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If ever you find yourself charged with a criminal offence, don't gamble with your future. A bad decision taken in a stressful moment at a Police Station could affect the rest of your life.

Anyone who is arrested or voluntarily questioned at a Police Station is entitled to free legal advice from a solicitor, regardless of income or background. At **Forshaws Davies Ridgway**, we operate a **24 hour emergency line** that goes straight through to an expert in criminal law. **Ring 07808 140659** and one of our partners in criminal law could be by your side within 30 minutes, day or night, to help you make the right decisions that safeguard your future – and it won't cost you a penny.

Gary Heaven, head of criminal law at Forshaws Davies Ridgway, explains: "If you are not guilty of an offence, don't ever be tempted to agree to a police caution without legal advice. You might think you're opting for a quiet life and it's just a note on a file – but the ramifications could come back to haunt you later in life.

"Police cautions always show up on CRB (Criminal Records Bureau) checks and could stop you ever working in teaching or with children. And cautions for certain offences have even been known to invalidate your house insurance."

Whether you're being charged with a motoring offence or something much more serious, **never gamble with your future**, the stakes are too high not to take professional advice.

If you find yourself on the wrong side of the law, whatever the circumstances, contact our specialist criminal lawyers on 01925 604713 or outside office hours on 07808 140659 or visit www.fdrlaw.co.uk

Editor
Gary Skentelbery

Production
Paul Walker

Account Executives
James Balme
Jan Baker
Tony Record

Advertising
Freephone
0800 955 5247

Editorial
01925 623632

Email
info@warrington-
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Cover picture:
'Jewel in the crown' -The
Bridgewater Canal at
Grappenhall is proving to
be a popular attraction
for boaters and walkers.

Photographer:
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Opinion

SOMETHING good often comes out of adversity. In the case of the closure of Grappenhall Library, and the axing of the mobile library service across the whole of the borough of Warrington, it is the discovery that, among library users at any rate, community spirit is not dead.

At Grappenhall and Thelwall, volunteers - some of them former librarians - have come forward offering to run book exchange schemes based not only in the former library building but also at Grappenhall Youth and Community Centre.

Just down the road in Appleton, members of two Women's Institutes - Stretton and Park - have offered to run similar schemes at Appleton Parish Hall.

At Hatton, a book exchange scheme is already up and running in an old-style red 'phone box, helping to ensure it is retained in the village centre even though there is no 'phone in it.

We do not for one moment suggest that schemes like these replace a properly funded public library service. In fact we campaigned vigorously against the closures.

But when volunteers come forward to help fill the gap we cannot help but feel the world is not such a bad place after all - even at a time of spending cuts.

A less desirable human trait is displayed by a minority of dog owners who let their animals foul footpaths, parks, playgrounds, etc.

Usually they get away with it because, despite the potentially serious consequences, no-one - including our local councils - is prepared to do anything about it.

So it is good to see that Cheshire East Council has decided to act.

Community wardens are going undercover, looking for irresponsible people who fail to clean up after their dog. Those caught will face an on-the-spot £50 penalty - and

those that refuse to pay will face prosecution with fines of up to £1,000.

The plain clothes officers will ensure the waste is removed and put in a litter bin or dog-waste bin. All undercover officers will carry Cheshire East Council identification cards.

We think this is a great idea and one that should be taken up by other councils.

Cheshire East say they will be concentrating on "hot spots" without actually identifying where they are. Most people, we are sure, will be able to make suggestions.

We would like to see the idea extended across the whole of Cheshire - and possibly widened to include litterbugs too.



Tyra - who has her owner very well trained.

Jewel in the crown



Should the church provide a public loo?

WHEN a busy shopping centre has no public toilets, should the church open up its loo for passers-by?

Reluctantly, the answer must be no, says the Rev Michael Ridley, vicar of St Thomas' Church, Stockton Heath.

It would mean volunteers from the church "cleaning up for the community" for free.

The vicar was responding to a request from a working party set up by the parish council to try and solve problems caused by the lack of public toilets in Stockton Heath shopping centre.

He said: "There is a concern because vulnerable people come into the church. We have carers' groups and children's groups. Opening the toilets to anyone could be risky.

