## VILLAGE Celebrating Community Living Issue 124 July 2011 FREE



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# Village celebrates Page 4



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# Opinion

### IT has become fashionable, these days, to predict the demise of the book or even of the printed word itself.

Usually, the internet gets the blame, although just why we are not sure. It seems to us the internet has in fact led to more people - particularly the young - doing more reading and writing than ever before and, what's more, picking up keyboard skills which at one time could only be learned at a secretarial college.

True, the quality of much of what is offered on the internet leaves something to be desired, but it is better that people read and write rubbish than read and write nothing at all.

A greater threat to the book has come, in recent times, from councils trying to save money by closing libraries. But even here it seems the patient, while perhaps sickly, is unwilling to lie down and die.

Two months ago we reported how Appleton Parish Council had made its parish hall available to volunteers to run a book exchange scheme to replace an axed mobile library. Today we are pleased to report the service is operating on two days a week, staffed by volunteers from three Women's Institutes and a local church. They have been inundated with donated books from well-wishers.

We would rather, of course, see all areas served with the properly funded public libraries most of us can still enjoy, but we would suggest this initiative - and others all over the country - show that, as Mark Twain might have put it, the death of the book and the printed word has been greatly exaggerated.

### WE didn't need the RHS Flower Show at Tatton Park to remind us that we live in a beautiful part of the world.

But it has become a regular fixture in the Cheshire calendar, it is here again, from July 20-24, it undoubtedly is a major boost for the county's economy and it provides a great deal of enjoyment to many people. So it is welcome despite the traffic problems it occasionally causes.

We are more impressed, however, with the efforts of borough, town and parish councils across Cheshire to make sure it is not just Tatton Park that is ablaze with colour. Often, volunteers play a big part in providing the colour,

Often, volunteers play a big part in providing the colour, if not by actually sowing seeds or planting bulbs, then by raising funds to buy them.

Worthy of special mention are the Knutsford in Bloom group who, conscious of the proximity of the RHS show and all its glamour, got together just two years ago to use flowers to show off their town at its best.

Last year their efforts won a Silver Gilt in the RHS North West in Bloom competition - the only one in North Cheshire. Already, this year, they have created a wildflower meadow at the rear of St Cross Church, which promises to enhance the area for years to come.

We hope the visitors to the RHS show will open their eyes before they enter Tatton Park and see the other floral delights Cheshire has to offer.

### Rare lambs born at zoo

TWO lambs have been born to the rare Herdwick sheep at Warrington's Walton Park Zoo.

The Herdwick is native to the Lake District - although it is believed they may have been introduced to this country by the Vikings. They are prized for their robust health, their ability to live solely on forage and their tendency to be territorial rather than

straying away. The new lambs arrival at Walton coincided with a week-long visit by pupils from Bridgewater High School, helping out in the zoo and park generally.



The lambs with, from the left, Keira Willis aged 15, Anne-Marie Leishman aged 14, Richard Page aged 14, Molly Stone aged 15, zoo keeper Peter Cookson-Dean and Becky Ecob aged 15.

## Village celebrates unique bawming ceremony

### VILLAGERS at Appleton Thorn celebrated their unique tradition of bawming the thorn, turning the clock back to medieval times.

Pupils from Appleton Thorn Primary School performed the special "bawming the thorn" ceremony following a parade through the village involving local community groups.

The tradition dates back to time of the crusades when history says a knight brought a thorn from the crown of Jesus and planted it at Appleton Thorn.

The village is the only one in the country to celebrate "bawming the thorn" when local school children dance around the special tree which is dressed with ribbons.

One of the stars of the show was 14-year-old Amy Dewsnip (pictured on the front page) from Bridgewater High School who wowed the watching crowds with her rendition of the bawming song.

Knight was Sam Bealing and his page was Daniel Priestman, both aged 11.Special guests at the event, coordinated by local business woman Nora Carlin from Arley's Angels, included the deputy Mayor of Warrington Steve Wright and Warrington South MP David Mowat.

After parading through the village and the bawming dance, a community event took place on the fields behind Appleton Thorn village hall.

Rev Elaine Chegwin Hall, who helped officially launch the event, said it was an important part of community life celebrating the three "c's" - the church, continuity and culture.

For more pictures from the event visit www.village-life.co.uk





MP David Mowat waves to the crowds



 Event co-ordinator Nora Carlin from Arley's Angels with Ian Robinson from the Crazy Hog Catering Company.





Youngsters from Appleton Thorn Pre-school



Page Daniel Priestman and knight Sam Bealing







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## Charlotte's world-class bronze

SCHOOLGIRL Charlotte Newton competed in the world powerboat championships for the first time and picked up a bronze medal.

Charlotte, aged just 13, was a member of the Top Cat Racing team sponsored by Cheshire IT company Comcare Technology Ltd, of Lymm.

