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Cheshire's Community Magazine

Issue 138 September 2012 FREE

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David Mowat

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



David Mowat
Member of Parliament for Warrington South
www.davidmowat.org

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

Playing gooseberry for 64 years!

IT took him 64 years, but Tom McCartney finally did it - won the top prize in the annual Gooseberry Show at Goostrey.

Tom first entered the competition in 1948 - the year of the last London Olympics - so his victory with a berry weighing 22 pennyweights and 16 grains at the village's Crown Inn was most appropriate.

A Gooseberry Show has been held at Goostrey since 1896. Originally the prizes were items of cutlery, crockery or other household items designed to calm down local wives angry at their husbands making merry in the pub.

At one time there were many such shows in Cheshire.

But the oldest is believed to be in the Yorkshire village of Egton Bridge, dating from 1800.



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Cheshire Grange Care Home

A new Barchester care home is now open in Lymm. Cheshire Grange provides first-class care for older people and is the only nursing home and specialist dementia care home in Lymm. The home also offers residential care.

Also in Lymm: Brookfield Care Home | Tel: 01925 755 363

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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

www.culchethlife.co.uk

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New Media Centre

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Opinion

WHEN, earlier this year, it was announced that the annual Stockton Heath Festival would, for the first time in its four year history, not coincide with the annual village Walking Day, there were some who predicted it could be damaging to both events.

And not without good cause. The Festival, after all, was a fairly recent addition to the local calendar and the Walk, while it had years of tradition behind it, had been at a low ebb until the festival arrived to give it a much needed shot-in-the-arm. There had even been talk that it might be discontinued.

However, as reported in our last issue, the Walking Day was again a great success and, as reported elsewhere in this issue, the Festival broke all attendance records. Local community spirit is clearly alive and kicking.

Whether the two events will again be separate next year remains to be seen. Their "separation" was apparently more by accident than design. But it would seem it doesn't really matter

IT would hardly be surprising if a world class scientist, lauded by his peers on an international stage, honoured for his services during the war and knighted by his monarch, could spare little time for his local community.

But Professor Sir Bernard Lovell, founder of the Jodrell Bank Observatory, who has died, aged 98, was not that kind of man.

As a radio astronomer, his work-a-day horizons stretched not just beyond Cheshire but to the very limits of the known Universe.

Yet he remained committed to his local community. He played the organ at Swettenham Church and was a member of Chelford Cricket Club - at one time the captain.

He was always approachable and always devoted to his family. He had four children, 14 grandchildren and 14 great grandchildren.

Sir Bernard will always be associated with Jodrell Bank, through the giant radio telescope which now bears his name and which, despite dating from the Fifties, still plays a key role in world-leading research.

He originated from Gloucestershire - but Cheshire claimed him many years ago.

SELDOM, if ever, is it possible to please all of the people all of the time, and certainly not when it comes to highways planning.

The Highways Agency's controversial plans for the A556 bypass are a case in point, with worrying implications for the rural communities around High Legh, Mere, Millington and Rostherne. To say the original proposals caused a furore in these areas would be to put it mildly.

It is pleasing to note that the agency has not been entirely unmoved and has agreed to some changes to meet local concerns. Changes that some people approve of.

High Legh Parish Council, for instance, says it is encouraged by the agency's amendments and believes the views of local people are having a strong influence on the design of the scheme.

By contrast, the A556 Lobby Group, which has always been a vocal opponent of the scheme, has dismissed the changes as "tweaks and mitigations" and has vowed to fight on against the whole concept of the bypass.

The group still believes the bypass - which would provide a link between the M56 and the M6 - would be an environmental disaster, creating more problems than it solves and turning narrow country lanes into "rat runs."

We doubt if any compromise is possible that will please all local residents and seriously wonder if, as the proposals have existed in one form or another for nearly 60 years without traffic coming to a standstill, they need to be implemented at all.

