

VILLAGE

Cheshire's Community Magazine

Issue 156 March 2014 FREE

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School tackles climate change

A VILLAGE school is to install a "green energy" heating system to save money and help tackle climate change.

Appleton Thorn Primary School has won planning consent a biomass

boiler in a building in the school grounds.

The slim-line boiler flue, together with existing and proposed planting, will mean there will be no visual harm. Planning chiefs approved the scheme after hearing it would remove the need to use oil to heat the school, replacing it with biomass, a renewable resource that would also be more energy efficient.

The school would reduce less carbon dioxide and benefit from reduced energy bills.

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March 18**

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
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www.davidmowat.org

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Opinion

THERE appears to some chance of an agreement in the long-running saga of shoppers' car parking at Stockton Heath and Lymm. However, we feel we should stress the words "some chance" as it is by no means certain.

Talks have been taking place between shopkeepers and borough council officers to try and resolve the concerns of traders convinced that the existing parking regime is driving customers away from both villages. Footfall is down and the reason, the shopkeepers believe, is that shoppers consider a one hour free period is not long enough.

More to the point, they fear being caught by over-zealous parking wardens who think nothing of slapping a penalty ticket on a car even if the driver is only a couple of minutes late returning. This costs the motorist £30 at least.

Most favoured solution at the moment seems to be a "pay as you leave" system, with the first hour free. Access would be controlled by an automatic barrier – which of course would mean the wardens would not need to visit car parks and could concentrate on what should be their main job, patrolling the streets.

Ideally, of course, a two hour free period should be restored, but the borough is unwilling to yield on this as this would not produce enough revenue to cover the cost of running the parking service.

But we wonder if it might with the lesser number of wardens that would

be required?

We also wonder why Stockton Heath and Lymm are different to, say, Sandbach and Congleton where free parking can be provided with no restrictions other than advisory signs limiting the stay to two hours?

ELSEWHERE in this issue, we report the ongoing saga of the controversial proposal to create an adventure playground/theme park in Tatton Park.

Given that the developers first submitted their proposals two years ago and have twice been asked to supply additional information, we can quite understand why STAG, the action group opposed to the scheme, are asking whether the applicants are fit to run the operation.

But of course the issue will be settled on planning grounds rather than the efficiency of the operators who, in any case, seem to be doing a pretty good job of running a similar playground in Norfolk.

It might be thought that Cheshire East Council, who will decide the fate of the application, are scrutinising it pretty closely by twice seeking more information. But we can't help but wonder if the planners are simply going through the motions.

After all, the council has already offered the applicants a £5.5 million loan, is ready to spend another £1.5 on infrastructure and has already spent £239,000 on planning surveys, project management, etc. All of

which suggests they have already made up their minds.

We remain convinced that Tatton Park, which already has 750,000 visitors a year, is not the place to establish another attraction aiming to bring in another 250,000 people.

Natural England has designated part of the proposed site as Ancient Semi Natural Woodland and although the applicants say this will be untouched other than by "minimal access routes" we wonder how "minimal" a route can be if it is to cater for 250,000 people a year.

Life on the frontline in deadly Afghanistan



A SOLDIER from High Legh is serving with the British Army in Afghanistan by working as a media operations Officer.

Lieutenant James Watson (25) a former pupil of Lymm High School, is attached to the UK Media Group based at Camp Bastion in Helmand.

His job is to facilitate different forms of media in Afghanistan while also working as a squadron second in command.

"It is a very rewarding job as I get to see how our soldiers are doing a great job as we help mentor the Afghanistan National Security Force," he said.

"When I'm not behind the camera preparing a story or briefing a spokesman, I'm itching to get in front of it."

James who celebrated his 25th birthday in Afghanistan commissioned from The Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst in August 2012 and is normally based with 2 Medical Regiment in Hohna, Germany. When he's not working, James plays football and is looking forward to hopefully getting home in time for the end of the football season.

"I love watching Manchester City play and I'm determined to get straight back into playing when I return," he said.

"I can't wait to see my friends and family when I get back. They're what I miss the most."

In the winter of floods, a eureka moment for engineer Paul

A CHESHIRE engineer has unveiled a water proof door hinge which, he believes, could have saved many homes and businesses from the disastrous flooding which has hit many parts of the country in recent months.