She competed in the UIM World GT15 Championships at Stewartby Water Sports Club, Bedford.

A pupil at Culcheth High School, Charlotte has been involved in the adrenalin charged world of powerboat racing at junior level for four years.

She was introduced to the sport by her father, Andrew, who has been involved in powerboat racing for 30 years as a rescue diver, travelling the world with the Osprey Rescue Team.

He now concentrates on Charlotte's racing and they are both members of Lancashire Powerboat Racing Club at St Helens.

Charlotte also competes in the RYA British National Championships at venues all over the country.

Since 2008 she has achieved considerable success, winning seven club races and several second and third places at national level.

Her bronze medal success was achieved very much against the odds.

Top Cat team manager Mark Andrew took delivery of a new Tohatsu GT15 engine just 48 hours before the event and it was only with help from fellow UK teams BRM Racing and Jelf Racing that he and Charlotte's dad managed to get her boat up and running in time.

Then the competition was held up for several hours due to dreadful weather conditions, strong winds and torrential rain.

When racing started, Charlotte, competing against drivers from the UK, Sweden, Norway and Estonia, started fourth on the grid after the qualifying heat.

She got a great start in the first heat and finished second behind UK driver Ben Jelf.

Unfortunately she was washed out at the start of the second heat and

finished fourth.

With only three of the four heats to count, all was not lost and she went into the third heat with confidence and determination. She finished second again - making her level on points for second place with Estonian Reio Kasnapuu.

Everything was to play for in the fourth and final heat but weather conditions changed and favoured the Estonian boat. Despite great efforts, Charlotte could not pass him and finished third overall.

All three heats were won convincingly by fellow UK driver 11year-old Ben Jelf.

Charlotte's bronze medal was



presented by UIM Commissioner Pelle Larson - a very proud moment indeed.

Lois Andrews, of Comcare, said: "We are all very proud of Charlotte. She showed great determination, courage and maturity for one so young and was not at all fazed by the grandeur of the occasion. Comcare are very proud to be associated with Top Cat Racing as are all the other sponsors.







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July 2011

Advertiser's announcement

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The only way to explore Venice is on foot - so comfortable footwear is the order of the day! This is a romantic city where a trip with a loved one on a gondola is a must. Venice is famous for its ancient architecture ie palaces, squares, basilicas etc This city is built on an archipelago of over a 100 islands and boasts over 200 canals and 400 bridges. So there is lots to explore starting with the most famous St. Marks Square, at night you can listen to music while enjoying a meal accompanied by some fine Italian wine.

The main canal is the Grand Canal where the cruise ships depart from, this runs from the train station to St Mark's Basin-here you will see the hotels , palaces, grand house, museums etc lining the banks. There are several art galleries worth visiting plus Doge's Palace which is the richest symbol of Venetian history.

During the day a visit to Rialto Bridge from here you can have good views over the Grand Canal and there are shops lining the top of the bridge plus nice cafe bars lining the banks of the canal. Take a boat to the island of Murano, Burano and Torcello to see the famous glass blowing, colourful houses and squares.

Italian food can be sampled in numerous restaurants lining the Grand Canal or take a walk off the main Square where there are lovely cafe bars where you can sit outside and taste the local seafood. If you stay in one of the hotels overlooking the Grand Canal some of them have a roof top restaurant with stunning views at niaht.



Linda Crowder – Stockton Heath Trave

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## Cartoon capers at Thelwall Rose Queen

### Pictures: John King

CARTOON characters proved a popular theme with floats taking part in the annual Thelwall Rose Queen Festival in Warrington.

The Little Wonders Day Nursery team dressed as The Flintstones (below) while the Looseenders (bottom left) joined in the fun dressed as characters from Scooby Doo. Meanwhile Lymm High School pupil Claire Berry (pictured right) was crowned Rose Queen following a parade of floats through the village.

For more pictures from the event visit www.village-life.co.uk





The Sword and the Stone was the theme of All Saints Church float







The Tugboats Pre-School and their Mickey Mouse Clubhouse float



Second Thelwall Rainbows and their Hello Kitty float

# Student wins Plumber of the Year Award

A student is celebrating after winning a national competition for trainee plumbers.

Warrington Collegiate student Kristian Poyner, 21, of Higher Whitley, won the North West heat of the competition in March and earned a place in the national final.

At the London final the six contestants were given two days to complete a plumbing installation.

Kristian's skills earned him the UK Plumber of the Year award.

He said: "It was really nerve racking completing the challenge in the allocated time and working against the best plumbers in the country, but I'm proud that I was able to prove my skills and work to a professional standard."

Collegiate curriculum manager Phil Walsh said: "We're incredibly proud of Kristian. It is a huge achievement to win a prestigious national competition at such a young age and we're thrilled for him. He has worked hard to develop his technical knowledge and is at the level of an industry professional."

