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Cheshire's Community Magazine

Issue 128 November 2011 FREE

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Opinion

THE vexed question of public toilets in Stockton Heath - or rather the lack of them - has been appearing on the agenda at parish council meetings for longer than we care to contemplate.

Unfortunately, little appears to have been achieved since the toilets were closed by Warrington Borough Council in January 2007, allegedly because they had acquired a certain reputation but more likely to be because of cost.

The parish council has a working party considering the situation and various suggestions have been put forward - some realistic and others less so. These have included asking local banks to pay, asking shopkeepers or pubs to make their toilets available to the public, converting half the toilet block into a shop to finance the convenience or even installing an automated superloo where the cost of spending a penny was estimated at £18 several years ago.

Despite all this, the borough council had steadfastly refused to contemplate reopening the toilets.

So different to the situation in the Cheshire East village of Audlem where, under a scheme to transfer some services from the borough to parish councils, the parish council has agreed to take over the local loo.

The deal is a triumph for localism - and it has meant the newly refurbished toilets are open and available to the public again. It is, in fact, the first of number of transfers of assets and services from borough to parish councils.

Maintenance and running of the toilets is now in the hands of local people, who are best placed to decide how they should be managed.

We wonder whether something similar could work at Stockton Heath.

IT has been talked about since 1962 but, really, it is still little more than a gleam in some highway planner's eye - the A556 link road between the M56 and the M6 in Cheshire.

Sometimes it's been "on" and sometimes "off" but the current position is that construction could start as early as

2013-14. And that has caused concern at High Legh, where the parish council has discovered it could result in a feeder road leading directly into local lanes never intended to cater for the weight of traffic that can be expected.

We say "discovered" because no-one had seen fit to communicate with High Legh Parish Council, nor local residents, on the issue.

More than 150 people attended a meeting of the council when representatives of the Highways Agency apologised for the oversight and gave details of the options being considered.

The proposals did not go down well - in fact they left local people wondering if the highway planners had ever visited the area in drawing up their plans or whether, perhaps, they had just drawn lines on a map.

Details were given of numerous accident "hot spots" apparently not known to the Highways Agency - accidents often not reported because the damage is only to hedges, verges, fences, road signs or private property.

The proposals were condemned as a blight on the rural landscape, risking damage to the Green Belt and local heritage areas. There were also claims the whole scheme was unviable because it was based on out-of-date assumptions.

On the plus side, the Highways Agency representatives promised to take away all the information and take it into account. They also promised formal consultation within a few months.

Whether or not it will make any difference we cannot pretend to know. But at least residents got a chance to have their say.

Time for Tots!

ZOO ranger Peter Dean Cookson organised a special "time for tots event" at Walton Hall and Gardens.

William Penrose and Olivia Jones both aged 2 are pictured proudly showing off their Donkey Hand Puppets they made during the session at Walton Park Children's Zoo.



A purple 'first' for village

STOCKTON Heath has become the first village in the UK to receive a Purple Flag - an award which recognises high standards of management of the area at night.

The award is usually only given to towns and cities which have safe and secure night time economies.

Stockton Heath's award - from the Association of Town Centre Management (ATCM) - arises from the work of a local partnership - The Stockton Heath Early Evening Economy Working Group.

In recent years, the village has undergone a transformation with the opening of numerous restaurants, bars and cafes.

At first the increased evening activity led to problems of increased noise and anti-social behaviour - leading to the setting up of the working group.

Local MP David Mowat (pictured) said: "To become the first village to receive an award usually reserved for towns is a tremendous honour for Stockton Heath and it hasn't happened by accident. Stockton Heath Parish Council and its individual Councillors deserve tremendous credit for all their hard work, as do officers of the Borough Council.

Stockton Heath is now a thriving village, both during the day and later in the evening. That inevitably causes tensions with local residents, but this award clearly shows

that a sensible balance is being achieved."

Cllr Terry O'Neill, leader of

Warrington Borough Council, said: "We wanted to broaden the appeal of the area to families and to celebrate what Stockton Heath village has to offer its residents and visitors alike.

"Purple Flag is the first step in helping us to do this. It's been a real team effort involving the parish council, local councillors, residents representatives, local Youth Parliament member, the licensing trade, police, fire service and neighbourhood board.