Paul Price has watched with horror and considerable frustration as the drama has unfolded on his television screen.

"I just sat there wishing I had come up with the design sooner," he said.

"It's quite a simple solution and it is not expensive. I am convinced that many homes could be protected by doors fitted with my hinge."

Paul's "Eureka Moment" came when a submersible pump arrived for repair at his workshop at Grappenhall.

He was amazed by the small seal which prevented water ingress and electrical failure and after examining the system realised how a similar system could be used on a flood door.

"The design of conventional door hinges leaves a small gap between the door itself and the frame, which prevents a seal from being formed," he said.

"Having water-tight doors would enable homeowners to keep floodwater out of their home entirely or at least to contain it within a single room.

"It would obviously have to be a substantial door or it would not withstand the weight of the floodwater.

"My design assumes an aluminium door, but it would work with any substantial door."

Paul has produced a prototype,

patented the design and set up his own company, Contego Design Solutions Ltd.

Now he is planning to meet with Environment Agency experts and insurance companies to try and win their endorsement.

He has already heard from local MP David Mowat who believes the idea has potential.

The Warrington South MP said: "We've all seen on our TV screens recently what a devastating impact flooding can have on homes and properties. Those whose homes have been flooded often have to wait months before they can live there again.

"Paul's solution looks simple to fit and is comparatively cheap when compared to the huge financial and emotional costs of having your home flooded."

Paul added: "Flooding costs the economy around £1bn per year. While we cannot hold back nature, we can at least help families and small businesses protect what is most important to them.

"I am getting quite a lot of enquiries about my design – mainly from industry. But I originally had the private house in mind when I came up with the design.

"It would not solve everybody's problem, but the door is the main point of ingress so if we can make it flood proof it will make a big difference.

"And I have some other solutions for flood proofing properties as well."



All smiles for dentist's clean team

NEW dental regulations mean hygienists and dental therapists can now see patients without a prescription from a dentist for the full range of their scope of practice.

Patients can now seek many treatments from these dental care professionals (DCPs) without having had to see a dentist first, subject to the DCP complying with certain rules.

The change in regulations has been welcomed by Gavin Laidlaw at Dental Solutions, who says the secret to healthy gums is having a regular visit to the hygienist.

Regular professional cleaning, combined with looking after your teeth and gums well at home will help to keep your mouth healthy.

It will improve your appearance, helping you to keep your teeth, avoid bleeding gums and give you fresh breath.

Anyone can now visit a hygienist for a dazzling professional clean and advice on gum health, without having to see their own dentist.

So if your dental practice doesn't have its own hygienist, why not come and visit Dental Solutions.

The three strong hygienist team at Dental Solutions in Lymm are available Monday to Friday, with early and late appointments too.

Gavin said: "We are delighted that the change in regulations means that people now have direct access to a hygienist and we have already had lots

of people call to book appointments in this way. It's clear to me that the change was long overdue.

Vicky, Helen and Rachel are

fantastic hygienists and therapists and are relishing the new challenge."

Smiles all round - Victoria Middleton, Helen Bardsley and Rachel Hilton – the three talented hygienists at Dental Solutions in Lymm



Advertiser's announcement

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Visit the Topkapi Palace where the Sultans ruled their Empire and see the beauty of the the Blue Mosque and Hagia St Sophia, where Islam and Christianity face each other Wouldn't be a trip without a visit to the Grand Bazaar where you can buy practically everything. Transfer back to the airport and fly off to Northern Cyprus where you will have 10 days exploring or relaxing - visit the village of Bellapais made famous by Lawrence Durrell in 'Bitter Lemons of Cyprus' and wander round the seafront restaurants, cafes and bars in Kyrenia harbour.

Try a multi- centre holiday ie:- Ljubljana, Lake Bled & Piran in Slovenia, you would have experienced a city along with the scenery of Lake Bled and end with a few days at the coastal resort of Piran.

An alternative is a twin centre 3 nights in Dubrovnik in Croatia and

4 nights in Kotor in Montenegro. Another idea is Morocco 3 nights in the High Atlas Mountains and 4 nights in Marrakech.

