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Issue 140 November 2012 FREE

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David Mower - MP for Warrington South

[www.warringtonjobsfair.com](http://www.warringtonjobsfair.com)



# Christmas market

**MULLED wine and mince pies will be on offer when Stockton Heath Festival holds its Christmas Market on Sunday December 2.**

There will be more than 20 stalls in The Forge Shopping Centre between 10am and 3.30pm.

Craft traders will offer unique Christmas gifts and there will be delicious local produce available from

the food stalls. Many of the local shops and cafes will also open for the day.

There will be a chance to win a hamper and enjoy seasonal entertainment. In a special children's area Mother Christmas and her helpers will be storytelling and singing for the under 10s. There will also be a children's tombola and refreshments.

Deborah Cook, festival joint co-ordinating director, said: "We are aiming to provide a really festive atmosphere in the village with something for all ages. Stockton Heath has a unique mix of shops and places to eat and drink so we hope everyone will come down and have a great time."

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**Editor**

Gary Skentelbery

**Production**

Paul Walker

**Account Executives**

James Balme

Nick White

Tony Record

**Advertising**

Freephone

0800 955 5247

**Editorial**

01925 623632

**Email**info@warrington-  
worldwide.co.uk**Websites**

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# Opinion

**IT is easy to pick holes in the arguments put forward for changing the pay-and-display parking arrangements at Stockton Heath and Lymm. Easy, but probably pointless, because it is fairly clear the real reason for the changes is to reduce the heavy losses being stacked up by parking services across the borough of Warrington as a whole.**

The council says the changes are designed to encourage a better "turn around" of shoppers, discourage all-day parkers and introduce consistency across all car parks.

Well, the system that has operated on Lymm's Pepper Street car park in recent years already results in a good turn around so, at most, all that needed to be done was to extend it to the nearby Davies Way and Henry Street car parks.

Instead, the borough ignores the legitimate protests of local people and reduces the free parking period on all car parks from two hours to one. If this makes it easier to park in Stockton Heath and Lymm it will only be because it has driven some shoppers elsewhere.

The borough imposes a £10 all day fee in Pepper Street and a £2 all day fee on the other car parks. Hardly an example of consistency - and do they really believe a £2 fee will deter the all-day parker?

Whether we like it or not, many people do not visit villages like Stockton Heath and Lymm solely to shop. They visit to combine a shopping trip with a relaxing breakfast, morning coffee, lunch or afternoon tea. They will be unable to comfortably do this in an hour, so some will go somewhere else and the village shops will lose trade.

If the borough wants to save money on its parking services it should cut back on the unnecessarily high level of surveillance of car parks and focus the attentions of a much reduced number of parking wardens on motorists who park on yellow lines.

**IT is a bit rich for Cheshire East Council to solemnly declare that among the objectives of its Knutsford Town Strategy are the protection of green spaces such as The Heath, The Little Heath, Knutsford Moor and, would you believe it, Tatton Park.**

At first sight they are surely stating the obvious. No-one in their right mind could ever put forward a plan that posed any kind of a threat to such iconic local landmarks.

Or could they?

The controversial proposals for a theme park within Tatton Park may not originate from Cheshire East, but the council has fuelled speculation of a "done deal" by spending more than £78,000 on various surveys and appraisals in connection with the plans before even considering them - money which surely should have been spent by the applicant rather than the planning authority.

Last month we were pleased to be able to report that Tatton is now one of England's 20 top visitor attractions, along with such world-famed places as the Tower of London, Westminster Abbey and the Houses of Parliament. But this league table is drawn up not by the quality of the attractions but by the number of visitors.

We can't help but worry that the sort of "protection" offered by Cheshire East's strategy might be inspired more by a desire to be top of the pops than a wish to preserve Knutsford's unique heritage.

**THE saga of Cartwright's Field, Stockton Heath, is one we have followed since 2008 when, despite objections from local residents, planning permission was granted for more than 50 homes on land that had for years been simply used for informal recreation.**

An attempt by the residents to save the field by getting it designated a village green failed after a costly public inquiry.

Earlier, security fencing costing £18,000 of public money, had been erected around it.

In the meantime, the original planning consent expired and now the landowner - Warrington Borough Council - has decided it doesn't want to sell to the original applicant - a housing association - anyway.

Talks are now going on to decide the future of the site and residents are hopeful it can still be preserved as a free, open green space.

