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Your Community Magazine

Issue 159 June 2014 FREE

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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 or telephone **01925 231267**.

David Mowat
Member of Parliament for Warrington South
www.davidmowat.org

Produced by David Mowat MP, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA



Reproductive Health group back fertility charity

LOCALLY based Reproductive Health Group are helping raise funds for the national fertility charity – Infertility Network UK.

Based at their new state of the art clinic at Daresbury Park, the Centre for Reproductive Health, Reproductive Health Group provide high quality, patient centred care in fertility, gynaecology and IVF.

Amongst the latest technologies available at the Centre is EEVA (early embryo viability assessment).

Developed at Stanford University, this is a technique used in IVF treatment to help determine which fertilised embryos have the greatest potential for a successful outcome to the treatment.

Whilst there are many factors which affect the chances of pregnancy through an IVF cycle, selecting the

best embryos is an important one and EEVA provides additional information which makes it more likely that the embryo with the highest pregnancy potential is chosen.

Until June 15, clinics in the UK which currently offer EEVA have been invited to help raise funds for the national fertility charity, Infertility Network UK, and Reproductive Health Group are proud to be a part of this campaign. More details about the campaign are available on our website www.reproductivehealthgroup.co.uk.

For any further information please contact Annette Eckersley at education@reproductivehealthgroup.co.uk

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To book your free consultation please call
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Address
New Media Centre
Old Road, Warrington
Cheshire WA4 1AT

Distribution
Village Life is distributed freely
to selected homes throughout
the area as well as being
available to pick up from various
outlets, some of which are listed
below.

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Printed by TwentyFourSeven

Opinion

STEPHEN Hough is a top international musician – an outstanding pianist who appears regularly with the world's leading orchestras. He was awarded the CBE in the New Year's Honours List.

He was born in Heswall, but spent much of his youth in Thelwall, still returns to give recitals at Grappenhall and Lymm and also to visit his mother, who lives in the area. He clearly has not forgotten his roots.

But his latest visit could not have been more opportune. On hearing that the regular, free Saturday lunchtime recital at Warrington's Holy Trinity Church was about to be cancelled because the pianist who had been booked had broken a finger, he stepped in at two hours' notice to volunteer his services.

Shoppers, accustomed to dropping in at the town centre church to hear up-and-coming music students gaining experience of playing to a live audience, were startled to find the world famous pianist playing Brahms and Debussy.

For Norman Cutter, chairman of the Warrington Arts Council Initiative for the Development of Music, who have organised the recitals for the last 14

years, Stephen's gesture was a life-saver because it would have been the first time a performance had been cancelled.

By an amazing coincidence, when Norman totted up how many recitals had been held, it was the 300th.

"What an unexpected but appropriate way to celebrate the milestone," he said.

And what a fine gesture by one of Cheshire's most famous sons.

IT was disappointing to learn that Cheshire Police were one of 13 forces inspected by HM Inspectorate of Constabulary in an interim report which identified "significant under-recording of crime."

Here in Cheshire we do not suffer from the sort of crime levels experienced in neighbouring areas such as Greater Manchester and Merseyside. We acknowledge that we live in a safe county – and also that much of that is due to excellent policing. Only last month in this column we praised the work of our Police and Crime Commissioner, John Dwyer and noted that, although he

had not been in office for two years, crime in Cheshire was down and the cost of policing had been frozen this year.

Now the HMIC report suggests we may have spoken too soon. If it has identified under recording of crime – and it suggests up to 20 per cent of crimes may not be recorded nationally – there will be many who will question whether the recent, repeated claims that the crime rate is falling can be relied upon.

Cheshire Police stress that the HMIC report was about the administrative process of how crime is recorded, not about service delivery, and that independent auditors had, earlier this year, assured the Chief Constable and the Commissioner that the controls used to manage crime reporting were "suitably designed, consistently applied and effective."

We do not doubt that crime levels HAVE fallen in Cheshire, but the issue has been clouded by the HMIC report.

Perhaps the next inspection should be of the independent auditors?

Seven-year-old Siena lands film role at first attempt

SIENA Spiro of St Matthews CoE Primary School in Stretton is about to debut in her first film "Keeping Rosy" which is a tense psychological thriller starring Maxine Peake (The Village, Silks) and Blake Harrison (Inbetweeners).

But it will be a long time before seven-year-old Siena and her friends will be able to watch the completed movie – as it has been issued a certificate 15!