A completely different holiday would be a gulet cruise for 7 nights and 7 night stay in Fehiye or Datca in Turkey.

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Villages brace themselves for traffic chaos

VILLAGES south of the Manchester Ship Canal are bracing themselves for traffic chaos arising from increased opening and closing of swing bridges as a result of an increase in shipping.

Stockton Heath is likely to be most seriously hit, but Grappenhall, Thelwall, Appleton and Walton are also likely to be affected.

Peel Ports, who own the canal, plan to increase shipping as part of its Mersey Ports Master Plan.

Talks have taken place between the company, borough councils and local MPs over efforts to minimise the impact on road traffic.

But parish councils have had little opportunity for input.

The A49, A50, the A56 are all carried over the canal by swing bridges in the Warrington area and it is claimed that traffic conditions can take several hours to get back to normal after a ship has passed along the canal.

Over the last 12-18 months, the number of ships using the canal at peak periods has increased by 40 per cent – despite Peel Ports claiming it would do all it could to minimise canal traffic at peak periods.

Cllr Celia Jordan (pictured right) expressed concern at a meeting of

Stockton Heath Parish Council.

She suggested setting up a joint committee with other parish councils to deal with the issue.

Cllr Tudor Pole said it only logical that the more successful Peel Ports were in shipping containers up the canal, the more the bridges would open and close.

He said: "The Parish Council may not have a powerful voice at present but it soon would have if life in the village was affected and the media became involved."

The council is to call for updates from Peel Ports and Warrington Borough Council.

Warrington Borough Council is urging the canal company to limit the number of peak hour sailings to 100-a-year or below.

They also want the swing bridges modernised so they can swing faster and cause less disruption.



Park Royal wins gold award for exemplary customer service



The Park Royal, one of QHotels' 21 unique and luxury hotels, has begun the year in celebratory fashion by being awarded the prestigious Venue Verdict Gold Standard accreditation for consistently high conference service standards over the last year.

This is the second accreditation the hotel has received from Venue Verdict, highlighting the commitment and passion the team at The Park Royal has for getting the conference experience right.

The hotel was one of only 31 venues across the whole of the UK which received the Gold Standard accreditation. Out of the 31 venues, only 12 were hotels, of which an astounding six were from the QHotels portfolio.

Based on rigorous research conducted by BDRC Continental, the UK's largest independent market research agency, the national Venue Verdict awards analyse feedback from over 22,000 event hosts across just under 360 venues, looking at how likely event hosts are to recommend the venue.

Paul Gallon, General Manager at The Park Royal (pictured) said: "We are immensely proud to have received this award again. What's great about Venue Verdict is that it's awarded based on feedback from event hosts, which highlights that we're delivering on quality throughout the event, from the food served to the hi-tech facilities available.

He added: "Guest experience is at the heart of everything we do and the team here are passionate and committed to providing a professional, friendly, helpful and flexible service, tailored to each individual customer's needs."

In addition to The Park Royal's win, QHotels is celebrating after scooping the two biggest group awards from Venue Verdict: the Group Gold Standard Award for the largest amount of Gold Standard accreditations, highlighting a consistent approach to exemplary service standards; and the No.1 Large Group Award for the brand with the highest Net Promoter Score, demonstrating that event hosts are actively recommending the group.

The Park Royal is a four-star hotel, perfectly situated for excellent links to Chester, Liverpool and Manchester. It offers guests 146 luxurious bedrooms, event centre and 15 conference and meeting rooms for up to 400 delegates so whether it's for business or pleasure it's a perfect venue. A former vicarage, built in 1831, it boasts a sumptuous spa offering, with everything from hot stone treatments to pedicures.

The Park Royal was proud to be awarded Gold in the Green Tourism Business Scheme.

The Park Royal's conference and events facilities were awarded Gold Standard Accreditation from Venue Verdict, based on delegate feedback for the second quarter this year.

The hotel has an excellent event centre, perfect for any conference, meetings or wedding.



Tax Year End – ISA Allowance £11,520 – Use it or lose it!

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ISA's are excellent savings vehicles for things like university fee planning, savings for children's deposits for a future house purchase, and retirement planning. With the huge reductions in both the lifetime & annual allowances it is even a better time to review your ISA situation.