"If we had a caretaker for just one hour a day, it would cost £2,500 a year. We do not have a caretaker - the work is done of a voluntary basis.

"We have never advertised this as a public loo. It is not that, it is a place of worship."

Mr Ridley said the church toilets were 70-years-old, were quite small there were no disabled toilets nor access.

The church had spent money on roof repairs and re-vamping the church hall and further improvements were still needed, so there was no money available currently to improve the toilets.

He added: "The church would never say no to anyone wanting access - but we have got to look after the parishioners at the church - we are not funded by the Government."

Cllr Tudor Pole said the banks had been "bailed out" with public funds.

"There are four banks in Stockton Heath - we should tell them its payback time and ask them to fund public toilets," he said.



Zoo welcomes rare sheep!



WALTON Garden's Childrens Zoo has two new attractions - a rare breed of sheep native to the Lake District.

The Hardwick Sheep have been bought thanks to a donation from the Friends of Walton Hall Estate, as part of their Animal Adoption scheme which is proving very popular.

The Mayor of Warrington Cllr John Joyce was on hand to welcome the new

arrivals at the childrens zoo.

Zoo ranger Peter Cookson said: "These sheep are on the endangered list and both are in lamb, so hopefully we will have some more new arrivals in the near future!"

In the mean time they will act as lawn mowers!

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When relationships end it can be heart breaking for everyone involved. You often don't know who to turn to or what you are supposed to do next. At a time when you need advice and support the most, BPS will be there to provide solid legal advice and guidance through this difficult time in your life. With a friendly approach but equally robust handling of your case BPS will be at your side all the way.

Betesh Partnership Solicitors family team have expanded their City Centre practice to Hale village. BPS established a family law team in 1948 and their lawyers have built a strong reputation for their robust approach and distinguished results .

Caroline Payne who is located in the Hale office says, "We opened our Hale office in January 2011 and I am very pleased with the response we have had at such an early stage. We offer a defined client-focused service which has been received very well by our clients in Cheshire. We make ourselves available to clients outside working hours and this truly does have an impact on the superior results we achieve. We want to be available to our clients whenever they need our support and guidance because we want our service to be second to none".

"The range of funding options we offer to clients have also been well received and many clients are surprised to learn that a legal firm is willing to work in this way. We offer funding arrangements to clients and will agree to receive payment at the end of a case. In my experience this goes a long way

to alleviating the additional worry of having to pay for the divorce while dealing with all of the other emotional effects of separation."

"We are also highly experienced in dealing with children matters. Separation with children involved can be heart breaking to not only the parents but the extended family also. Whilst children matters must be handled sensitively and with a degree of tenderness it is also important for parents to know and exercise their rights for the benefit of their children. This is also true for grandparents as we are about to see a change in

grandparents legal rights".

"We have dealt with the most complex children matters, handling cases involving contact and residence disputes between both parents and grandparents. We have a number of international clients and have ongoing cases involving children who have been taken overseas and parents wishing see their children who are now living in the UK".

"I understand that the thought of divorce is daunting and that legal matters surrounding your children are emotional. This is why I also offer a free legal clinic to anyone who requires advice regarding initiating proceedings or you just want reassurance on your position in a family matter. The Family Legal Clinics are held every Wednesday from 5pm by appointment at our Hale Office. Please contact me for more information".

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Quacking good love story

IT'S a love story enough to send anyone quackers!

A tiny female call duck named April has fallen head over webbed heels for Isaac, a handsome Indian runner drake - more than four times her size!

April's attentions are more than reciprocated by Isaac, who, standing tall at nearly half a metre, towers above the delightful little female.

And it's no paltry affair - the pair cannot bear to be parted and spend all day following each other around the stableyard at Tatton's Home Farm.

Farm assistant Alex Logan said: "We were really hoping to breed from April this year and I had a very handsome male call duck lined up for her.

"Unfortunately, she's rejected him for the strapping Indian Runner, leaving her prospective call duck beau rather dejected".

Alex tried to pair April with the call drake by placing them together in a fenced pen.

But avid suitor Isaac paced up and down outside the pen for several days and the star-crossed lovers were eventually reunited when Alex decided it was hopeless to interfere.

The male call is not the only injured party however - six lovely female Indian runners have utterly failed to grab Isaac's attention.

