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**We are the champions** Page 3



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# Opinion

**IT is not unusual to find many places laying claim to famous people and Charles Lutwidge Dodgson, better known as Lewis Carroll, author of "Alice in Wonderland", is no exception.**

Daresbury, where he was born, Croft on Tees in North Yorkshire, where he lived for 20 years, Rugby, where he studied, Oxford, where he taught, Guildford, where he died and even Llandudno, where he might or might not have visited, all stake their claim.

But we think Daresbury, where he was born in 1832, has the most legitimate claim.

So it is good to see an £800,000 Lewis Carroll Centre being built as an extension to All Saints Church, where his father was Rector and where there are unique stained-glass windows depicting characters from his most famous work.

For too long, Daresbury has had too little to commemorate the great man, who was not just an author and poet but also a gifted mathematician and pioneer photographer.

This new centre, due to open in the autumn, with free admission, should put things right and, in doing so, become another major tourist attraction for Cheshire, with a themed shop, displays illustrating Carroll's life and his stories, specially recorded by comedian Ken Dodd and actress Dillie Keane.

It will not be just a visitor centre, however, important though that aspect will be. It will also be an education centre, working with local schools and providing adult literacy and numeracy programmes.

A worthy memorial to a true genius.

**ALL over the country, market traders are facing the possibility of massive increases in business rates and stall rentals. Some fear the sort of increases being talked about would be the last straw.**

In Warrington, stallholders believe they could have to pay a 79 rise in rates. In Knutsford, traders have organised a petition signed by more than 700 shoppers opposing a 25 per cent rent rise.

## £500 boost for 'Specials'

CHESHIRE Police's special constables have received a £500 boost from charity group The Brian Kennedy Trust.

The money will be used to sponsor an award for the best community supportive special constable at an awards ceremony for "Specials" at police headquarters on July 2.

It recognises the outstanding work done voluntarily by special constables in delivering the benefits of neighbourhood policing to communities across Cheshire.

Special Superintendent Brian Woodward said: "The award will help to identify good practice examples from which other specials and neighbourhood policing units can learn, as part of Cheshire Police's drive to deliver better and safer neighbourhoods across our policing area."

The Brian Kennedy Trust was set up three years ago by the North West-based businessman and owner of Sale Sharks rugby club.

## 'We are the champions!'

A TEAM of youngsters from a village school are celebrating after being crowned national junior basketball champions at their age level.

The team from Thelwall Junior School attribute their success to intensive training throughout the year - and expert help with coaching from the Cheshire Jets Basketball Club.

They triumphed over six other teams, winning 12-8 in the final of the British Basketball Hoops 4 Health competition at Birmingham.

Headteacher Susan Robinson said the school enjoyed basketball training during the year.

She said: "Following this they

entered a team into a local Warrington Primary School competition and then the regional finals in Chester. After winning both these competitions they were then selected to represent our region in the national finals."

School staff, parents and Cheshire Jets coach Jamie Vermiglio travelled with the team to offer support. They received a cup and gold medals for each team members and the school will also receive a golden basketball as a memento.

Mrs Robinson said: "This has been a marvellous experience for the children. Many people have been into school to help and support the pupils in developing their basketball skills.

Similar protests have been mounted at other markets across Cheshire.

Rent or rates, it would seem the proposed increases have been triggered by the national Valuation Office from a changed interpretation of how National Non Domestic Rates are calculated.

The Valuation Office has introduced individual assessments of stalls, rather than one overall assessment for a market. As a result, councils look set to incur increased bureaucracy and administration costs, which could be substantial.

We think markets are essential if the character of towns and villages is to be preserved. They are also vital to the local economy - and provide an alternative source of low-cost goods, including food, to the big superstores. But, like many other businesses, they are currently struggling.

So we want to see our councils opposing the Valuation Office changes. Warrington has done so, with a clearly stated objection and by contacting other similar councils with a view to co-ordinating a collective objection.

Cheshire East say the Valuation Office initiative has complicated matters and the financial implications are still being studied.

Complicated the situation may be, but we would rather see the council taking a more assertive stance and lodging an objection instead of contemplating a rent rise.



■ Linda Miles, director of the charity and Cheshire Police stronger communities manager Andy Williams.

"Cheshire Jets have played a significant role sending in coaches to develop these skills as well as raise the awareness of basketball within the community. Many children across school have benefited from the programme and have taken a greater interest in the sport."