People often have the misconception that a stocks & shares ISA is very risky compared to its cash counterpart. This can also be controlled by getting your risk profile right at the outset. Speak to Simple Solutions about our Defensive portfolio for an alternative strategy if you wish?



Don Wernham

You can also transfer ISA's including cash ISA's from previous tax years, if it suits you to do so. If you want to discuss savings into ISA's before the end of the financial year on 5th April you need to act quickly. Simply because if you do not use your ISA allowance you lose it forever.

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Action group pledges against adventure playground

STAG – the action group campaigning against the development of an adventure playground in Knutsford's Tatton Park – has pledged to carry on its fight against the controversial proposals to be put to planners for a third time later this month.

They say the amended proposals add further weight to their fears that the Green Belt, ancient woodland, wildlife, prime agricultural land and flora and fauna are being "sacrificed" for purely financial reasons.

The group, which has raised more than £6,000 to pay for professional advice to enable them to oppose the planning application, says it will continue to put money, time and effort into fighting the scheme on planning grounds.

Norfolk-based Bure Valley Adventures say their playground would attract 250,000 visitors to Tatton, on top of the 750,000 people who already visit the park. It will provide 200 jobs – mostly part time – and give the local economy a £7.6m boost.

The development will be hidden from public view in woodland, although the Witchcote Wood area – designated as Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland by Natural England – would not be affected other than by "minimal access routes."

More than 22 acres of farmland would be converted to parkland,

opening up areas of Tatton Park which have not previously been available to the public. All the structures involved in the playground would be of a temporary nature so that the whole development would be "reversible".

The proposals, which have twice been amended to provide more information requested by planners, are due to go before Cheshire East Council's strategic planning board on March 5.

■ *Not STAG – but one of Tatton's magnificent male deer who can be seen in the park all the year round, blissfully unaware of the controversy surrounding the estate.*



Step back in time at historic family home



ARLEY Hall is a place of enormous character, charm and interest where visitors are frequently struck by the warm and intimate atmosphere and the feeling that Arley is a much-cherished family home.

Arley Hall is one of the most interesting and attractive stately homes in Cheshire. The elaborate ceilings and oak panelling, impressive fireplaces, intricate stained glass and beautiful contents are not the only features which make Arley Hall so special.

Visitors are enthralled by entering a piece of living history, which gives an intimate insight into life in the Hall and the history of a family that has cherished Arley as their home for over 550 years.

The Hall is an impressive example of a Victorian country house built in the

Elizabethan style.

The Gardens, which are amongst the finest in Britain, are outstanding for their vitality, variety and historical interest and are particularly celebrated for the magnificent double herbaceous border. The Herbaceous Border which was probably the first border of its kind planted in England, along with the unique Quercus Ilex Columns, Pleached Lime Avenue of trees, furlong walk and The Gove make this simply the most amazing and interesting garden.

Amongst the finest in Britain and Europe the gardens have been created over the last 250 years by successive generations of the same family and thus offer an unusual blend of long history and traditional design with inspired modern ideas and additions.



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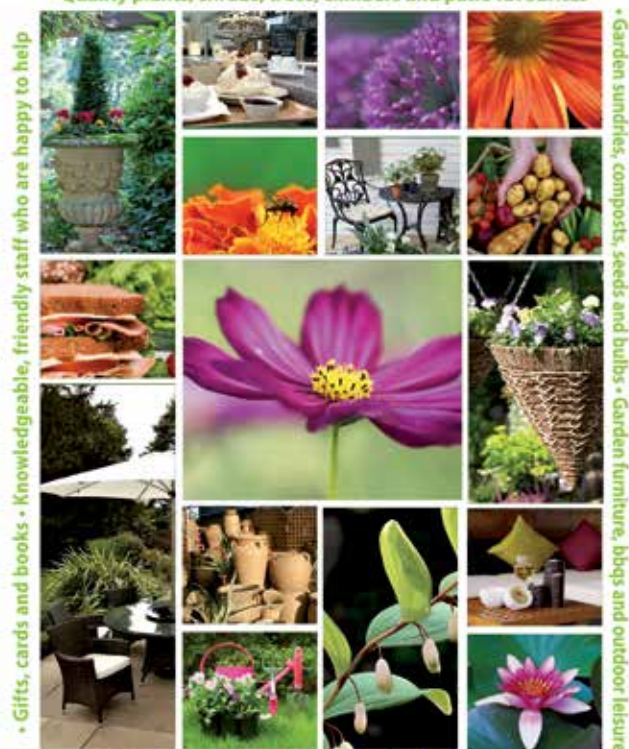
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Stagestruck Evie lands first professional role