As he is the only male Indian runner drake on the farm he would have been much in demand!

It is uncommon for such different breeds to pair up. Alex has kept poultry for many years and has never before seen such an unusual coupling. Although it's highly unlikely that there will be viable fertile eggs from this pair, April has started to create a nest in a quiet area of the paddock.

Police should share to save

POLICE in Cheshire should share costly facilities such as helicopters and firearms units with other neighbouring forces.

These were the main findings of a survey carried out across the country involving more than 1,100 people.

A police road show visited more than a dozen communities, including Stockton Heath, Middlewich, Tarporley, Frodsham, Wilmslow and Holmes Chapel and the survey could also be accessed online.

People were asked how they thought the police should make financial savings while at the same time protecting front line services

Most popular options were sharing the Force helicopter, specialist units such as firearms and forensics with other forces and charging licensed venues who open late a levy to pay for late-night policing.

Chief Constable Dave Whatton said: "The Police Authority have set the budget for policing in Cheshire and we have to save £35.4 million over the next four years. We have plans in place to do this and still keep local neighbourhood policing at the heart of how we serve and protect the public.

"It is really important to take the views of people into account as we consider what to prioritise and where we will have to make cuts. Over 1,000 people have given me their views, which help us to make the tough decisions ahead. I am confident that we can make the savings and still deliver a first class police service for our public."

'Cathedral of Canals' a major tourist attraction

THE historic Anderton Boat Lift has reopened after its winter "rest" and is again attracting visitors into the rural heart of Cheshire.

It offers a mix of heritage, history and retail relaxation - plus leisurely trips back in time aboard the elegant trip boat Edwin Clark.

Restored in 2001, after a £7.5 million fundraising drive, the boat lift - known as the "Cathedral of Canals" now plays a pivotal role in sustaining the regional tourism economy.

Manager Tim Turner said: "Anderton attracts visitors from all walks of life, from poets and artists seeking to capture its magic in word and picture, through children eager to learn about its history, to families wishing to spend some quality leisure time in a unique setting.

"Our interactive historical exhibition provides an inspiring experience for all ages as visitors travel from that historic opening day in 1875 right up to the present."



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■ Dorothy Carter (centre) with Beverley and Andrew and twins Ben and Joe in their buggy.

Lions' helping hand for twins

STOCKTON Heath Lions have come to the aid of a Walton couple who have triplets who have suffered from ill health throughout their three short years of life. Members of the Lions Club have stepped in to help Beverley and Andrew Cunningham, of Ellesmere Road, who face transportation problems taking two of their youngsters for hospital check-ups.

Triplets Sam, Ben and Joe had health problems when they were born.

Sam is now in good health, after being on a life support machine when only five weeks old. But Ben and Joe have continuing problems, having been diagnosed with a rare genetic disorder which only three other youngsters in the world are known to suffer from. Beverley and Andrew have to take them for regular hospital check-ups and were having transportation problems.

Stockton Heath Lions, via Twins UK Ltd, have come to their aid by providing a new, all-purpose buggy designed specifically to suit the two lads until they are five or six years old.

President Dorothy Carter said: "This is what the Lions are about - being able to give support to someone in the community and allow them to get on with their lives."

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Sydney and Perth - a trip of a lifetime

To have a trip of a lifetime try following in my footsteps! In March I flew with Singapore Airlines from Manchester to Singapore with a touchdown in Munich (you do have to get off the plane here for approx 1hr 10mins).

The service and facilities on this airline are excellent with good leg room. I stayed for one night in Singapore in a hotel near the famous Raffles Hotel, which of course I had to visit to try one of their famous Singapore Slings -fantastic experience being in the Long Bar of Raffles. I also went on the Singapore Flyer (which is supposedly higher than the London Eye) the views from here are stunning and you can get some really good photo opportunities from the top. There is a mono rail round the city which takes 15 minutes and is well worth the trip. Darling Harbour is where you can spend the afternoon with the Maritime Museum and the Convention Centre along with the cafe bars along the waters edge to sit and watch the world go by.

