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Issue 127 October 2011 FREE

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Tales of lollipop man

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Opinion

THE sixth annual Creamfields music festival to be held at Daresbury passed off without serious incident, according to Cheshire Police.

One wonders, in view of 38 arrests for offences such as possessing drugs with intent to supply, possessing Class A drugs, theft, assault and robbery and 48 further reports of assault, robbery and theft, plus 262 cautions for possession of weapons or drugs, what exactly constitutes a "serious offence."

But some 50,000 people are thought to have attended the event so, in that context, the police presumably believe they can claim to have done a good job.

Few people, in fact, would doubt that they did. Keeping the traffic moving on local roads was a major achievement and few complaints have reached us on this score.

However, we did receive numerous complaints about noise from a surprisingly wide area, including Hatton, Appleton, Walton, Grappenhall and even Lymm.

One Lymm resident, on hearing resounding bass notes, went outside expecting to find a car parked outside his home, only to find there was nothing there.

This is the real issue. Should people living in rural villages have to put up with this kind of noise over a bank holiday weekend?

Organisers will no doubt argue that opposition to the festival has diminished over the six years. But this is hardly surprising, given the unsympathetic attitude of licensing authorities in previous years and the fact that two individual objectors were ordered to pay £13,500 costs by an even more unsympathetic judge.

We remain of the view that there must be more appropriate places for a noisy pop festival – preferably ones that will not be reduced to a quagmire in the event of wet weather.

RESIDENTS of Knutsford do not have to be very long in the tooth to remember the furore when they lost their own Parliamentary constituency.

There were dark predictions that it would diminish democracy and that the new Tatton constituency was a "nowhere place" that would be too big and unwieldy for one MP to properly serve his or her constituents. Whether this proved to be the case is still, we suppose, very much a

matter of opinion.

However, it all seems irrelevant now as we are faced with another change, just 28 years later. We say "just" because Knutsford lasted for 93 years!

If the Boundary Commission proposals are confirmed, Knutsford and a large part of the current Tatton constituency will become part of a new Northwich constituency.

We understand present MP, Chancellor George Osborne, supports the move and has indicated he would like to represent the new Northwich. Cheshire MEP Brian Simpson, on the other hand, has denounced the proposals as either a "botch-up" or "political gerrymandering." Presumably both have done their arithmetic and come to the same conclusion.

Meanwhile, the Warrington South constituency will retain its name but undergo changes including losing 22,026 voters to Warrington North while taking 14,173 from the same constituency and 12,896 from Weaver Vale – changes which do not apparently please any of the existing MPs.

We are not concerned about the party politics which may, or may not, lie behind the proposals, but more about whether the new constituencies can be made to work at least as well as the old. We would remind readers they can have their say until December 5 by visiting the website <http://consultation.boundarycommissionforengland.independent.gov.uk> or writing to the Boundary Commission for England, 35, Great Smith Street, London, SW1P 3BQ.

STEAM trains have an enduring appeal - often, it seems, among people too young to remember them in active service.

Next year the Mid-Cheshire Railway line reaches its 150th anniversary and the Community Rail Partnership is seeking sponsorship from firms or individuals so that steam trains can be part of the celebrations.

The occasion will obviously be good for tourism and steam trains would be one of the main attractions – provided people can afford to ride on them. That's why the rail partnership is looking for money – and why we are suggesting interested parties should email them at railofficer@midcheshirerail.org.uk

Park ranger celebrates 30 years without a day off sick!

WALTON Hall zoo ranger Peter Cookson Dean is set to mark a remarkable milestone in October – his 30th year of working for Warrington council without a single day off work sick.

Peter, who has not suffered as much as a headache puts his remarkable work record down to a healthy lifestyle working outside in the fresh air.

"A lot of my colleagues at the council work in stuffy offices so when one person gets a bug it hops from person to person," said Peter.

"I have had the occasional cold over the years but nothing serious enough to have a day off work."

Having the "perfect job" also helps says Peter, who has been known to work around the clock when some of the zoo animals go into labour.

Peter was on duty when the zoo's oldest character, Bo Bo the donkey, was born 26 years ago!

"I love my job which obviously helps with my sickness record," he added.

■ Peter with the zoo's eldest resident Bo Bo the donkey.



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Tales of a lollipop man proves popular with pupils

WHEN lollipop man Steve Allsopp joined Warrington Borough Council's school crossing patrol team two years ago he enjoyed his job so much he was inspired to write a book!

It proved so popular it has now become necessary to do a re-print of the short story book about his time as a lollipop man, which he hopes will encourage local children to cross the road safely, while also promoting the importance of his work.

Steve regularly helps pupils at The Cobbs Infants, Broomfields Juniors and St Monica's Primary schools safely cross Bridge Lane in Appleton.

Steve has previously written a short story book about his time as a lollipop man, hoping to encourage local

children to cross the road safely whilst promoting the importance of his work. The main character is of course, a lollipop man, who has lots of adventures at work meeting lots of interesting characters along the way!