A STOCKTON Heath youngster is stagestruck after winning auditions to appear in her first professional theatre show - Aladdin, at Liverpool's Epstein Theatre this Easter.

Evie Burton-Baddeley, aged 11, a pupil at Lymm High School is a member of Little stars stage school in Appleton.

Facing stiff competition she successfully auditioned and has been selected to appear in the LHK productions Easter Pantomime Aladdin which runs April 15-21.

The show runs for 18 shows and stars Curtis Stacey who was in Emmerdale.

Evie, who has started her rehearsals was extremely shocked and delighted to have got through.

Proud mum Carolyne said: "She can't wait for her first appearance in a professional theatre production and is delighted to have got through her auditions."

Meanwhile Evie has also recently completed a short film as the lead, which is being entered in film festivals.

She comes from a family of young stars, with younger sister Hope picking up awards in the finals of a pageant competition held in Disneyland Paris last year.



Hunt is on for 30 World War I heroes

THE hunt is on for 30 "mystery men" who served in the First World War but whose families appear to have disappeared without trace.

Their names were among more than 200 who had some link with the village of Mobberley and were listed on a Roll of Honour drawn up after the end of hostilities.

Local man Alistair MacLeod has been researching the names and has managed to identify more than 170 who were either born in the village, had family there, married a Mobberley girl or worked or lived there. But details of 29 of the men are proving difficult to find.

The names are Edward Barrett, Harry Burland, Joseph Buckley, Fred Clark, Arthur Colclough, Albert Conway, Andrew Cork, William Davies, Samuel Dickin, Alfred Dobell, William Ellis, Herbert Farndale, Harry Hatton, William Harding, George Hawkins, Herbert Jackson, Herbert Johnson, Collin Jugler, Thomas Kurley, Stuart Lee, William Okell, John O'Brien, Thomas Pierce, Herbert Powell, Thomas Rogers, G Shorrocks, Herbert Storres (or Stones), G Strickland, William Taylor and Philip Williams.

The men's families could now have moved away to other parts of Cheshire, or even further afield.

Anyone who recognises the names and thinks they can help can ring Alistair MacLeod on 01565 872871.

Open evening for fertility and gynaecology

REPRODUCTIVE Health Group are delighted to welcome anyone with an interest in women's health to their Open Evening at the Centre for Reproductive Health, Daresbury Park, on Wednesday March, 19 6.30pm - 8.30pm.

The team of consultants, specialist nurses, embryologists, counsellors and complementary therapists will be on hand to provide the latest information on the full range of fertility treatments, investigations and diagnostics, plus common gynaecological conditions including endometriosis, polycystic ovary syndrome, fibroids, menstrual disorders, menopause, urogynaecology and recurrent miscarriage.

The Centre for Reproductive Health, conveniently located two minutes from Junction 11 of the M56, is the North West's newest assisted conception centre offering the most up to date technologies and clinical facilities. For more information please see www.reproductivehealthgroup.co.uk.

To reserve places at the Open Evening, please email aekersley@reproductivehealthgroup.co.uk or book online at www.reproductivehealthgroup.co.uk

Free parking and refreshments provided.

New chief in the starting gate

CHESHIRE based Simon Byrne, a senior officer in the Metropolitan Police has been revealed as the preferred candidate to take up the mantle of Cheshire's Chief Constable.

Following a rigorous selection process, which included a grilling by senior officers across the criminal justice agencies and a panel which included an independent advisor, Police & Crime Commissioner for Cheshire, John Dwyer has selected Simon Byrne as the preferred candidate.

Mr Dwyer said, "All of the candidates demonstrated exceptional qualities and they should all be proud of themselves but Simon was an outstanding candidate who was unanimously supported by the Appointment Panel.

