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Issue 158 May 2014 FREE



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David Mowat, MP for Warrington South, holds regular surgeries throughout the constituency. If you would like to arrange an appointment to discuss an issue of concern to you please e-mail him at david.mowat.mp@parliament.uk

or telephone 01925 231267.



David Mowat Member of Parliament for Warrington South

www.davidmowat.org

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

Bumper charity car wash

FIRE crews at Stockton Heath, Warrington raised £600 with a charity car wash at the fire station.

Local motorists turned out in force to support the Fire Fighters' Charity while firefighters and cadets raised money with their buckets and sponges and also handed out useful road safety advice.

Crew manager Steve McIntosh



said: "Firefighters, fire cadets and teams of helpers with their buckets and sponges raised money for this worthy cause as well as handing out road safety advice at Stockton Heath Community Fire Station.

"We'd like to say a big thank you to everyone who helped us raise £600, which will be doubled to £1,200 by Barclays Bank in a match funding scheme."

Chairman of the Fire Fighters Charity and deputy chief fire officer Mark Cashin said: "It is testament to the support we have from the public when events such as this show how generous people can be as a magnificent total of £600 was raised on the day.

"It costs over £9 million every year to keep The Fire Fighters Charity running and, with no government funding, it is completely reliant on donations from the general public and fire community."

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Opinion

WHEN you build a prison in a picturesque village you can expect problems, but over the years the residents of Appleton Thorn have managed to have a reasonably harmonious relationship with Thorn Cross Prison.

So it is disappointing to learn that communication between the prison and the local population has not, in recent times, been as open as it might have been.

Local councillors have expressed concern at the number of absconders 57 in the last two years - and that fact that it has been kept secret. Also that "creeping changes" have taken place within the prison without notifying local people, many of who are still under the impression that Thorn Cross is still a young offenders' institution.

In fact Thorn Cross is an adult, open prison with capacity for 340 prisoners, including "lifers", prisoners serving more than 10 years and prisoners serving an Imprisonment for Public Protection /Indeterminate sentence. Only about 40 are young offenders. Offences range from wounding with intent, robbery, burglary and attempted burglary to drug related offences.

The Ministry of Justice says Thorn Cross opened as an adult, open establishment in 1985 but locals with long memories know it was there - as an open prison - more than 20 years

previously, housed in ramshackle buildings left over from the former Royal Naval Air Station. When it converted to a youth offenders' institution in the late 1980s it caused considerable local disquiet, with some residents actually campaigning to keep the adult prison on the grounds that young offenders would be less stable. One wonders if they were the same people now complaining about the drift back to adult inmates.

The good news is that the prison has now committed to keep open lines of communication with Appleton Parish Council - and that councillors intend to make sure they do.

Appleton Thorn can never be the place it would have been had the prison never existed. But probably it would never have been the same after the air station – and we can only blame Hitler for that!

IT is not yet two years since Cheshire's first Police and Crime Commissioner, John Dwyer, was elected to the post.

We were sceptical at the time - not because of any doubts about Mr Dwyer who, as a retired senior police officer in the county was clearly as good a candidate as we could expect to get but because we were unhappy about the whole concept of Police and Crime Commissioners.

In particular, we were unhappy with the fact that most of those seeking election to the post represented political parties. Yes, we know the police authority the commissioner has replaced was also made up of political nominees, but at least all the major parties were represented - not just one

However, while the jury may still be out for some, we must express ourselves as reasonably satisfied with the new system so far.

Crime is down and the cost of policing the county was frozen this year. Mr Dwyer has introduced a number of initiatives which make common sense – and he does not seem to have unduly played the political card.

In particular he has on several occasions championed the work done by the Special Constabulary, those unpaid volunteers who support the police.

When National Specials Weekend was celebrated, he marked the occasion by joining the "Specials" on patrol and flagged up the importance of their role in rural communities like Cheshire.

Farmers, in particular, value the work of the Special Constabulary in isolated, difficult-to-police, areas and by drawing attention to them, Mr Dwyer has done them a great service.

