

# VILLAGE

Cheshire's Community Magazine

Issue 146 May 2013 FREE

*life*



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**Face of  
the Globe!**

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# Meet your MP

## David Mowat

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



**David Mowat**  
Member of Parliament for Warrington South  
[www.davidmowat.org](http://www.davidmowat.org)

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

# Village walk will be on July 13

STOCKTON Heath's annual Walking Day is in future to be held on the second Saturday in July - which means this year it will be on July 13.

The change - previously, the event

was held on the first Saturday in the month - follows a survey which revealed that most people believe the Walk should not take place during the annual Stockton Heath Festival.

Organisers, including representatives of the various churches in the village have, in fact "fixed" the date of the Walk up to the year 2022!

Next year, it will be on July 12 and in 2015 it will be on July 11.

Thereafter the dates will be as follows: 2016: July 9; 2017: July 8; 2018: July 14; 2019: July 13; 2020: July 11; 2021: July 10; 2022: July 9.



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# Opinion

FEW local issues arouse passions as much as parking. Show us a busy shopping centre, or a residential area near a shopping centre and we'll show you a row over parking.

None more so than at Stockton Heath, where parking has been taking up a hefty slice of the agenda at recent meetings.

It all started when Warrington Borough Council decided to reduce the free period from two hours to one. The main aim was said to be to increase the "turn around" of shoppers and discourage all-day parking, but the borough admitted it was also to address a serious deficit incurred by parking services.

Shopkeepers immediately complained that one hour was not enough for people to complete their shopping and that as a result they were losing trade. But there were other unintended consequences, including increased parking in nearby residential streets and problems at the local medical centre, which is issuing about 50 letters a week to help patients appeal against parking fines.

We are not surprised by this. We have argued in this column before that if local shopping centres are to thrive, shoppers must be able to park easily and for free. We believe the previous two-hour free period was a sensible compromise which enabled people to shop and, perhaps, enjoy a coffee in a local cafe without too

much pressure.

But at the same time, we understand that hard pressed councils cannot afford to run parking services at a huge loss.

In Stockton Heath, local people rejected the idea of reserved parking for residents once they knew they would have to pay for the privilege. They should know that the law of the land does not give anyone the right to park outside their own home and that if they want that right they must be prepared to pay for it.

UNDERSTANDABLY, local people are angry at the decision by East Cheshire NHS Trust to permanently close the 18-bed Tatton Ward - the only inpatient facility at Knutsford's Community Hospital.

In fact, of course, the ward has been "temporarily" closed for more than two years and the Trust's argument is that better clinical care can be provided at Macclesfield.

They also point out that the ward was primarily occupied by people from a wide area. In the last 12 months before the temporary closure, only 68 people from Knutsford GP practices were treated there.

A widespread consultation exercise was held, with more than 8,000

documents distributed in the town, plus a special website being set up. But only 83 responses were received - hardly an indication that too many people in Knutsford cared one way or the other.

One thing is certain though. Improved transport between Knutsford and Macclesfield will be needed - and we don't see a service relying on volunteers, no matter how well intentioned, being enough.

## Eight-year-old is Face of Globe

AN eight-year-old Stockton Heath girl has been selected to compete for a place in a beauty pageant being held at Disneyland Paris.

Hope Burton-Baddeley has been chosen by the Face of the Globe organisation to compete at a regional heat at Chester Music Theatre on June 15.

The contest has four age categories, ranging from five years upwards and Hope will be in the Mini category from which, if she is successful as one of five representatives from that group, she will be invited to Disneyland Paris in October to compete against girls from all over the world.

Hope, a pupil at St Wilfrid's CE Primary, Grappenhall, is currently raising money for the pageant's chosen charity, The Rainbow Child Foundation and has already raised about £400.

She is running an ebay auction and has managed to secure signed celebrity items from people such as Gloria Estefan, Daniel Craig, Olly Murs, Lord Alan Sugar, Matt Lucas, Mo Farah, Usain Bolt, Paul O'Grady, Noel Edmunds, Coronation Street and Atomic Kitten.

All proceeds will go to charity.

Hope has also been busy car washing and cake baking to raise money and is seeking donation from local businesses.

She has a facebook charity page [www.facebook.com/pages/hope-burton-baddeley-face-of-the-globe-fundraiser/103341276523197](http://www.facebook.com/pages/hope-burton-baddeley-face-of-the-globe-fundraiser/103341276523197)



Picture: Craze Photography

# WIN a £100 Food Hamper and FREE tickets to the Great British Food Festival

## The Great British Food Festival is back!

AFTER the success of last year's festival, where 10,000 people enjoyed this celebration of Modern British food and drink, it's back, bigger and better at Walton Hall and Gardens on Bank Holiday weekend, Sunday May 26 and Monday May 27.