"Simon's appointment is subject to a confirmatory hearing by the Police & Crime Panel. Subject to their approval, Simon will take his oath of office and become Cheshire's Chief Constable on 25 June 2014 and I am sure you will join me in congratulating him on his appointment."

Simon said, "I am really excited and privileged to be given the opportunity to lead the Constabulary at a critical time in its 157 year history. My pledge is to relentlessly fight crime and antisocial behaviour."

Simon will replace Chief Constable, Dave Whatton who has chosen to retire from policing.

Simon has lived in Cheshire since the early 1970s. After leaving a local comprehensive school in 1981, he joined the Metropolitan Police in 1982 where he pounded the beat at Paddington Green Police Station.

A transfer to Merseyside Police in

1985, saw him undertake a variety of uniform, CID and Headquarters roles. He was the Commander for Knowsley between 2002 and 2004, pioneering a new Neighbourhood Policing approach.

In 2006, Simon was promoted to Assistant Chief Constable in Merseyside Police. After a brief stint in the Personnel portfolio, his tenure in charge of Operations saw him lead a sustained and successful crackdown on crime and anti-social behaviour.

Promotion to Deputy Chief Constable in Greater Manchester Police in 2009 led to Simon dealing with a period of intense scrutiny of the Force from the Police Regulator (HMIC). Simon led a relentless focus on crime reduction which turned round Force performance and removed the Force from the threat of intervention from the Home Office. He also co-ordinated a widespread programme of cost cutting and organisational change delivering a leaner yet more effective force.

A further promotion to Assistant Commissioner in the Met in 2011 saw him in charge of the biggest operational command in the Country running day to day policing across London's 32 boroughs. In his time in London, Simon has successfully driven down crime and anti-social behaviour levels across the Capital as well as leading the biggest change to local policing in a generation with a significant boost to London's Neighbourhood Policing Teams.

He has also chaired the Pan-London Criminal Justice Board leading sector wide improvements for victims and witnesses.

Simon is a member of the Association of Chief Police Officers



(ACPO) and has led national work on the development and use of Automatic Number Plate Recognition systems, the re-classification of cannabis and the policing of sex workers and prostitution.

He is a Trustee of the Citysafe Foundation and the Police Rehabilitation Trust.

Married with children, Simon enjoys spending time with his family and playing a variety of sports.

He also holds a Masters of Arts degree in police management with Distinction.

Provided by:
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or **Margaret Black**
at:

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or email:
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Money Column

By Margaret Black

VAT issue - Bad debts, how do you reclaim the VAT on a bad debt?

What if a customer doesn't pay you for goods or services on which you have charged VAT, and you have paid that VAT to HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC), you can get the VAT back by claiming 'Bad Debt Relief'.

This is very straightforward providing you follow the right procedures and keep accurate records. Please find below what you need to do to reclaim VAT on bad debts.

Reclaiming VAT when your customer doesn't pay you

If you sell VAT taxable goods or services to a customer, you have to pay the VAT element to HMRC. If your customer does not pay some or all of the amount due you can reclaim the VAT you charged and paid to HMRC but did not receive. HMRC calls this

'Bad Debt Relief'.

When you can reclaim VAT on bad debts

You can reclaim VAT that you paid to HMRC and which you have not yet received from the customer. The conditions are that:

- the debt is more than six months old and less than four years and six months old
- you have written off the debt in your VAT accounts and transferred it to a separate bad debt account
- the debt has not been sold or handed to a factoring company
- you did not charge more than the normal selling price for the item(s)

How to claim 'Bad Debt Relief'

If you are entitled to claim 'Bad Debt Relief, you add the amount of VAT you are reclaiming to the



amount of VAT you are reclaiming on your purchases (input tax) and put the total figure in Box 4 of your VAT Return. To work out how much 'Bad Debt Relief' you can claim on a VAT inclusive balance, you need to apply the VAT fraction to the unpaid amount.

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

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Political storm over by-election

A PARISH council by-election is to be held at Appleton – but only after a furious row in which Labour and the Liberal Democrats accused each other of “playing politics.”