"We recognise that there is always more that can be done to make further improvements but the village is right to be proud of this fantastic achievement".

ATCM chief executive Martin Blackwell said: "It's a real pleasure to be awarding Purple Flag status to Stockton Heath. The partnership has worked extremely hard to develop and



improve the evening economy and has been justly rewarded. It demonstrates that the village is a place for everyone and we were highly impressed by its unique identity."

Anyone who wants to find out more or help the working group in Stockton Heath, should contact Dave Watson at Warrington Council on 01925 442590.

For more information visit www.purpleflag.org.uk

Festival could be hit by Queen's Jubilee

FEARS that next year's celebrations of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee may have an adverse impact on the popular Stockton Heath Festival have been sounded.

Stockton Heath Parish Council has formed a working group to plan Jubilee events such as 1950s-themed dances and football matches, a party in the park and bunting in the village.

Cllr Stephen Taylor said suggestions were rolling in for the celebration next June.

Members approved an idea to rename the Mill Lane Playing Field as the Queen Elizabeth II Field.

But they had reservations about Cllr Taylor's application for an £8,000 working budget - even though it included a donation to the festival.

The application was referred to the Planning, Finance and General Purposes Committee.

Members were worried that major celebrations would have an adverse impact on the July festival.

Festival founder Cllr Tudor Pole said: "We don't want them to steal the thunder of the festival with big-style entertainment."

He said the ideas put forward would need masses of people to organise them.

Cllr Peter Walker was also concerned that there could be problems if major celebrations conflicted with the festival.

Cllr Dorothy Robb asked where the parish council would get the money from for the Jubilee celebrations.



She said: "The source of our money is the ratepayers and I do not think we can afford this.

"It is an enormous amount of

money to go towards a party. I think we mustn't get too ambitious."

But Cllr Taylor said the full budget may not be spent and activities could be kept to what the parish wanted.

Cllr Pole suggested the celebrations should be focused on the idea of a picnic in the park. This would cost nothing as everyone would bring their own food.

Anyone interested in helping organise the Jubilee celebration should contact the parish council clerk on 01925 210558 or email clerk@stocktonheathpc.org.uk

Students help promote college

MORE than 60 proud students showed their parents and prospective newcomers around Appleton College during a bustling Open Evening.

The sixth form college for Bridgewater High School was a hive of activity with over 60 student helpers acting as tour guides for several hundred visitors. The helpers showed visitors around the building, introduced them to subjects and teachers, and talked about their own studies and ambitions.

Head teacher Tim Long said he was pleased that so many students had helped on the night. He said: "We are also proud that the students who took AS and A Levels this year helped maintain the school's consistently high A Level achievements. A vast majority of students were able to attend their university of first choice.

"Meanwhile at AS level we gained the highest ever results in the number of students achieving an A or B grade, which shows that Appleton College offers an excellent environment to help students to reach their potential."

Some of the students who acted as guides for the night (top row) Jonathan Reilly, Robert Daulby, Lewis Schafer, Natalie Lyons, Megan Hensley, Abigail Taylor, (front row) Matthew Lawton, Chris Whooley, Amy Gopin, Elizabeth Heaven.



Advertiser's announcement

The beautiful city of Lisbon

Summer is fading fast and for some people the prospect of a ski holiday gives them something to look forward to whilst others are thinking of a short weekend break to tide them over the long winter months.

Recently, I was given the opportunity of spending three nights in the beautiful city of Lisbon, the capital city of Portugal, which is situated at the mouth of the River Tagus as it opens into the Atlantic Ocean. It is blessed with a wonderful climate with gentle breezes during the summer months and mild sunny days during the winter.

It has been 22 years since I last visited the city and there has been an amazing transformation. Modern, bold architecture has sprung up above and between the original colonial-style facades. Tree-lined boulevards connect lush parks with the steep winding cobbled streets of the old town, some of which lead down to give glimpses of the deep blue Atlantic Ocean below.

Lisbon is built on seven hills and steeped in history. There are wonderful views to be found from the Castelo de Sao Jorge - a magnificent hill-top castle dating back to the 5th century. It is also worth spending time at Belem situated on the banks of the river. Here you can visit the Torre de Belem (Tower of Belem) built between 1515-1521, the Padrao dos Descobrimentos (the Monument to the Discoveries) and the Mosteiro dos



Jeronimos (Jeronimo's Monastery). The central part of the city is small and almost all the sights (with the exception of Belem) are located within walking distance of each other. For those not able to walk too far there is a small metro system covering the central part of Lisbon as well as a scenic restored 19th century tram system. The first tram line, line 28, runs around the centre of the old town whilst the second, tram line, line 15, runs from the old town out to Belem.