Pedigree pig is new attraction

A RARE breed pig named Olympia in honour of the Olympics, is the latest attraction at Walton Hall Childrens' Zoo.

The pedigree Saddleback sow is a rare breed and classed by the Rare Breeds Survival Club as at risk.

She is two-years-old and on loan from Moor Farm shop on Runcorn Road, Warrington.

Zoo ranger Peter Cookson Dean said: "We have kept pot-bellied pigs at Walton for the last 20 years but Olympia is the first British meat breed to be kept on the Walton estate since Lord and Lady Daresbury's piggery was closed.

"The current children's zoo is on the site of the former piggery where rare breed pigs were raised and exported around the world.

"She arrived during the Olympics so we have named her Olympia."



A health service 'hat-trick'

WHEN a former Lymm High School pupil starts her first job later this month at Crewe's Leighton Hospital she will complete a rare health service 'hat-trick' for the Porter family of Thelwall.

For Emma Porter, aged 21, will be the third member of the family to become a diagnostic radiographer - following in the footsteps of her aunt, Louise, and her grandmother, Margaret.

She's thrilled to bits at getting the job - more than 30 applied for it - and sure that the encouragement she received from the family has had a lot to do with giving her the drive and ambition to get her qualifications.

"I always knew I wanted to work in the health service, but it was only when my aunt took me to see what it was like at Warrington Hospital that I realised I wanted to be a radiographer."

The way in which the three generations started their careers shows how time and technology have moved on.

Margaret started as a darkroom technician at Warrington Hospital - The General as it then was - at 17.

At 18 she started lectures at Manchester Royal Infirmary and Whitworth College - putting in a full Saturday in Manchester after working a five-day week in Warrington.

Later she spent about seven years at the old Warrington Infirmary as a senior radiographer before moving to Northwich Infirmary where she spent 14 years before leaving to go into husband Brian's business.

When her daughter Louise decided to follow in her footsteps it meant first getting A Levels and then a three year diploma course in Liverpool.

Her first post was at Macclesfield General Hospital, where she spent 11 years, before returning to Warrington Hospital in 1996.

Now Louise Harding, and living at Appleton Thorn with husband Tim, she

is now a clinical tutor and reporting radiographer at Warrington Hospital, training young radiographers and lecturing at Liverpool University.

She recently spent six days in

Canada at a global research conference on radiation protection and image quality, under the auspices of the International Society of Radiographers and Radiological Technologists.

Emma's gateway to her career has been different again and involved studying at Cumbria University,

combined with practical work at the Royal Preston Hospital, leading to her BSc degree.

The former Thelwall Junior School pupil can't believe her luck in getting a post at Leighton Hospital - a hospital which she likes, is accessible and where she already has friends.



£160,000 reward for tree planting

THE tree planting efforts of children from Appleton's Cobbs Infants School and Nursery have helped to secure £160,000 of extra funding for more trees in North Cheshire and Merseyside.

Last winter, pupils from the school joined forces with other groups across the region to plant thousands of new trees with The Mersey Forest to brighten their neighbourhoods.

The projects were funded by the national Big Tree Plant campaign, led by Defra and the Forestry Commission.

Now their hard work has paid off with the news that The Big Tree Plant has awarded a further £160,000 to The Mersey Forest to continue to work with communities over the next three years to plant even more trees.

Defra's Forestry Minister, Lord Taylor of Holbeach, who recently visited the region for a tour of local sites which benefited from the initial funding, said: "It was excellent to see the positive impact that these community tree planting projects are bringing to the local area, from

helping to re-connect children with the natural environment, to making our towns and cities healthier and more attractive places to live."

Paul Nolan, director of The Mersey Forest, said: "The first winter of the Big Tree Plant campaign was a huge success across the local area, with more than 17,600 trees planted with volunteers and partner organisations - outstripping our original target for the season by more than 2,000 trees. We can now look forward to thousands more."

Schools or community organisations interested in tree planting can contact The Mersey Forest on 01925 816217 or at mail@merseyforest.org.uk for more information.