Steve unveiled a reprint of his book during a special assembly at The Cobbs Infant School where he was joined by the Mayor of Warrington, Cllr Mike

Biggin.

Money raised from the sale of books will go to The Cobbs Infants and Broomfields Sheltered Housing Complex.

Meanwhile Steve is now working on a follow-up book.

The book is priced £3.99 and is now on sale at: Cobbs Infant School on Wood Lane; Broomfields Sheltered Housing Complex on Bridge Lane; St Mary Magdalene's Church, corner of Bridge Lane and Dingleway; Brampton Lodge, Bridge Lane.

Alternatively email Steve directly and place your order - steve.allsopp@hotmail.co.uk



Celebrating A Level success

THERE were celebrations at Priestley College, Warrington after the A Level results were published.

For the seventh year in a row, the college achieved an overall pass rate of 99 per cent.

There was a 100 per cent pass rate in 41 Advanced Level subjects, with 18 per cent of grades awarded either A* or A.

The college also had its highest-ever number of entries, totalling more than 1,900 - a 29 per cent increase compared with last year.

Fifty students obtained at least three Grade As at A-Level and nine students achieved three A* or more. There were also 341 A-Level grades awarded at either

A* or A.

The picture of success was matched by BTEC students. There was a 100 per cent pass rate in every BTEC National programme and 49 per cent of grades were awarded at Distinction Level, equivalent to an A at A-Level.

Sixteen students were able to obtain a grade A* or A at A-Level alongside BTEC Distinction grades, which again highlighted the capacity for Priestley students to combine academic and vocational qualifications.

Principal Mike Southworth said: "Once again the achievements of our young people have been outstanding and the college is both proud and delighted to report a 99 per cent pass rate for the seventh year running. I now wish all our leavers the very best for the future as they embark on their next step in life."



The changing face of Stockton Heath

NOW considered to be a cosmopolitan village with its many restaurants, Stockton Heath has a long and varied history with a settlement dating back to Anglo-Saxon times.

The Heath was an important resting place for the marching Roman armies and was also a camp for both armies in the civil war.

The Romans made Wilderspool Causeway, London Road and Chester Road as routes for their armies to march along, which later became the main trade routes in and out of Warrington.

In the early 1800s near the site of the existing police station the village had its own Parish Stocks for public floggings but these were removed in 1850.

In 1894 an Act of Parliament set up local Parish Councils. Stockton Heath was part of the township of Appleton. Two years later Stockton Heath formed its own Parish Council and one of its first jobs was to rename 'Pigeon Bank' as 'Victoria Square' after Queen Victoria.

Stockton Heath is now home to a number of modern bars and restaurants, as well as traditional public houses.

The Red Lion Inn dates back to the early 19th century while the Mulberry Tree on Victoria Square, opened in its

present building, replacing earlier premises dating from 1725, in 1907. Famous entertainer George Formby grew up in the village and the family home on London Road is now a listed building.

Since 1988, much of the centre of

Stockton Heath has been designated a conservation area to preserve its character.

Popular events in the local calendar are the annual Stockton Heath Walking Day and more recently the Stockton Heath Festival.

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Flights are from your local airport or if you prefer not to fly, there is coach pick up or door to door service available locally. You would have your own room with no single supplement with some meals included. Many excursions would be included in your holiday costing and there is a welcome drink where you can meet your fellow travellers. If you do not want to take advantage of the excursions, you can explore by yourself. You are fully protected which means your money and holiday are secure. There would be no extra surcharges once your holiday is confirmed.

If you are unsure whether you could travel on your own and don't



want to commit to a week or longer we can arrange for a taster weekend with 2 nights half board accommodation - wine is included with dinner on both nights and you will receive a gift voucher towards the cost of your next holiday. Alternatively take a 4 or 5 day break by coach and ferry.

If you prefer to travel by rail, there are rail journeys throughout Europe that we can recommend, river cruises are becoming very popular or take a trip to see the Norwegian Fjords to experience the spectacular scenery.

Want to try somewhere different there are trips to either the Holy land, Pyramids & Nile Cruise, South Africa, Wonders of China, Highlights of Thailand, Vietnam, Australia, New Zealand, India, Highlights of Peru, Costa Rica, America's Gold Coast, America's National Parks, Best of New England & New York, Canadian Rocky Mountaineer etc.

If you prefer all inclusive holidays why not look at ie Bulgaria, Costa de la Luz, Kusadasi-Turkey, Halkidiki,



■ Linda Crowder – Stockton Heath Travel

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New medi spa opens with VIP launch

A BRAND new non-surgical medi spa has opened in Stockton Heath offering the latest technology in non surgical laser liposuction and aesthetic beauty treatments.

Sculpt Medi Spa is based at the former Bridge Beds premises next to the London Bridge pub.

Following an extensive makeover to the premises a special VIP launch took place at the Wine Bar on London Road.

The medi-spa provides a one stop shop for non surgical treatments in beautiful surroundings.