# Villages fly the flag for Royal wedding

**VILLAGERS** in Appleton Thorn and Stockton Heath enjoyed a right royal knees up as they celebrated the Royal wedding with official street parties.

There were six official street parties across the borough including one in Parkland Close, Appleton Thorn and one in Brian Avenue, Stockton Heath,

Youngsters are pictured enjoying the Royal Wedding Street Party at Brian Avenue, Stockton Heath from left, Charlotte George aged 9, Ben Jones aged 12 and Caitlin Graham - Smith aged 11.

Also pictured are youngsters drawing a chalk Union Jack flag in Parkland Close and local residents celebrating in style.

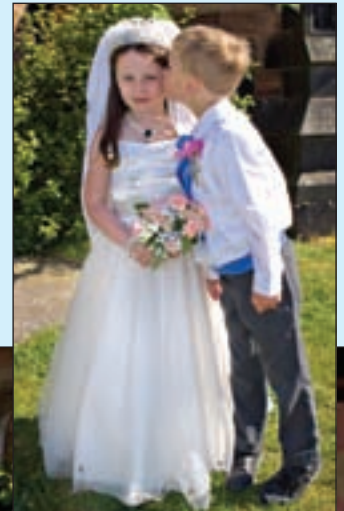


## ... and pupils celebrate

YOUNGSTERS at St Wilfrid's Primary school, Grappenhall, celebrated the Royal wedding with their own special dress rehearsal of the big day.

Pupils trooped to their neighbouring church as Tristan Franks stood in for Prince William while Millie Short stood in for Kate Middleton.

Pictures show the Bride and Groom Millie Short and Tristan Franks, both aged 5, taking time out for a kiss and other members of the wedding party.



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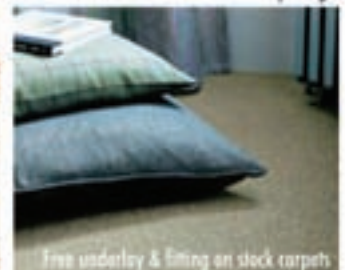
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# Mixed emotions for new mayor

IT was with mixed emotions that Mike Biggin and his wife, Trisha, of Grappenhall, learned they were to be the next Mayor and Mayoress of Warrington.

May is a difficult month for the couple, for the first day of the month is the birthday of their daughter, Gemma, who would have been 24 this year.

She died in a tragic accident in November 2004, when the car in which she was a passenger, plunged into the Bridgewater Canal.

Mike was - and still is - a member of Grappenhall and Thelwall Parish Council.

After the tragedy, he joined the successful campaign to get the dangerous canal-side Stockton Lane closed to through traffic.

He was elected to the borough council in 2006 - but would not have been Mayor this year but for the deputy mayor, fellow Liberal Democrat Ted Finnegan, losing his seat in the elections.

Mike said: "It is a tremendous honour and privilege to take the role but I feel very sorry for Ted who put in so much work as deputy mayor and as a ward councillor. It is obviously an emotional time - it has been quite a few weeks for us."

Mike comfortably retained his seat at Grappenhall and Thelwall while fellow Liberal Democrats Ian Marks,



■ Mike Biggin.

Celia Jordan and Peter Walker were re-elected in Lymm, Stockton Heath and Appleton respective.

The Conservatives swept the board in the Cheshire East Borough Council elections at Knutsford.

Elected were Stewart Gardiner, Peter Raynes and Olivia Hunter while Steve Wilkinson, Cons, was elected unopposed at High Legh.

There were also Town Council contests in two of Knutsford's four wards and the resulting elections resulted in a council comprised of 14 Conservatives and one Independent.

Shock casualty of the elections was Liberal Democrat Barbara Austin, a councillor for 25 years.

The new line up is: Over ward: Barbara Coan, Peter Coan, Bernadette Emmett, Neil Forbes and Julian Goodrich (all Cons) and Andrew Malloy (Ind). Bexton ward: Tony Dean,

Michael Houghton and Simon Hutchence (all Cons). Nether ward: Vivien Davies, Stewart Gardiner, Clive Nicholason (all Cons). Norbury Booths ward: Gary Lasham, Jan Nicholson, Peter Raynes (all Cons).

For Cllr Gardiner - a borough councillor for the first time and re-elected to the Town Council - there was another reason to celebrate. At the annual meeting of the Town Council he was elected the new Mayor!

Members of Mere Parish Council were elected unopposed. They are Ted Cadman, Andrew Dryden, Jean Duncalf, Bob Fawcett, Ian Hodgson, David Norcott, Linda Reynolds and Neil Stott.