Many of last winter's projects were co-funded by The Woodland Trust.

Howzat for a beer festival!

A TWO day beer festival with cricket thrown in is planned by Grappenhall Cricket Club.

The event takes place at the club's Broad Lane ground in Grappenhall on Saturday and Sunday, August 25 and 26.

It will be the first beer festival ever organised by the club and will feature 10 different guest beers, sourced from all over the North West.

Entry will be £3, and all visitors will receive a commemorative GCC Beer Festival glass.

Drinks will be purchased using tokens available at the club.

The event is to raise funds for the club to help with future development plans and at the same time provide entertainment for locals.

Grappenhall 2nd XI will be playing a home match on the Saturday, and there will be cricket on the Sunday too.

Club spokesman Paul Tyerman said: "For those real ale enthusiasts out there, and for those of you that just want to give it a try at your local cricket club, please come down and help make the event a success."

Further information is available from Paul on 07912 966236.

Want to pick a part in Oliver?

KNUTSFORD Musical Theatre Company's next production will be "Oliver!" - and rehearsals have already started.

Auditions for adult parts will take place on September 5 at 7.30pm at Knutsford's Shaw Heath Social Club, while auditions for children's parts will take place at the same venue on September 2 at 2-5pm.

The show will be presented at The Grange Theatre, Hartford on January 16-19. "Oliver!" with words and music by Lionel Bart premiered in the West End in 1960, opened on Broadway in 1963 and has toured extensively and been revived several times. It has been translated into 22 different languages.

Popular songs from the show include "Food, Glorious Food", "You've Got to Pick a Pocket or Two", "I'd do Anything" and "Consider Yourself."

Anyone wanting to get involved in the Knutsford production should call Linda on 01565 873285 or check out the website www.kmtc.org.uk

Advertiser's announcement

Never cruised before?

Why not try a short 4 night cruise from Southampton. There are several ways to get to Southampton ie drive and take advantage of the meet and greet at the port, or take a flight from your regional airport and lastly the coach service that can be booked - details will be given at time of booking.

When choosing a cruise it is important to look at the destinations especially those that you have not been to before. Once you have decided on the cruise, the next step is choice of cabin - these start at an inside cabin through to outside with picture window, balcony cabin, or one of the suites. Again so much choice, but is price dependant and obviously different cabins on different decks of the ship. Once you have done 15 nights or more cruising you automatically become a member of a loyalty club where you can build up your points to receive certain complementary items on board.

There are adult only cruises and cruises geared up for families. Activities can include dance classes, golf net/simulator, gymnasium, sports court, hosted deck games plus swimming pools, wi-fi, library, card room, art gallery, age specific children's club - plus restaurants, shops, hairdressers, casino, bars, theatre etc. A lot of these are only on the larger ships, so again important to choose a ship to suit your requirements

Dining is personal preference ie there are 2 fixed dining times - 1st dining & 2nd dining or you can choose flexible/freedom dining where you go at a time to suit you. There

are usually one or two formal evenings depending on the length of your cruise, when you can wear your long dresses and men can either wear dinner suit or a lounge suit.

There is a daily information sheet delivered to your cabin every night explaining what is happening the next day re shows in the theatre, treatments in the spa, parents talk, teenagers welcome talk, details of duty free sales, quizzes or just simply have quiet time and enjoy the views.

The cruise I went on visited Zeebrugge, Le Havre in France, St Peter Port in Guernsey. All of which have bookable excursions ie from Zeebrugge



■ Linda Crowder - Stockton Heath Travel

- visit Bruges, Ghent etc, Le Havre - a day trip into Paris or Monets Garden & Giverny or British D Day landings or half a day to Honfleur.

Alternatively explore on your own as there are some lovely places not far from the ship.

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10,000 attended village festival



THE fifth annual Stockton Heath Festival drew record crowds, with an estimated 10,000-plus visitors attending nearly 40 events.