From here I took another Singapore Airline flight on the 380 airbus - so quiet and what a lovely way to fly down to Sydney. On arrival in Sydney airport - transfers to the hotel with a harbour view. Whilst I was here I had the opportunity to take a sea plane trip up to Newcastle (not in the UK!!) and back, quite scary if you are not keen on heights like I am not! Did a harbour dinner cruise and a visit to the famous Opera House. Decided not

to climb the Bridge again as I did that last time. Again visited Bondi and Manley beach watching the surfers practising their skills. The ferry terminal in Sydney is similar to the bus stations in the UK, very busy and people using the ferries like we would the buses. I had many trips out including Sydney Tower and had a meal in the revolving restaurant at the top of this. I had to remember not to put my handbag on the window ledge as I would have been chasing it round the restaurant.

The open top bus tour is a perfect way to get your bearings in this city and I would recommend a visit to Argyle Street to the Market there at the weekend. The restaurants round the Harbour are a lovely way to finish your day and watch the sunset.

After 5 days I was off again to take another flight from Sydney to Perth, here the hotel was in Freemantle which is alot calmer and relaxed than Sydney, again lots of things to do or just take the opportunity of relaxing. The weather in Perth is alot hotter and windier compared to Sydney. Again take the tram which is a hop on hop off service to see the sights of Freemantle or the bus if you are in Perth. The wine tasting cruise up the

Swan Valley River was a lovely experience and there are some fantastic houses sitting on the edge of the river. The beaches around Perth are where locals go for picnics at the weekend.

After Perth the flight back was taken to Singapore for another night before the trip back up to Manchester. This time the hotel was in the shopping area of Orchard Road - what a good way to finish a trip with some

retail therapy! There is practically a shopping city underground and it is air-conditioned - a boom after the humidity you experience in Singapore at this time of year

So for any of you that would like to visit friends and family or just to take a lovely trip, give me a call and pop in for a coffee to discuss - we can also arrange your Australian visa. Ring 01925 269400 to arrange an appointment or email enquiries

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FRANK MARSHALL IN KNUTSFORD TAKE ON A FRESH LOOK

Not ones to rest on their laurels Estate Agents and Letting Agents, Frank Marshall & Co have totally refurbished their offices at 1 Princess Street, Knutsford.

Their Knutsford Estate Agency Office has expanded and taken over space previously occupied by the Halifax Bank. The designer's brief to create a modern and sleek look has well and truly been achieved and the installation of large LED and Plasma screens together with a prominent prime location makes the Estate Agency the most noticeable and vibrant office of its type on the high street.

Whilst having a great looking office and showroom is important Frank Marshall also recognise that our people make the real difference in assisting our clients to achieve their goals.

'Nick is one of the most knowledgeable and talented agents you could wish to find'

The team is headed by Nick Tomlinson, Associate Partner, who has over 20 years of Senior Management and Estate Agency experience. Nick is one of the most knowledgeable and talented agents you could wish to find and has dealt with thousands of property sales in Cheshire and South Manchester. Mark Hazlehurst, has been the Knutsford Estate Agency Manager for the past 3 years and has over 12 years

experience in selling all types of property in Knutsford and surrounding Cheshire. Sue Hindes is the Senior Sales Negotiator, she has been based at the Knutsford office for 5 years and has 10 successful years of selling homes in Knutsford and the surrounding villages. Simon Longworth looks after the Knutsford Letting and Management Department. Simon joined Frank Marshall having worked for another Independent Agent in the area.

As you would expect, following their expansion, Frank Marshall require all types of property for sale and to let in Knutsford and the surrounding area. Buyers and sellers are welcome to call in for a coffee and an informal chat, call on 01565 621624 or email knutsford@frankmarshall.co.uk

As "The Complete Property Firm" Frank Marshall sell all types of properties from cottages to modern

and prestigious homes and Country Estates. They offer imaginative and creative solutions to our clients to deliver profitable results through care, knowledge and skill and are passionate about our business.

Nick Tomlinson comments "2011 has started well. We have agreed sales at a higher level compared to last year, in addition to well planned and executed advertising, any properties asking price is all important, there are a good number of buyers out in the market, but if your price is set incorrectly, you will not see them!"



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Cheshire Challenge raises £20,000

NEARLY 70 walkers, backed by more than 30 volunteer supporters, raised more than £20,000 for the Children's Adventure Farm Trust by taking part in the gruelling 40-mile Cheshire Challenge Walk.