Along with wonderful food and drink there will be vintage and craft stalls, games and activities for the kids, a balloon race, bake-offs and excellent live music

The Great British Food Festival will feature over 100 producers showcasing the best in local, seasonal and speciality food and drink. It will feature traditional British staples such as pulled pork, brisket and local sausages as well as some exotic specialities like Thai pies and Kangaroo burgers!

On top of the local and independent food stalls, selling everything from hand baked biscuits to fine wines, there will be lots of activities including artisan cheese talks, wine tasting and cooking demonstrations from some of the country's top chefs.

Bring a picnic blanket and sit out for the day enjoying great food and drink, live music and beautiful surroundings. The perfect recipe for a fun, foodie day out for the whole family.

For more information visit [www.greatbritishfoodfestival.com](http://www.greatbritishfoodfestival.com)

The Great British & Cheshire Food Festival is sponsored by Onionring.co.uk

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Closing date 18/5/2013. Winners will be notified on 20/5/2013



## Town's history to be brought to life

A TOWN'S history will be brought to life by a innovative event involving music, art and drama in a series of street performances by local people.

Residents and visitors will be able to take a walk down memory lane when the Knutsford Promenades are held on Friday and Saturday, July 5-6.

Schools and performing arts groups are already researching historic events from Knutsford's past which can be turned into street performances at various locations throughout the town.

Schools, Knutsford Musical Theatre Company, LiPA at Knutsford and Brook Street Unitarian Chapel are among the organisations taking part.

The theatre company is already rehearsing a short concert of songs they have staged over the last 70 years, starting with "The Mikado" and finishing with "Oliver."

Knutsford Heritage Centre obtained a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund to cover the cost of the events and the initiative is also supported by the Town Council.

It is expected that more than 100 people will take part in the open air celebration of local history.

Organisers are still looking for more people and community groups to get involved in the Promenades.

Anyone interested can email [promenades@knutsfordtowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:promenades@knutsfordtowncouncil.gov.uk) or call the Heritage Centre on 01565 650506.

## Morris Men plan Irish trip

THELWALL Morris Men celebrate their 40th anniversary this year and are looking for sponsorship for a trip to take part in a festival in Ireland.

The team dance the traditional Morris dances of England, and are celebrating the anniversary by taking part in the Galway Arts Festival fringe in July.

A spokesperson said: "We are looking to offset the costs of travel and accommodation across the weekend that we are dancing in Galway.

"We have enjoyed four trips to Ireland in the past 40 years including a trip to Cobh in 1993 shortly after the Warrington bombings. We successfully hosted dance groups from Ireland in 1995 and 1996 and continue to dance at local events."

The group holds weekly practices at Thelwall Parish Hall.

Further details are available by contacting 0793 231 6798 or by e-mail [fool@thelwallmorris.org.uk](mailto:fool@thelwallmorris.org.uk)





# Dad embarks on lonely journey for Samaritans

A FATHER of three who experienced loneliness while working abroad is embarking on a marathon bike ride to raise awareness of the condition, which can cause emotional despair and suicide.

Steve Jackson, aged 51, suffered first hand while working in South Africa as a Senior executive with the Standard Bank - and became so isolated he had to leave his job and seek advice and support from the Samaritans.

He was so impressed with the support he received he has now become a volunteer and helping raise funds for the charity from his sponsored solo Lands End to John o'Groats bike ride.

Steve, from Grappenhall Heys, Warrington said: "As a recent volunteer to "The Samaritans" it has become clear to me that a root cause to suicide and emotional despair is a feeling of isolation and loneliness. Having no-one providing unconditional support when you need it most.

"This feeling can come about for many reasons such as illness, old age, bereavement, abuse etc but the result whilst personally unique is the same, that of feeling of being isolated and alone.

"While I worked in South Africa I found myself very lonely, going back to an empty flat every night after work. It was not the same seeing my wife and family via Skype and

things got worse and worse with each passing day. I eventually had to give up my job to return home."

Now he is embarking on an unsupported cycle ride covering a distance of about 1000 miles covering between 60 to 80 miles a day.

"This is a significant event for me, partly because I am the wrong side of 50 but also because this subject is very close to my heart both due to a personal experience and also because of what it will mean to those we support.

His journey starts on April 26 hopefully ending in John o'Groats on Friday, May 10 .