At High Legh, 12 people contested the 10 seats on the parish council. Elected were Stuart Abbey, Jason Allan, Gail Coenen, Tony Haigh, Tim Harrison, Claire Hay, Jenny Morton, Philip Pearce, Gary Pemberton and Richard Right.



■ Cllr Stewart Gardiner

# Residents face eight months of chaos

RESIDENTS of Stockton Heath face up to eight months of noise, traffic jams and other disruption arising from a major project to renew old water mains 60ft below the Manchester Ship Canal.

United Utilities will replace four mains in a tunnel dating from the time the canal was built in the 1890s on the Ellesmere Road side of London Road swing bridge. The tunnel is almost permanently flooded as a result of water seeping through from the canal.

It will have to be pumped out during the operation and although night work is not envisaged, pumps may have to run through the night to prevent the tunnel flooding again. The tunnel continually flooding is one of the reasons the mains have corroded.

The project will involve work along the A49 from the traffic lights at Gainsborough Road to the swing bridge.

It will also involve closing half the width of Ellesmere Road from the swing bridge to St Thomas' Church Hall, with hoarding placed along the centre of the road. For a period of 6-8 weeks, Ellesmere Road will be completely closed to traffic.

Work will start at the end of August and there will be widespread consultation.

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# Jessica crowned Queen of the May

**IN glorious sunshine, Jessica Pottle was crowned the 147th Knutsford Royal May Queen - the high point of the town's biggest day of the year.**

The 13-year-old Knutsford High School pupil from Bexton Road was crowned by Alexander Caulfield - a pupil at the same school - in a traditional ceremony on the Heath which has hardly changed over the years.

The day had dawned cloudy but by the time the procession of 500 children got under way, the sun was shining.

Thousands of people - including many who had travelled from other parts of the country - lined the streets to watch the colourful crocodile go by. Queen Jessica (pictured below

right) travelled in style by horse-drawn carriage, but many of the youngsters walked the route along Toft Road, down Adams Hill, along King Street, Tatton Street, Princess Street, King Edward Road and Manchester Road.

After the crowning ceremony there was dancing on the Heath and, of course, all the fun of the fair.

Afterwards officials declared the day a great success - and started planning for next year!





Advertiser's announcement

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Hidden Gems to visit in the city, are Cerralbo and Sorolla, the San Fernando Royal Academy of Fine Arts and Basílica of San Francisco el Grande. The Changing of the Guard is on the first Wednesday of every month in front of Puerta del Príncipe at the Royal Palace. Madrid is easily accessible from various regional airports with direct flights. A 3 or 4 night break will enable you to experience most of the sights and here you will find the best of Spanish and international cuisine - Tapas, vermouth, draught beet along with huevos estrellados - a famous dish in Madrid, which is a must along with all other cuisines ie Latin American, Eastern dishes etc.

There are international designer shops, department stores, jewellers etc, so lots of retail therapy for the ladies and what better way to end your day than with tapas and nice glass of wine.

Live music is popular and the streets become a public stage for

some concerts and festivals. If you are a nature lover then Madrid will not disappoint you, as they boast 1 tree for every 14 inhabitants! The Royal Botanical Gardens are definitely worth a visit as you can see flora from all over the world.

If you think this is a city not to be



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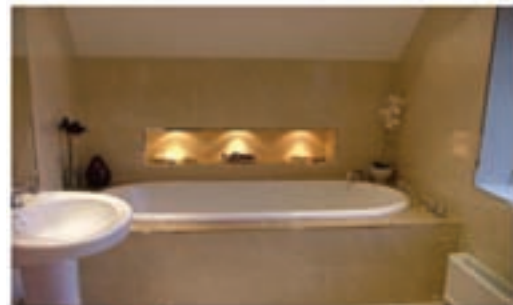
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# Hidden places - an invaluable guide

IN the years since it was first published in 1990, *The Hidden Places of Lancashire and Cheshire* has developed considerably. The 7th edition has an attractive new cover and redesigned page layouts which make the wealth of information inside easier to access.

The 252 pages cover a wide area, which includes the Isle of Man and there are four chapters dealing with Cheshire. Communities featured include Daresbury, Lymm, Frodsham,

Helsby, Antrobus, Tarporley, Great Budworth, Pickmere, Knutsford, Lower People, Mobberley, Mere, etc - some of the most attractive places in Cheshire although it should be pointed out that many of them are hardly 'hidden'.

There are many colour photographs and easy to use maps.