Among them were two teams of four from the Knutsford offices of auctioneers and estate agency Frank Marshall and Co., who raised £3,500 by completing the 15 hours ordeal.

The route started from the Adventure Farm at Millington and took in some of Cheshire's most attractive countryside, passing through Agden, Grappenhall, Appleton Thorn, Hatton, Dutton, Marbury Country Park and Arley Hall and including stretches of national trails such as the Cheshire Ring canal walk, the Mersey Valley Trail and the Delamere Way.

The Frank Marshall teams were made up of staff from the Knutsford auction salerooms and estate agency.

Nick Tomlinson, Associate at the Knutsford estate agency said the walk started at 4am in total darkness and continued throughout the day in baking heat.

He said: "Without exception, our eight team members gave everything they had on the day, to the point of total and utter exhaustion.

"Everyone displayed incredible personal determination as well tremendous mental and physical endurance. Being asked to walk just a



few more miles when you are in total agony and out on your feet is a question we all asked of ourselves and each other at different points."

The Cheshire Challenge Walk is to become an annual event to raise money for the Children's Adventure

Farm Trust, which provides holiday breaks for disabled and disadvantaged children. It's not too late to donate by www.justgiving.com/frankmarshall

Open air cinema - the way to boost audiences!

HOW to solve the problem of declining cinema audiences?

The answer, if the experience of the annual Stockton Heath Festival is typical, is by screening films in the open air!

The outdoor cinema which is a central feature of the festival has proved so popular organisers are having to move it - to a larger field.

Last year the open air cinema was on land off Mill Lane, Stockton Heath - and organisers were almost overwhelmed by the number of people who turned up.

So this July it will be in Alexandra Park.

Festival organiser Tudor Pole said: "Using the park will allow us to control the crowds better.

"Last year we had far more people than expected. The park will just have one entrance, so we will be able to control the numbers coming in."

Up to 600 people will be allowed on site for the show - although the choice of film has yet to be made.

Stockton Heath Parish Council has approved a grant of £2,500 to the festival which last year raised £5,000 for charities.

• Audiences fell by more than two million between 2004 and 2010, according to the Cinema Exhibitors Association.

Free varicose vein information evening

Tuesday 24 May 7.15pm

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Jessica will be Queen of the May



IN the early hours of Saturday, May 7, when most people are still in bed, the "sandmen" of Knutsford will be out and about on the town's streets, tracing intricate patterns in coloured sands on pavements.

One will be outside the home of the 147th Knutsford "Royal" May Queen, Jessica Pottle.

It's all part of the build up to "May Day" - the biggest day of the year in Knutsford when the town welcomes thousands of visitors from all over Cheshire and further afield.

It's a day when local people entertain family and friends who come home to see one of the biggest traditional May festivals in the country. A procession of nearly 500 children and more than a few adults, involving no motorised transport, wends its way through the streets to end on the famous Knutsford Heath with Morris and Maypole dancing, music, fun and the crowning of the May Queen.

This year Queen Jessica, aged 13, will be crowned by Alexander Caulfield, whose Nan, Audrey, was Queen back in 1954. Jessica and Alexander have both worked through the ranks to become Queen and Crown Bearer.

After the festival is over the giant funfair - one of the biggest travelling fairs in the country - will continue late into the night. This year it will stay for a full two weeks to take advantage of the Easter and May bank holidays and the Royal Wedding.

Cricket legends will take on village side

GRAPPENHALL Cricket Club is to hold a special "England Legends v Grappers" match at their Broad Lane ground to mark the club's 130th anniversary.

The match will be on Tuesday, August 30 and cricket legends playing will include Andrew Flintoff, Michael Vaughan, Graeme Hick, David Lloyd, Michael Atherton, John Crawley, Philip DeFreitas, Gladstone Small and Ronnie Irani. Grappenhall's own former England star, Neil Fairbrother, who came out of retirement last year to help the club win promotion to the Premier division of the Cheshire County League, will be in the Grappers XI, also strengthened by the inclusion of former Pakistani pace ace Wasim Akram and the Sri Lankan spin king Muttiah Muralitharan. Tickets, from the club: 01925 263497.