After all that sightseeing it is time to sit in one of the many restaurants, bars or cafes.

Just down from the Monastery is a wonderful old cafe, the Antiga Confeitaria de Belem, established in 1837, and is a warren of tiny rooms where you can stand at the bar or sit at one of the many tables and watch the world drift by whilst sampling their famous pastry.

Another must is dinner in the many fado restaurants. Fado is the national music of Portugal and is widely enjoyed in a number of restaurants, particularly around the Bairro Alto district of Lisbon. Portugal's gastronomic history includes the cuisine introduced by settlers from as far away as Hungary, Morocco, Brazil, Mexico and China. As a great sea port fish and seafood is plentiful and a whole new area of restaurants and bars have been made out of converted warehouses in Doca de Santo Amaro along the river and underneath the famous Ponte 25 de Abril. All of these can be washed down with reasonably priced beers and the wines of Portugal offer very good value for money and most are



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There are many places to visit outside Lisbon but an absolute must is Sintra which is 20 miles north of Lisbon and is easily reached by train for approximately four Euros return. It is one of the oldest and most beautiful little towns of Portugal and inspired Lord Byron as well as many other poets and writers. Places to visit include an 8th century castle, a Franciscan monastery and the Palacio Nacional.

Another interesting place to visit is the pretty coastal town of Cascais. Again easily accessible by train just 15 miles away and costing approximately four Euros return. A fashionable resort since the 1870's with two sandy beaches and fabulous fish restaurants.

Lisbon is a fine city to visit for a short or long break with its lovely weather, superb architecture and historical buildings as well as for those with a culinary interest a great tradition for excellent sea food and wine.

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Managing absence

IT may be just the circles I'm mixing with but there seems to be a lot of companies out there offering services that will energise the talents of their staff, or make their managers more "impactful". Which seems odd because the most common question I get asked is about getting staff to work on time in the first place.

In the last Issue I talked about recruiting the right people and if your new employee turns out to be a problem, don't waste time, get someone in who will do the job.

But what about the longstanding member of staff who regularly turns up late, never works past the normal finish time and always appears to need the toilet just after they come back

from lunch. No one wants to be a clock watcher but the truth is, this person is putting more pressure on your other employees as they have to cover. On the other hand if their lateness is not affecting other staff you should ask yourself why you need to employ them at all?

You can make a simple start by telling people that you expect them to

arrive on time and that if they are late you will start deducting wages for hours not worked. You can tell them that if their timekeeping doesn't improve then they may face disciplinary action. You can also ask your most trusted (and punctual) employee to keep a record of when your employees arrive and leave and report to you every week. You will be surprised how much effect simply starting to monitor time keeping will have on staff.

For more tips on getting staff to work on time keeping and other absence issues Call 07879 551256.

Another award for Corks Out!

AWARD winning Stockton Heath based Corks Out has been announced as the overall winner of the New Zealand Independent Wine Retailer Competition 2011; beating over 50 other retailers.



Rugby World Cup and the top prize was an all expenses paid buying trip to New Zealand in 2012.

David Cox, Director of New Zealand Winegrowers commented, "each year

when the judges come to assess the results they are hugely impressed with the ingenuity and inventiveness that many of the UK's independent retailers put behind promoting New Zealand wines.

Cox continued to say that "although the standard was again very high, nonetheless, the work of Ruth Yates and the Corks Out team tipped the scales for the judges and they were deemed worthy winners. It was the first time that they had participated and not only did Corks Out embrace a wide spectrum of innovative tactics and mechanics to promote their impressive NZ wine range but they also

took the opportunity to take on 21 additional wines an impressive effort."

A delighted Ruth said: "We were amazed to win, what a fantastic accolade. And it just shows that there is a lot more to New Zealand than just Sauvignon Blanc from Marlborough. I am excited about the buying trip, which will help Corks Out to become specialists in this field."