The film will be previewed in an immersive pop up cinema in a city-centre office block in Manchester from June 6 before being released to Picturehouse cinemas in London and nationwide from June 27.

Encouraged by her stage school, Little Stars in Appleton, to go for "Keeping Rosy" which was her very first audition, Siena successfully landed the part.

Proud mum Sam said: "She had an amazing experience and was so fortunate to work with some great British actors. Siena got to spend a couple weeks filming in the centre of London which is a far cry from the rural setting of Stretton.

"She had great support from her school which was really appreciated during the whirlwind experience."

Siena also plays a small part in '71 another British film set in Northern Ireland which is due out shortly this year.

Who knows what's next for Stretton's budding actress.

Her agents are Scream Management based at Media City.





New wildlife habitat unveiled at zoo

A NEW duck pond with a special "Red Squirrel Island" has been officially unveiled at Walton Gardens Childrens Zoo.



■ Left to right: Cllr Kate Hannon, Mayor Peter Carey and rangers Liz Rowland and Peter Cookson.

The project, which was officially opened by the Mayor of Warrington Cllr Peter Carey, has been funded by FCC Environmental, WREN, Warrington Borough Council and the Friends of Walton Estate.

The work was completed by Baldwin's Landscapes, the Zoo Rangers and students; Jake Johnson; Reaseheath College, Ben Robinson; Myerscough College, Daniel Higham;

V Volunteers, Georgia Galvin; V Volunteers, Gavin Cooper; Self Placement and Ricky Smith; Self Placement.

The duck pond replaces the old 1960's style pond that had no filtration system on it. The new pond encourages a greater variety of wildlife – pond newts have already been found, and will enable the zoo to house rare and unusual breeds of

waterfowl.

The Mayor released birds, including a pair of Mandarin ducks and Carolina ducks to mark the occasion and it is hoped the birds will breed in the specially designed duck houses.

The Island is also home to a new Red Squirrel cage, which is attached to another cage back on land.

This will increase the size of the squirrels' home and it is hoped it will encourage breeding by providing a quiet area for the female squirrel.

The island is also home to three guinea pigs – who will be acting as lawn mowers and a trio of statues that were donated to the zoo in memory of Eileen Cartwright – a regular visitor to the zoo.

There will also be a dovecote on the island that was donated by the family of Mrs Barbara Fern, a friend of Walton Estate who dedicated a lot of time helping in the zoo. The dovecote will be relocated at a later date as the fantail doves are currently sat on eggs in it!

Change of use for landmark pub

A LANDMARK pub - listed as a building of local importance - is to be converted for residential use following a successful planning application by hotel and leisure group De Vere.

The former Ship Inn, in Chester Road, Walton, and its outbuildings, will be converted into three residential units as part of a wider scheme involving construction of 11 houses on a 1.25 hectare site.

It will be a second change of use for the century-old pub which, in recent years, has been used as an Indian restaurant.

An adjoining wooded area will be

retained to retain a wildlife corridor, but it will be the end of the line for a nursery which operates from land towards the rear of the site.

Walton Parish Council and nearby residents objected to the scheme on the grounds the access to the site from the A56 Chester Road was unsuitable and could be hazardous. There were also concerns about a damaging impact on the Green Belt – and residents recalled that a similar scheme involving 15 houses was thrown out some years ago.

But planning officers recommended approval because the scheme would enable the existing less-than-ideal

access to the site to be improved. The locally listed building would be retained as there are no plans to physically alter its exterior appearance.

The applicant has offered £150,000 towards the cost of off-site affordable housing and £10,000 towards the provision of off-site open space and recreation facilities as well as funding for road safety and traffic regulation works.



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Evie follows in little sisters footsteps to Face of Globe finals

ELEVEN-year-old Evie Burton-Baddley is following in the footsteps of her younger sister Hope, by winning through to the finals of Face of the Globe in Disneyland Paris, later this year.

After becoming a UK finalist at Chester, Evie won Miss Charity, raising £621 for the Rainbow Child Foundation, Miss Publicity, Miss People's choice and came second overall winning through to compete in the Grand Finals in Disney in October.

This follows on from from a successful stint 'treading the boards' in Aladdin at the Epstein Theatre, Liverpool - starting with a host celebrities including Emmerdales Kurtis Stacey.

Now Evie, from Stockton Heath is following in the footsteps of her younger sister, nine-year-old Hope, who won the titles of Miss Publicity, Miss People's Choice and most importantly Miss Charity in the worldwide finals.