Soundless music

THE controversial Creamfields music festival at Daresbury over the August Bank Holiday weekend will open a day earlier this year.

But although music will be played on the opening night (Friday, August 26) it will be inaudible outside the showground. It will be relayed through headphones so even bystanders will not be able to hear it!

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Who needs artificial potholes?

TWO harsh winters have wrought havoc with local roads and potholes have become big news. So it may come as a surprise to some that there is a need for artificial potholes.

Who needs them? Car manufacturers, of course!

An example is Ford's Lommel Proving Ground in Belgium where there are miles of test track that specifically re-create potholes and the other sorts of damaged road surfaces drivers can expect to encounter.

Ford engineers know that not all roads are created equal. Some are pockmarked with potholes. Others simply consist of merciless off-road-like tracks. Only a few roads are kind to the vehicles driving over them.

Engineers know that too many drivers speed over four-inch-deep potholes or take turns too fast on cobblestone roads.

So Ford simulate road conditions ranging from the moderately rough roads to be expected in the UK, Europe and the US to the severely rough roads in emerging markets, taking into account that weather conditions can make these roads even worse.

Public spending cuts have added to the problems caused by the two cold winters so Ford aim to ensure all their vehicles are built to cope.

All new Ford models are put

through a tough testing and development process to ensure they not only offer class-leading levels of ride comfort for occupants but are easily capable of withstanding the loads placed upon components by damaged road surfaces.

The Lommel Proving Ground subjects new vehicles to a variety of highly demanding road surfaces and features some 50 miles of test track, many of which are designed



specifically to put suspension systems to the ultimate test.

"We have created some of the worst potholes in Europe on our own test track. If our cars can pass these tests, then they can cope with almost anything they encounter on public

roads," said Eric-Jan Scharlee, technical specialist at Lommel. "You name the road surface - we have it at our proving ground."

Alfa's sporty Giulietta

THE latest incarnation of the Alfa Romeo Giulietta was launched last year to celebrate the Italian car manufacturer's centenary.

As one would expect from Alfa, it's a sporty model, designed to compete in the mid-size C-segment which now contributes one out of every four new cars sold across Europe.

It incorporates a range of advanced engineering and technical solutions to ensure the Giulietta can meet the

needs of all customers in the sector, combining impeccable safety credentials, Italian style, comfort and functionality and, of course, oomph!

In addition, every customer can adapt the car to their specific driving requirements, thanks to Alfa's DNA selector.

There is a range of five engines, three petrol and two diesel, all of which are turbocharged and Euro 5 emissions compliant.





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Money Column

By Margaret Black

'Time To Pay' - HMRC

HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) launched 'The Business Payment Support Service' (BPSS) on 24 November 2008. The primary purpose of this service was to help businesses with their cash flow during the worst of the economic credit crunch, by allowing 'Time To Pay' (TTP).

Despite HMRC stating that the criteria for agreeing such a contract is unaffected and that the BPSS will remain available for as long as it is needed, it appears that HMRC's own statistics show that the chance of reaching a successful TTP deal is a lot less now than it was a year ago.

The Statistics

HMRC is keen to make the point that demand for TTP requests has declined over this period, their own statistical analysis on a like-with-like comparison for 2009/2010 confirms that the requests received but rejected across all the tax regimes has increased from 2.7% to 5.8%.

The TTP arrangements which were granted across all tax regimes for the same comparative period also show a decline from 240,700, worth £4.18bn

in 2009 to 138,700, worth £2.34bn in 2010. This represents a 42% drop in numbers and a reduction of 44% in value. The overall demand for TTP fell by a similar 40% across this time. In short, the decline in arrangements is not inconsistent with the overall decline in demand whereas a higher proportion of TTP request are being rejected.

Conclusion

HMRC has an obligation to Government and taxpayers in general to discharge its duty of collecting the right amount of tax at the right time. However, the pattern reported seems to be a clear sign that the pressure is on HMRC to draw back the hand of assistance that was so publicly extended such a short time ago.