It has been launched by Grappenhall Heys based Rachel Carr who has nearly 20 years experience in the medical industry.

The Sculpt Medi Spa has a team of in house dermatologists, doctors and experienced therapists working from the premises offering a wide range of

services including hypno gastric bands, tattoo, scar and stretchmark removal and a power plate studio.

Rachel said: "We have the latest laser technology which can assist with fat reduction and it is a completely safe procedure.

"The lasers heat up the body fat as though it was being exercised and the body gets rid of the fat as it would naturally.

"The non surgical laser liposuction is completely painless and we have had clients losing up to 4 inches in 20 minutes," she added.



■ From left, Rachel Carr, Dr. Andrew Winter, Nancy Bennett and Bill Carr.



■ From left, Alison McGinty, Catherine Slough, Adelle Carr and Jill Hayden.



■ From left, Julie Savage, Natalie Hopkins and Elaine Dawber.

New owners for Dream Doors

ONE of the biggest names in kitchen facelifts has new owners at the helm covering the Warrington area.

Karen & Mike Dunn are new Business owners of the Dream Doors franchise for Warrington with newly refurbished premises set to open in Grappenhall.

Karen says that while times may be tough it doesn't mean you have to put off having a beautiful new kitchen. A kitchen facelift could be the answer.

She said: "In uncertain economic times, people are understandably looking for value-for-money. Refurbishing your kitchen, rather than replacing it, is a much more cost-effective option. You get the kitchen of your dreams for a fraction of the price.

"But counting the pennies doesn't mean you have to compromise on quality. Price is important but it's not the only factor. Even during a recession, good service and quality products still count – especially with a significant purchase like a new kitchen.

Mike added: "Whatever our customers want, we're always able to offer solutions to accommodate their vision. If they need some new doors to fit an existing kitchen we can supply made-to-measure replacements, and have them fitted in just one day and we remove all rubbish from site. Customers may wish to incorporate

worktops, sinks and taps, new appliances or even a total refurbishment. We also sell some of the best products around at very competitive prices. But it's not just about price with our customers. They want to feel reassured that their money is safe and to know that we will do a good job which is why we only take a 50% deposit with nothing further to pay until all work is completed. We also offer Senior Citizen's Discount.

You only have to look at the Dream Doors website to realise we aren't just an independent local family run business.

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It's another hat-trick for Corks Out



FOR the fifth time in six years, The Warrington Business Awards has recognised Corks Out's passion, innovation and unprecedented customer service at its annual awards dinner.

The wine specialist was named 'Retailer of the Year', 'Small Business of the Year' and proprietor Ruth Yates also personally achieved 'Business Person of the Year'.

Corks Out started as a branch in Stockton Heath almost eight years ago and has expanded to five outlets, not to mention a thriving mail order and wholesale service. The range comprises more than 2000 wines and spirits from all over the world, with the emphasis on small, often family-owned producers and exclusive parcels of wines. The business has built up a

loyal clientele through its legendary customer service and wine knowledge, as well as its lively programme of tastings, wine dinners and wine appreciation classes.

Ruth said: "From the outset, it has been our aim to offer customers a distinct point of difference from other retailers. We have got to know our customers by asking them what they want and helping them to discover new and interesting wines. We hope that Corks Out is an asset to the High Street in Stockton Heath and we really want to preserve the village atmosphere and sense of community that comes from shopping with specialist, local retailers. I am very proud of our team, their knowledge and commitment to helping our customers find out more about what's in their glass."

Deal with problems quickly

ONE of the main worries I hear from business owners about employing staff is how do I get rid of them if they aren't up to the job? The amount of employment legislation over the last 20 years has left business owners feeling that any criticism of staff could lead to an employment tribunal claim.

Of course anyone can lodge a claim to a tribunal but statistically it doesn't happen very often. Unfortunately if you get a claim it can seriously disrupt your business for months. Luckily there are things you can do to reduce the risk.

Weed out at interview

A clear set of selection criteria is vital and do not appoint anyone who does not come up to the mark. If you are not sure about appointing someone, don't.

Watch them after you appoint

An employee with less than a year's service can be dismissed with the minimum of fuss and they cannot make a claim for unfair dismissal. For example if you have a member of staff who turns out to be lazy and negative about everything you can dismiss them for that. There are certain rules you need to follow to ensure that you are safe from other claims, but if you ensure you follow these you should be safe.

Temporary appointment

If you put them on a short term contract at first and only confirm them if they seem to be fitting in well is not much different from option 2, but has the disadvantage of complicating the administration because you need to issue a new contract after the temporary one finishes.

Whichever one or combination of these you decide to do there are two things to remember. Take advice before dismissing to make sure there are no hidden dangers and act quickly.

If you have just employed someone and are disappointed with them give me a call on 07879 551256 or e-mail me at kieronh@khes.co.uk.