Labour claimed the Liberal Democrats were attempting to deny voters in Cobbs Ward a say on who should represent them by threatening to co-opt a Conservative to the council without holding an election.

But the Lib Dems denied the allegation.

Lib Dem councillor Judith Walker said: “We certainly did not threaten to co-opt a Tory. Why should we, when we have a candidate of our own?”

The by-election will take place on March 13.

Candidates are: Paul Carter (Labour), Jonathan Levy (Conservative) and Judith Wheeler (Liberal Democrat).

The election was called after a vacancy arose on the parish council when Liberal Democrat member Lauren Bailey resigned after being unable to attend meetings for some time.

Labour say they approached the Liberal Democrats about co-opting Mr Carter, the runner-up at the last election, to avoid the cost of a by-election.

They claimed the Liberal Democrats threatened to co-opt Mr Levy, a Conservative, who came third at the last election.

Labour spokesman Nick Bent said: “We felt that was an abuse of power by the Lib Dems and that Cobbs residents should have their say about

who they want to represent them.

“In the middle of a serious cost-of-living crisis for many families on the Cobbs estate, we were not prepared to let another grubby deal between the Tories and Lib Dems go unchallenged.”

Cllr Walker said: “We did not say we would co-opt a Tory. Why should we? We have our own candidate. At the time, we had not yet decided whether to co-opt someone or call an election.

“The last time a vacancy occurred we co-opted a Conservative because the vacancy arose through the death of a Conservative councillor.”

Conservative spokesman Cllr Paul Kennedy said: “To my knowledge there were no conversations between the Lib Dems and the Conservatives regarding the vacancy.

“We decided not to call an election but to wait and see how things panned out. Parish councils now have to pay for by-elections and I understand the election for the Cobbs Ward will cost in the region of £5,500.”

Paul Carter, a retired police officer, has lived in the Cobbs area for more than 30 years and is a volunteer with Warrington Disability Partnership.

Jonathan Levy is a local campaigner who lives in Cobbs and regularly attends parish council meetings. He is a former chairman of Warrington Conservative Future – the party's youth branch.

Judith Wheeler is a former member of the borough council who represented the Whittle Hall area but has now moved back to the Cobbs area where she formerly lived.



■ Judith Wheeler.



■ Jonathan Levy.

Villages facing social isolation

VILLAGES are facing particular challenges, arising from ageing populations and social isolation.

People who were once “asset rich” are now facing financial difficulties, particularly fuel poverty, Stockton Heath Parish Council was told.

Barbara Parratt, Warrington Council's South Area manager for neighbourhoods said other challenges included graduate unemployment and limited activities for young people.

There was also a weak transport system in certain areas and an increasing pressure on adult social care resources. She said the South Area Board had five priorities – to reduce social isolation, increase household income and reduce child poverty, to reduce fear of crime, to improve health and wellbeing and to increase community capacity and resilience.

Facelift approved

PLANNING chiefs have given the go-ahead for improvements to the main entrance at St Monica's Primary School, Appleton.

The proposal involves a single storey extension to the entrance to provide a larger and enhanced reception area and improved entrance safety.

Cllr Sheila Woodyatt said: “This is an excellent scheme which will bring about a big improvement to the entrance and make it safer.”

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What's on in the villages

March 8
LIVE AT ST WILFRID'S
Galliard: A Tale of Two Cities. Sara Stowe (soprano and percussion), Jan Gammie (viola da gamba), Wendy Hancock (baroque flute, recorders) and Richard MacKenzie (baroque guitar and theorbo) play Handel, Rameau, Thomas Arne and others. St Wilfrid's Church, Grappenhall. 7.30pm.