It was the first time the event did not coincide with Stockton Heath Walking Day, being held the following week.

But fears that both events might suffer from the "separation" proved groundless, as both were highly successful, showing they can each stand alone.

The Queen Elizabeth II community field at Mill Lane was the hub of the festival, supported by 11 other locations.

As usual, the scarecrow competition for local traders was a popular feature, with nearly 30 entries. Winners were Thorn Marine, runners up Rod's Hairdressing and third, Little Box of Treats.

There was a huge range of events involving drama, arts, music, children's activities, exhibitions and competitions and more.

Bearing in mind the appalling summer, the weather was kind. But a downpour on the night of the outdoor film show meant this popular event had to be cancelled on safety grounds.

Tudor Pole, festival founder and co-ordinating director said: "We are delighted with the success of the festival this year - it is certainly our biggest and best.

"For a festival of such size and diversity to be organised and manned entirely by volunteers is a terrific achievement. It is a true community enterprise and we could not have done it without the generous support of our local sponsors, businesses and friends. We have to thank them as they have helped us in so many ways."



The problem with cash

I WAS called into a beauty salon recently because they were worried that their till receipts were regularly down by multiples of £10, but they could only narrow down the shortages to one or more of three people who were on duty at the time the shortages occurred. They had video cameras but they were not much help. This is a real problem for many retail outlets and indeed anywhere where cash is used. I have seen small companies put out of business by petty theft.

The solution we suggested to the owner surprised them at first but it was perfectly legal. We called in the 3 three individuals separately and showed them the evidence of the till tolls and cashing up records. We then told them that if they had anything to say we would like to hear it but if there was no more evidence then all three would be subject to a full

investigation and could be dismissed as the company could not afford to support petty theft.

Sometimes when you take this approach one of the "suspects" will give evidence against one of their colleagues. I've even had a situation where the culprit owned up and resigned! Unfortunately however the more common outcome is that all of them get dismissed and you never find out who the guilty party is. Which is a shame, if people lose their job as a result of someone else's petty theft. Unfortunately this was one of those unhappy situations when two possible innocent individuals lost their job. However the till shortages stopped from then on.

If you are having problems with your cash handling and would like to talk it through with us, please feel free to give us a call on 07879 551256

A caring service from an unlikely partnership!

WHEN Mike Jenkins and Anthony Wilkinson are not fitting stairlifts they are usually arguing - about football!

Fortunately, the disagreements are always good natured and don't get in the way of the successful business run by the unlikely partnership of Liverpool fan Anthony and Manchester United fan Mike.

Together they run AMW Lift and Mobility Services Ltd, with more than 14 years experience in the stairlift industry.

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Importantly, they understand the trauma people suffer when they find they need a stairlift.

Anthony's mother died tragically of

cancer and Mike's mother suffers from MS.

Said Mike: "We know what people are going through because we have been through it ourselves."

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Rich crop of green flags

APPLETON'S splendid Lumb Brook Millennium Green - created in the year 2000 for the benefit of the residents of the nearby Cobbs Estate - has been awarded a Green Flag.

Trustees of the Green - pictured left to right, Phil Moseley, Julie Kueres, Bob Jennings, Valerie Davies and Emmanuel Dupuis - gathered on the Green to celebrate the occasion.

This summer saw a rich crop of Green Flags awarded to parks and green spaces - a record breaking total of 1,424 across the country.

Others in Cheshire included Fox Covert Cemetery, Appleton, Hollinfare Cemetery, Bewsey Park, Walton Gardens, Lymm Dam, Alexandra Park, Stockton Heath, Risley Moss, Walton Crematorium, Burtonwood Cemetery, Tatton Park, Knutsford Moor, Tegg's Nose Country Park, Macclesfield, Little Wood, Oakmere, Furey Wood, Northwich, Helsby Quarry, Castle Park, Frodsham and Brereton Heath.