Kieron Hill
Tel: 07879 551256
Email: kieronh@khes.co.uk

Business showcase gets royal seal of approval

A LANDMARK event to showcase Cheshire's world-class business credentials has been given a royal seal of approval.

His Royal Highness the Duke of Kent officially opened Celebrate Cheshire – a major exhibition to boost inward investment that has the backing of more than 60 blue chip companies and organisations as well as Business and

Enterprise Minister Mark Prisk.

The two-day 'business expo' took place at Chester Racecourse and saw Warrington Borough Council team up with Cheshire East, Cheshire West and Chester Council as well as leading lights from the private and voluntary sectors.

It aims to spearhead a dynamic new approach to attract inward investment and spread the word about what

Cheshire has to offer.

Tremendous

The free event highlighted Cheshire's 'star qualities' – its tremendous business and educational opportunities, its highly-skilled workforce, high-quality products and services and great potential for growth. It also provides an opportunity to celebrate Cheshire as a

great place to live, work, visit and enjoy.

The event was put together by Marketing Cheshire, backed by the three unitary local authorities, Cheshire business leaders, Cheshire and Warrington Local Enterprise Partnership and the education and voluntary sectors.

For further information visit: www.celebratecheshire.co.uk

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European praise for historic hall and gardens

THE historic Arley Hall and Gardens have achieved recognition as one of the most impressive in Europe, winning a Special Award of the Foundation Schloss Dyck, in the European Garden Heritage Network awards.

Current hall owners Lord and Lady Ashbrook, travelled to Dusseldorf in Germany to pick up the accolade.

"We were given a wonderful reception at Schloss Dyck, it was very exciting," said Lord Ashbrook.

"I think what made Arley stand out to the judges was the commitment of the family to the gardens through so many generations and the standard of maintenance.

"To be recognised on an international stage is fantastic. Everybody at Arley should feel very proud."

An international panel of judges nominates parks, gardens, urban spaces, initiatives, projects and people for the awards.

Arley was chosen above 50 other gardens for the Special Award.

The gardens were commended for their 'unusual blend of long history and traditional design with inspired modern ideas and additions'.

Praise was given to Arley's herbaceous borders – thought to be one of the first of its kind planted in

England – and the Ilex Avenue of 14 cylindrical evergreen holm oaks.

The Arley estate has been in Lord Ashbrook's family for 500 years, and successive generations have each contributed to the development of the gardens over the past 250 years.

Lord Ashbrook added: "It is very much a family, country house garden. There have been no professional garden designers involved – it has all come from the family. My mother, wife and I have made many of our own contributions over the past 40 years.

"We have a wonderful gardening team, but I still enjoy getting hands on with watering, weeding, pruning and finding new plants.

"We are proud that so many people continue to visit us. We would not be happy having a garden like this if we couldn't share it."

The EGHN partnership includes about 150 parks and gardens in eight European countries. It works to promote gardens and encourage people to visit them.



■ Lord Ashbrook with the award.

Walton Hall is quality attraction

WALTON Hall and Gardens has successfully retained Visitor Attraction Quality Assurance Scheme (VAQAS) accreditation, managed by VisitEngland.

The award recognises quality in a range of areas centred around the visitor experience including how helpful staff are, the standard of facilities and attractions on offer.

Warrington joins other locations with the accreditation which are many and varied across the UK and of a high calibre.

Cllr Kate Hannon, executive board member for leisure, community and culture, said: "I am delighted that Walton Hall Gardens has retained this prestigious accreditation which builds on the success the attraction has already had with its Green Flag status and as a Cheshire garden of distinction. This is all down to the hard work of the team who I would like to congratulate on their success. The gardens have also seen an increase in the number of visitors in the past year thanks to the additional events put on for even more people to enjoy."

James Berresford, VisitEngland's Chief Executive, said: "VisitEngland's assessors praised Walton Hall for offering a truly memorable experience to visitors. They found the standards of customer care to be very high with the rangers demonstrating excellent levels of customer service. Tourism is a competitive business and it is the quality of England's attractions, the welcome they offer and the investment made in them, that helps to ensure visitors come back time and time again. We congratulate the team at Walton Hall who are working hard to improve the visitor experience."

Meanwhile a busy programme of events to keep visitors busy from autumn to spring is planned at the Hall & Gardens.

On Wednesday October 26 children have the chance to be a "Keeper for

the Day." Children, supervised by their parents, can attend sessions from 9am -10.30am or 11.00am-12.30pm.

The popular event gives youngsters the experience of working in the Children's Zoo – including mucking out so old clothes are essential.

Christmas comes to the zoo on Saturday November 26 from 2pm - 3pm. A festive tour gives youngsters the chance to meet the animals, decorate a Christmas tree and make a Christmas card for an animal of their choice.

A Bird Buddies event is being held in the Heritage Centre Yard on Sunday January 8, from 10.30am – 12noon.

Youngsters can make a nest box for their garden to help birds during the winter months. All materials are provided, and younger children can make an attractive log feeder to take home.