Hope raised an astonishing £4365 for the Rainbow Child Foundation Charity. The money has helped provide much needed supplies for needy Children in Africa.

As the overall Face of the Globe, Miss Charity a further £4600 was also sent to Hope's chosen charity Tommy's, to help research and support to the families of premature and stillborn baby's - a charity that is very close to both the girls heart.

Like Hope, Evie is raising Money for the Rainbow Child foundation, which was founded by the X factors Chico Slimani, and has already raised money

with cake making, raffles and eBay.

Evie, who attends Cransley School said: " After seeing the amazing job that Hope did last year, all the money she raised and the fun she had doing Face of the Globe, I decided it was my turn! Hopey is helping me every step of the way and I would love to follow in her footsteps and make Warrington proud."

Evie's progress can be followed on her Facebook page which is www.facebook.com/Eviesfaceoftheglobe?ref=hl

The Face of the Globe promotes confidence and entrants are judged on the overall package. It is unlike other pageants in that make up and fancy outfits are not allowed.



■ Evie pictured above on one of her fundraising runs and (right) at the Junior Grand Final



Dining out at The Rams Head Inn

If you are looking for fine dining at a traditional country pub - you won't go far wrong with the Rams Head in Grappenhall Village.

To make your visit even more enjoyable **Village Life** readers can enjoy a complimentary bottle of wine when booking a three course meal using the voucher right.

For those wishing to travel a little further down the road, the offer is also available at the Twenty One Bar and grill in nearby Knutsford, which is part of the same group.

The management team of Adam Bartnik and Jasper Perry took over the Rams Head Inn just over 12 months ago in May 2013 and have been

working hard to embrace the local community. Having over 15 years of experience of owning and managing pubs, restaurants and bars they have been busy making improvements both to the pub itself with a new kitchen and front of house teams.

The existing building was built in 1893, and is listed as being of architectural and historical importance to the village. There has been an inn or hotel on the same site for much longer with the village recorded as far back as the Domesday Book of 1086.

The pub is ideally suited for special occasions, or just a romantic meal for two and during warm weather you can enjoy the patio area at the rear of the premises, or even sit outside the front in the picturesque old English village setting.

The food itself is very well presented, cooked to perfection, using fresh ingredients, with a good choice of menu and daily specials on the board.

The Rams Head is open for Food at lunch time and evenings throughout the week, with a special Monday lunch club where you can enjoy quality food for just £5.

Wednesday night is steak night,

Buy two steaks and receive 2 glasses of house wine for only £26.95! On "Dirty Thursdays" you can expect full flavoured American Style Food that oozes guilt. The menu itself will change frequently but dishes will include Chili Hotdogs, Burgers, Ribs, Chicken Wings and so on.

Friday is fish night - Buy two fish dishes and receive 2 glasses of house wine!



Advertiser's announcement

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When deciding on a boating holiday, the first decision is whether to have a cruiser or a narrowboat depending on which area you are travelling to.

A cruiser is fully kitted out and you will have a choice of driving positions ie outside for nice days and under cover if it is raining. The narrowboat are designed for the narrow canals, but again are fully fitted.

It is a myth to say that you need a current drivers licence to hire a boat, you can take either type of boat out without a licence. The boats run on a 240 v system so mobiles, laptops, ipads etc can all be charged up. Some boats work through a 12v system so you would have to take a car charging lead. Always worth checking when doing the booking. They do allow pets onboard as there are lots of nice walks along the tow paths. You will be given full instruction before you will be allowed to take the boat out. Don't let the navigating through the locks put you off as you will be given full instructions and a demonstration when you collect the boat.

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Wales or chose Europe. In Europe the destinations include France, Germany, Italy, Ireland, Holland and Belgium. The rivers, lakes and canals in Europe are stunning and a good way to experience local life and cuisine!

As an alternative you can hire a houseboat moored in lovely locations on the Norfolk Broads, many of these come with their own rowing boats. Some areas have boats sleeping up to 12 people so good for families wanting to go away together. Nearly always space for your own bike or hire bikes. Enjoy the luxury of home from home including flat screen TV. The Cheshire Ring and Llangollen canal, Cheshire is classed as the finest Canal Ring combined with the Llangollen Canal makes a beautiful scenic cruise. Scotland Lochs and Canals Try your hand a game fishing, cruise across Loch Ness - look out for any monsters!, cycling, walking visit the local stately homes or castles. Worth noting not in all areas the boats are

equipped with TV's due to bad reception locally.