## Village to celebrate Queen's Jubilee?

CELEBRATIONS to mark the Royal Wedding were "low key" at Stockton Heath - and next year the village should make amends when the Queen's Diamond Jubilee is celebrated.

This is the view of parish councillor Graham Roughsedge, who was disappointed the village did not celebrate the wedding as a community.

He said: "All the shops have Union Flags that they put out for the annual Walking Day -they could have put these out for the wedding." Cllr Roughsedge says the parish council's Village Committee should start looking how the Diamond Jubilee could be celebrated in June next year.

Clerk Peter Briggs has reminded members that at the time of the Golden Jubilee they arranged for every child in the village to be presented with a gold coin.



## Celebration of country crafts

A CELEBRATION of old country crafts and hobbies is to take place at St Cross Church, Appleton Thorn on July 9 as part of the church's 125th anniversary year.

There will be demonstrations of crafts such as spinning, weaving, lace making, book binding, tapestry, rag rug making, knitting, basket making, quilting, embroidery and jewellery making.

There will also be displays of vegetable growing, bee keeping, willow weaving, clog dancing and a collection of classic motor vehicles and children's toys. Photographs of past church events will also be on display.

The event will take place between 10am and 4pm and refreshments will be available.



## A sign of the times on an iconic building

IT was the place where one of the most controversial speeches of World War 2 was made - no matter what Hollywood might think.

Built around 1900 for an eccentric glove manufacturer with a dream of making a little bit of Cheshire resemble an Italian hillside town, it is now one of Knutsford's most iconic buildings.

The Ruskin Rooms, in Drury Lane, bears a blue plaque explaining its part in history.

Today it also bears a more familiar sign of the times...a "To Let" notice.

When Richard Harding Watt commissioned the building around 111 years ago, it was to serve a dualpurpose - the somewhat unusual pairing of reading room and fire station! It was one of numerous Italian-style buildings Mr Watt built which now help to give Knutsford its distinctive look. Others include the Gaskell Memorial Tower in King Street, cottages in Drury Lane and houses in Legh Road.

Over the years, the Ruskin Rooms have had many uses, including that of headquarters of the local British Legion, before finally becoming offices - one floor of which is currently to let.

But its big moment in history came in 1944, some six weeks before the D Day landings, when General George "Blood and Guts" Patton made an unscripted speech which became known as "The Knutsford Incident".

Opening a "Welcome Club" for US servicemen at the Ruskin Rooms he said: "...it is the evident destiny of the British and Americans, and, of course, the Russians, to rule the world . . ."

The speech was reported by newspapers across the world omitting the reference to the Russians - and became a major diplomatic incident nearly ending Patton's career.

The 1970 film "Patton", starring George C Scott as the outspoken general, places the incident at the old Town Hall - now a furniture store.

But anyone who lived in Knutsford

at the time knows the Town Hall was used merely as a "doughnut dugout" for US troops encamped on The Heath. The speech was made at The Ruskin Rooms - whether or not it mentioned the Russians.

History does not record what General Patton thought of Knutsford's Italian-style buildings, nor the furore his speech caused.

But judging from the number of expletives which frequently littered his speeches, his views would not have been fit to print.





### New CT scanner unveiled at hospital

A NEW state-of-the-art CT scanner that can scan the entire heart in just 12 seconds has been unveiled in Warrington.

Staff at Spire Cheshire Hospital, Stretton, were joined by guests David Mowat, MP for Warrington South, together with Ryan Atkins and Michael Monaghan from Warrington Wolves, at the opening of the new scanner.

As well as speedy scans it will also provide an alternative to invasive tests such as cardio-angiograms used to detect early signs of heart disease. Dr Balazs Ruzsics, consultant cardiologist said: "Swift and accurate diagnosis is crucial for patients suffering with chest pain. At Spire Cheshire we can now offer a CT calcium score test to determine the risk of heart disease and CT angiography which is less invasive than conventional angiograms where dye is injected into the coronary arteries using a catheter."

Dr Ruzsics said the scanner will speed up diagnosis and treatment and minimise the patient's exposure to harmful radiation. Andrew Eadsforth, hospital director, said: "The CT scanner can scan all areas of the body and the cardiac scans will change the way we deal with patients that show early signs of heart disease or who are more at risk, as well as being less invasive than other tests."

"The scanner will enable more detailed and improved quality images which will aid diagnosis with reduced radiation. Patients who are anxious about undergoing CT scans can also be reassured that they will be off the table quickly."

### Canal expansion will cause road chaos

BUSINESS expansion plans for the Manchester Ship Canal will bring traffic chaos to Stockton Heath, local councillors believe.

Members of the parish council say they are strongly opposed to plans to increase the number of ships on the canal which mean "gridlock" for the village, they believe.