Anyone interested in a healthy start to the New Year can join a Resolution Ramble on Sunday January 8 from 1.30pm – 3pm. Meeting point for the three-mile guided walk is the Pay and Display Car Park. People are advised to wear suitable clothing and footwear.

A three mile stroll from the same meeting point at 10am will be held on Tuesday January 17. A similar stroll will be held from 1pm on Thursday February 14.

On Thursday February 16 there will be more Keeper for a Day sessions.

An Eight-mile Halton Hike, through Hatton, Stretton and Appleton, is being held from 11am on Sunday February 26.

An Afternoon Leisurely Stroll is planned from 1pm on Friday March 16, and a Local History tour will be held from 2pm on Sunday March 18.

Easter celebrations start on Saturday March 30 with a tour of the zoo and the chance to meet any new arrivals.

Anyone wanting further details or to book for any of the events should call 01925 601617 (option 2).



■ Kate Hannon and Kieth Inman from Friends of Walton Hall with the award.

WINE COLUMN

by Ruth Yates from

*A little South African magic*

MY recent visit to South Africa really opened my eyes, when I was very lucky to spend three weeks visiting Western Cape.

A total of 1500 miles and 40 wineries later I came to the conclusion that this country has so much more to offer the UK in terms of wine.

South Africa has a chequered past, however, finally it has now seen potential in the extremely competitive world of wine and although once known for its mediocre wines, the wineries out there have made some extensive changes and now have an identity all of their own.

No longer can you say South Africa is just full of cheap Chenin and dirty Pinotage, far from it! During my visit I encountered some of the most delightful wines that have a real sense of place and winemakers are thinking hard about what, where and how they plant and coming up with some exciting points of difference to the rest of the New World.

Most vineyards in South Africa are situated around the Cape where the climate is ideal for grape growing with gentle mild summers, cool winters and a coastal ocean breeze. I would say I tasted more European style Sauvignon and Chenin than ever before, not to mention the host of Rhone varieties that are certainly giving France a run for their money.

There is a new generation of enthusiastic winemakers who have greatly improved the wine quality at every level, winning international accolades that are rightfully deserved and I applaud this prolific Southern Hemisphere wine producer bidding for fresh recognition and they get my vote!

Now, I couldn't help but extend our range on my return taking the section to over 50 wines to choose from.

So, if you can't get to South Africa and visit the wineries personally, visit Corks Out or our website for the next best thing!

Old Boys turn back the clock 57 years

ON Monday, October 10 a gathering will take place at The Bulls Head, Smallwood near Sandbach which has particular significance to Knutsford.

It is the annual reunion of the Knutsford College Old Boys' Association - and considering the school closed 57 years ago the expected attendance of around 30 is quite remarkable.

The "old boys" come from all over Cheshire and far beyond. Recent reunions have attracted former pupils from as far away as Canada.

They all have one thing in common - fond memories of their time at the independent boarding school founded by Edward Percy (EP) Hope at Woodside, Knutsford in 1927.

In fact, Knutsford College was the third school EP had run. Its earlier incarnations were at Bunbury and Beeston and some boys transferred from Beeston to Knutsford when the school moved.

Woodside was an impressive mock Gothic country house, built in 1850, and set in some 14 acres including football and cricket fields, lawns and woodlands. All that remains today is

the kitchen garden wall, to which is attached a plaque which the association provided as a lasting tribute to their late headmaster.

When Knutsford College opened it had only about 15 pupils. In its pomp it had around 100, of which about 60 per cent were boarders.

"Day Boys" mainly walked to school, but some came by train, bus and even on horseback. They were allowed to "park" their mounts in one of the school fields - now occupied by houses in Woodlands Drive - until riding home again!

The boys, in their smart Royal Blue blazers, were a familiar sight around Knutsford - as was "EP" riding through the town on horseback.

"EP" died in 1951 and James "Mr Jimmy" Hope took over as headmaster. He had taught maths and literature at

all three of "EP's" schools. In 1954 the school closed and "Mr Jimmy" converted the impressive building into flats. He lived there until his death in 1960. Shortly after, the house was demolished to make way for the Woodside estate.

Today, the association is still tracking down former pupils - and every year hopes to have some "new" old faces at the reunion. Old Boys wanting to attend can contact the association through the website www.knutsford-college.com or calling Doug Griffiths on 01798 873588.



