motorcycles and lorries are also featured.

The history group was formed in 2002. It meets monthly and now has about 80 members. In 2007 and 2008 it published separate booklets called 'Anthologies of Local Memories' - the second one is still available at a cost of £3.50.

The new booklet, 'A Selection of Local Images,' at £4.50 is available from Grappenhall Library or by telephoning Carole Whibley on 01925 263712.

It came about as treasurer Mike Guess suggested that images of the areas would be a valuable supplement to the previous volumes of written memories.

An editorial team, with the help of local people and organisations, worked to gather the images.

A spokesperson for the team said: "If what people see prompts their own memories of events and characters of the Grappenhall area, please contact us so that they can be recorded."

Also included in the booklet are details of the old post office, 800 years of St Wilfrid's Church, the history of the Manchester Ship Canal and local farms and businesses.



Probus annual lunch

GRAPPENHALL Probus Club enjoyed its celebratory annual lunch at the Bear's Paw, High Legh.

Since the group was formed in April 1981 there have been 27 presidents - and eight out of the nine surviving past presidents attended the lunch.



Back row, left to right, back row: Jim Troman (secretary), Albert Shearn (21st president) Warwick Sherwood (22nd), John Homer (26th) and Jim Double (24th).

Front row, left to right: Stan Norris (23rd), Len Myles (25th) Ray Griffiths (current president), Roy Bladen (18th) and Mel Absalom (17th).

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Money Column

By Margaret Black

How to be self-employed

MOST people believe that, in general terms, it is better to be self-employed than employed - or, rather, slightly less terrible. While the rates of income tax are the same, your ability to claim expenses against that income is much enhanced if you're self-employed, and the National Insurance contribution (NIC) regime is much friendlier. Instead of two layers of contributions, one at 11% and one at 12.8%, the self-employed person only effectively has one layer of liability based on earnings, at 8%.

In most cases, it's easy to work out that a person is self-employed or not. The person who runs your corner shop and delivers your newspapers in the mornings is obviously self-employed. So is your accountant, lawyer, surveyor etc. The grey area is in the case of individuals who provide no more than their own time, and to only one or perhaps two 'clients' or 'employers'.

The criteria

We do not think that the number of users of a person's services is a particularly relevant criterion. This is only of peripheral relevance, despite all the mythology there is out there on this point.

The relevant criteria are more related to the degree of control that your client or employer (as the case may be) has over the way you work. So here's our 'cut out and keep' guide to establishing self-employment. Don't worry if you don't meet all of the criteria; if you meet most of them, or the more important ones, you will be treated as self-employed:

- You work at the hours you decide rather than when your client decides.
- You work on your own initiative, rather than being given set tasks and closely supervised.
- You are free, within any inevitable practical constraints, to do your work wherever you choose.
- You charge for your services based on results rather than merely on a fixed '9 to 5' basis.
- You are liable to put right anything that is defective in your work in your own time and at your own expense.
- You are able to use others to do the work without requiring the client's permission.
- You have no entitlements to holiday pay, sick pay, maternity or paternity pay.
- You provide your own equipment (where appropriate). This could be simply your own computer.



David Watkinson and Margaret Black

- You have your own liability insurance.
- You have your own letterhead and are generally 'open for business'. This means that, at least in theory, you could, work for others as well as your main client.

There are other criteria, mostly of less relevance than the above, but you get the general idea. The key thing is that you are an independent contracting party rather than one under the supervision, direction and control of the person who is paying you, and you are not part and parcel of their organisation in the way that their employee's are.


Happy New Year
to all our readers

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Traffic problems 'getting worse'

TRAFFIC problems in Stockton Heath are getting worse according to a parish councillor.

Coun Graham Roughsedge told the parish council: "Traffic in Stockton Heath seems worse than it ever was, especially Ellesmere and Fairfield roads. The traffic lights are causing back up down both roads."

He said he was waiting to get out of Fairfield Road to go over the swing bridge. There were three cars in front of him - and when the traffic lights changed only two got out, causing traffic to back up.

He also complained that the traffic lights pedestrian phase in Victoria Square did not give enough time for some people to cross.

At a previous meeting John Redmond, operations manager at the borough council's urban traffic management and control centre, told members he was looking at improvements to the village traffic.

He detailed proposed improvements to crossing, traffic light phasing and traffic management.

Members agreed to ask Mr Redmond to attend another meeting of the parish council to report on how work had progressed.

'Double praise' for winter market

THE annual Winter Market in Stockton Heath received "double praise" from a parish councillor.

Coun Graham Roughsedge told the parish council: "I praised the market last year and I double praise it this year. It was much better than last year - it was a fantastic success."

The market, organised by Stockton Heath Festival, took place at the Forge Shopping Centre, The Mulberry Tree Inn and the Red Lion.

Coun Celia Jordan said: "The atmosphere was really 'villagey'."

One of the organisers, Coun Tudor Pole said, it was "very good for business," and shops, cafes and pubs had all reported an increase in trade.

There was no trouble, no drunks and no violence and there had been a friendly atmosphere.

He said there were more than 50 pitches and organising the event involved a lot of work. He praised all those who had volunteered to help.

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