New service centre offers one stop shop

WARRINGTON MB Centre is a new Mercedes and Volkswagen Audi Group independent specialists which has opened at Kingsland Grange, Woolston.

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■ From left, Eirlys Jessop trainee reader, Revd Elaine Chegwin Hall, Shirley Vernon, Michelle Keogh and Michelle Duffield pre-school manager and the children

Pupils praise and play session

YOUNGSTERS from Appleton Thorn Pre-School enjoyed a special Harvest-themed Praise and Play Session.

The children, aged between two and a half and five, enjoyed the celebration at St Cross Church. They all took grocery donations which were later distributed to local charities as part of the church festival. During the session the children enjoyed action songs and made a bible-story themed craft to take home.

Michelle Duffield, pre-school coordinator, said: "We love our outings to St Cross. The Praise and Play sessions incorporate singing, stories and craft, so they are a real hit with our pre-schoolers."

Appleton Parish Vicar Elaine Chegwin Hall said: "The children of Appleton Thorn Pre-School bring the church to life with their enthusiastic singing. "Harvest festival is a meaningful event in the church calendar for all ages, and this is a welcome opportunity for some of our youngest parishioners to help those less fortunate than ourselves."

Village fete boost for charities



■ The Mayor with the Grappenhall Walled Garden team.

ATTRACTIONS ranging from paintings to paella were on offer at Grappenhall Community Centre's Village Fete which helped provide a boost for local charities. Crowds of people turned up throughout the day and helped raise more than £900 which will go towards improvements in the sports hall and the kitchen of the Olde Barn.

Centre manager Pauline McManus said: "We were busy all day, despite the weather. It is one of our main fundraising events and we were pleased it was well supported."

Friends of Grappenhall Community Centre and other volunteers organised a range of stalls including cakes, paella and crafts. Representatives of the Police and Fire service also had stalls.

There was an art exhibition organised by those who attend art classes at the centre. More than 50 works were on show and a £25 voucher for the best piece went to Janice Brown for her work Sunbaked.

During the day five of the works were sold, and the artists donated 10 per cent of the sale to the centre.

The day was opened by the Mayor of Warrington Cllr Mike Biggin. Other charities, Grappenhall Heyes Walled Garden and the Grappenhall Library Project, also raised funds during the day.



■ Youngsters enjoying the go-karts.



■ Peppa Pig welcoming a young fan.



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WINE COLUMN

by Ruth Yates from



Are we being fooled by low priced alcohol?

If you break down all the costs in wine such as Excise Duty, VAT, winery & retailer margin, dry goods and shipping then your £4.99 wine quality is actually worth little more than 24p, yes, that much! And, if it's a big brand name then you can bet you will be paying a little extra for the marketing of the brand too.

There are lots of wines out there that claim to be discounted and half price – The only way you can do this is if you have been charging too much for it in the first place or if you are marking it up to bring it back down again, a subject that has been discussed many a time with regard to supermarkets deals. We all see it and we are all often taken in by the concept, whether it's a packet of chicken or a bottle of wine.

The other important factors to the cost of a bottle of wine that many of us fail to recognise or understand is 'Wine bottled in the UK' and 'Grey Market Stock'.

A wine that is bottled in the UK will certainly be cheaper to the retailer in cost, but what you sacrifice there is quality. These wines are shipped over in bulk in huge tankers rather than in bottles and therefore, have to be doused with a

considerable amount of sulphur as an antiseptic and anti-oxidant and yes, that's the bit that can give you a blinding headache! Many cheaper wines are shipped in this way now to save on costs, in fact if it's less than £5 you can bet it is!

The other one that is very difficult to detect is the 'Grey Market Stock', this is when a wine, usually Champagne, does not come direct from Champagne but often from another country where perhaps the luxury goods market may be in long term decline due to economic difficulty. It may have been sitting for a while in poor storage conditions such as uncontrolled temperatures; very destructive for the wine. Most commonly this happens to Non Vintage Champagne, which is a product that should really only be kept for up to 3 years, however, these champagnes have been known to have been hanging around for a decade or more before they arrive into the UK, therefore a lot cheaper but potentially inferior in quality.

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Yours in Wine
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Student wins bronze award for brick work skills

AN Appleton teenager has won a medal in the UK Skill Build finals after impressing the judges with his brick work skills and now may go forward to represent his country in an international competition in Germany.