Glowing report for leisure centre

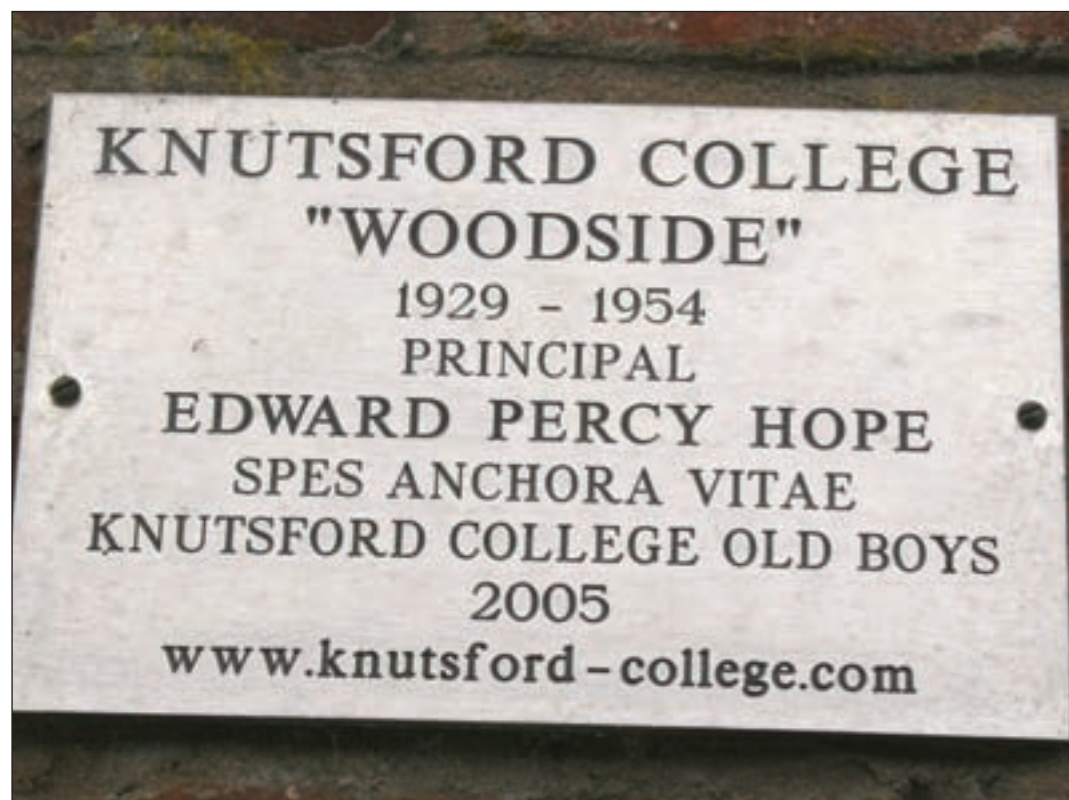
USERS of Knutsford Leisure Centre have given the facility a glowing report following a customer satisfaction survey.

One hundred users were asked to take part in the survey, which also covered other leisure centres across Cheshire East.

On average, 96 per cent thought the overall quality was either good or very good.

For cleanliness, 93 per cent voted good or very good, for variety of activities the figure was 97 per cent, value for money 94 per cent while for staff friendliness and politeness the figure was 99 per cent.

Clr Rod Menlove, Cheshire East's cabinet member for environmental services, said: "The feedback we have had from this survey is extremely encouraging and shows that we are largely doing a good job in the leisure services we offer our residents."





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Relegation - and celebrations - for cricketers

A YEAR ago, Grappenhall Cricket Club was celebrating promotion to the top flight of Cheshire Cricket - the ECB Premier division of the Chapel Press Cheshire County League.

They were also looking forward to their 130th anniversary - to be marked with a charity match against an England Legends XI.

Now, despite a spirited performance to win their final game, they have been relegated back down to the first division.

It was a disappointing end to the season for the club, which found life in the premier division difficult - not least because club captain and former Lancashire all-rounder Steve Titchard was absent through injury for most of the season.

By contrast, the 130th anniversary celebrations were a huge success when more than 2,000 fans saw an England Legends XI defeat Grappenhall by 42 runs at the club's Broad Lane ground.

The Legends XI consisted of Andrew Flintoff, Michael Vaughan, Michael Atherton, Ronni Irani, Dean Headley, Phil DeFreitas, Gladstone Small, John Crawley, David Lloyd, Graham Hick and Warren Hegg.

Grappenhall's side was supplemented by club patron and former England batsman Neil Fairbrother, former Pakistan Test all-rounder Wasim Akram and former Sri Lankan spin ace Muttiah Muralitharan.

The Legends opened and racked up a mammoth 202-5 in their 20 overs

with a powerful knock of 80 from Graham Hick with the ball disappearing over the boundary and out of the ground on several occasions.

David Lloyd also played a memorable part by hitting Muralitharan for two consecutive sixes - one of them smashing a car window!

"Freddie" Flintoff also scored runs, being caught on the boundary after smashing a ball on the half volley.

Grappenhall set off at 10 an over with the batsmen getting to grips with the England pace attack. Neil Fairbrother top scored for Grappens with 55 and the innings closed on 160.

A club spokesman said: "It was a memorable day for everyone there and will be talked about at the club for many years to come.

"After the game the 'Legends' were real gents and signed autographs for the fans and happily sat and shared a beer with the Grappenhall lads, with several of the players sticking around until late into the night."

The club raised much needed funds for the charities involved, the AF Foundation (Andrew Flintoff's charity for disadvantaged children) and the Candice Marie Roberts Foundation (to combat Guillain-Barre syndrome).



