

# Village Life

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May 2010

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## Megan will be Queen

Page 3

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# Editor's Comment



**IT is now some two months since we reported that commonsense might be about to prevail in the long-running dispute over the disused rugby pitch in Bridge Lane, Appleton.**

A meeting has taken place between the borough council and Warrington Rugby Union Club which, by all accounts, was constructive. The

two sides now seem to understand each other's positions and efforts are being made to keep discussions moving forward.

But the main impasse – the club's reluctance to surrender its lease on the Bridge Lane ground without first obtaining additional pitches elsewhere – appears to remain.

The council now understands the clubs need for more additional pitches close to its Walton Lea headquarters. The club appears to appreciate that the overflow car park at Walton Hall will not be made available for these pitches.

So what, other than the fact that the two sides seem to be talking to each other, has changed?

One possibility, which does not appear to have been given much consideration in the recent past, is that the club may return to Bridge Lane, if no other site can be found. This would require new changing rooms and could mean some partner involvement, but with a lease of some 50 years to run, such a development is clearly a possibility.

It is not a solution which anyone appears to favour at the moment, but as time passes it must become more and more likely to be the eventual outcome.

As we said two months ago, we hope that the "constructive" talks continue and will soon result in a solution. But we are not holding our breath.

## The appeal of real bells

THE peal of real church bells may soon be heard in Stockton Heath.

Vicar the Rev Michael Ridley has been offered a set of church bells and is seeking funding to have them installed in the 152-year-old Grade 2 Listed building.

Coun Marilyn Timmins told Stockton Heath Parish Council the vicar was seeking funding for the bells.

She said "He wants money for funding for this. It would be nice to hear real bells in the village instead of a recording."

Coun Graham Roughsedge questioned whether the church tower would be strong enough to support the weight of the bells.

Members agreed that the vicar be asked to put his funding request in writing.

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## Megan will be Queen



TWELVE-year-old Megan Roylance will be Thelwall Rose Queen this year. Megan, from Grappenhall, is a pupil at Lymm High School and a member of the 3rd Thelwall Guides.

She is a keen swimmer, likes walking in the country and is an animal lover with a cat named Purdie.

Her Mum, Abigail, said: "Megan has taken part in the Rose Queen festival before, as an attendant, in 2006. She is very excited about being Queen this year."

"She has lots of friends and has a lively social life with them."

The festival takes place on Saturday, June 19.

# Top award for Ken Smart

**WELL known Stockton Heath businessman Ken Smart has been presented with Rotary's highest honour in recognition of his outstanding charity work.**

Ken of Smart Furnishings Ltd has been presented with the Paul Harris Fellowship by Runcorn Rotary Club, where he is a member.

He has donated towards Shelter Boxes and Water Boxes internationally for areas stricken by Tsunami's and earthquakes etc.

Nearer home he has supported appeals made through Rotary Clubs for assistance during the recent floodings in Cumbria.

He has also donated to the general fund of the club enabling them to support a local boy suffering from Muscular Dystrophy by purchasing a 'neater cheater' machine which will enable the boy to feed himself, thereby giving some degree of independence.

Mr Smart was granted honorary membership of Runcorn Rotary Club for his constant support, which culminated in him being awarded the Paul Harris Fellowship, so named after the founder of Rotary 106 years ago.



## Algae worries

CONCERNS about algae at Stockton Heath beauty spot Ackers Pit were dispelled.

Coun Marilyn Timmins told the parish council that she was concerned that algae had appeared on the surface of the water. But clerk Peter Briggs said the problem also occurred last year when the sun was shining on the surface. But he said it disappeared when the weather changed and it rained.

## Special grant

STOCKTON Heath Parish Council has approved a grant of £100 to Warrington Association for Special Children. It will help provide play and leisure facilities for 78 children, aged five to 19, who have severe and profound learning difficulties.

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# A beer festival to make everyone grin

**THE 14th annual Grappenhall Beer Festival promises to have all-comers smiling – and to make that clear has adopted a grinning Cheshire cat as its logo.**

It's also a link to the stone carving of a cat on the bell tower wall at Grappenhall Parish Church which is believed to have been the inspiration for Lewis Carroll's famous Cheshire Cat.

There will be plenty to make visitors to the festival smile – three sessions

over two days, May 14 and 15 - Friday evening, Saturday lunchtime and Saturday evening.