Warrington Collegiate student Ashley Terron (pictured) won Bronze in the recent competition and received £200 and a set of tools.

He is now waiting to hear if he will be selected for Team GB at the WorldSkills Championships in Leipzig in 2013.

As a junior Ashley, 19, won the SkillBuild (Northwest) in 2010. He built on that success and this year won the senior competition with one of the highest scores in the country.

The competition awards students for their brickwork skills and is organised by Construction Skills and endorsed by UK Skills.

Ashley said: "I'm absolutely over the moon. It was tough completing a neat construction with so much of the bricklaying in challenging and awkward positions, but I'm proud that I was able to complete the job to a professional standard."

"I know the tests will be even more difficult if I make it to the world final but I'd love this experience to continue."

Curriculum manager Paul Gould said: "Ashley is a talented student and I'm sure he will go far. He has a great future ahead of him. These types of

competitions, not only raise the profile of the construction industry but they also demonstrate the high level of skills training which is undertaken here at Warrington Collegiate.

"Ashley has great career prospects ahead of him, in a very diverse construction industry."

Ashley works for Peter Terron Brickwork Contracting Limited. After completing his studies at the collegiate he is now studying at the University of Salford for an HNC in Construction and Property Management.



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Sporty - but 'sensible'



EARLIER this year, the 100,000th Audi A1 rolled off the assembly line - a considerable achievement for a model only introduced in the middle of last year.

The A1 is Audi's most compact model at 3.95 metres (just under 13ft) in length but it packs a lot into the space and with its powerful engines and agile chassis is one of the sportiest cars in its sector. Yet, at the same time, among a clutch of awards it has won are two for "the most sensible car."

There's a choice of six four-cylinder engines, three TFSI engines and three TDI units. All impress with exemplary fuel economy, ranging from 39.87 to 61.90mpg.

Out of the blue - a new colour for a new car!

BLUE is the colour most drivers would choose for their car if they had a choice, closely followed by silver and black, according to a poll of nearly 16,000 AA members.

Brown, gold and yellow were the least popular colours - but these days, quite a few drivers end up with a colour that would not have been their first choice anyway.

Perhaps surprisingly, younger drivers seem to have a preference for black. One in three 18-34 year olds would pick a black car if they had a choice but only one in six actually has a black car.

Just 13 per cent of 18-34 year olds would pick a silver car, yet 22 per cent have one.

Overall, a desire for silver can be satisfied, with 22 per cent of the entire sample wanting a silver car and 25 per cent having one. The same goes for red, blue and white, although the 208 brown car owners (1 per cent) must be the most frustrated as almost no-one wants one (0.27 per cent).

Silver is the favourite of the grey-haired driver, being the number one choice of AA members aged 55-64 (23 per cent) and 65 and over (30 per cent). It is a desire they satisfy, with the highest proportion of 55-64 year olds having one (25 per cent) and also those aged 65 or more (31 per cent).

One of the attractions of silver is the feeling that it is by far the easiest to keep clean. Some 27 per cent of survey respondents believe it is the colour that shows dirt the least. Gold, yellow, green and white cars were voted the least easy to keep clean.

When it comes to selling a car, AA members consider that there are only two clear contenders for most saleable colours: silver (28 per cent) and black (15 per cent). Once again, the youngest drivers favour black (21 per cent) but AA members aged 25 or more increasingly bet on silver to sell first.

AA president Edmund King said: "Brighter coloured cars, which have been popular in the past when the economy was more buoyant, seem to have slipped way down the league. The results show a discrepancy between desired colour of choice and actual colour of car as often the owner may not have a choice.

"For younger drivers that hanker after black cars but end up with lighter-coloured ones, there is a silver lining in that if they hang on to them they will grow to prefer them.

"Whilst blue was the colour more drivers wanted to own, silver clearly tops the league when it comes to the car colour most likely to sell quickly, most fashionable and easiest to keep clean."

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Money Column

By Margaret Black

Maximising tax allowances on commercial property

On May 31st 2011 HM Revenue & Customs ('HMRC') issued a consultation paper proposing major changes to the rules that allow capital allowances claims for plant and machinery fixtures in buildings. This will affect all property owner-occupiers and investors. The changes, if (as widely expected) passed into law, will come into effect from 6 April 2012.