Anyone wishing to donate can do so at: <https://mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/lonelinessmatters>

All donations will go directly to support The Samaritans of Warrington, Halton and St Helens to improve the public and disabled access to their building so that we can use it as a centre for pro-active reach out programmes focused on supporting those who need the service.

The Samaritans is a national charity supporting those who are suicidal or in emotional despair. They operate all year round 24 hours a day and can be contacted by phone, email or by a face to face visit.

The local branch is based near Warrington Bank Quay Station and contact details can be found at [www.samaritans.org](http://www.samaritans.org)



## Mayor's charity ball raised £1,800

THE Mayor of Knutsford, Vivien Davies played host to civic leaders from a wide area at her Charity Ball.

Mayors from Sandbach, Congleton, Winsford and Middlewich, and the chairman of Alsager Town Council joined Cllr Davies and town and borough councillors, and representatives from community groups for a three course meal and entertainment.

Cllr Davies gave thanks to the people of Knutsford for taking part in what had been a busy year.

She also thanks councillors for their work in the community and the deputy mayor, Cllr Barbara Coan, for all her help.

Entertainment was provided by Victoria Dougall and the Nightbreakers. Local businesses provided items for an auction, which raised £850 and for a grand draw which raised a further £385.

The evening raised around £1,800 for the Mayor's charities, which will be added to other fundraising events she has organised during her year in office.

She said: "I would like to give thanks to the people of Knutsford and surrounding areas for their invitations to events across the year. It has been both a pleasure and honour and an experience I will never forget."

The Mayor's charities are The Royal British Legion, East Cheshire Hospice and Knutsford Royal May Day.

## New Alice meets Giant White Rabbit!

THIS year's Alice in Wonderland Charlotte Codack was not late for a very important date at Walton Gardens.

She was reunited with an old friend when she visited the children's zoo to 'adopt' a white rabbit - although this one did not have a pocket watch!

Charlotte has been chosen as this Year's Alice by The Lewis Carroll appreciation society, which support the Children's zoo at Walton Gardens by sponsoring their rabbits each year. A local child plays the part of Alice and attends local events.

The characters of Alice in Wonderland are well known to both children and adults alike, the author Lewis Carroll was raised in Daresbury and is believed to have played in the grounds of Walton Hall Gardens when he was a child.

Charlotte will receive a rabbit adoption pack, which includes a rabbit fact pack, certificate, keyring, newsletters, and birthday card and will be invited to a special adoptor's evening during the summer.

Adoptions start at only £12. Please contact the rangers on 01925 601 617 ext 2 for more information.



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■ Top picture (L-R): Kath Carey, Treasurer, Sandra Pugh, Secretary, Selina Prescott, Cheshire Executive, Daphne Zimmerman, Founder President, Frances Woollam, Cheshire County Chairman, Jill Holman, County Advisor, Viven Dawber, President. Pictures: Jim Sparks

# The Golden Age when the WI took to the air

IT was 50 years ago that women living on the then brand new Appleton Park estate at Appleton decided to form a WI to meet their particular needs - and that meant one that met in the evenings.

Most were young wives with young children so were unable to attend the more traditional daytime WI meetings.

More than 100 women applied to join the fledgling group - and at least five founder members are still involved today.

Founder president Daphne

Zimmerman, who is still an active member, recalls the early days.

She said: "The first meeting was at the British Legion in Stockton Heath because Appleton Parish Hall, where we meet now, had not even been built.

"We were a very active group then. We had trips out to Paris and Holland, flying in an old Dakota aeroplane which always seemed to have smoke pouring out of the engine.

"We don't do that sort of trip now because most of the members are getting older.

"But we have some younger members - and would welcome more."

The Golden Anniversary was celebrated with a party attended by members, ex-members, former committee members and members of the Cheshire Executive of the WI.

There was a sit-down meal and entertainment from Neera Maharaj, 17-year-old principal flautist with the Liverpool Philharmonic Youth Orchestra, accompanied by Lyn McKenzie on the piano.

Then there were foot-tapping piano duets from Frank and Peter Dawber.

To close, guests were presented with Golden Rose arrangements and members with Golden Rose kebabs.

A special celebratory 'booklet-card' to mark the occasion was hand-crafted by Joan Yates from Stretton WI members.

Anyone interested in joining Appleton Park WI should call secretary Sandra Pugh on 01925 212599.





## Take a bow Barbara Worrall

BARBARA Worrall has taken her last curtain call after 50 years of appearing in or directing musicals.

The Appleton resident, who graduated as a mature student from Manchester University in 1993 having studied Drama and Arts and Entertainment, was in the director's chair for the Frodsham-based Zodiac Amateur Operative Society for her final production - *Me and My Girl*, at the Brindley Theatre, Runcorn, last month (April).