We wouldn't count on it, however. It is said to be worth £1.6 million.

## Community library receives landfill grant



**Grappenhall Community Library is celebrating after receiving confirmation that they will be receiving a grant of more than £37K towards £50K of essential planned structural improvements. Remaining funds are coming from Grappenhall Parish Council and the Big Lottery Fund, together with funds from friends of the library.**

WREN is a not for profit business that awards grants to community projects from funds donated by FCC Environment (formerly Waste Recycling Group) to the Landfill Communities Fund.

The grant will enable the organisation, now an independent charity operating from the previous Warrington Borough Council library building in Victoria Avenue, to complete a number of building refurbishments.

John Ashby (pictured on the right), board member of the charity commented, "This is excellent news, a fabulous boost from WREN enabling us to improve the building for our activities. Our building will now have new kitchen and

disabled toilet facilities as well as other essential improvements, enabling it to be used to its full potential."

Richard Smith (pictured left), north west grant manager of WREN, said: "WREN makes a difference to people's lives by awarding grants to community, environmental and heritage projects across the UK. We're delighted to support Grappenhall Community Library and their valuable work."

Building work is planned to be completed early in the new year and will underpin new initiatives for activities including mums and tots, groups for retired and older people, as well as generally improving facilities. John added: "With these improvements in place, we will become a meeting place for all sections of the local community".

The library welcomes additional volunteers of all levels as well as community groups. Grappenhall Community Library can be contacted on 01925-268077 or info@grappenhall.org.uk



# Five seek election to new police post

**FIVE** people are seeking election to the new post of Police and Crime Commissioner for Cheshire.

Four are standing as representatives of political parties while one stands as an independent.

Polling takes place on November 15.

The candidates, in alphabetical order, are:

**Ainsley Arnold, Liberal Democrat.** A member of Cheshire Police Authority since 2009 and elected vice chairman in 2010. A councillor for 15 years on Macclesfield Borough Council and Cheshire East Council, he served as executive member of Cheshire East's Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership. He says he is committed to ensuring that Cheshire Police continues to reduce not only crime statistics but also the public's fear of crime.

**Louise Bours, UK Independence Party.** A former borough and town councillor, she is currently at university studying social science. She was Mayor of Congleton in 2006 and says her year in office taught her of the important connection that must exist between the police service and

the local community. She believes it is important for the police to have a robust and comprehensive approach to low-level crime.

**John Dwyer, Conservative.** A former assistant chief constable of Cheshire, he retired 11 years ago after a 30-year police career.

He wants to reduce bureaucracy and return police officers to the streets, increase the number of special constables and would have zero tolerance for "yobbish behaviour." He was a borough councillor at Crewe and Nantwich.

**Sarah Flannery, Independent.** A business owner who has lived in

Cheshire for 30 years, she is a founder member of the Cheshire Independent Network, a group which believes in the importance of genuinely independent representation of the people. She sees the new post as a voice for the people, ensuring police needs are met to reduce crime and to hold the police to account for meeting those needs.

**John Stockton, Labour.** A member of Halton Borough Council's executive board, he recently retired from full-time teaching after 30 years. A member of the Co-operative Party and the unions Unite and NASUWT, he says his central aim would be to protect the most vulnerable members of the communities across Cheshire by ensuring that neighbourhood policing is a priority.



■ Ainsley Arnold, Liberal Democrat.



■ Louise Bours, UK Independence Party.



■ John Dwyer, Conservative.



■ Sarah Flannery, Independent.



■ John Stockton, Labour.

## The race that keeps on growing

THE sixth annual Robert Moffat Memorial High Legh 10k race will take place on Sunday, March 3 - with 100 more places available for runners.

The race around High Legh has grown in popularity each year and has been continually over-subscribed.

Earlier this year, the race was, for the first time, jointly organised by Lymm Runners and the High Legh Community Association and the number of places was increased from 300 to 400. But some would-be entrants still had to be turned away.

Lymm Runners and the association are again joining forces and the number of places for 2013 is being increased to 500.

Club captain and race director Chris Lees said: "We have built a fantastic friendly race that is supported by the whole village, where fast club athletes and part time fitness runners are applauded in equal measure.

The race starts at 11am and entry fee is £13 for affiliated runners and £15 for non-affiliated runners.

The route starts and finishes at High Legh Primary School and refreshments will be provided by the school's PTA.