The proposals will force claims for capital allowances to be made within one year of when it is spent. If this is not done then no capital allowances claims will be available to either the original owner or any subsequent purchaser. It is likely that all expenditure incurred prior to that date will also be subject to this restriction.

HMRC is also proposing to require owners in future to submit a

"record of agreement" for all purchases to show how much of the purchase cost relates to plant and machinery. All of this places the burden on the purchasers who need to make the claims within the periods outlined.

These measures are very draconian and could mean that businesses and commercial landlords alike will miss out on allowances that they are strictly entitled to. Assessing what element of fixtures potentially qualifies can range from a review of a works schedule or quotation provided by the builder, to a more detailed survey of the premises.

We recommend that owners who have in recent years acquired new business premises, or have incurred costs on refitting and refurbishment consider their position, before the new legislation takes effect.



David Watkinson and Margaret Black

There is something of a window of opportunity remaining for the tax allowances to be claimed. As well as the time limit restriction, changes in rates of Corporation Tax and a forthcoming reduction in the 'writing down' rates of Capital Allowances will dilute the value of such claims somewhat in future.

The Money Column is provided by **WatkinsonBlack**, Chartered Accountants, 1st Floor, 264 Manchester Road, Warrington, WA1 3RB. Accountants who care, for clients who matter. Please telephone 01925 413210 or e-mail on margaret@warringtonaccountants.co.uk

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What's On in the Villages

November 8
STOCKTON HEATH PARISH COUNCIL
Sandy Lane Centre, Stockton Heath. 7.30pm

November 15
APPLETON PARISH COUNCIL
Parish Hall, Dudlow Green Road. 7.30pm

November 17
LIVE AT ST WILFRID'S
6Pac. Jazz sextet with singer Alice Zadwaski with an evening of standards and new pieces.
St Wilfrid's Church, Grappenhall. 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

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.

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

Second and Fourth Tuesday of each month
STOCKTON HEATH & DISTRICT LIONS
Ram's Head, Grappenhall.

Every Wednesday
APPLETON HALL BADMINTON CLUB
Starting November at Hall Drive, Appleton. 8-10pm.
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 PROBUBS 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.

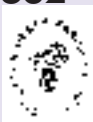
BRIDGE CLUB
Grappenhall Village Sports Club
Stockton Lane. 7.30pm. Details 01928 712233

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

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

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



Drama group's 60th birthday thriller

THELWALL-based drama group the Bridgewater Players will celebrate their 60th anniversary with a production of "Murder in Company."

Members of the audience will be offered a celebratory drink before the curtain rises at Thelwall Village Hall on November 10-12.

Written by Philip King and John Borland, the thriller appropriately revolves around an amateur dramatic group rehearsing for the current production on the stage of a church all.

Events and stresses within the company more than equal those in the play they are to present - and there is also a "prowler" in the neighbourhood who attacks women.

Tickets are available from Thelwall Post Office or by calling 0845 331 2958

Gripping thriller at the Little Theatre

KNUTSFORD Little Theatre present one of most gripping thrillers of all time this month - 'Gaslight' by Patrick Hamilton.

The play provided provided Alfred Hitchcock with one of his first big screen hits and has been a firm favourite among theatregoers for more than 80 years.

Set in foggy London in 1880, the gaslights in the home of recently married Mr and Mrs Manningham provide a menacing atmosphere. What dangers prowl the attics at night? Will Mrs Manningham lose her sanity completely, or is her life in deadly danger?

Audiences at the Queen Street theatre can find out from November 9-12.

Tickets are £7 and may be reserved by calling 01565 873515.

Gift and craft show

MOBBERLEY Pre-School - a registered charity - is holding a children's gifts and craft show at The Victory Hall on November 20, from 11am to 4pm.

There will be a wide range of individual and personalised products suitable as gifts for children and also stalls to interest children.

Anyone interested in hiring a table should call Helen on 07813 927103.

All proceeds are in aid of the pre-school.

Bonfire party

THERE will be a hog roast, music and lights at Mere Parish Council's bonfire and firework party at Mere Parish Club on Saturday, November 5. The event gets under way at 6pm.

Further details from Cllr Neil Stott on 01565 830464 or the council clerk, Kathryn Whitlow, at kathryn.whitlow 2663@btinternet.com

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