Interesting articles and pictures introduce the Lewis Carroll Memorial Window at Daresbury Church, the Anderton Boat Lift, Pickmere Lake, Delamere Forest and, of course, Tatton

Park.

A section on the Cheshire Peaks and Dales reminds us that the county is not all flat

There are a list of tourist information centres and an index of towns, villages and places of interest.

All in all, a valuable guide for anyone yet to explore the beautiful countryside on our doorstep.

*Hidden Places of Lancashire and Cheshire*, by Peter Long, is published by Travel Publishing at £8.99.

## Celia is chairman again!

CELIA Jordan is the new chairman of Stockton Heath Parish Council - for the fifth time.

The veteran Liberal Democrat councillor has been a member of the council for 28 years - during which time she has also managed to squeeze in 25 years as a member of Warrington Borough Council and being the 124th Mayor of the borough.

She was also chairman of St Rocco's Hospice for many years and has been awarded the MBE.

After being installed as chairman of the parish council for the fifth time, Cllr Jordan said: "I like to keep busy - I think it helps to keep you going."

She had to count the links of the chairman's chain of office - each one

of which bears the name of a former chairman - to be sure how many times she has held the post.

"Quite a few other members of the council have been chairman three or four times," she said.

"It was interesting looking back at the names, most of which I remember well. The chain is really a piece of local history."

Cllr Jordan was previously chairman of the parish council in 1987, 1991, 2001 and 2007. She was Mayor of Warrington in 2007.

At Appleton Parish Council's annual meeting, Cllr June Hancock - wife of the former borough and parish councillor Ray Hancock - was elected chairman. She has been a member of the council since December 1997.



■ Celia Jordan pictured with retiring chairman Graham Roughsedge and left, June Hancock.

## Bid to give library a new life

VOLUNTEERS hoping to re-open the closed Grappenhall library as a centre for community activity have submitted an "expression of interest" to Warrington Borough Council.

The library closed on April 1 - a victim of Town Hall spending cuts. But 18 people have signed up as volunteers to re-open the building for community use - including a book exchange centre to try and fill the gap left by the library closure.

Cllr Mike Biggin, chairman of Grappenhall and Thelwall Parish Council for the last two years, said: "We have to prepare a business case for utilising the building for community use."

The plan is to provide book exchange services at the old library in Albert Road and at Grappenhall Community Centre in Bellhouse Lane.

Cllr Biggin said: "We have a group of volunteers who offer a range of skills and are very enthusiastic. This is an ideal opportunity for residents of the villages to work together and we would welcome anyone who is interested either as a potential user or an organiser to join us."

The volunteer group includes a number of former librarians.

## Row-a-thon raises £500

HOTEL staff and guests raised more than £500 for charity with a 16-hour row-a-thon.

More than 50 people, including leisure club members, at the Park Royal Hotel, Stretton, put their backs into raising money for local charity Charlotte's Trust. Each rowed for a minimum of 15 minutes.

They were moved by the story of how in September 2009, four-years-old Charlotte Crowson complained of a sore ankle. But the swelling became worse and soon afterwards she was diagnosed with Ewings Sarcoma - a rare form of bone cancer.

Charlotte underwent intense chemotherapy and a bone marrow transplant. But doctors were uncertain about the effectiveness of the treatment, so to prevent the cancer spreading her leg was amputated below the knee in March 2010.

Charlotte's Trust was founded by family and friends to give her access to the best long-term prosthetic options possible.

Hotel leisure manager Joe Cravagan said: "We were delighted to help Charlotte and her family with our fundraising row-a-thon here at the hotel.

"Charlotte came in on the day to see how we were getting on and seeing her smiling face certainly made everyone row faster!"

## Competition

Village Life and associated publications have five pairs of tickets to give away for the performance of *Merlin and the Woods of Time* on Thursday, July 28 at 7.30pm.

To be in with a chance of winning, simply answer this question.

Merlin was a famous...

A. Politician; B. Architect; C. Wizard  
Entrants should send an e-mail entitled *Grosvenor Park Competition* with the correct answer to [info@warrington-worldwide.co.uk](mailto:info@warrington-worldwide.co.uk) by Friday July 8.

## Open Air Theatre returns

THE popular Grosvenor Park Open Air Theatre returns from July 7 to August 21 with an impressive cast of some of the country's finest actors.

Evening and matinee performances of Shakespeare's 'As You Like It' and 'Merlin and the Woods of Time' by Glyn Maxwell are set to please and delight both new and returning audiences at the only full time professional open air theatre company outside of London.