Make a will and support St Rocco's



LOCAL residents are invited to make a will and donate to St Rocco's Hospice by taking part in the charity's annual Will Week, May 12-18.

Solicitors at FDR Law will be donating their time for free in return for donations to the Warrington charity. The suggested minimum is £50 for a codicil, £90 for a single basic will and £150 for a pair of mirror wills.

All three of the firm's offices in Warrington's Palmyra Square, Stockton Heath and Frodsham will be taking part and offering the charity willmaking service.

Alastair Brown, senior partner at FDR Law, said: "This is a great way for people to support a worthwhile cause and get a vital legal document drawn up at the same time. "Too many people put off making a will until it's too late. Hopefully the

charity will-writing week will give many local residents the prompt they need to put their affairs in order for

the future. "Last year FDR raised more than £3,600 for St Rocco's and this year we are hoping to do even better. It costs nearly £8,000 a day to run the hospice, so every pound we raise makes an important contribution.

To book an appointment call 01925 23000 (Warrington Office) or 01925 604713 (Stockton Heath Office) or 01928 739300 (Frodsham Office). Extra charges may apply for more complex wills.

Fire service to review equipment following canal tragedy



CHESHIRE Fire and Rescue Service is to review the provision of equipment on fire engines following the tragic incident when a 72-year-old woman died after her car plunged into the Manchester Ship Canal at Stockton Heath.

But local councillor Mike Biggin - a member of the Cheshire Fire Authority says he is absolutely confident Cheshire has the very best equipped and train firefighters in the UK and that Warrington has the best water rescue capability in the service area.

The tragedy occurred on March 12 when a car driven by great grandmother Valerie Pritchard, of Grappenhall, crashed through metal railings in Ellesmere Road, Stockton Heath and fell into the canal.

A police officer and a member of the public made vain attempts to



rescue her from the car.

Cllr Biggin said the fire and rescue service was called at 16.00 hours and deployed four appliances, a boat and an aerial platform.

An appliance from Stockton Heath was at the scene in just over five

minutes and the boat arrived within seven minutes.

Cllr Biggin said: "As you can imagine, one of the first operations was to assist the would-be rescuers - a policeman and a member of the public - to safety whilst preparing the appropriate procedures.

"A swift water trained firefighter entered the water immediately but clearly it is 10 metres or so deep at this point so a further two swift water technicians were deployed with the raft.

"The boat was launched using the aerial appliance due to the banks being so steep and the Police Diving

Team joined the operation. "The service is to review the provision of equipment as a result of this incident and will consider whether sledges or rafts could be added to each appliance along with water trained personnel.

" My personal view is that this would be preferable to a further boat which isn't really suitable for rapid deployment and, anyway, it arrived remarkably quickly from its base in Warrington.

Cllr Biggin is to attend a training session with crews in the near future so he has a clearer understanding of the capability of their work. He added: "As a member of the fire

authority I am absolutely confident that we have the very best equipped trained firefighters in the UK and which is endorsed by our national awards in that respect and authority members are party to continuous reviews and improvements in provision across Cheshire.

"Indeed Warrington has the best water rescue capability in the service area which will be further augmented with the possible addition of rafts."

Developer loses Alpacas appeal

A GOVERNMENT-appointed planning inspector has thrown out an appeal by Warrington property developer Brian Foden against the refusal of permission for a building for storage and accommodation for special breed Alpacas.

He says the single storey building on farm land adjoining Barondale Grange, Stockport Road, Thelwall would unduly erode the openness of the Green Belt site and materially detract from its intrinsic semi-rural character.

Warrington Borough Council refused planning consent for the development in May last year and Mr Foden subsequently appealed. The inspector, Gary Deane, said the proposed building would not be inappropriate development in the Green Belt.

But it would be a sizable structure with a rudimentary, utilitarian built form in a pleasant, grass area with well established trees.

He ruled it would harm the openness, character and appearance of the Green Belt.

The inspector also expressed the view that even allowing for a greater number of animals to be bred and sold at the location, the sale of fur at much higher price in a niche market and significant economies of scale in buying items such as hay in bulk, there was little to indicate that the enterprise would achieve a net financial return in the longer term.