Both evening sessions will feature live entertainment while the lunchtime sessions will offer an opportunity for a quieter drink.

Organisers are bringing together a

wide selection of Real Ales, varying from heavy - and strong - brews to a range of lighter "session" beers.

They come from all over the country so new names and breweries will be available as well. Cider drinkers are well provided for with a range of brews that have had some interesting colours in the past but are always tasty and go down well.

The Olde Barn venue is ideal for this kind of event with a long bar and beer stillage installed to dispense the brews while the drinkers enjoy the live entertainment. A marquee is to be erected to give additional "quiet" accommodation for those who

require it. Hot food will also be available at all times.

A spokeswoman said: "While it is a beer and cider festival, we do have soft drinks for those who have drawn the short straw and will be driving on the night. And if you prefer grape to hops we have wine as well. A commemorative glass is included in your ticket price and is used to sample as many or few different brews as you like."

The Friday evening session starts at 7.30pm and continues until midnight, the Saturday lunchtime is from 12noon to 5pm and the final session is again from 7.30pm to midnight.

## Boost for glasshouses

A NINE-week bee-keeping course at Grappenhall Heys Walled Garden has resulted in a £100 boost for the restoration fund for the historic glasshouses which are a central feature of the garden.

The course was run by Bob Jennings, a volunteer gardener at the garden and proved a big success.

Mr Jennings donated the £100 to Grappenhall and Thelwall Parish Council, specifically for the Glasshouses fund.

### Advertiser's announcement

## Time to spring clean your oven

AFTER the harsh winter months hard working ovens are probably now due for a spring clean more than ever before, according to Paul Clark from professional oven valeters Ovenu.

As outside temperatures plummeted to record levels many people turned to their ovens for hot wholesome meals leaving high levels of grease and debris lurking behind the door.

Tackling the oven is still one of the most loathed household chores. If people are not thorough with their oven cleaning, fat and food can cause future problems, which could result in an oven fire.

Paul added: "There was a huge amount of love for over-worked ovens during the cold Winter, but people don't realise that the more you use your oven the more debris and grease can start to build up and this can affect its efficiency."

"By regularly cleaning and maintaining an oven, it will ensure it performs at its best and even help prolong its life, and not need to replace it as often."

The whole process takes around three hours and leaves the oven, hob and exterior in immaculate condition.

For more information contact Paul at Ovenu on 01925 453377 or log onto [www.oven.co.uk](http://www.oven.co.uk)



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Advertiser's announcement

# Cruising around United Arab Emirates

**I have just come back from a cruise starting from Dubai; flights were direct from Manchester with Emirates. Luggage allowance with Emirates is 30kgs, which is ideal if you are going on a cruise!**

Royal Caribbean's ship Brilliance of the Seas operates this cruise, you can choose from an inside cabin, outside cabin or going upwards with the balcony cabins etc. The choice of food is fantastic and available all day long with soft drinks and tea/coffee. Branded soft drinks and alcohol can be charged to your sea pass account.



Day 1 is in Dubai overnight so take advantage of going into Dubai for sight seeing and perhaps some shopping! Return to the ship for your evening meal and take in a show.

Day 2 in Dubai until noon, so still time to do a city tour, sea plane tour, dune drive, deep sea fishing or panoramic city tour. The rest of the day is at sea take advantage of rest and relaxation or try a dance class, champagne art auction, gaming lessons, spa facilities etc. This a formal night – one of 2 on the cruise.

Day 3 arrive into Muscat, Oman at 9.30am – there are lots of different tours you can book on i.e. Mystical Muscat, Nouvelle Nacho fort and Resort, Dhow Cruise, Bottom fishing trip, Snorkelling trip, 4 wheel drive wadi adventure, cultural museum tour etc. If you decide to stay on board you can take part in a trivia challenge, line dance class, tango dance lessons, diamond & tanzanite sale, spa facilities, sunbathe on the deck or swim in one of the pools.

There are shops on board for

last minute gifts. There was a White pool deck party on this night where you could dance under the stars.