Small businesses particularly are still meeting significant cash flow problems and with third party financial support hard to secure, they find proof of the reported economic turnaround elusive. The rise in the standard rate of VAT coupled with HMRC's apparent increased rate of rejection of deferred payment plans can only make matters worse. Businesses and their advisers



David Watkinson and Margaret Black

should be alive to this trend and act accordingly. Where it is clear that a business will find it difficult to meet its full VAT or tax liabilities by the relevant due dates, it is essential to contact HMRC at the earliest opportunity. Although HMRC appears to be allowing less breathing space on deferred payments, being proactive rather than re-active to such situations will only strengthen the case a business may have to negotiate a TTP arrangement.

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

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Golfing Champions' letter of appreciation!

A FEW years ago, High Legh Park Golf Club entertained four budding South African golfers as they acclimatised themselves ahead of the British Open.

For six weeks the young men utilised the full course and practice facilities and were treated well by club staff.

After what they described as a 'fantastic experience' the men decided to write a group thank you letter to the club, signed by all concerned.

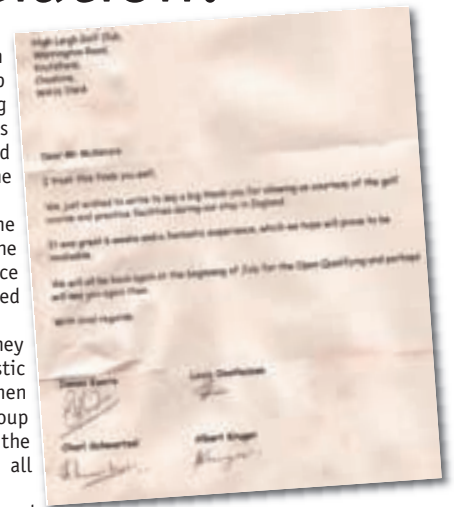
It was a very nice and well received gesture, which was filed in the club's records along with many other archived testimonies about the club's hospitality.

It remained there until recently when a member of staff noticed something very familiar about the winner of the epic final showdown in the US Masters at Augusta.

Having rooted out the letter, the member of staff realised that not only was Masters Champion, Charl Schwartzel's signature on the letter, so was the signature of last year's British Open winner at St Andrews - Louis Oosthuizen.

Delighted with the discovery, current Club Director Martin Cooper said: "It's good to know that such talented golfers appreciated the golfing facilities at High Legh Park and have gone on to be so successful."

Everyone at High Legh is now hoping that the other men who signed the letter - James Kamte and Albert Kruger - go on to win their own major tournaments so the club can boast its very own grand slam!



68 years on - a new name for theatre group

SIXTY eight years after a group of theatre lovers got together and decided to form Knutsford Amateur Operatic Society, it has changed its name.

Knutsford Musical Theatre Company has launched, with a new logo designed by Ben Cashmore - grandson of a member - and a new rehearsal venue, Shaw Heath Social Club.

War was still raging in Europe when the society was formed in 1943 - and when the curtain went up on its first show, The Mikado, in 1944.

The society survived World War 2 and also a conflict of its own when a breakaway group who wanted to concentrate on Gilbert and Sullivan started a short-lived rival society.

Since then it has forged ahead, drawing audiences from all over the North West, and the new name better reflects a more progressive approach with the emphasis on more modern shows.

To launch the new company, a special cake was cut by chairman Lesley Reed and president Ken Webb - a veteran member from 1957 when he joined as musical director.

Rehearsals are in progress for the new production, a memorial concert for Anne Booker, a long serving member and producer who died last year. The 'Magic of the Musicals' will consist of songs from the shows she produced and is a collaboration with Mid Cheshire AOS and the Frodsham-based Zodiacs AOS. It takes place at Northwich Memorial Hall on May 27.

New members are always welcome and more details can be found at the website www.knutsfordaos.org



■ Mrs Reed and Mr Webb cutting the celebratory cake.

What's On in the Villages

May 7
LIVE AT ST WILFRID'S
Chetham's School of Music. A programme by pupils from the UK's largest specialist music school.
St Wilfrid's Church, Grappenhall. 7.30pm

May 10
STOCKTON HEATH PARISH COUNCIL
Sandy Lane Centre. 7.30pm

May 17
APPLETON PARISH COUNCIL
Appleton Parish Hall, Dudlow Green Road. 7.30pm

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

ST MARY MAGDALENE MONDAY CLUB
St Mary Magdalene Church, Appleton 1.30pm

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

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

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

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

Second and fourth Monday
WARRINGTON ART GROUP
Bellhouse Community Centre, Bellhouse Lane,
Grappenhall. 7-9pm.