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£1,000 reward after swan's eggs 'stolen'

A £1,000 reward has been offered for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible for the mysterious disappearance of a swan and seven eggs from a nest at Ackers Pit, Stockton Heath.

Villagers were left distraught following the theft because a pair of swans had successfully nested at the site for the past six years.

On the night of May 10/11, the male swan and the eggs were taken – the following morning only the female swan remained alongside an empty nest.

It is believed the eggs were due to hatch.

A number of metal signs were vandalised and stolen at the same time.

Stockton Heath Parish Council has appealed for information and given details of the rewards, which is being offered through the Crimestoppers charity.

Crimestoppers and the council will respect the anonymity of anyone who provides information either on the number 0800 555 111 or through the website <https://crimestoppers-uk.org/>

Carolyn Mostyn and her husband Darren from Latchford, have enjoyed watching the family of swans for many years.

Carolyn said: "Every year they have cygnets and it is great watching them grow up.

"The female has been sat on seven eggs for 40 days and my husband has been going every day to keep an eye on them. He has been going for around six years now taking photos of them.

"They were there on the Saturday afternoon and I think the eggs were ready to hatch. But when my husband went on Sunday morning it appeared someone had taken all seven eggs and the male swan!

"God knows what they have done with them. It is too upsetting to think about. I rang the RSPCA to check first whether they had been and taken them for some reason, but they hadn't. It is devastating that someone has done this to such beautiful animals and left the female swan there heartbroken at losing not only her babies but her partner too.



■ *The female on the nest with the male behind (above) and the empty nest on the morning after (right).*

■ *Pictures Darren Moston*

She is just swimming around looking for them."

Carolyn added: "The police have been out but with nothing to go on we are not holding out much hope that any of them will be back.

"It is so upsetting and so many people are devastated as to what has happened, I just wish I knew who it was so we could get the family back together."



Enjoy the music – but bring some groceries!

A GRAPPENHALL girl – now studying flute at the Royal Northern College of Music – has organised a concert to help ensure needy families have enough food.

Meera Maharaj, aged 18, a former pupil at Lymm High School, has enlisted the aid of friends to present a varying programme of music at St Wilfrid's Church, Grappenhall on June 6 at 7.30pm.

At this time of the year, Warrington Foodbank needs replenishing with more stock and members of the audience at the concert will be asked to bring groceries with them!

The programme will vary from a tango from Argentina on flute and guitar, French music for wind sextet and the string quartet bringing in Scandinavia for a piece by Grieg.

There will also be some surprises to keep everyone guessing.

Tickets are available priced £5 by contacting 07976 106434 - and the cost includes a glass of wine or soft drink in the interval.

Meera said: "We decided to keep the ticket price low as we hope people will be as generous as they can with their food or cash donations.

"We are all really excited about having the chance to give a public

performance of our work. We all aspire to have careers as musicians in the future so it will be fantastic for our professional development and good fun at the same time.

"I am particularly looking forward to playing in a concert in my own community and supporting a wonderful organisation like the Foodbank. My little brother attends Ravenbank Primary School in Lymm and I got the idea when I heard that they had collected an amazing amount of groceries for Warrington Foodbank at their Harvest Festival. I'm hoping our audience will be just as generous!"





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Gardens will open for charity



NEARLY 100 gardens across Cheshire are being thrown open to the public on various dates this summer as part of the National Gardens Scheme.

They range from small, private gardens to large, publicly-owned show gardens which allocate specific dates for the NGS.

But they have one thing in common – they are all raise money for charity. Last year, the NGS raised more than £107,000 and is now the largest single donor to Macmillan, Marie Curie and Help the Hospices.

Among the larger gardens opening this summer is Arley Hall, near Northwich, the home of Viscount Asbrook, which opens for NGS on

Sunday August 3 from 11am to 5pm.

Arley is one of Britain's finest gardens and has been lovingly created by the same family for more than 250 years and is famous for its yew buttressed herbaceous border, avenue of ilex columns, walled garden and much more.

The Old Parsonage, at Arley Green, via Arley Hall, will be open on June 1 from 2pm to 5.30pm and Jane Foster and Tessa Holmes will open their garden, The East Garden, also at Arley Hall on Sunday, July 6 from

11am to 5.30pm.