Day 4 arrive into Fujairah at 7.45am-the trips here range from Desert & Wadi Safari, Dibba Dhow Cruise & Snorkel, East Coast tour, Mountain Safari. On board there is morning trivia, shuffle golf, Master's Art Auction, Blackjack Tournament, Salsa Dance lessons, Name that Beatles Tune, Secrets to a flatter stomach seminar. The show that evening was Tango Buenos Aires Showtime.

Day 5 arrive into Abu Dhabi at 9.30am – the trips here range from City tour, full day Al Ain tour, day in the Desert, Falcon Hospital tour, Orientation with High Tea at Emirates Palace, relax on the Beach at Hilton Abu Dhabi or stay on board and try name that 50's & 60's tune trivia, Sabbath service, Pool tournament, Foxtrot & Waltz lessons.

Day 6 arrive into Bahrain at 10am trips here include Bahrain Heritage Tour, Bahrain Ancient & Modern tour, Bahrain Black Gold & Camel tour.

Day 7 back into Dubai at 14:30 here the city tours are all available if you missed them out at



Linda Crowder – Stockton Heath Travel

the beginning of the cruise.

Whilst on board there are belly dancing classes. Slot tournament, centrum art sale, 5 minute makeover seminar, tango dance classes etc.

Day 8 day of departure if your flights are later in the day you can do the Dubai city tour and then be dropped off at the airport.

Children are well catered for with various clubs i.e. Royal Babies & Royal Tots up to 3 years of age and lots of activities for the older children.

**Any more information on any cruises or any advice you need on other cruise lines then pop in for a coffee or ring on 01925 269400**

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## Shakespeare and all that

GRAPPENHALL and Thelwall Parish Council has agreed to allow the use of Grappenhall Heys Walled Garden for a Shakespearean play as part of this year's Stockton Heath Festival.

## £850 for hospice

REGULARS at the Ring 'o' Bells Inn, Northwich Road, Lower Stretton, have raised £850 for Claire House Children's Hospice - to add to the £1,050.00 they raised previously for the hospice. Mine hosts John and Sharlene Brookman have said a big "thank you" to all their customers.

## Lucky escape

A motorist had a lucky escape after losing control of her car while driving through Stockton Heath.

The 51-year-old woman is believed to have lost control of her vehicle after colliding with a parked vehicle in Ellesmere Road and then collided with another parked car.

Although badly shaken up by the incident and taken to hospital, the woman is believed to have escaped any serious injury.



## Council's 'extremely busy' year



LAST year was 'extremely busy' for Stockton Heath Parish Council according to chairman Coun Peter Walker.

In his report to the annual parish meeting he outlined the highlights of the year including improvements to beauty spot Ackers Pit, the annual Walking Day and popular Stockton Heath Festival.

Deputy chairman Coun Graham Roughsedge read the report as Coun Walker was ill and unable to attend the meeting.

The report praised parish council staff, the committees and the press, including Village Life, for coverage of the meetings. There was praise too for the Ackers Pit Working Party which was looking after the maintenance and development of the site. Coun Walker said work had involved planting a range of bulbs, new trees, repairs and building of 27 fishing platforms.

Coun Walker also thanked Police Community Support Officers for their work and for attending meetings. Police current priorities were speeding, obstructive parking in residential areas and anti-social behaviour.

Walking Day, he said, attracted large crowds and was 'trouble free'. He praised the second village festival which included 35 events at 11 venues. It was a 'great success' with 2,500 people attending events and £5,000 raised for other charities.

The report was welcomed by parish councillors.

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## What's On in the Villages

May 4

STOCKTON HEATH FLOWER CLUB  
Antipodean Adventure - Ann Hinde, Ormskirk  
Appleton Parish Hall, Dudlow Green Road,  
7.30pm.

May 8

ST CROSS CHURCH MAY FAYRE  
Stalls, books, tombola, teas.  
Village Hall, Appleton Thorn, 2pm  
LIVE AT ST WILFRID'S  
Chetham's School of Music  
St Wilfrid's Church, Grappenhall. 7.30pm.