Barbara's relationship with The Zodiac started many years ago.

In 2007 she was with them to direct

the Brindley Theatre.

The following year she suggested that they perform *Hot Mikado* - Gilbert and Sullivan with a twist.

This proved to be an exciting production for the Zodiacs, especially when they received a NODA nomination for "Best Musical" in 2008.

The award-winning *Me and My Girl* was a challenging show to finish her theatre career - but it proved to be another show stopper.

Barbara is also president of the North West Keep Fit Association and recently choreographed their display team for the National Festival at the Milton Keynes Theatre.



Cast from the 'Me and My Girl' show.

## Drama Group had the Hex Factor!

BRIDGEWATER Players staged a world premier production of Ian Hornby's "The Hex Factor" last month (April).

The play at Thelwall Parish Hall was a sequel to Ian's "The Ex-Factor" which was staged by the group in April 2010.

Again it was set at New Copse Farm, where Brendan had brought his ladyfriend Carol for a romantic weekend.

But Brendan's mother, Barbara - a self-confessed white witch - must not find out or he will lose a lot of money. Of course Barbara phones to announce that she is visiting - and Brendan has the task of keeping the two women apart.

Add lecherous farmhand Ron, a séance and the all-pervading scent of the farmyard ensured there were plenty of laughs in store.



## Do something daft for CAFT!

THE children's Adventure Farm Trust has issued a Spring message to supporters: "Do something Daft for CAFT."

Opportunities exist for anyone who wants to help the Millington-based charity to take on challenges to raise money.

These include the Great Manchester Run on May 26, the Great Manchester Cycle Ride on June 20 and a trek to the Everest Base Camp from October 4-21 - an expedition that will take participants to an altitude of 5,545m, with amazing views of Everest.

In addition there is the Five Countries Bike Ride from September 27-30, a 237-mile ride taking in five countries and aiming to raise £15,000 for CAFT. The Children's Adventure Farm offers exciting holidays for disadvantaged or sick children.

CAFT is at Booth Bank Farm, Reddy Lane, Millington - but they also have a charity shop in Canute Square, Knutsford.

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# Money Column

By Margaret Black

## Self assessment tax returns

**5th April 2013 – the end of another tax year - the start of submissions of self assessment tax returns to HMRC.**

Completion of a tax return need not be difficult, in order to arrive at the right tax payable it should be complete and accurate, the complexity lies in the calculation of the tax. The submission of the return does not pose any problems provided it is transmitted to the Inland Revenue on line on time.

Whether you are considering completing your own return or acquiring the services of an agent (accountant) to do, suggested best practice is to establish the areas of the return which specifically relate to your affairs, if you make a list of these areas it will help you (or your agent) to concentrate on where you need to gather your information from. It is possible to request the Inland Revenue to assist with the completion of your return, however, statistics have suggested that relying on the tax office to calculate the tax due has resulted in many taxpayers paying too much tax. In the main the areas to complete are as follows:

- sources of income whether taxed at source or not, most common sources,

self employed income, employment income per P60 (to include benefits in kind – per P11d), rental income, investment income, pension income, sale of assets, foreign income.

- Reliefs – pension contributions, charitable giving (provided you are a tax payer)

- If you are unsure about whether information should be included on your return or not it is best to seek advice from an agent (accountant)

If you feel overawed by the above, make an appointment with ourselves and we will discuss it with you, and let us take this headache away from you. If your Personal Tax affairs are indeed so simple you can deal with them yourself we will advise you accordingly. To establish your needs we offer a half-hour meeting at no cost and no obligation. If you engage us as your agents our personal Tax service is much more than simply completing a self assessment tax return. Provided we have received all relevant information from yourself we will ensure that:

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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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# Community library gets makeover



GRAPPENHALL Community Library has officially reopened following a makeover which includes a new kitchen, disabled ramp and extra facilities to improve its use.

The Mayor Cllr Steve Wright was on hand to cut the ribbon to officially re-open the building which has been refurbished thanks to grants from Wren and the Big Lottery Fund.

Warrington Wolves mascot Wolfie was also on hand to entertain the young ones.

Other attractions included emergency vehicles, stalls and a grand raffle.

Sheila Wallace, treasurer at the charity said: "Our new facilities are looking lovely. We welcome all our borrowers, friends and neighbours from South Warrington to come and see what we can offer the community and enjoy a brilliant day.

"More events are planned in the coming weeks and we have had a number of enquiries already for room hire".

Congratulating all those involved the Mayor said that the whole community of South Warrington should be very proud of what they had achieved.