All runners receive a goody bag including a technical T-shirt.

Entries are now open and, for more information or to enter, visit [www.lymmrunners.org.uk](http://www.lymmrunners.org.uk) or [www.highlegh.org.uk](http://www.highlegh.org.uk)

## Law firm join legal super brand

CHESHIRE law firm Forshaws Davies Ridgway LLP has started a new chapter in its history as part of the legal super brand, QualitySolicitors.

The firm, which has offices in Warrington, Stockton Heath and Frodsham, will be known as 'QualitySolicitors Forshaws Davies Ridgway' and has been rebranded with the distinctive black and pink QualitySolicitors identity. The new website is [www.qualitysolicitors.com/fdr](http://www.qualitysolicitors.com/fdr).

QualitySolicitors Forshaws Davies Ridgway will deliver personal legal services for individuals including litigation, personal injury, family, criminal, wills, probate and conveyancing.

The Commercial Department has retained the distinctive 'fdr' identity, with a dedicated commercial team offering legal services to businesses and is based in a single office at 21 Bold Street, Warrington, supported by its own website, [www.fdrlaw.co.uk](http://www.fdrlaw.co.uk).

The firm joins a rapidly expanding network of 220 QualitySolicitors firms across the UK. The legal super brand has a mission to become a household name, with a presence in every major British town and city. It is building its reputation by offering a range of customer-focused guarantees, including a free first consultation, controlled costs, same day response and access to a named qualified lawyer.

Conveyancing Partner Tim Jordan, believes being part of the QualitySolicitors network will be a

major step forward for both FDR and its clients.

He said: "We are proud to be joining this national organisation which has such an excellent reputation for professionalism and service. We pledge to continue to serve our existing clients with the same expertise but also hope the national reputation of this legal super brand will reassure new clients they can expect a first rate experience from us too."

The legal market place is currently undergoing major upheaval. So-called

'Tesco law' is, for the first time, allowing banks and retailers to provide legal services as an alternative to traditional independent law firms.

In an effort to stay ahead of the competition, QualitySolicitors firms are required to commit to providing the highest levels of customer service.

Craig Holt, QualitySolicitors chief executive, explained: "We will ensure using QualitySolicitors is as familiar and easy as dropping in at your bank or local opticians. We are working hard with our partner firms to transform the service we provide to customers and

make legal services accessible to everyone in a friendly and relaxed environment.

"By providing a recognised and trusted brand name, we will end the need for the time consuming and often stressful task of having to choose between lots of different local firms."

QualitySolicitors is supporting its new partner firms with a major TV advertising campaign. For more information, check out the QualitySolicitors website on [www.QualitySolicitors.com](http://www.QualitySolicitors.com).





Advertiser's announcement

# Alternative family Breaks

It was not too long ago that winter sun holidays were all about the Canaries and the Caribbean.

Ten years ago the idea of suggesting a family break to Abu Dhabi, for example, may have resulted in strange looks! For us rainy-weary Britons, the quality of hotels and climate in the Middle East are amongst the reasons why people choose to go there. A holiday in the Middle East promises something different at every turn. Whether exploring the modernity of Abu Dhabi and Dubai, or the ancient beauty of Petra in Jordan, the deserts of Oman or the coral-rich waters of Fujairah, you can expect a fascinating journey through spectacular history, culture and geography.

There is no doubt that Dubai continues to be very popular as it appeals to all ages – it's a much more familiar and mature destination, so for families it continues to be the number one. However, the capital of the Emirates, Abu Dhabi, is also perfect for families and easy to explore with excellent family-friendly hotels and a brilliant range of excursions. It is certainly becoming one of the fastest growing destinations, and Abu Dhabi is not all about history. A big attraction for families in Abu Dhabi is the world's first Ferrari theme park and the largest attraction of its kind. The park tells the Ferrari story with more than 20 rides and attractions including the world's largest roller coaster.

One of the up and coming winter destinations is Fujairah. With a stunning setting against a majestic mountain backdrop that leads down to the shores of the Gulf of Oman, sleepy Fujairah on the east coast is a low-key destination that is perfect for an affordable relaxing beach stay and family fun. As well as sprawling beaches, with warm water and great coral reefs for snorkelling and diving, you can also book excursions to the Hajar Mountains to see spectacular vistas, small oasis villages and deep canyon scenery.