May 11

STOCKTON HEATH PARISH COUNCIL  
Sandy Lane Centre, 7.30pm

May 18

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

Every Monday

THE EVERGREENS Senior Citizen's Club  
Bellhouse Community Centre, Grappenhall.  
Details: 01925 261381

FOLK DANCING CLUB

St Thomas' Primary School, Parkgate Road,  
Stockton Heath.  
8-10pm. Details: 01925 262356

BRIDGE CLUB

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

Every second Monday

PARK (APPLETON) WI  
Appleton Parish Hall, Dudlow Green Road.  
7.30pm

Second and fourth Monday

ST MARY MAGDALENE BINGO  
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Every third Monday

STOCKTON HEATH  
FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY  
St Mary Magdalene's Church,  
Dingle Way, Appleton. 8pm.  
Contact: Linda Pearson 01925 602803.

Every fourth Monday

MARFIELD 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.

Second and fourth Tuesday of each month

STOCKTON HEATH & DISTRICT LIONS  
Ram's Head, Grappenhall.

Every Wednesday

Lymn Afternoon Bridge Club  
Appleton Parish Hall. 1.15-4.15pm

Every first Wednesday

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

First and third Wednesday each month

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION  
OF WOMEN'S CLUBS  
Sandy Lane Centre, Stockton Heath.  
8pm. Details: 01925 268311

Every third Wednesday

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

Every Thursday

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

BRIDGE CLUB

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

Every second Thursday

STRETTON WI  
Appleton Parish Hall,  
Dudlow Green Road. 2.30pm.

Every third Thursday

NORTH EAST CHESHIRE FLOWER CLUB  
Appleton Parish Hall, Dudlow Green Road.  
2pm  
Details: 01925 740272.

GRAPPENHALL WI

Grappenhall Community Centre, Bellhouse  
Lane 2. 1.5pm

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**



# Drama group celebrate c

**A POPULAR drama group is celebrating its Diamond Anniversary with a favourite play and an exhibition of memorabilia from past productions.**

Stockton Heath Methodist Dramatic Society marks 60 years of entertaining people with a production of "When We Are Married" by JB Priestley on May 13, 14 and 15 at 7.30pm.

There will also be an exhibition of past events, with old photos and past programmes, which members hope will bring back happy memories.

Set in 1908, the play is billed as a Yorkshire farcical comedy and centres on three couples gathered to celebrate their silver wedding anniversaries. But there's trouble when they receive some disturbing news, which tests their relationships over the course of a long evening.

A group spokesperson said: "The play has rather a large cast and a lot of stage furniture, which means a

stage extension will have to be erected to fit everything in!

"It's a far cry from the very first play 'Quiet Weekend' by Esther McGracken, performed in 1950 - in the church itself, as there was as yet no church hall. Tickets cost the princely sum of one shilling and six pence - seven and-a-half pence in today's money.

The hall was finally built in 1957 and since then the group has regularly staged 'plays - a number of them award-winning'.

Productions have ranged from the

small and intimate to the extravagant, such as the musicals South Pacific and My Fair Lady. For one play - "Home" by Davis Storey - they even laid on a three-course supper for the audience, as part of the production.

The group is always keen to try new approaches and on one occasion the "stage" was the lower part of the hall, with audiences perched on what is usually the stage.

Some of the group have been members for decades and current chairman Bert Rigby has been a member for 30 years.

Anyone interested in joining, either on stage or behind the scenes, can call 01925 264179 for information.

## Tabitha aims to help the body and mind

AFTER starting Yoga classes for family and friends Tabitha Cohen has now expanded her services by launching Yoga in Cheshire.

Yoga in Cheshire is run by local yoga teacher Tabitha Cohen who started her classes while she studied for a MSc in Weight Management at Chester University.

This progressed with specialised training in yoga teacher training from the British Wheel of Yoga and further training including Yoga Therapy and GP Exercise Referral.

Tabitha feels that modern day society can lead to tension, stress and

inflexibility, both physical and mental. Yoga can help to balance and encourage both mind and body to become more flexible. Personal experience of injury and health concerns developed a personal practice and interest in the therapeutic application of yoga, both physically and psychologically. Classes range from relaxing, gentle, therapeutic classes to more dynamic vinyasa style classes offering something to everyone. Even those who may have previously felt not 'suited' to yoga may find they enjoy classes with Tabitha at Yoga in Cheshire as she aims to provide a friendly, welcoming and environment in which the individual can begin or develop their practice.

Yoga classes are available in the Appleton area and Stockton Heath.