Further details of the library, in Albert Road, are available at [www.grappenhall.org.uk](http://www.grappenhall.org.uk) or by telephoning 01925-268077.

Pictures show the Mayor at the official opening with Warrington Wolves mascot Wolfie and community library Chairman John Ashby.

Pictures: Tony Smith



# Spitfire fly-past for village ceremony

A UNIQUE village festival will celebrate its 40th anniversary in its present form - with a Spitfire fly-past.

The Bawming the Thorn ceremony at Appleton Thorn is the only one of its kind in the country.

It was revived 40 years ago - but its origins date back to the 19th century.

The RAF have confirmed the fly-past to ensure the anniversary is something special and the organisers are expecting record crowds.

The ceremony involves children from Appleton Thorn Primary School dancing around the thorn tree in the village centre, which is decorated for the occasion.

Bawming The Thorn Committee chairman Mark Searle said: "We're absolutely thrilled to announce the first Spitfire fly-past in Appleton Thorn, in living memory. As we're expecting this added attraction to bring many enthusiasts on the day, we are calling for helpers to stage this volunteer-organised event. If you can spare an hour or two on the day to marshal or help in any way, please get in touch."

Anyone interested parties should call the volunteer hotline on 07870 695 177 or email [bawming@appletonthorn.org.uk](mailto:bawming@appletonthorn.org.uk)

Bawming the Thorn was revived in 1973, by the then headteacher at the village school, Bob Jones.

It takes place on the Saturday nearest to Midsummer's Day.

According to legend, the hawthorn at Appleton Thorn grew from a cutting of the Holy Thorn at Glastonbury, which was said to have sprung from the staff of Joseph of Arimathea.

The current tree was planted in the late 1960s, by the local Women's Institute, after the previous one blew down in a storm.

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# What's on in the villages

**May 14**  
STOCKTON HEATH PARISH COUNCIL  
Sandy Lane Centre, Stockton Heath. 7.30pm

**May 18**  
LIVE AT ST WILFRID'S  
Chetham's School of Music. Chamber ensembles, soloists and the school's orchestra, Serenata Strings. St Wilfrid's Church, Grappenhall. 7.30pm

**May 21**  
APPLETON PARISH COUNCIL  
Parish Hall, Dudlow Green Road. 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

**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  
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

**Every Wednesday**  
APPLETON HALL BADMINTON CLUB  
Starting December 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.

**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**



## Girl band has the competition 'Solved'

GIRL band Solved are through to the area finals of new national talent competition TeenStar.

The five girls - who hit on the name "Solved" because they say they are the answer to anyone's problem! - won through at the regional finals in Manchester and will now compete in the next round at Huddersfield on May 26. They are Meghan Clifford, 11, from Grappenhall, Megan Bradley, 12, from Appleton, Georgia Williams, 14, from Stockton Heath, Emma Jervis, 12, from Orford and Elle Morcom, 12, from Walton. The girls met at Appleton-based stage school Little Stars and only decided to form the band after

hearing about the competition. They are really excited as they came up against some really tough competition from youngsters across the North West.

Everything seems to be going for them at present as they also made it through to the semi-finals of another national competition - Britain Does Variety.

## Walking Day gets crafty

THE annual Stretton Walking Day takes place on Saturday, July 20 - and this year will, for the first time, include a craft fair. Outside craft stalls will be offering goods for sale at the St Matthew's School Fair, which takes place immediately after the Walk of Witness from St Matthew's Church.

The day will start with a service in church at 11am where the Rose Queen and her attendants will be formally appointed. At 12 noon, the Walk will get under way, led by a brass band and the vicar, Canon Elaine Chegwin-Hall. The school fair opens at 1pm, with fairground rides, stalls, dance displays, face painting, other fun activities, barbecue, licensed bar and other refreshments. More details are available from the website [www.strettonwalkingday.co.uk](http://www.strettonwalkingday.co.uk) which features the history of the Walk and details of this year's event.

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## Tribute to park keeper

MEMBERS of Stockton Heath Parish Council have paid tribute to the man who set up the successful Friends of Alexandra Park.

Alan Nugent was community park keeper at the park for three years until his recent promotion to Jubilee Park at Orford. Councillors unanimously agreed that a letter of thanks be sent to Alan - not only for his work at the park but also for his work in the wider community of Stockton Heath. While delighted that he had been promoted, they were sorry that Stockton Heath was losing him.

One of Alan's achievements was to instigate the Friends of Alexandra Park who now meet on a regular basis and play an important role in ensuring the park is maintained to a high standard.

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