Stockto

Linda Crowder – Stockton Heath Travel

-Advertiser's announcement

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WHY not visit Buenos Aires and discover Argentina's bustling capital city with all of its charm and history.

From here you can visit Iguazu Falls with its jungle, nature and endless wildlife or relax and explore the beautiful surrounding National Park. At Iguazu you can walk along the boardwalks on the Argentinean side to get a close up look of the Falls, then head off to the Brazilian side for a more panoramic view.

A visit to Bariloche, which is situated in the Argentinean Lake District, famous for its crystal clear lakes, rolling mountains and picturesque towns. Excellent for walkers to explore the many trails that cross the landscape and the area is also great for those who love the water, with kayaking and white water rafting.

Visit the quaint alpine town of El Calafate where you can see the awe inspiring Perito Moreno Glacier one of the most famous sights in Argentina. The glacier can be viewed from the various viewing platforms and walkways in the National Park. The best time to go is September to November for sightseeing or February to April.

The Pampas is the land of the native cowboys who can still be seen



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Magnificent seven transform woodland garden

SEVEN artists have transformed a woodland garden into an open-air art exhibition at one of Cheshire's finest country homes.

Arley Hall, near High Legh, invited the artists to draw inspiration from The Grove before positioning their sculptures amongst the flowering shrubs and exotic trees.

Among the new additions are a lifesize stag made of willow, a mosaic butterfly, three greyhounds and a fullsize cow with her calf. Arley's General Manager Steve

Arley's General Manager Steve Hamilton said he hoped the sculptures and art in The Grove would provide a new talking point for visitors.

"All art is subjective, but we hope the pieces will stimulate debate amongst visual art enthusiasts whilst others will just marvel at the skill of local craftsmen," he said.

"We're delighted with the range and quality of the pieces that have been produced and they have really added to the visitor experience at Arley."

Angela Sidwell, from Wincham, has created two pieces called 'Flesh and Blood' – a full-size cow with calf made from wire and potato sacks – and 'Whistle and I'll Come to You' which takes the form of two greyhounds made from wire, fabric and fabric hardener.

"Arley provides an incredible backdrop to display my work so it is a great honour to be asked to be involved in this project," she said. Angela's artwork will sit alongside work by six other artists who have used metals, glass, sandstone and wood to create their pieces. Among them is Andrew Worthington, from Kelsall, who has four sculptures on display, which will be seen by thousands of visitors over the summer.

"I have created the sculptures to give the feeling that they have always belonged in the garden and have evolved naturally with the landscape," he said.

In total there are more than 30 pieces in the outdoor exhibition and some are for sale. Visitors to Arley Hall will be handed a map of The Grove to guide them around the exhibits.

As well as life-size animals there are also ornate, colourful abstract pieces as well as a beautiful seat.

Arley will be hosting the exhibition throughout the summer. As well as The Grove there is also the renowned double herbaceous border – believed to be the first of its kind in England – kitchen and walled gardens as well as a magnificent hall.

"The sculptures are an exciting addition to what we already offer and we hope the public support these local artists by visiting and possibly even buying their work," said Steve Hamilton.

Arley Hall is is signposted off the A556 near junction 19 of the M6. For more details go to www. arleyhallandgardens.com Right: Juliette Hamilton with her magnificent willow stag whose antlers will continue to grow throughout the summer.

Below: Angela Sidwell, from Wincham, with her 'Flesh and Blood' creation which takes the shape of a full-size cow with calf.











The Budget 2014

On 19th March George Osborne produced one of the most radical budgets I have ever seen. It was a real budget for savers. And in line with countries like Denmark, Australia, and the United States we now have a choice on what to do with our pensions. I must admit I never expected this to happen so quickly, but something like this had to be done. Why? Because we are sitting on a pension time bomb. People are simply not saving anywhere near enough for later life. So the removal of the requirement to buy an annuity with the remainder of your pension fund after taking what most people regard as a small amount of tax free cash is most welcome.