Peel Ports Mersey is holding public consultation events about its plans to increase the number of ships using the canal. It is expected there will be a 70 per cent growth in tonnage handled by the company by 2030.

Cllr Celia Jordan, chairman of Stockton Heath Parish Council said information on the proposals had been made available by Peel.

"But nowhere does it mention the impact on road traffic."

There were three swing bridges in the Warrington area, at Stockton Heath, Walton and Latchford, and when the bridges were "off "there was a huge backlog of traffic in the area.

Peel's plans include developing "Port Warrington" at Moore, together with other ports along the route. The development would have a major impact on the region.



David Mowat officially opening the new scanner watched by Wolves players Ryan Atkins and Michael Monaghan and members of the Spire team.

### Provided by: WatkinsonBlack Chartered Accountants



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### **Money Column** By Margaret Black

## **Need help regarding employment?**

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Secondly, there is a vast amount of free advice available on the internet. For instance, Businesslink cover many of the basic requirements at www.business link.gov.uk. These include:

Contracts of Employment. Contrary to common understanding, there is no need for these to be in writing. However, employees must be provided with a written statement of the main terms within two months of starting employment.

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Grievance Procedure. This is again covered by legislation. For instance, an employee has a legal right to be accompanied at any disciplinary meeting by a colleague or union representative. Should it be be representative. necessary, all employees are entitled to a statutory minimum notice period which increases from a minimum of 1 week to a maximum of 12 weeks at the rate of 1 additional week for each year of employment. Again, these terms can be increased by agreement but cannot be reduced. Flexible working. All employees with



David Watkinson and Margaret Black

children under 16 can request a flexible working arrangement, and any request must be taken seriously by the employer.

However, the internet cannot replace proper legal advice, and we are pleased to have made arrangements with a firm of employment specialists, Canter Levin & Berg, to make this advice available at a very reasonable monthly cost

This article is only meant to inform, if you require more advice please do not hesitate to contact us telephone 01925 413210 or e-mail on margaret@ warringtonaccountants .co.uk

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**David Mowat** Member of Parliament for Warrington South

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## the Pink



July 2011

## Value for money estate car



THE new Hyundai i40 Tourer, which goes on sale from September, is a stylish, medium-sized family estate car.

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Tony Whitehorn, managing director, Hyundai Motor UK says: "The all-new i40 Tourer is a stylish yet uncompromised addition to the medium family estate car market. It offers exceptionally low CO2 emissions and high fuel economy; an intuitive, spacious and contemporary interior package combined with an unparalleled level of standard equipment for its class - all at an accessible price.

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Later in the year, the Tourer will be joined by a four-door saloon.

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July 2011



July 12 STOCKTON HEATH PARISH COUNCIL Sandy Lane Centre. 7.30pm July 19 APPLETON PARISH COUNCIL Appleton Parish Hall, Dudlow Green Road. 7.30pm August 13-14 NORTHWICH MEDIEVAL FESTIVAL Verdin Park, Northwich, 10am-5pm. Details: 01606 353528

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 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. 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 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 September 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

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



## 'Cranford' comes home a little late

Laura Turner's new adaptation of Elizabeth Gaskell's "Cranford" was written to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the author's birth so it will be a little late arriving in Knutsford - the town which inspired the story.

But the Chapterhouse Theatre Company's production will arrive at Tatton Park's Old Hall where it will be performed in the open air - whatever the weather - on Sunday August 7. At the centre of life in Cranford are the outrageously proper spinster sisters, Matty and Deborah Jenkyns, who head an unforgettable collection of loveably misquided womenfolk.

It is a most traditional tale of splendid snobbery, gossip and social scandal and it pits lost loves against

### New President elected



CLUB stalwart Rowland Blackstock has been elected as the new President of the Walton based Warrington Sports Club.

At the club's recent AGM Rowland was elected to take over from Geof Stott, who held the position for three

successful years. Four Vice Presidents were also elected, namely, Tom Keeling, Joan Roberts, John Gibbons and Steve Finnigan all who continue to serve the club in many ways.

Rowland commented: "After being a member for forty years and been lucky enough to have played squash and some cricket for the club as well as then being Squash Chairman and Club Chairman for ten years this is a further honour I am delighted to receive. '

## Village play area plan

**RESIDENTS** of Appleton Thorn are being urged to attend an open meeting to discuss the provision of a children's play area in the village.

The meeting, arranged by parish councillor Sharon Harris, will be at Appleton Thorn Primary School on July 13 at 6.30pm.

Discussions are going on over possible locations for the play area.

old friends with sensational results. This adaptation has won almost universal praise and promises to be one of the most fun and exhilarating evenings of the summer with music, song, romance and dance.







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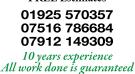
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