The National Trust will open Tatton Park, near Knutsford, for the NGS on June 11 from 10am to 6pm and Norton Priory, near Runcorn, opens for NGS on June 8 from 12 noon to 4pm.

Cogshall Grange in Hall Lane, Antrobus will be opening for NGS for the first time on July 13, from 1pm to 5pm and Peover Hall and Gardens, at Over Peover, the home of Randle Brooks, will open for NGS on May 31 and June 1 from 2pm to 5pm.

Other gardens not normally open to the public include Robert Bilton's Dingle Farm, in Dingle Lane, Appleton

(July 26 and 27 and August 9 and 10 from 10am to 5pm), Dawn and Peter Freeman's Bucklow Farm, Pinfold Lane, Plumley, (June 15 2pm to 5pm), Sir Philip and Lady Haworth's Free Green Farm, Lower Peover (June 1, 2pm to 6pm), Howard and Wendy Platt's Laskey Farm, Laskey Lane, Thelwall (August 16 and 17, 11am to 5pm), Peter and Jane Fairclough's Farm Place, High Street, Great Budworth (June 29, 1pm to 5pm), and Emma Dearman's and Joe Morris' Somerford in Leicester Road, Knutsford (July 4, 6pm to 8.30pm and July 13 and August 10, 12 noon to 5pm).

Library celebrates 1000th borrower!

THE newly re-opened Grappenhall Community Library recently signed up its 1,000th borrower, Darcy Ruddock.

The pupil at nearby Bradshaw Lane Primary School, had visited on a school visit just after Easter. It was such an interesting event on spring wildlife, she asked her family if she could go back and sign up as a new borrower. She was surprised to be awarded some celebration chocolates for tipping the organisation into four figures.

Darcy and her family are pictured here, in the safe garden area, catching some Spring sunshine.

Before the school visit, they were not aware about the library's "little oasis", just a short walk from school.

The community library, re-opened last year after extensive building improvements, now believe they have more active borrowers than when the library was run by the local council. Volunteer librarian Jeanette Allen said: "It's way beyond just a library now, we really are building something very special here. We would encourage everyone to sign up all their family as borrowers, get involved and enjoy what is happening here". In addition to lending its collection of 8,000 publicly donated books, it hosts local PCSO surgeries, craft groups and is now thriving as an alternative place for private hire; meetings and events.

The community library is 10 minutes walk away from St Wilfrids' and Bradshaw Lane primary schools. More details can be found at the website grappenhall.org.uk/contact-us or by calling 01925 268077 or outside opening hours, 07543-407885



Eva will be Queen at the 50th festival

THE 50th annual Thelwall Rose Queen Festival takes place on June 21 - and to mark the occasion the theme chosen for the procession this year is "Gold".

This year's Rose Queen - Eva Lavender, aged 12 - will be joined by many of the former Queens who have been invited to help celebrate the Golden Jubilee.

Eva is a pupil at King's Leadership Academy, Warrington. She will be crowned after the procession through the village streets.

The main arena attraction will be the Bata Samba Band but there will also be a dog-show staged by the RSPCA.



Side-shows will include a miniature railway, Ramp Riders, 18 Hole Crazy Golf, an inflatable assault course plus fairground rides.

Other stalls include face-painting, garden plants, wooden creations, satchels and scarves, jewellery, wooden engraved items, bottle tombola, book stall, coconut shy, stocks and a general tombola.

More details can be obtained at contact thelwallrosequeen@gmail.com

Summer fair

STOCKTON Heath Primary School is to hold its annual Summer Fair on Saturday, June 14.

Proceedings get under way at the West Avenue school at 12 noon and continue. There will be traditional stalls, games, rides, school displays, live music and refreshments.

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Garden extension appeal rejected

AN Appleton man has lost his appeal against the refusal by planning bosses to grant permission to extend his garden into a "natural landscape" area behind his home.

Planners refused permission to the resident of High Warren Close in December but the householder, who wanted to extend his garden into an area of land between his property and Warrington Golf Club's course, appealed.

Now an inspector, Alison Partington, appointed by the Government has dismissed the appeal.

She says extending the garden would involve moving an existing fence much closer to a footpath which runs through the natural area, giving it an incongruous appearance.

Allowing the appeal would make it more difficult to resist further, similar planning applications which would exacerbate the harm caused to the area and have an adverse visual impact on those using the footpath.