For winter sun the Middle East as a region is hard to beat. Between October and April the temperature drops to a glorious thirty-something of endless blue skies (something we do not see here very often!). With the direct flight times averaging seven hours, depending on the destination, the region is attractive, affordable and high quality for a family.

Without question Dubai still remains very popular, but if you want a taste of old Arabia with pristine beaches, excellent hotels and a vibrant culture, then Oman is hard to beat. Dubai offers Gap and M&S, whereas Oman boasts 5,000 years of culture. It is the country where the Queen of Sheba had her legendary palace,



■ Linda Crowder – Stockton Heath Travel

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# Top school in tune with students' needs

**REGARDED as one of the very best independent schools in the country Withington Girls' School has given a Lymm youngster full rein to pursue her love of music.**

Talented pianist Sophie Foreman has a second string to her musical talent when it comes to playing in the Hallé Youth Orchestra...as an accomplished violinist.

She has been given full rein at school to pursue her love for music both as an academic subject at GCSE and as an extra-curricular opportunity.

Sophie scored six A\* GCSE passes including music and four at A grade. Former leader of the Warrington Youth

Orchestra, Sophie is taught violin at Withington by Rebecca Thompson, a respected member of the Northern Chamber Orchestra - one of a number of professional musicians teaching instruments at Withington.

Sophie went on tour with the Hallé to Prague during the summer and has been busy playing with the School String Quartet for external engagements during the year. "I am really enjoying studying music at A Level in addition to my other subjects: maths, chemistry and biology; I am planning on reading Dentistry at university."

Meanwhile the school's recent accolades include being again listed

as 'best value independent school in the country' by the Financial Times. It has also been Included in the FT's list of the country's top 20 schools - the only one in the north of England to be listed and has the second best record in the country, and by a margin of less than one per cent, in securing places at the UK's top universities - 92 per cent over three years according to the education charity, the Sutton Trust.

The school has also been accorded beacon status for best practice by the Employers and Education Taskforce when it compiled its 2012 report on careers guidance in schools.

Transport to Withington Girls' School is readily available from Warrington through Grappenhall, Grappenhall Heys, Stockton Heath and Lymm by a dedicated Mayne's bus service.

Sophie is not the only girl from the Warrington area among Withington's academic high flyers who also take full advantage of the vast range of exciting extra-curricular activities available at the school, from Music and Drama to Sport, Mathematics and Science Olympiads, Model United Nations, UK and overseas travel and Duke of Edinburgh's Award and Young Enterprise Schemes.

Take four Appleton 16-year-olds: Holly Brown, whose cousin was also a Withington pupil. She scored eight A\* and two A grades in her GCSE examinations and hopes to read history and politics at university and pursue a career in entertainment law. She visited China with the school at Easter and described the trip as "the experience of a life time."

On the same adventure was Rhona Dawson, who plays clarinet in the school orchestra and is a member of Withington's hockey and lacrosse teams. Rhona achieved eight A\* and three A grades in her GCSE examinations and is now studying A-

level biology, chemistry, physics and maths.

Sarah Jervis scored 10 GCSE A\* grades and covets a career in dentistry after taking her A-levels in maths, further maths, chemistry and biology. As well as her academic work, Sarah will be busy this year fundraising for her place on Withington's World Challenge expedition team heading for the India and the Himalayas next summer.

Esme Elsdon, who gained eight A\* passes and three A grades, is now studying art, history, biology and chemistry at A-level will consider reading medicine, art or history at university. She is an enthusiastic participant in Model United Nations conferences and enjoys contributing to the school magazine. Esme, who plays lacrosse for the school and at county level for Lancashire, has achieved her Duke of Edinburgh Silver award and school trips have taken her to Germany, Russia and China.

Overall, this year's GCSE candidates' pass rate at A\*, A and B grades was 98.6 per cent. The rate at A\* and A was 92.4 per cent and 73.5 per cent of papers - a remarkable 500 in total - achieved straight A\* grades. These outstanding successes were achieved despite Withington's adoption of more demanding qualifications including tougher International GCSE mathematics and science papers and the OCR Level 2 National Award in ICT - deemed more appropriate to pupils' abilities and better preparation for A Level.

At A Level, candidates achieved a 96 per cent pass rate at A\*, A and B grades - ensuring the vast majority secured places on very competitive courses in the highly selective universities of their choice. The pass rate at A\* and A grades was 81 per cent and 32 girls scored passes at A\* and A grades in all their subjects.