New look for Thorn Inn



THE popular Thorn Inn pub at Appleton Thorn has re-opened following a major refurbishment.

While maintaining its traditional country pub feel and atmosphere it now has an improved and better quality menu to choose from to enhance a dining out experience.

The pub is now owned by the Chef & Brewer Pub Co.

New manager Jason Camilleri is keen to have feedback from local residents and regulars regarding the refurbishment and can be emailed at 1115unit@spiritpubcompany.com

Explaining the new look Jason said: "We are still a traditional pub but with a restaurant with a better quality

menu and seasonal specials.

"We will still be serving real ales but now have great new surroundings to do it in."

The pub was given a special VIP reception launch to celebrate its re-opening and is now looking forward to welcoming customers old and new.



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Partners aim to take the lead in electric cars

VOLVO and electrical giants Siemens are bidding to take the lead in the development of electric cars through extensive strategic co-operation.

The focus is on the joint development of electrical drive technology, power electronics and charging technology as well as the integration of those systems into Volvo C30 Electric vehicles.

The first electric cars of this model fitted with Siemens electric motors will be on the test tracks as early as the end of this year. Late next year, the Swedish carmaker will deliver a

test series of up to 200 vehicles to Siemens, which will then be tested and validated under real-life conditions as part of a Siemens internal test fleet.

The two companies' goals and core competencies in electric mobility are perfectly matched.

The partnership gives Siemens the chance to extend its industrial leadership in electric drive technology into the automotive market together with a top vehicle manufacturer.

Volvo will be relying on proven and efficient Siemens technology for the

electrification of its future vehicles.

Stefan Jacoby, president and chief executive officer of Volvo said: "We are very happy to have Siemens as a partner. Their world-leading knowledge and experience will bring the technology in our electric cars up to an entirely new level.

"We are moving ahead quickly in this area. Our aim is to be first with the latest technology within electrification. The partnership reinforces our aim to pursue the fast-growing market for electric cars."

Electric powertrain, battery management and charging technology are regarded as key technologies in the development and production of electric cars and Siemens see co-operation with Volvo as an important milestone in the development of top-quality components and systems for electric cars subsequently intended for series production.

Volvo starts small-scale production of the Volvo C30 Electric this year, and next year the company will start selling the Volvo V60 Plug-in Hybrid.



Eye-catching concept coupe

THE Alfa Romeo 4C Concept only made its public debut at the Geneva Motor Show in April but by the time its special "fluid metal" version appeared at the Frankfurt Motor Show last month the eye-catching coupe had been refined and enriched.

Fluid metal refers to the exterior colour, which dynamically enhances the smooth lines of the car.

But the refinements do not stop there. Since April, Alfa engineers have been busy enhancing the technical contents to match the car's sinuous lines. Vehicle weight is confirmed at around 850kg, the engine delivering more than 200bhp and a power to weight ratio less than 4kg per hp - bringing it into super car territory.

The car showcases the formula of the two-seater, rear-wheel drive coupé with central engine, a length of approximately four meters and a wheelbase of less than 2.4 meters. These dimensions on the one hand emphasize the Alfa 4C Concept's compact attributes, while on the other accentuate its agility.

The Alfa 4C Concept uses technology and materials derived from the 8C Competizione - carbon, aluminum, rear-wheel drive - and technology from Alfa Romeo models currently on sale: the 1750 turbo petrol engine with direct injection, the ALFA TCT twin dry clutch transmission; and all the best of Alfa's DNA technology, obviously including the Alfa DNA dynamic control selector.



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Money Column

By Margaret Black

Spreadsheets in the business

Spreadsheets are powerful tools that enable us to perform analysis quickly and flexibly that otherwise would be difficult or time consuming, they are a viable and sensible alternative to more formal applications that can be costly or time consuming to buy or develop. However, there can also be a tendency for end-users and management to place undue trust in the integrity of the analysis performed using spreadsheets.

As spreadsheet users have become more IT proficient, their spreadsheets have become more complex. Spreadsheets were never designed to be enterprise-level applications but the growing use of complex and user-defined functions, lengthy macros and links to other spreadsheets and systems has led to the development of highly complicated applications. In contrast to most other applications of this nature and critically, spreadsheets are rarely designed and developed by expert users or with controls in mind.

Spreadsheets are also flexible, providing users with 'real-time' answers and enabling them to develop and customise reports quickly. There is no need to involve other departments, justify budgets or obtain management approval

for their use. Further, many companies rely on spreadsheets as a key application that supports their operational and financial reporting processes. The use of spreadsheets in business is widespread, limited only by the imagination and proficiency of the users, ranging from performing complex modelling for trading decisions to accounting reconciliations and calculating employee bonuses.