Overall, Ms Partington says the proposed development would be detrimental to the character and appearance of the area.

Parish walks booklet

MEMBERS of the Mid-Cheshire Footpath Society have joined forces with Appleton Parish Council to produce a 12-page booklet detailing circular walks in the parish.

The booklet is to be uploaded to a new website being prepared for the council but will also be available in hard copy.

There are 10 circular walks in the book, varying from 2.2 to 6.3 miles in length. Most of them start from the Parish Hall in Dudlow Green Road. They also vary in difficulty, although the society says none are difficult. Some can be walked in stout shoes, but others requiring walking boots - particularly in wet weather.

They total some 40 miles in length, some straying into neighbouring parishes.

Garden extension appeal rejected

CRANSLEY School, based in Great Budworth, has won the award for "School Website of the Year" at the Independent Schools Association (ISA) national competition.

The school was in competition with 300 schools who are members of the ISA, beating off all competition to become one of three finalists and ten going on to claim the title.

The website was officially launched in January and was designed by "School Website" with easier navigation in mind.

Cransley had to meet certain criteria to win the award and were judged on the effectiveness of the website in terms of accessibility, ease of navigation and overall design.

Headmaster Simon Leyshon said: "We were incredibly proud to receive recognition from the Independent Schools Association for our new website. The hard work that went into the website has paid off with both this award and positive comments from parents."

The award was presented by BBC presenter Juliet Morris and Larry Hardcastle, managing director of Larrytech.

Advertiser's announcement

A revolutionary new approach to weight loss

Many people struggle with their weight and body shape at some time. It can often seem like a constant battle to maintain a healthy weight, leading to low self-esteem and poor physical health. There are many reasons why traditional diets only achieve limited success. Weight loss can be slow and staying motivated can be difficult. There may be conflicting advice on the best diet to follow.

An unwelcome consequence of weight loss can be loose skin and areas of diet resistant fat, resulting in a body shape that you may still be unhappy with. Even if you do achieve your ideal weight, it can be difficult to maintain and all too often the pounds creep back on.

Cheshire Natural Health's Natural Weight Loss Plan addresses all the issues that can make weight loss so difficult. Using professional treatments you will achieve your weight loss goals through a highly effective combination of Hypnotherapy, Nutritional Therapy and Endermologie.

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There is no one size-fits-all healthy diet and the aim of a personalised Nutrition Plan is to help establish what works best for you, addressing any imbalances and support you towards health and wellbeing. Your consultation with Women's Nutritional expert, Karin Elgar, will give you the knowledge you need to eat healthier not just for weight loss, but for optimal health in the future.

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For more information call Cheshire Natural Health on 01926 731023 or visit www.CheshireNaturalHealth.co.uk

Do you remember the days when you would walk into your bank and be hounded to discuss investments? They would try to sell you anything from an Investment Bond to a Stocks & Shares ISA. And then there are structured products. Barclays for example are reportedly 'sat on' literally billions of pounds of clients structured products funds. Now here is the problem, the banks have all but gone out of giving investment advice. So if you have been advised to have one of these investments in the past, then there is no nobody left there to give you ongoing advice. And if the structured product is due to mature then they can no longer advise you what to do with the maturing proceeds.

The banks do offer wealthy clients financial advice, by giving access to wealth managers. However there is usually quite a high minimum amount of capital that you need before the wealth manager will even see you. I have seen some banks quoting £250k and even £500k. How times have changed.

What this has done though is leave a huge void in the market place for ordinary customers of these institutions who have say £100k in an investment or £200k in a pension with them. This is because now you have to go and get your own advice on the way forward. This is not all bad news though, because in most people's opinions the banks never were outstanding when it came to investment advice anyway. People tended to trust them because, well it was the bank after all.



If you find that you are one of these people who needs a review give me a call at our Stockton Heath office and I shall gladly help you with this.

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Money Column

By Margaret Black

Taxpayers win in RTI penalty appeals

Decisions arising from the transition to real time information (RTI) have started to emerge at tribunal with two latest cases ruling in the taxpayer's favour. From just a few of the cases so far the complications around making the transition to RTI, the general trend is not a great deal of pleasure to the taxpayer. But there may be some hope, demonstrated by the following examples.