Rolawn appoint Beechwood Turf as new premier stockist



ROLAWN, the UK's largest turf grower and leading topsoil supplier have appointed Beechwood Turf as Premier Stockists for Warrington and the surrounding area.

Beechwood, owned and run by Adam Halford have just opened in new premises at Primrose Nursery on the A50 just off junction 20 of the M6.

Under the new agreement, Beechwood will stock the complete Rolawn range that includes turf, lawn seed and fertiliser, topsoil, compost and bark; along with Hallstone sustainable landscape products. In addition to collections, a complete delivery service for both trade and retail customers is also provided.

Jonathan Hill, Rolawn's Sales and Marketing Director commented: "Combining Rolawn quality products with Beechwood's excellent service from their superb new site will enable us to meet the needs of both trade and retail customers in the area. We are excited to be working with Adam and his team at Beechwood".

Stretton Walking Day 2012

GABBY Leicester was crowned St Matthew's Church Stretton Rose Queen 2012 at the annual Walking Day.

Fine dry weather greeted walkers at the annual event which was followed by a summer fayre at St Matthew's Primary School.

Gabby's retinue was Harvey Mason, Elizabeth Worthington, Ame'lie Dede'e, Emma Johnston and Joshua Barnard.

Retiring Stretton Rose Queen was Sophie Leigh.

Walkers were led by Phoenix Marching Band, The Revd Canon Elaine Chegwin Hall and the Mayor and Mayoress of Warrington.

Walkers celebrated the Olympics as Isabelle Edwards and Daisy Struthers carried an Olympic Torch.



- Above left: Retiring Stretton Rose Queen Sophie Leigh.
- Above: Emily Struthers, worship leader.
- Above right: Stretton Rose Queen, Gabby Leicester
- Right: Isabelle Edwards and Daisy Struthers carried an Olympic Torch.
- Far right: Rose Queen Gabby Leicester and retiring Rose Queen Sophie Leigh
- Bottom right: Retiring Rose Queen and her retinue.
- Bottom left: The Rose Queen with her retinue.
- Left: Revd Canon Elaine Chegwin Hall Vicar, Mrs Linda Buckley preacher and Revd Chris Moore .



For more pictures visit www.village-life.co.uk



For when a car won't do!

GENERAL Motors, who earlier this year were making the bold claim that the Vauxhall Ampera was the first electric car for everyday use, have now come up with a concept vehicle for places where a car can't be used at all.

The Vauxhall/Opel RAD e is described as a future vision of environmentally-friendly urban mobility.

GM say the RAD e takes many of its design cues from the Ampera and is a response to the increasing role e-bikes are predicted to play in future integrated urban transport systems.

It is the first e-bike to be designed around automotive manufacturing mass production methods. Instead of exotic light-weight materials, its designers opted for a hollow pressed-steel frame, which is light, strong, flexible and easy to make.

Powering the "pedelec" propulsion system is a state-of-the-art 250 watt electric motor and lithium-ion battery. The battery can be fully charged in just two-and-a-half hours, and the bike can be transported on a specially adapted FlexFix carrier that allows it to be charged while it's on the move.

Delivering at least 40Nm of instant torque, the RAD e feels agile and responsive. The motor gives the rider support when pedalling, but will provide between 40-90 miles of pure electrical drive if required, depending on terrain and based on a 20mph average speed.

It has a user-friendly, smartphone-based control unit which unlocks the engine and provides real-time data on range, speed and exact location.

What it doesn't cater, for of course, is summers like the one we have just endured!



Fond farewell for estate manager

AFTER more than 30 years working for Warrington Borough Council, Walton Hall Gardens Estate Manager Ian Johnson has retired.

Ian was given a fond farewell by his former colleagues during a special event at Walton Hall.

How Sue 'filled a gap' for 13 years

WHEN Sue Dodd agreed to stand as a borough councillor for Stockton Heath, it was to "fill a gap" for 18 months.