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■ Back Row (L-R): Sophie Foreman, Rhona Dawson  
 Front Row: Esme Elsdon, Holly Brown, Sarah Jervis.



# Matt's mountain challenge

**FORMER Bridgewater High School student Matt Preston is taking on the challenge of a lifetime when he attempts to climb North Africa's highest mountain for charity.**

Matt aged 22, is part of a team from across the food and drinks sector that is climbing Morocco's Mt Toubkal to raise funds for Farm Africa.

The UK charity is working to tackle hunger in eastern Africa, not with food aid but through agricultural innovation and business enterprise.

Matt, who is an IT Graduate for ABP UK, was inspired to take up the charity challenge after listening enviously to the stories of friends who have recently raised funds for their own charities. And he is now keenly anticipating the trek after hearing about Andrew Cracknell, another Cheshire man and Commercial Director of ABP UK, who last year climbed Mt Kilimanjaro for Farm Africa, helping to raise a staggering £250,000 for the charity.

He has picked a tough assignment for his first charity challenge. With the

rest of the team, Matt will set off from the foothills of the Atlas Mountains for a three day trek up Mt Toubkal which stands at 4167 metres above sea level. Getting to the top is the equivalent of scaling Europe's tallest building - The Shard in London - thirteen and a half times. And the team will have to cope with reduced oxygen and severe fatigue as they reach the summit.

But far from being daunted, Matt is relishing the challenge to come:

"A lot of my close friends are regularly doing events for charity which I think is amazing. I didn't think twice when the opportunity arose to do something similar."

Matt has put himself under a strict training regime ever since he joined the team. He has been tiring himself out on his bike and has even put himself on a healthier diet to make sure he is in the best of shape before flying to Morocco.

And while he cannot wait for the trek to start, he already knows what he will be looking forward to once he's successfully completed the climb: "watching Liverpool beat Everton on

the weekend of my return, with my girlfriend and a pint!"

To help encourage Matt as he prepares for the climb donations can be made via his online fundraising page: <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/MatthewPreston>



## Villagers' fury over axed free school buses

VILLAGERS at Grappenhall and Thelwall are furious over the axing of a free school bus to take local children on the four-mile trip to Lymm High School.

After an unsuccessful campaign to persuade education chiefs to change their minds, they are considering a complaint to the Local Government Ombudsman.

Nearly 60 residents demonstrated outside Warrington Town Hall before the borough council's executive board meeting. But the executive voted unanimously to end free home-to-school transport, except where legally obliged to do so.

Hundreds of children will be affected - mostly from Grappenhall and Thelwall.

Residents claimed a statutory consultation carried out by the borough was flawed because it took place during the summer holidays and was too complex for many people to understand.

They claim Lymm High School will be left with too few pupils as there are too few children in the immediate Lymm area.

The borough says it is forced to end discretionary free school transport because it has lost £20 million as a result of government cutbacks.

Ending free school buses next September will save about £180,000.

Residents spokesman Ken Edwards said the fight would go on with lobbying of councillors who are not members of the executive board and a possible complaint to the Ombudsman.

He said: "This executive board has the bare faced cheek to allocate £370,000 to their 'executive initiatives fund' to pay for council entertainment and at the same time cut front line services we pay for out of our taxes."



## Planning chief will fight housing proposals

THE chairman of Knutsford Town Council's planning committee has pledged to fight to reduce the number of new homes proposed in the controversial draft strategy for the town.

Cllr Peter Raynes said: "The message I am getting from people is that they want fewer new houses, so that is the message I will be passing on."

The strategy forms part of Cheshire East Council's draft Local Plan and sets out a vision for the town for the years up to 2030.

### Angered

A first round of consultation on the proposals, which ran until October 1, has angered residents - many of who claim they only learned about it when it was too late to contribute.

But a second round is to take place in January and an opportunity to meet the leader of Cheshire East Council, Cllr Mike Jones, will come at a special meeting at the St John's Wood Community Centre on November 14, at 7.30pm.

Cllr Raynes said: "There is still time for people to have an input to the strategy and it is important that they do."

Knutsford Town Council is not making a submission on the proposals. But individual members are doing.

"We all have our own different opinions so we will be making individual responses rather than a group one. I am sure all councillors will be making responses and they certainly won't agree with everything in the strategy," said Cllr Raynes.