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

NATIONAL VEGETABLE SOCIETY
Cheshire District meeting
Grappenhall Ex-Servicemen's Club, Chester Road,
Grappenhall. 8pm. Details: 01925 265773.

Every fourth Monday
MARLFIELD WI
Independent Methodist Chapel, Knutsford Road,
Grappenhall. 7.30pm

Every Tuesday
COFFEE MORNING
St Cross Church, Appleton Thorn. All welcome.
10am-12 noon

PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY
Quays Community Centre,
Thelwall New Road, Thelwall. 7.30pm.
Contact: 01925 757582.

COFFEE MORNING
Appleton Independent Methodist Church
Appleton Parish Hall, 10am-12 noon

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Ram's Head, Grappenhall.

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

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

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

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

Every Thursday
THE SILVER QUAYS Senior Citizen's Club
The Quays Community Centre,
Thelwall New Road, Thelwall. Details: 01925
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BRIDGE CLUB
Grappenhall Village Sports Club
Stockton Lane. 7.30pm. Details 01928 712233

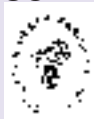
Every second Thursday
STRETTON WI
Appleton Parish Hall, Dudlow Green Road.
2.30pm.

Every third Thursday
NORTH EAST CHESHIRE FLOWER CLUB
Appleton Parish Hall, Dudlow Green Road. 2pm
Details: 01925 740419

GRAPPENHALL WI
Grappenhall Community Centre, Bellhouse Lane
2.15pm

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

To list your event call **Village Life on**
01925 623632



Bowling club seeks new members

HIGH Legh Bowling Club is looking for new members of all abilities.

The club's home is a picturesque, floodlit green, just of the A50 and opposite the Victorian High Legh Village Hall, famed for its homemade Sunday teas.

Bowling at High Legh was originally indoors at the village hall but the green - now often used as a neutral venue for important matches and occasionally as a county venue - was developed in 1989.

The club has something to offer players of all abilities and ambitions

It has 10 league teams, seven of which are mixed, competing in leagues at Knutsford, Norley and Trafford on four evenings a week and on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons.

Social bowling takes place on Wednesdays, weekends and, informally, at any time when the green is not in use for a team match.

Members come not just from High Legh but from a wide area including Appleton, Grappenhall, Knutsford, Lymm, Mere, Stockton Heath, Walton

and Warburton.

Beginners are welcome and there will be plenty of advice on hand and more often than not, after playing there will be a cup of tea and biscuits or a tempting cake or scone awaiting in the excellent clubhouse.

More information is available from secretary David Maynard, on 01925 754724 or email at davidjmaynard@gmail.com

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Air ambulance boost

NORTH West Air Ambulance, which provides a £4 million a year emergency service for the region has been given a boost by the people of Stockton Heath and Appleton.

Stockton Heath Parish Council has approved a grant of £350 towards the service while members of Appleton Parish Council - who were told the air ambulance had recently been called to an incident in the parish, awarded a grant of £1,000.

Tree planting

MORE than 50 residents gathered at the Lakeside area of Pickmere to help plant more than 400 trees donated by the Woodland Trust.

This followed a successful application by resident Simon Read - a member of the Trust. The trees were a selection, comprising Blackthorn, Hawthorn, Oak, Birch, Rowan and Hazel trees and the planting session was organised by Pickmere Parish Council and the village community group.

Not so rowdy village

A NIGHT-time tour of Stockton Heath dispelled the village's "rowdy" reputation according to those who took part.

Clr Celia Jordan said: "The visit to the village was very good. People say it is rowdy, but it certainly wasn't on that night.

"The bouncers on the doors were friendly and firm, and there were no problems. There was a very nice atmosphere."

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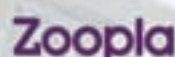
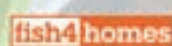
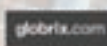
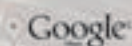
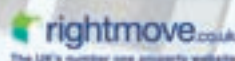
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