In fact, she served for 13-and-a-half years before deciding to stand down at last May's elections.

Now she has been rewarded by being made an Honorary Alderman - an honour bestowed on comparatively few former councillors as a minimum of 10 years' service is necessary.

Sue, a Liberal Democrat, was formerly a drama teacher and throughout her council career was closely involved with education and children's services. Latterly, she was chairman of the children's services scrutiny committee.

She said: "I enjoyed the work, although I'm still not sure how 18 months snowballed into 13-and-a-half years.

"The things I remember most are small victories - little things, such as a thank you note from someone you helped over things like street lights or noisy neighbours."



■ Sue receives her honour from Warrington Mayor Steve Wright.

Sue is still a member of the steering group which helped Stockton Heath become the first village in the county to be awarded a Purple Flag, still a school governor and also a keen contestant in a local quiz league, so she expects to remain busy.

She is involved in a number of writing groups, has written several plays and hopes she may now have time to write her first novel.

"Being an Honorary Alderman will help keep me in touch with what is going on at the council but it doesn't give me the right to graze sheep on the Town Hall lawn or anything like that," she joked.

Village show that turns back the clock

VISITORS will be able to step back in time when they visit the annual Hatton Horticultural Show on Saturday, September 8.

But they shouldn't expect to find out exactly when the show was first established - nor why it isn't actually held in Hatton.

This year's is thought to be the 64th since the end of World War 2, but it was certainly held before the war and its origins seem likely to have been around 1896!

Why it is held in the neighbouring village of Daresbury - opposite the historic All Saints' Church, birthplace of Alice in Wonderland author Lewis Carroll - is also something of a mystery.

But what is certain is that the show offers a slice of English village life, showcasing the best of rural traditions, ancient and modern.

It will feature floral, garden and farm produce, together with culinary and handicraft skills. There will be pet and horse shows, trade stalls, children's activities, refreshments, a real ale bar and music from Frodsham Silver Band.

Show chairman Pam Taylor-Floyd said: "We usually have good weather, but if we don't, most activities are under canvas, so we should be OK."

Pam will be accepting entries for the various classes at the Scout Hut in Moss Lane, Moore, on September 1, between 2-4pm.

More details are available from her on 0775 9013428 or by email at pamtf@fireflyuk.net or from secretary Kate Fitch on 01925 740515.

Said Pam: "Anyone can enter - we get entries from as far afield as Staffordshire."

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Money Column

By Margaret Black

HMRC - PAYE in real time: what's changed?

Real Time Information (RTI) is aimed at improving the operation of Pay As You Earn. Currently, if you're an employer operating PAYE you submit an end of year return to HMRC. In future each time you run payroll you'll submit details about employee pay and deductions to HMRC and most employers will be expected to start operating the new PAYE process from April 2013.

How will it affect you as an employer? When you run your payroll you currently have to submit the following employee details

- deductions, such as Income Tax and National Insurance contributions
- starter and leaver dates if applicable

Using RTI you will no longer submit the end of year returns and the starter and leaver process is simplified. You will continue to give your employee a P45 when they leave but you no longer send forms P45 or P46 to HMRC - instead you must submit all starter and leaver information as part of the Full Payment Submission (FPS).

The advantages of the new PAYE process Over time you'll find the new PAYE process leads to:

- more frequent updating of tax codes
- less underpayments and overpayments

It also supports the introduction of

Universal Credit, an integrated working-age credit, which will replace income-related benefits and credits. It gives the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) access to up-to-date information on a claimant's income from employment.

How you submit your PAYE details When you run payroll your payroll software gathers the PAYE information you send to HMRC. To gather this information you can use commercial payroll software or HMRC's Basic PAYE Tools. HMRC's Basic Tools is only available to employers with up to nine employees. You submit your PAYE information online to HMRC. If you use commercial software or HMRC's Basic PAYE Tools you can do this via the Government Gateway, the online entry point to government services. You can also use an Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) if you use commercial software. EDI is a dedicated connection or a secure network more suitable for large employers with employees running into the thousands. If you want to use EDI you also need to check if your payroll software supports it.