If you look into your business functions you may be surprised at how many spreadsheets may already be kept by your employees as supporting documents for the job they are doing. You may ask, What are they used for? How well are they designed? Who uses and maintains them? How reliable are their calculations? Who ensures the results they produce are valid? Not knowing the answers to some of the questions can cause a company to place undue reliance on uncontrolled spreadsheets and the results they produce. When little consideration is given to how spreadsheets are managed, can the results truly be relied upon? Despite the benefits, when spreadsheets are poorly controlled, they are notoriously risky and have led to numerous costly and embarrassing errors, as well as instances of fraud.

As individuals we also have a



David Watkinson and Margaret Black

responsibility to ensure that the spreadsheets we develop are free from errors, produce the intended results and are designed and documented so that they can be easily maintained. We often place too much trust in our own ability to develop spreadsheets even though very few spreadsheet users have undertaken formal training at a basic, let alone intermediate or advanced level, and very few users would be considered 'experts' in their knowledge of spreadsheet design and development practices. However, research has shown that the vast majority of spreadsheets (that have some level of complexity) contain errors; these errors are rarely identified by the person who owns the spreadsheet.

The Money Column is provided by WatkinsonBlack, Chartered Accountants, 1st Floor, 264 Manchester Road, Warrington, WA1 3RB. Accountants who care, for clients who matter

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Sandy Lane Centre, Stockton Heath. 7.30pm

October 18
APPLETON PARISH COUNCIL
Parish Hall, Dudlow Green Road. 7.30pm

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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
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St Cross Church, Appleton Thorn. All welcome.
10am-12 noon

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

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

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

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

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

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

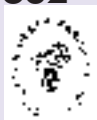
Every third Thursday
NORTH EAST CHESHIRE FLOWER CLUB
Appleton Parish Hall, Dudlow Green Road. 2pm
Details: 01925 740419

GRAPPENHALL WI
Grappenhall Community Centre, Bellhouse Lane
2.15pm

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

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

APPLETON
PARISH
COUNCIL



Ladies lift Bell Cup

WARRINGTON Ladies golf team are celebrating after lifting the historic Bell Cup for the first time in their history.

Played at Saddleworth Golf Club in Lancashire they beat the Ladies team from Northenden in the semi-final and then went on to beat the team from Turton in the final.

This meant that potentially, they had to play 36 holes in the one day, although some finished earlier.

The Bell Cup was first played for in 1902 and was presented by Mrs Bell to cover teams within a 25 miles radius of Manchester City Centre. Thirty two clubs took part at the beginning, but this has now grown to 98.



■ The winning team with their caddies on the day.

Vote for your local scarecrow!

A SUGGESTION that parish councillors in Stockton Heath should turn up dressed as scarecrows has been made after more people turned out to vote for the village festival's scarecrow competition than in the local elections!

Members were discussing the successful Stockton Heath Festival, when Cllr Tudor Pole reported that more than 3,000 people had voted in the scarecrow competition.

Many of the village shops and businesses entered in the fun with scarecrows based on their staff, icons such as Lady Gaga and "Reservoir Cods" (a take on the film Reservoir Dogs) with fish scarecrows on deckchairs outside the chip shop on London Road.

Several members commented that more people voted in the competition than vote in some parish council wards.

Acting chairman Cllr Stephen Taylor quipped: "Maybe we should all come dressed as scarecrows."

Advertiser's announcement

Get your leisure time back!

OVEN valeting specialist Paul Clark is offering his professional oven cleaning solution to hard working professionals who want their weekends back.

Paul is the Ovenu franchisee for Warrington and is providing oven cleaning services to those in and around the area who are looking to save their leisure time.

Paul says: "The working days are so much longer with many people not returning home from work 12 hours after leaving the house. I understand most people want to spend quality time with family and friends at the weekend and not worry about how long it will take to clean and tidy the house."

"Oven cleaning is a dirty, time-consuming job and not the way to spend a Sunday."

Paul is also reminding local residents of the health and safety issues of leaving an oven dirty for too long.

"If grease and grime is left to fester for months it can potentially result in an oven fire which can lead to serious injury or even death. Giving your oven a thorough clean can eliminate the risk of a potential fire and your oven will also run more efficiently. However, don't spend your valuable time cleaning it - leave it to a professional."

The Ovenu valeting process involves dismantling key components of an oven such as the door, interior panels, fan and shelves and placing them into design-registered equipment, which uses non-caustic products to clean the oven parts.

See Ovenu's advert on page 2.

Food festival

TASTES from around the region including samples from the top restaurants will be on offer at Walton Hall when the first ever Cheshire Food Festival takes place on Saturday and Sunday October 15 and 16.

It runs from 10am to 5pm and entrance is £2 with under 16s free.

The festival aims to support local food and drink producers, and restaurants. Visitors will get the chance to sample and buy all of the food and drink on offer, there will be a range of cooking demonstrations and classes to learn new skills and cooking techniques.

Walton Hall will also showcase a wide range of craft stalls and craft workshops, along with hands on activities, cooking classes and demonstrations.

Family activities will include a Mad Hatter's Tea Party, and activities including fancy dress and creative crafts on the theme.

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