The strategy sets out a need for 460-1,280 dwellings and identifies 20 potential development sites - seven of which are "favoured"

These include Green Belt areas between Northwich Road, Tabley Road, Manchester Road and Mereheath Lane, land adjoining the Parkgate Trading Estate and land south of Longridge, near to Booth's Mere.

Controversially, they include the grounds of Knutsford Football Club and Knutsford Cricket Club which could be "moved" further away from the town centre.

There are plans for a hotel, a golf club a housing estate and an employment area off Mereheath Lane.

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# The best kept village in Cheshire

**THE tiny village of Pickmere - population about 550 - has been named the best kept community in the whole of Cheshire.**

Sitting on the banks of the attractive lake which bears its name, the village came first in the annual Community Pride competition for villages with a population of 401-600.

It then went on to claim the "Championship Award" for the best kept community in the county.

Pickmere also picked up a "Little Gem" award for the iron gates at the IROS (Informal Recreational Open Space). The gates were designed by local resident, Christine Wilcox-Baker.

Last year, the village did not even enter the competition after several years of achieving only low scores.

Another tiny village picked up a hat-trick of awards. Hatton was runner up for the best kept village with a population of under 400, was highly commended in the Community Spirit Award and claimed a Little Gem award for its innovative library in a disused telephone kiosk.

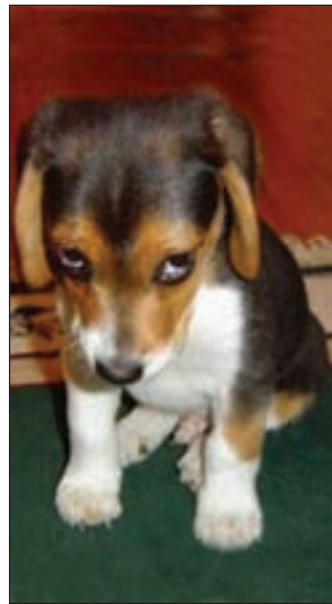
The Community Spirit Award was won by Hankelow and the Community Safety Award went to Warmingham

Other "community pride" awards went to:

Congleton (population 10,001-30,000), Frodsham (5,001-10,000), Tarporley (2,501-5000) Tattenhall (1,001-2,500), Antrobus (601-1,000), Pickmere (401-600), Warmingham.(Under 400).

The Community Pride Awards (formerly known as the Best Kept Village Awards) are organised by the charity.

## Wanted: a dog that's not too cuddly!



REHEARSALS are well under way for Knutsford Musical Theatre Company's New Year production of "Oliver!"

But one starring role has not yet been cast - and is proving a problem.

Villain of the piece Bill Sykes has a dog, Bullseye, who is, well, a bit fearsome.

So far only one candidate has come forward - Fido, who is a bit on the weedy side.

He's cute and cuddly - but he doesn't make a very convincing attack dog.

So anyone with a well-behaved, but fearsome looking pooch who has a desire to tread the boards, should get in touch

"Oliver!" is to be staged at The Grange Theatre, Hartford, on January 16-19, produced by Ben Ireson with Nick Montague as musical director.

Rehearsals are at Shaw Heath Social Club, Knutsford and anyone who wants to get involved - whether on two legs or four - should contact Linda on 01565 873285 or check out the website [www.kmtc.org.uk](http://www.kmtc.org.uk)

## Alarm over homes proposal for rugby ground

THE prospect of housing development on a disused rugby pitch at Appleton is alarming local residents.

They say the field, off Bridge Lane, is the only green space in the area and additional houses would worsen existing traffic problems on Bridge Lane.

The field, once the home of Warrington RUFC, has not been used since a disastrous fire destroyed the clubhouse about 10 years ago. The club moved to the nearby Walton Lea grounds of Warrington Sports Club and the two clubs have since amalgamated.

Although a number of junior sports clubs have expressed interest in using the ground over the years, it has remained unused. The ground is owned by Warrington Borough Council, but the rugby club still has 46 years to run of a 99-year lease.

Now the club has approached the borough with proposals for 65 houses, a community building, small sports area and play area, linked to Bridge Lane and Greenfield Avenue by footpaths.

Cllr Brian Axcell, a member of the borough council and Appleton Parish Council, said: "The parish council is unanimously opposed to housing on this site as it would leave the Cobbs area of Appleton without any green space.