The unique outdoor theatre at Chester is constructed 'in the round' to create a close connection between the actors and the audience. There is an area in front of the stage to enjoy picnics and there will be concession stands selling wine, summer drinks and nibbles plus blankets and cushions.

Tickets for Grosvenor Park Open Air Theatre are available from as little as £12 and can be booked online at [www.grosvenorparkopenairtheatre.co.uk](http://www.grosvenorparkopenairtheatre.co.uk) or by phoning the box office on 0843 241 7868.

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# Money Column

By Margaret Black

## Budget Breakdown - Spring 2011

The personal allowance has increased by £1,000 to £7,475, as promised in the Budget last June. It will, however, continue to be phased out if total income exceeds £100,000. If total income exceeds £114,950 in 2011-2012, there will not be any personal allowance.

For anyone earning lower than that the personal allowance will increase on 6th April 2012 by a further £630 to £8,105.

### Reduction

The £1,000 increase to the personal allowance will be offset by a reduction of £2,400 in the level of the basic rate tax band. If you are only entitled to a personal allowance, the starting point at which you begin to pay higher rate tax will fall from £43,875 in 2010-2011 to £42,475 in 2011-2012. It has been reported that as a result the number of people falling into the higher rate tax band will rise by 750,000.

Other income tax allowances have risen by about 4.7% this is generally held to be in line with September 2010 retail price index inflation, e.g. the basic age allowance for those aged between

65 and 74 has increased from £9,490 to £9,940. For those over 74 the personal allowance has risen from £9,640 to £10,090.

The 10% income tax band only available to a few also rose by just under 5% and the starting point for the 50% income tax rate remains at £150,000 – the legislation which introduced this top rate did not include automatic indexation.

The annual exemption for capital gains tax was increased for 2011-2012 by £500 to £10,600 and up to £5,300 for most trusts this is in line with normal indexation rules. From 6 April 2012 the annual Capital Gains Tax exemption will be raised in line with the consumer prices index rather than the retail price index as it is currently.

The annual ISA investment limit rose by £480 to £10,680, up to £5,340 of this may be in cash

### Beneficial

The £30,000 annual charge for 'non-domiciled' is proposed to increase to £50,000 from 6 April 2012 for those who have been UK resident for 12 or more years, and who wish to retain



David Watkinson and Margaret Black

access to the beneficial tax regime. It will remain at £30,000 for those resident for at least seven of the past nine years and fewer than twelve years.

The inheritance tax nil rate band is unchanged at £325,000. It was fixed at that level on 6 April 2009 and it was said at that time that it would be frozen until 5 April 2015.

*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*

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

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# Meet your MP

## David Mowat

David Mowat, MP for Warrington South, holds regular surgeries throughout the constituency. If you would like to arrange an appointment to discuss an issue of concern to you please e-mail him at [david.mowat.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:david.mowat.mp@parliament.uk) or telephone **01925 231267**.



**David Mowat**  
Member of Parliament for Warrington South  
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## FARMERS' MARKET

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STOCKTON HEATH - 10am-2pm

Stalls will include butchery, cakes, produce, plants, preserves, cheese, free range eggs and quality hand crafted items.

The market complies with Farmers' Market principles in that all stallholders will be from within a thirty mile radius of the market and will have grown, reared, preserved, pickled, smoked or processed in some way the things they sell themselves.

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# Cars that come tailor-made

THE new Volvo S80 Executive and V70 R-Design top-of-the-line saloon and sporty estate car come in refined special versions tailor made for buyers who want a car with that extra exclusive look and individual touch.

Both cars are designed around the growing number of people who appreciate the possibility of tailoring their cars to suit individual tastes, according to Lex Kerssemakers, senior vice presidents, product strategy and vehicle line management at Volvo.

He said: "The Executive version of the S80 radiates exclusive luxury while our R-Design models are developed for buyers who want an extra sporty look,"

The Volvo S80 is the most exclusive Volvo saloon - and the Executive version features details that emphasise the Scandinavian design, sophisticated comfort of the spaciousness

It is the first Volvo model with an instrument panel top in leather, available in espresso brown or off black. Among other interior details are ventilated soft leather seats with massage function, leather door panels, an integrated analogue clock on the instrument panel and the aluminium centre consol storage. The V70 R-Design comes with a number of specially developed exterior and interior design details. The exterior has unique design details in the front, LED turning indicators integrated into door mirrors with silk metal covers and a unique, diamond cut 18-inch wheel.