What PAYE details you submit when you pay employees You need to include the details of all employees you pay, including those who earn below the NICs Lower Earnings Limit.



David Watkinson and Margaret Black

You submit a Full Payment Submission (FPS) each time you make a payment to an employee. The FPS includes:

- the amount you pay employees
- Income Tax, National Insurance contributions (NICs) and other deductions, such as student loans
- details of new employees and employees who have left

Getting your employee details ready You must ensure employee details, such as full name, home address, date of birth, National Insurance number and gender are correct before the new PAYE process is introduced. By doing this you will:

- ensure employees pay the correct Income Tax and NICs
- make it easier to match the information you send with HMRC's record of your employee
- reduce the number of employee queries you receive from HMRC

The best way to check these details are correct is to verify them against a birth certificate, passport, driving licence or official document from HMRC or DWP.

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BACK TO WORK?



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Hello and welcome to my monthly column...

iChangeForLife

by John McKenzie

Back to work blues

TONY* had come back from holiday four weeks ago, and when he came to see me he still had his tan. However from the way he walked in you would have thought that he'd not had a break for in a long time. He had made a lot of plans while he had been away about what he wanted to change at work and at home. "It seemed so easy while I was away" he explained, "but now I'm back I realise that it's just all too difficult."

Post-holiday blues can strike all of us, coming back to work and grey skies after a fortnight in the sun. What was making it worse for Tony was how long it had gone on for, and the gap between what he had planned to do and what he felt able to do. As a result he was left feeling frustrated and trapped.

I asked Tony what changes he wanted to make, and he talked about being healthier, being a better parent, being more assertive at work. We didn't use hypnosis but instead had a conversation where I asked Tony what he meant when he used words like "better parent". Some of this was asking Tony to think about ideas and areas that he had never really explored

before. Very soon we were talking about what really mattered to Tony – being a good father and husband, and taking pride in his work. What he had done was to work long hours to get ahead at work and earn more money so that he could be a better provider.

Through our discussion Tony came to see that for him working long hours wasn't helping him to do what he wanted, but actually stopping him. Instead of being the attentive and involved father and husband he wanted to be he was spending time at work and resenting it. He wasn't just resenting it because of wanting to be with his family instead, but also because he was spending more time doing the kind of work that he didn't enjoy.

Tony's plans on holiday had been about making really big life changes – leaving his job and retraining, and selling the house and buying somewhere smaller to finance the changes. The conversation that we had about what he valued in his life – a better work and life balance, and taking pride in his work – didn't need him to make such drastic changes. Instead he went on to make smaller

John McKenzie is a qualified clinical hypnotherapist, and a member of the Association for Professional Hypnosis and Psychotherapy. He has consulting rooms across Cheshire and the Wirral and can offer appointments outside normal working hours.



Telephone him on 07713 564245, e-mail him on info@ichangeforlife.co.uk or visit www.ichangeforlife.co.uk

changes about his working hours and how he spent his free time. Just concentrating on what mattered to him had allowed him to find fulfilment more easily.

It also meant that I could help him to find the energy and the commitment to making the other changes around being healthier – a better diet and enjoying exercise – that he had always wanted to make, but never previously had any success with.

If any of this sounds familiar – feeling stuck at work or in your personal life, knowing what you want but finding the barriers insurmountable – then call me today on 077 135 64245 to ask how I can help you as well. There's no obligation and your initial consultation is free.