New classes starting include Tuesday evenings at Stockton Heath Primary School and Wednesday afternoons at the Friends Meeting House in Warrington town centre, which includes a shorter lunchtime class for those wishing to practice during their lunch hour. These are both daytime and evening classes and individual tuition, yoga therapy and corporate events can also be arranged. Class details can be found online at [www.yogaincheshire.com](http://www.yogaincheshire.com) or contact Tabitha on 07721 782396.



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## Cast prepare for Simon's spoof musical!

**REHEARSALS** for the ABBA spoof musical **MAM, I'M 'ERE**, to be staged at Altrincham's Garrick Theatre in June, are well under way as newly recruited cast members go through their paces.

Locally based, talented actors and actresses are now busy rehearsing for their key roles after being recruited by Appleton based writer and director Simon Plumb.

Hayley Moston from Lymm will play 'Shazza', the female lead, Andy Pilkington, formerly from Lymm but now living in Manchester, will play 'Jim the teacher', her love interest, supported by Kara McCabe as 'Tracey' and Rosie O'Connor as 'Ophelia', both of Stockton Heath.

The story is based on a young girl in 1970's Liverpool who falls in love with a teacher and local rugby player. Her 'Mam and Dad' run a Drag Queen club and strongly disapprove of the relationship.

### Mastermind

Creator Simon Plumb, the mastermind behind the annual Lymm Rugby Club panto, summed up the show saying: "This is a 70's, feel-good musical comedy, featuring ABBA's greatest hits. We premiered the show successfully last year and decided to take it to the Altrincham Garrick," he said.

"Combining this wonderful theatre with such a talented cast, and some new scenes, will give the audience a great night out full of laughter and a fantastic ABBA sing-along."

The show has already proved to



Talented performers Rosie O'Connor, Andy Pilkington and Kara McCabe

be a big hit when it was performed at Lymm High School last year.

MAM, I'M 'ERE will run from June 22-26 and tickets, at £13.50, are available through the Altrincham Garrick Box Office on 0161 928 1677 or email boxoffice@altrinchamgarrick.co.uk

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## Could car park go multi-storey?

A SUGGESTION that a multi-storey car park be built in Stockton Heath to alleviate parking problems has been made.

Stockton Heath Parish Council heard of suggestions to build a second tier on the lower car park at The Forge shopping centre.

Coun Stephen Taylor said that a trader had requested that a higher level be built. Several members supported the idea and said that because the ground was low-lying the overall height would be acceptable.

Coun Sonia Boggan said the steps linking the two car parks were too narrow and steep, and asked if the owners could improve them.

The council agreed to pass on her comments to the owners.

## In for a penny, in for a pound!



A CHALLENGE to collect 100 pennies each was taken on by a Stockton Heath Brownie Pack - and between them they collected 9,521 pennies for charity.

The challenge was part of a badge to celebrate the centenary of The Girl Guide Association and was carried out over three weeks.

The total included over £33 in pennies and five pence pieces from one generous donor.

The girls collected their pennies by doing jobs around the house, donating their pocket money and collecting from relatives. Two of the Brownies collected more than £10 each.

At a meeting they voted and decided to donate the money to Claire House children's hospice.

Melanie Clayton from the hospice visited the group to thank them and talk about the charity's work. She visited a later meeting and presented the pack with a certificate in recognition of their hard work.

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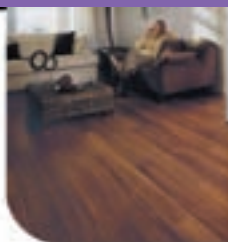
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By David Watkinson

## Future-proofed packages for clients

WatkinsonBlack are very pleased to announce that they have future-proofed their accounting software packages for their clients by moving to an award winning online accounting software package. The firm will now be working with online accounting software company KashFlow to enable both clients and their accountant to easily access the clients financial records at any time, whenever they have access to the internet.

Online accounting software is considered by many to be the way that the industry is heading because it not only enables businesses to keep a constant eye on their company's financial position without having to install costly and bulky software direct onto their computers but also ensures that the program is always fully up-to-date.

The program also features several features not found on many more expensive accounting packages. For instance, the increasing number of traders using Paypal will appreciate the facility for Kashflow to automatically enter Paypal transactions into their records. The system is easy to use, with continuous functionality development and WatkinsonBlack's team of accountants

can now talk to clients and update records in real time without having to wait for clients to send in reams of paper-work.