I have heard people say it will lead to poverty because some may rush out and spend all of their money. Personally I don't think this will happen. People are not that silly. If you have a pension fund that you have accumulated over say 25 years and it has \pounds 200k in it, you are hardly going to rush out and buy a Bentley at 65 just because you can. And if you do, and you don't mind then living on \pounds 145 per week, then that is your choice. It is your money.

There will of course be the need to take advice on how best to take your retirement funds at your chosen



retirement age. What the budget has done is given the public control in this area. You can now make better use of your pension fund and maybe even control the amount of tax that you eventually end up paying. So in my opinion the budget was a fantastic success. If you need to speak to us about your retirement or investment planning then please contact us at the Stockton Heath office.

Don Wernham Financial Planner

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NEW LOOK

Relationships count as Handelsbanken celebrate five years in town



HANDELSBANKEN, the local relationship bank, has celebrated its 5th anniversary serving personal and business banking customers in Warrington. Since opening its doors on Centre Park in 2009, the branch has grown rapidly through recommendation.

Handelsbanken has over 800 branches in 24 countries, and is judged one of the world's strongest banks*. In Britain, the bank has been able to more than double its branch network since the financial crisis began, today supporting customers in 172 communities across the country.

172 communities across the country. Due to its strong focus on longterm relationships and high levels of personal service, Handelsbanken was recently rated top for customer satisfaction for the fifth year running in an independent survey of British banks' personal and business customers.

The Warrington branch's experienced team of five local bankers has developed steadily and today supports a wide range of customers with their banking needs.

Branch Manager Lesley Cozens puts this success down to a unique combination of customer satisfaction, local decision making, and the bank's financial strength and stability, adding: "We've been greatly encouraged by the response of local firms, individuals, and the professional community. It demonstrates a clear demand for our traditional values of excellent personal service, long-term customer satisfaction, and sound banking advice based only on our customers' needs."

Handelsbanken's strongly decentralised approach gives branch teams full power to make decisions locally, meaning customers benefit from genuinely bespoke banking and swift, clear decisions.

At a time when financial strength and stability are crucial to customers, Handelsbanken has been rated one of the strongest banks in the world by financial information provider Bloomberg*. This reflects the bank's long-term focus and prudent, consistent approach to banking throughout all economic conditions.

150th May Day festival



Tatton MP George Osborne with this year's Knutsford "Royal" May Queen Jasmine Dines (left) and last year's Queen Jenny Warburton at a special exhibition to mark the 150th anniversary of Knutsford May Day which takes place on Saturday May 3. The free exhibition runs until June 29 at Knutsford Heritage Centre. LONDON Shoes

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WARBINGTON

Bellhouse gets a facelift

THE Bellhouse - the lounge bar at Grappenhall Community Centre in Bellhouse Lane – has undergone a complete refurbishment.

Work has been going on over the last few months and the result is a plush, new comfortable lounge bar area. Manager Pauline McManus said: "We have brought the bar into the 21st

century, but without losing any of its charm. "We have given it a traditional feel with a modern twist, using fabulous old

oak panelling from the original bar, plus wooden floors, comfortable seating and new carpeting. "Anyone who hasn't been to see us recently should pop in - and don't forget

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Advertiser's announcement

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- topics includingFertility problems who and when to investigate
- What difference do time lapse and preimplantation genetic screening make?
- Individualised stimulation protocols - the end of one size fits all
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- Fertility support and when is it dangerous to know too much

Refreshments and free parking are provided.

The event is free to attend but places must be reserved in advance.

Please contact Annette Eckersley, Education Manager, at education@ reproductivehealthgroup.co.uk to reserve your place or book online at www.reproductivehealthgroup.co.uk

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Money Column By Margaret Black

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MOTORING

A car designed by drivers – not designers

MAZDA produced more than one million vehicles powered by its new SkyActiv engines in just two years and four months and the latest, the all new Mazda 3 is expected to give a major boost to that impressive statistic.

Available as a five-door family hatchback and also a sleek, "fastback" saloon, it offers a blend of performance and economy that

competitors struggle to match. It has been described as a car designed by drivers rather than by designers and, in both versions, is certainly easy on the eye.