"It would seem the club sees an opportunity to make some money out of this, but I don't see why they should. They have had a good deal for more than 50 years, as they pay only £15-a-year.

"If they are no longer interested in using the ground for rugby they should terminate their lease and let the borough council put it to some good community use."

It is understood no formal planning application has been submitted and that the borough considers the approach to be only of an investigatory nature.



# Happy fun day raises lots of lolly!

A FAMILY fun day made lots of lolly for a Cheshire childrens charity as guests were joined by Gary Whelan and Rowetta from the Happy Mondays who brought along family and friends to enjoy the fun-filled event.

More than £5,500 was raised for Children's Adventure Farm Trust based at Little Bollington.

The charity was overwhelmed with the support shown by supporters old and new who made this, their 11th Annual event, the most successful yet with well over a thousand visitors.

The event included some larger than life special guests who wowed the crowds, young and old alike. Mascots from Manchester City, Manchester United, Sale Sharks, Altrincham Football Club, Cheshire East Council, Silk 106.9 and Chewitts joined CAFT Mascot, Bobby, for an hilarious mascot race which was won, of course, by the charity's mascot! They also spent time mingling with the crowds and posing for photographs.

They, and all the assembled guests, were entertained by the Rising Stars

Cheerleaders and Gauntlet Birds of Prey, as well as being treated to live music courtesy of the Dan Conley Duo and the Richie Syrett Band.

Along with trainers from Cheshire Fitness members of the crowd were put through their paces in the Traditional School Sports Day tournament including three legged and sack races.

Ladies from Boothsmere WI ran the ever popular Tea & Cake marquee, keeping the guests refreshed along with Brynley's Catering Services who ran a delicious Hog Roast stand. The charity's volunteers also manned a BBQ, Bar and Ice-cream stand, plus a sweet stall ensuring that no-one was left hungry or thirsty!

Traditional stalls such as Hook-a-duck, Tin Can Alley and Pick a Lolly were manned by volunteers, as were the bouncy castle, face painting and nail art. Cheshire Police kindly attended with a car which children (and adults) delighted sitting in and sounding the siren! A children's entertainer, fairground rides, classic cars beat the goalie were amongst the many attractions, making the event a roaring success.

Events Fundraiser, Pippa Watton

said: "It was such a wonderful day, definitely the best yet. We were bowled over by the number of visitors and their generosity.

"Everything was perfect - the weather, the entertainment and of course our wonderful supporters! This event is such a brilliant opportunity to bring together the children who have visited us for holidays, our supporters and hopefully some new faces who would like to help.

"It is also a brilliant way to raise

some much-needed funds for the charity, all of which will help us to change the lives of hundreds of very special children.

"We really can't thank our volunteers and supporters enough, they make us what we are!"

For more information about The Adventure Farm, and any future events visit their website [www.caft.co.uk](http://www.caft.co.uk), or call the fundraising office on 01565 830 053.



■ Happy Sundays and Mondays! Gary Whelan and Rowetta from the Happy Mondays with CAFT's Helen Crowther (centre).



■ Volunteer Dawn Gross with CAFT's Peta Green at the Pick a Lolly stall.



■ Fred the Red with some fans.



■ Moonchester gets the thumbs up





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selling their asset for less, as they realise the banks actually control their strategy.

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# Money Column

By Margaret Black

## VAT on hot toasties

And now for some news that is "hot off the press", at least at the time of writing. Subway has lost its appeal against VAT being charged on its hot toasted subways and meatball marinara!

Some of you will recall the debacle a few months ago after the government announced a "pasty tax" in the budget. Basically, this said that hot pastry goods should be subject to standard rated VAT and defined a product as being hot if it was above the ambient temperature. The ambient temperature, of course, varies between the seasons, so this led to the ludicrous situation that something that was hot, and therefore subject to VAT, in the winter would be cold in the summer, and therefore VAT free. The government saw sense and made the now famous pastry tax u-turn.

Subway were a little bit miffed at the resulting situation that people could buy what is effectively a hot lunch from a bakery without having to pay tax, whilst anyone wanting one of their hot toasties had to pay 20% VAT, and they therefore appealed this to the tax tribunal.

The tribunal ruled in favour of the VAT

office on the grounds that the food was served hot as it was more attractive. This compares with the VAT on pasties, in that they are hot from being cooked and are then placed on unheated shelves to cool, meaning that their hotness is simply a result of their preparation.