All the records held on the system are stored behind a state of the art encryption system that prevents data from being accessed or passed on without the user's permission.

Speaking about the new contract Margaret Black, Partner at WatkinsonBlack, said: "Dave and I wanted to find a product that was easy to use for our clients that haven't had any accountancy training, but still enabled us as their accountants to extract the information we need to provide a quality service. We've found exactly that in KashFlow. The fact that we can access data live over the internet means we can be more pro-active in advising our clients."

Managing Director of KashFlow, Duane Jackson said: "We're very pleased to have been chosen by WatkinsonBlack and very happy that they have recommended our online accounting software package to their clients. Our software enables accountants to use the power of the internet to deliver a high-quality service to their clients. We're looking forward to being a part of WatkinsonBlack's drive to help



David Watkinson and Margaret Black

small businesses and start-ups in and around Warrington."

KashFlow launched its flagship product, an online tool specifically designed to help owner-managers in small businesses manage their accounts, in mid 2005. Since that time it has quickly won a significant share of the valuable accounting software market along with launching a new direct-to-accountant division in late 2006. In late 2007 KashFlow won a Business Software Satisfaction Award, judged entirely by customer feedback, for the category of web-based accounting, beating the likes of Sage and Netsuite.

*If you are interested in incorporating Kashflow into your own business then please contact Dave or Margaret at WatkinsonBlack for more information on this excellent, easy to use product. Please note that these ideas are intended to inform rather than advise and you should always obtain professional advice before taking any action.*

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# Reader's Letter

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## Toilet response

Mrs P Brookes, Antrabus

IN reply to Coun Celia Jordan's letter in April Village Life regarding public toilets – surely locks on the disabled toilet could be repaired?

It is short sighted of the borough council that the toilets have been left to get in this state. As usual the majority have to suffer because of the minority, whose actions led to closure of the toilets.

If councillors are able to get permission from traders to co-operate and allow the public to use their toilet facilities – I would suggest a list of

shops willing to participate is put on the village notice board.

But I think most shops will not want people going in to 'spend a penny'. It is the council who should be providing the facility not shop keepers.

Stockton Heath is supposed to be an up and coming village. We have been shopping there for 50 years, but certainly don't come as regularly as we used to. People can soon get used to going elsewhere.

## Ray of hope in toilet campaign

A RAY of hope for those campaigning for public toilets in the village emerged at a meeting of Stockton Heath Parish Council.

Members have been campaigning for several years to get the toilets at The Forge shopping centre re-opened after they were closed due to vandalism and inappropriate behaviour.

The battle seemed to have been lost however. The borough council said the cost would be too high and although the disabled toilet stayed open for a while this was also closed after the door was damaged.

Coun Stephen Taylor, a member of the working party campaigning to get toilets provided, said there was new hope.

He said the Stronger Together partnership, recently formed, had said it may be able to help.

He said a plan to get local shopkeepers to allow public use of their toilets, had been put on the "back burner" for the time being.

## 'Horrendous' parking complaint

PARKING in a village street was "horrendous" over the Easter holidays according to a Stockton Heath parish councillor.

Coun Sonia Boggan complained about parking in Fairfield Road. She said traffic was reduced to single file from the traffic lights to Alexandra Park. She was concerned about access for emergency vehicles.

Coun Graham Roughsedge said that previously when double yellow lines had been suggested for the road, residents had opposed them.

## A civilised way to make new friends

AN organisation offering fine food and good company is seeking new members.

The Dinner Club describes itself as an up-market national organisation for discerning singles and is based in Chester and operates throughout the northwest.

Founded in 1986, it stresses it is not

a dating or introduction agency but rather an organisation which offers members a civilised way to make new friends and widen their social circle.

Membership is made up of people of all ages, mainly from professional or business backgrounds, who are single, divorced, separated or widowed. Most are in the 45-60 plus age group. There is also a younger group for ages 30-45.

Events organised include dinners, dinner dances, black tie balls, theatre evenings, horse racing and holidays.

A Dinner Club spokesman said: "Making new friends should be a rich and rewarding experience but often, when you're single and tied to the home or have a demanding job, there's little opportunity to expand beyond your immediate social circle.

"Wouldn't it be nice to meet like-minded people you can get on with? That's exactly the concept - a civilised way to make new friends."

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