Mazda prefers to buck the trend on engine size and claims its more efficient SkyActiv power unit is superior in most circumstances to the smaller, turbo motors favoured by competitors. It's quiet, provides lively acceleration and economy that makes the diesel version seem an option only for those clocking up high mileages.

The range of equipment is almost awe-inspiring and designed to make driving safer, more enjoyable and, of course, less costly. Much of it can be turned off by drivers who find it all a bit too much but it is worth persevering to gain the full benefits

of the technology. Having the option of the sleeker fastback is a considerable benefit. It is slightly more aerodynamic and is none the worse for resembling a scaled-down version of the much larger Mazda 6.





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What's on in the villages

May 17 LTVE AT S WILFRID'S Chetham's School of Music. Stylish music-making from the famous music school, including soloists, chamber ensembles and the orchestra, Serenata Strings. St Wilfrid's Church, Grappenhall. 7.30pm.

May 13 STOCKTON HEATH PARISH COUNCIL Sandy Lane Centre, Stockton Heath. 7.30pm

May 20 APPLETON PARISH COUNCIL Parish Hall, Dudlow Green Road. 7.30pm

May 15 GRAPPENHALL & THELWALL PARISH COUNCIL Council Offices, Bellhouse Lane. 7.30pm

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

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

BRIDGE CLUB Grappenhall Village Sports Club Stockton Lane. 7.30pm. Details 01928 712233 LADIES' FRIENDSHIP CLUB The Quays Community Centre, Thelwall New Road, Thelwall. 8pm. Details: 01925 264099

HIGH LEGH RUBBER BRIDGE CLUB Village Hall, 7-10pm. Details: Audrey Greaves 0161 904 0120

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

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

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

Every fourth Monday MARLFIELD WI Grappenhall Community Library, Albert Road, Grappenhall. 7.30pm

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

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

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

Every Wednesday APPLETON HALL BADMINTON CLUB September - April at Hall Drive, Appleton. 7.30-10pm. Details: 01925 262356

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

GRAPPENHALL WI Grappenhall Community Centre, Bellhouse Lane 2.15pm

Z-159III 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



Accountants pledge support for hospice

ACCOUNTANTS Walker Begley are the latest company to pledge their long term support for St Rocco's Hospice.

The Grappenhall based accountancy firm, with clients based across the country, formalised their support for the hospice by joining the St Rocco's Patrons Association. The scheme, in which companies pledge to raise £5000 a year for three years, will ensure long term funding for patients at the Hospice.

"We are proud to support such a worthy cause" said Walker Begley Director Kevin Walker.

'We have supported St Rocco's in a variety of ways over the years, including taking part in their events and in the 2013 Corporate Challenge. This year we plan to pull out all the stops. We are participating in trekking events, entering a team in St Rocco's Dragon Boat race and I have even agreed to dance in the Strictly St Rocco's competition in December -something which will take me right



out of my comfort zone!"

Walker Begley is a chartered accountancy practice, founded in 1999. There are four directors and 15 staff including experienced managers and specialists in taxation and management reporting. The firm acts for a wide range of clients in business. industry, the professions, the arts and the entertainment world. They include privately owned businesses operating nationally and internationally, professional practices, partnerships, limited liability partnerships, sole traders and self employed individuals.

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awarded Grappenhall DENTAL PRACTICE defibrillator grant

A VILLAGE bowling club is celebrating after being awarded funding to purchase a defibrillator.

Bowling club

Stockton Heath Seniors Bowling Club, who play in Alexandra Park, won

a grant from the local area fund, The fund offers community groups grants of up to £2,000 for projects that contribute to the priorities for the area.

The defibrillator will be on site and can be used by any member of the bowling club or park visitor.

Early bird swimmers wanted

Early Birds Swimming Club based at Broomfields Leisure Centre, Stockton Heath is a relaxed swimming group which swims at the civilised time of 7.45 am.

All abilities welcome and members are currently aged in their 40's - 80's. The small friendly club provides up

to 1 hour exercise swimming, five days per week at £60.00 per quarter year. Want to try a session for free? please contact:

Alan Humphries - 0789 6135494, Julie Mainwaring - 01925 860055 or Steve Caslin - 07999 487925.



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