At the time of writing it is not clear whether Subway will appeal this decision. As you may be aware, Subway is a franchise, and there are a large number of franchisees behind this appeal. Should they decide to do so it is therefore quite possible that they would be able to take this decision all the way to the European Court of Justice. Therefore, this story may not yet be over.

One thing is clear. At the time of writing it is hot toasties - 20% VAT, hot pasties - VAT free.

One other thing is clear. There is something drastically wrong with our tax system when, as one commentator put it, "still as clear as mud as far as I can see", followed by another comment "I find the level of understanding of the intricacies of VAT legislation required simply to sell sandwiches ridiculous".



David Watkinson and Margaret Black

And so say all of us!

WatkinsonBlack are pleased to advise on these and other matters. They have considerable experience in these and other matters, including providing a very cost-effective payroll bureau service. If you want to arrange a no-obligation initial meeting on any taxation or accounting matter then please contact us. Please note that these ideas are intended to inform rather than advise and you should always obtain professional advice before taking any action.

Telephone 01925 413210 or e-mail on [margaret@warringtonaccountants.co.uk](mailto:margaret@warringtonaccountants.co.uk)

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# What's On in the Villages

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

**November 17**  
LIVE AT ST WILFRID'S  
Chetham's Big Band and jazz groups  
St Wilfrid's Church, Grappenhall. 7.30pm

**November 20**  
APPLETON PARISH COUNCIL  
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

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 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: 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

**Every Friday**  
APPLETOTS TODDLER GROUP  
Appleton Parish Hall, Dudlow Green Road.  
9.45-11.30am. Details: 01925 268154.

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



# Restaurants help Scouts celebrate World Food Day

**THREE restaurants generously fed 30 hungry Stockton Heath Scouts and took the chance to explain about the origins of their international cuisine.**

As part of their global challenge badge the Scouts had been learning all about food poverty across the world and the aim of World Food Day. Only the week before they had been cooking meals for themselves that all cost less than a pound to make!

The participating restaurants were the Ideal Chinese, Ego's and Nando's in Stockton Heath village.

Steve Williams, the Scout Leader who organised the events said " It was great , the Scouts couldn't stop talking about it when we got them back to the Scout hut."

"We are so grateful to the restaurants for giving the young people a treat, in what are austere times.

"I was unsurprised to later find out that two of the three restaurant owners/managers were ex Scouts themselves, and therefore part of the Worldwide Scouting movement."

Anyone interested in their children, both Boys and Girls, joining Scouting go to [www.stocktonheathscouts.co.uk](http://www.stocktonheathscouts.co.uk) for more details



## Pamper evening

AN evening of treats is planned when Bridgewater High School holds a Pamper Evening on Friday November 2.

The event, from 7pm to 9.30pm, will be at the Upper Site, Broomfields Road, Appleton.

There will be wine and nibbles included in the ticket price. Attractions include a fashion show and a range of beauty treatments, together with stalls including jewellery, clothes and crafts.

Further details are available from Kate Hayes on 07745 789 935.

## New restaurant now open

THE former Hilal Indian Restaurant in Walton Road, Stockton Heath, has re-opened as a new Indian restaurant.

The Indish restaurant is linked to the the Cinnamon Lounge in Warrington town centre.

The restaurant, which offers contemporary indian cuisine, also offers a take away service.

## Writer's mum is Calendar girl!

A PRODUCTION of the popular play Calendar Girls takes place in Stockton Heath - and features the author's mum.

Author Tim Firth grew up in Warrington and his mother Cathy is part of Stockton Heath Methodist Dramatic Society.

Member Cécile Marchant said: "Tim Firth's mother, Cathy, is in our group and is in fact, Jesse in the play - a character Tim somewhat modelled on his mum!"

The play will be performed in the church hall, Walton Road, from November 13 to 17.

Tickets are priced £6/£5 on the door or in advance from 01925 264179.



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## PROM & PARTY FASHION SHOW

DATE: NOVEMBER 2nd

LOCATION: BRIDGEWATER HIGH SCHOOL, APPLETON

TIME: 7pm Onwards (show starts at 8pm)

**\*\*\* PROM DRESSES \*\*\***



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Email: [info@dress-studio.co.uk](mailto:info@dress-studio.co.uk)

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