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

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

March 20
GRAPPENHALL & THELWALL PARISH COUNCIL
Council Offices, Bellhouse Lane. 7.30pm

Every Monday
ST MARY MAGDALENE MONDAY CLUB
St Mary Magdalene Church, Appleton 1.30pm
COUNTRY DANCING CLUB
St Thomas' Primary School, Parkgate Road, Stockton Heath.
8-10pm. Details: 01925 262356

BRIDGE CLUB
Grappenhall Village Sports Club
Stockton Lane. 7.30pm. Details 01928 712233

LADIES' FRIENDSHIP CLUB
The Quays Community Centre,
Thelwall New Road, Thelwall.
8pm. Details: 01925 264099

HIGH 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 - March at Hall Drive, Appleton.
7.30-10pm. Details: 01925 262356

Every first Wednesday
Walton WI
St John's Church Community Hall. 7.30pm

First and third Wednesday each month
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS
Sandy Lane Centre, Stockton Heath.
8pm. Details: 01925 268311

STOCKTON HEATH PROBUS CLUB
Warrington Sports Club, Walton Lea Road,
Higher Walton. Details: 01925 268540

Every third Wednesday
HIGHER WALTON WI, St John's Community Hall,
7.45pm. Details 01925 262001.

Every fourth Wednesday
ALZHEIMER'S SOCIETY
Support Group, Brampton Lodge Day Centre, Bridge
Lane, Appleton. 6.30-8.30pm

Every Thursday
THE SILVER QUAYS Senior Citizen's Club
The Quays Community Centre,
Thelwall New Road, Thelwall.
Details: 01925 753474.

BRIDGE CLUB
Grappenhall Village Sports Club
Stockton Lane. 7.30pm. Details 01928 712233

Every second Thursday
STRETTON WI
Appleton Parish Hall, Dudlow Green Road. 2.30pm.
GRAPPENHALL PROBUS CLUB
Grappenhall Community Centre, Bellhouse Lane,
10am. Details: 01925 264427.

Every third Thursday
NORTH EAST CHESHIRE FLOWER CLUB
Appleton Parish Hall, Dudlow Green Road. 2pm
Details: 01925 740419
GRAPPENHALL WI
Grappenhall Community Centre, Bellhouse Lane
2.15pm

Every Friday
APPLETOTS TODDLER GROUP
Appleton Parish Hall, Dudlow Green Road.
9.45-11.30am. Details: 01925 268153.

To list your event call Village Life on
01925 623632



850 attend jobs fair

A TOTAL of 850 people attended a jobs fair hosted by Warrington South MP David Mowat.

More than 40 employers were on hand to offer vacancies and apprenticeships - and provisional feedback from the companies who attended suggested that the event had produced over 300 follow-up conversations between employers and potential employees.

The event was sponsored by Ombudsman Services and Sellafield Ltd.

Afterwards, Mr Mowat said: "I'm delighted by the success of the jobs fair. The feedback from the employers was that they were highly impressed with the quality and the enthusiasm of those who attended."

"The numbers of people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance has been falling steadily in recent months and I hope that this will put a further dent in the figures."



David Mowat at the jobs fair

Touring company presents new passion play

A LEADING touring theatre company is to present a new passion play at Bridgewater High School, Appleton.

"Inheritance" will be staged by the Riding Lights Theatre Company on Wednesday, March 19 at 7.30pm.

The visit has been arranged by Stockton Heath Christian Fellowship.

Riding Lights is one of the UK's most productive and long established

independent theatre companies.

Founded in York more than 30 years ago, partly through the initiative of a city-centre church, the company continues to take innovative, accessible theatre into all kinds of communities far and wide.

"Inheritance" weaves the strands of the biblical Passion into a dramatic new narrative. It evokes

the community where Jesus lived, the people who knew him best, the powers that brought him to execution. And, in the shadow of the cross, it makes space for some of the women who Jesus stands alongside sharing in their suffering.

A spokesman for the company said: "Echoing through time, it renews our experience of the kingdom of heaven and who might share its inheritance."

The play is considered suitable for children aged 12 or older.

Further details are available from Alan Britton at alan.britton@talktalk.net or phone 07764 923705.

School "bake off"

PUPILS of Thelwall Junior School are to take part in a "bake off" to help raise money for school funds.

The event takes place on Monday, March 10 and will involve the youngsters baking cakes at home and taking them to school where a panel of experts will judge them. In the afternoon, the school will serve coffee and cakes to parents and grandparents who will also be able to buy cakes to raise money to purchase equipment for the school.

Dial-a-ride donation

STOCKTON Heath Parish Council has approved a £200 grant to Warrington Community Transport's Dial-a-Ride service.

Members agreed Dial-a-Ride performed a valuable service in the Stockton Heath area - particularly for elderly residents.

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