Example: Hogg Joinery v HMRC, the taxpayer won on 'reasonable excuse' based on HMRC untimely delays in issuing penalty notices. Hogg Joinery appealed HMRC's judgement to enforce penalties of £400 for late submission of the Employer's Annual Return for the year ending 5 April 2013, this was due to be filed online by 19 May 2013 and was not filed until the September. The appellants said that the 2012/13 return and those for the two earlier years were submitted online on time. They had two other businesses and their bookkeeper filed the returns for all three businesses at the same time and in the same way. According to the appeal, the trouble started when the business changed from a partnership to a limited company. They questioned "why they were not notified that the P35s had not been

received" until two years after the due date of the earliest one, especially when they had consistently paid on time.

When they were told in September that the previous two returns were outstanding they tried to submit them at once but it took three attempts and a full morning on the phone with HMRC to submit successfully. Hogg Joinery said that Inland Revenue staff agreed that the error had arisen at HMRC and that the owner of the business should have been notified sooner. The judge on the day said that they were "concerned at the attitude of HMRC in this case" and that, "it was clear the appellants had tried to file their returns on time", and that, "something went wrong". "Clearly there was a problem with the way their online submissions were set up but whether this was of their own doing or due to a problem at HMRC's end" the judge was unable to say.

The tribunal judge accepted that the company made the claimed number of phone calls to HMRC and rejected HMRC's claim that the appellants only contacted them once. It was also accepted that the appellants took "all reasonable steps" to rectify the situation they found themselves in. The judge said



that "the whole situation ought to have been investigated and explained," and added that given the failure of HMRC to provide a clear explanation of events and to acknowledge the efforts made on the telephone to obtain information and assistance, it was found that: "...in all the circumstances established that on the balance of probabilities they have a reasonable excuse for non-payment of the penalties."

If you have any other accounting or taxation issues please do not hesitate to contact us.

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

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Pupils plant bluebells on the green

PUPILS from Broomfields Junior School, Appleton have been planting bluebells on the Lumb Brook Millennium Green.

The weather kept fine and the morning planting was much enjoyed by pupils teachers, helpers and trustees. The bluebells were planted "in the green" so there will be no flowers this year but daffodils planted by other pupils in previous years were in full bloom.

The Millennium Green maintains strong links with three schools, Cobbs Primary, St Monica's and Broomfields Junior, whose head Keith Greenwood was a long term trustee and remains a keen supporter of the Green.

Pupils from all three schools were, with the local community, fully involved in the planning and design of the Millennium Green and helped with the original planting and in the years since have frequently helped planting wildflower seeds and bulbs. Trustees Julie Kueres, Val Davies and Emmanuel Dupuis who formed part of the planting team gave a big thank-you to the children.

The bluebells were obtained from the Barrowmore Estate near Chester on whose 85 acre estate thousands of bluebells are propagated from local seed for the Cheshire Bluebell Recovery Project (www.barrowmore.org.uk). Barrowmore also supplied information packs and learning aids to facilitate the pupil's learning about the Bluebell Recovery Project and basic facts such as how to distinguish our native English bluebell from the invasive Spanish hybrid.

The Millennium Green Trustees are currently trying to obtain funding for large tables/benches to put on the events area which could be used as an outdoor educational facility and would enable the children to be taught theory as well as practice on the Millennium Green.

The Millennium Green is to host a Music Day on July 12 and a barbecue on August 23. More details are available at www.millenniumgreen.moonfruit.co.uk or by calling 01925 453105

Get snapping for photo contest

AMATEUR photographers are being urged to enter a competition for the best pictures with the theme of 'Motion'.

The competition is being run as part of this summer's Stockton Heath Festival and is being sponsored by the Milton Motor Company and Victoria Garage. Prizes will be awarded to the pictures judged to be the best and also favourites chosen by a public vote. The works will be displayed over the festival weekend of Saturday and Sunday, July 5-6, in the Arts Tent on the Queen Elizabeth Field a Mill Lane on Sat 5 and Sunday 6.

Details of how to enter the competition can be obtained by contacting photography@stocktonheathfestival.co.uk or through the Get Involved pages of the festival website www.stocktonheathfestival.co.uk

Advertisers' announcement

Now is the time for bespoke hanging baskets

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What's on in the villages

June 10

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

June 12

LIVE AT ST WILFRID'S
Royal Northern College of Music Opera Gala.
An evening of opera classis and songs from the shows. St Wilfrid's Church, Grappenhall. 7.30pm.

June 17

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

June 19

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 LEIGH 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 - April 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 PROBUB 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 PROBUB 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.

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