Inside, there is leather upholstery

trimmed in off black, leather around the gear selector, and black floor-mats with contrasting stitching.

Both cars feature the latest Volvo Sensus infotainment system, all information presented on a five or seven-inch colour screen positioned to make it easy for the driver to keep his or her eyes on the road.

## Japanese cars in short supply

JAPAN's eight major vehicle manufacturers have reported that their combined domestic production facilities are only operating at about 50 per cent of the normal, as a result of disruption caused by the earthquake, tsunami and nuclear disaster.

Toyota - for a long while the world's biggest vehicle maker - appears to have been hit worst and expects to be overtaken by General Motors in the production stakes.

Mitsubishi has fared better than the others and suffered a reduction of only 25.7 per cent.

The Tohoku region hit by the disasters does not have many assembly facilities for car companies but it is a key area for making many of the parts required to build cars. As



■ The V70 R-Design estate car.

## Roads continue to decline

A SURVEY of councils by the RAC has revealed that road conditions across the country are continuing to decline because Town Hall chiefs are being forced to undertake short-term repairs rather than permanent solutions.

Twelve out of 20 councils reported that government funding cuts mean they are concentrating on short term repairs to fill potholes caused by the harsh winter.

Eight councils have cut road maintenance budgets, two have dipped into reserves to make up for shortfalls, and two more have set up private finance initiatives to pay for road maintenance. One council has axed £5.8 million from its road maintenance budget despite having a backlog of £160m in repairs.

a result, parts are in short supply and in some cases, entire assembly lines were halted because vehicles were missing just one or two parts.

The impact has been felt globally as well, with overseas production plants, including those in the UK, also unable to secure sufficient parts to carry on.

Car manufacturers say continued shortages are inevitable and output figures are likely to remain low.

So for some time to come, Japanese cars seem likely to be in short supply on forecourts around the world - and could well lose out to makes from other parts of the world.



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# What's On in the Villages

**June 14**  
STOCKTON HEATH PARISH COUNCIL  
Sandy Lane Centre. 7.30pm

**June 16**  
LIVE AT ST WILFRID'S  
Manchester Camerata Brass Ensemble:  
"Traditional to Blues"  
St Wilfrid's Church, Grappenhall. 7.30pm

**June 21**  
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

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 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

**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**



## Summer play schemes

SUMMER play schemes for children in Appleton have been organised by the parish council.

For two weeks commencing Monday, August 1 there will be a play session at Cobbs Infants School between 10am and 12 noon.

Then, for two weeks commencing Monday, August 15 there will be a play scheme at Appleton Parish Hall, also between 10am and 12 noon.

The play schemes are open for children aged 5-12 and are being funded by the parish council. There is an entrance fee of £1 per child per attendance.

## Why historic wall collapsed

A VARIETY of causes led to the collapse of an old wall at the historic Grappenhall Heys Walled Garden, structural engineers have decided.

These included a lack of foundations, the close proximity of some mature pine trees, an existing acute lean and the probability that youths have climbed over to gain unauthorised access to the gardens.

Structural calculations also showed the wall exceeded its maximum height for the type of construction involved.

The area of collapsed wall has been made safe and stonework salvaged and set aside on pallets for re-use.

Consultants recommend 1.5m of wall on either side of the collapsed area be demolished and the stone salvaged, a concrete footing be excavated and prepared and that the wall be re-built with buttress detailing.

A survey of the rest of the wall has revealed some additional areas of bowing, although not as serious as in the collapsed section. It is recommended they be inspected regularly over the next few years.

## Council in a flap about pigeons

COUNCILLORS at Stockton Heath got in a bit of a flap when chairman Celia Jordan raised the issue of pigeons.

She told the parish council: "Pigeons are getting out of hand. They got in the roof-space of my house because of a loose tile and made a terrible mess."

"It cost £2,500 for repairs and cleaning up."

Cllr Jordan asked for suggestions to deter the birds - and received several ranging from a stuffed bird of prey to a device which emitted a high pitched noise that could be heard by pigeons but not humans.

But Cllr Helen Dutton protested: "I quite like pigeons."

Cllr Sonia Boggan said pigeons carried dirt and disease and were a health hazard.

"They are flying rats," she said. Cllr Angie Winnington pointed out that "town pigeons" were different to wood pigeons.

The matter was left unresolved

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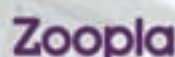
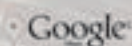
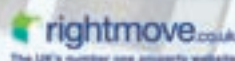
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