**Tony's name and identifying details have been altered and he is happy to share his story.*



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What's On in the Villages

September 11

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

September 13

LIVE AT ST WILFRID'S
The King's Singers
"Royal Rhymes and Rounds" - a lively programme celebrating Diamond Jubilee Year. St Wilfrid's Church, Grappenhall. 7.30pm

September 18

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

Every Monday

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

COUNTRY DANCING CLUB

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

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

Every third Monday

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

Every fourth Monday

MARLFIELD WI
Independent Methodist Chapel, Knutsford Road, Grappenhall. 7.30pm

Every Tuesday

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

PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

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

COFFEE MORNING

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

Second and Fourth Tuesday of each month

STOCKTON HEATH & DISTRICT LIONS
Ram's Head, Grappenhall.

Every Wednesday

APPLETON HALL BADMINTON CLUB
Starting September 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.

Every second Thursday

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

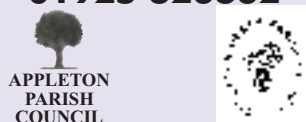
Every third Thursday

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**



Accountants show support for Town

WARRINGTON-based Accountancy practice Walker Begley is delighted to announce that they will be sponsoring their local Northern Premier League club Warrington Town Football Club by signing a deal as one of the club's Vice President sponsors.

Walker Begley, who provide accountancy and business support services to large and small companies throughout the region, signed the deal to support Warrington Town FC, recognising the club's importance and the pride and feel-good factor that a local and successful club can bring to the community.

Kevin Begley, one of the company's Directors said: "It's great that Walker Begley can be associated with Warrington Town Football Club; a lot of our business is done in the area and it's great to be able to put something back into the community. I know how important football is to the community and to be associated with the club is a privilege for us. When we heard the club needed new sponsors,



Left to right: Directors Phil Welsby, Kevin Betley and Kevin Walker.

we jumped at the opportunity."

Warrington Town FC Chairman, Gary Skentelbery said: "We are pleased to have secured this sponsorship deal with Walker Begley, who have a great local presence themselves. Sponsorship is not only important but

vital to the growth and success of any club, as it ensures we can maintain grounds and facilities as well as provide support for players. We look forward to seeing mutual success and benefits from the deal over the coming year."

Enjoy a Wizard day out!



ANYONE looking for a peaceful day out in beautiful countryside could take advantage of a trip on Warrington Disability Partnership's narrow boat the Wizard.

The 37-foot long boat, which is fully accessible, is available for hire by groups, families and organizations for a reasonable suggested donation.

A variety of trips are available and can include stops for a pub lunch, fish and chips or picnic.

Wizard trips start from Thorn Marine, Stockton Heath, and can be tailored to a group's needs. Itineraries include the picturesque village of Lymm, a visit to The Barn Owl pub at Oughtrington or a visit the Medieval ruins at Norton Priory Museum and Gardens.

WDP Volunteer Co-ordinator Debbie Thomas recently took a trip on the boat.

She said: "It was very relaxing just sailing along the canal looking at the scenery, listening to the birds singing and having a chat with the other passengers.

"The staff running the trip were very professional. They entertained us with stories about the places and houses we were passing - and we all enjoyed fish and chips on board. It was a great trip."

The specially adapted accessible boat is complete with

ramps, a passenger lift, accessible toilet and central heating for cold days. There is also a kettle so guests can enjoy a fresh cup of tea as they cruise along the Bridgewater Canal.

WDP owns and runs the Wizard and it aims to give disabled people, their carers, families and friends a day out. It is available to families and groups in the Warrington area and the only criteria is that there must be a person on board who is disabled or may have access problems on other boats.

The Wizard is crewed by friendly, experienced volunteers who enjoy driving the boat and chatting to passengers. The boat can accommodate up to 10 people dependent on the number of wheelchair passengers (a wheelchair counts as two places unless the user transfers to a seat and it is stored on the roof).

The boat is generally used from March to October and people often book the boat for more than one trip, so they can see the changing seasons. Many people return each year for a trip on the Wizard.

The suggested minimum donation for families hiring the boat is £75. For all other groups such as nursing homes, businesses, clubs and day centres, it is £115.

Further information is available by phoning the Wizard on 01925 240064 or by emailing wizard@disabilitypartnership.org.uk

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