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Cheshire's Community Magazine

Issue 150 September 2013 FREE

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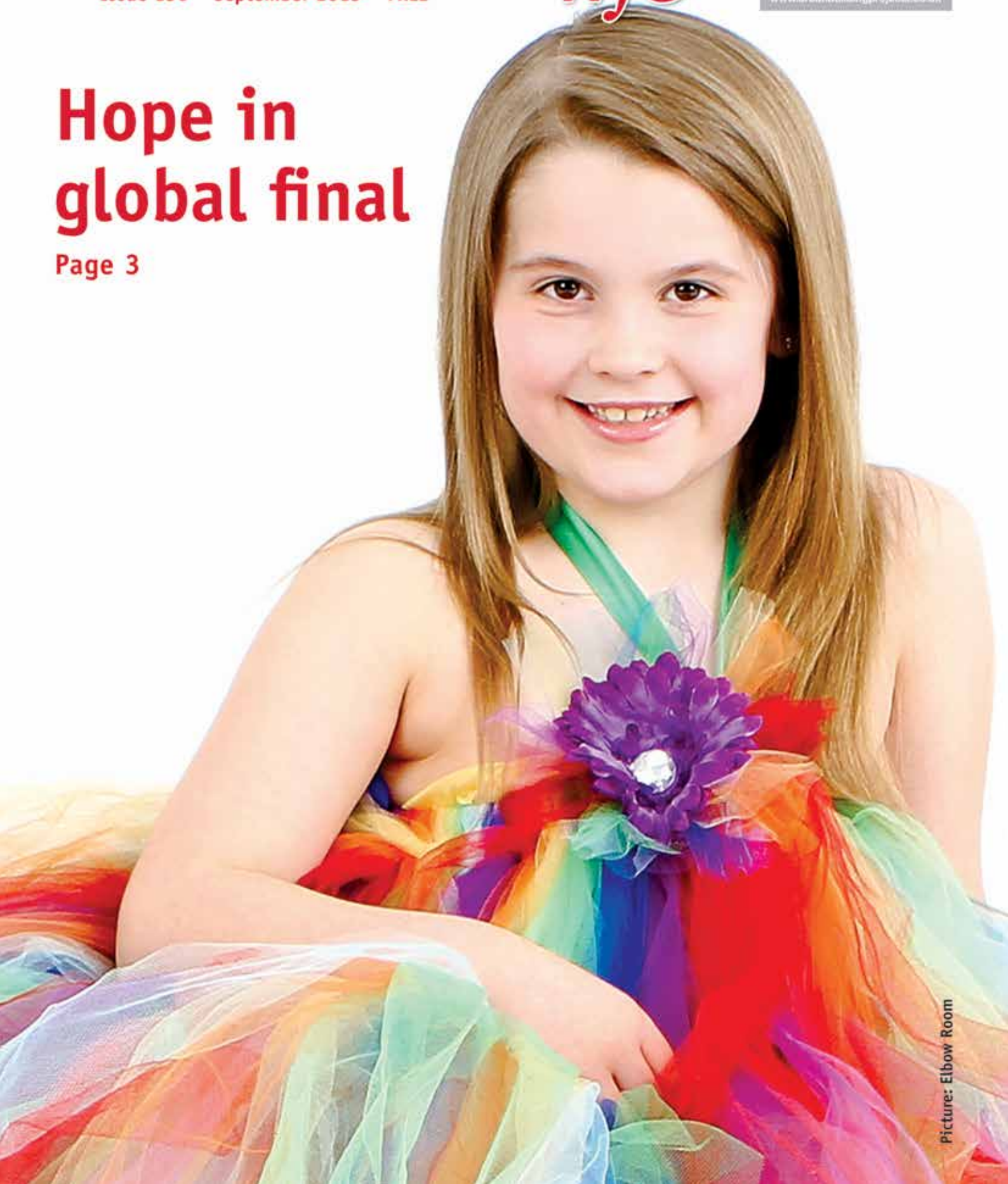
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Hope in global final

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Meet your MP

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
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Couple win homes appeal

A COUPLE have won a planning battle to demolish a bungalow at Grappenhall and build a pair of semi-detached houses on the site.

Warrington Borough Council refused permission for the scheme in Clarence Road in January but Mr and Mrs Colin Bland appealed and a Government-appointed inspector, Farooq Rafiq, has upheld their appeal. He said the main issue was the

effect of the proposed new houses on two existing properties in Clarence Road with regard to outlook and daylight.

The proposed development would be closer to and higher than the existing bungalow to both neighbouring properties and would have two storeys with accommodation in the roof. However, the relationship with its neighbours would not be significantly different to that which already existed between other two-storey dwelling in the area.

He was satisfied it would not result in material harm to the living conditions of neighbours.

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Opinion

THE ongoing row over pay-and-display parking in Stockton Heath and Lymm seems to us to have become a victim of party politics – and that is bad news for shopkeepers in the two villages.

Once local politicians start sharpening their knives, the best interests of both shoppers and shopkeepers tend to get forgotten.

What matters is not whether well-heeled people in the leafy villages are made to pay more to park to subsidise free parking in the downtrodden inner areas of Warrington.

Forgive us our tongue-in-cheek cynicism, but that is what the issue appears to have become.

Not all people in the villages are well-heeled, just as not all residents of the inner areas are downtrodden.

But village shopping centres across the country are struggling – trying to compete with the big regional shopping centres which usually offer free parking.

It is true that 30p is not a lot to pay for two hours parking. But it is a lot to pay for someone stopping for two minutes to buy a pint of milk.

It is also an inconvenience, particularly in this age of paying by plastic, for people to have to ensure they always have the right change for a parking ticket machine.

How many people, we wonder, find themselves forced to pay more than the going rate because they only have a 50p piece or £1 coin?

We believe all shoppers' car parks should be free – at least for an initial period of, say, 90 minutes or two hours. After that, a substantial charge can be imposed to deter all-day parkers.

Many villages no longer have any shops. Villages like Stockton Heath and Lymm, with a good range of shops, are becoming increasingly rare.

Even they are becoming much too reliant on eating establishments and offices.

We should be looking for ways of ensuring they remain viable shopping centres, not placing obstacles, no matter how small, in their way.

Some 5,000 signed a petition asking that the free parking period in Stockton Heath and Lymm should revert to two hours, rather than the one hour introduced earlier this year. For the borough council's response to be to end free parking altogether looks very like vindictiveness.

The borough council's stated policy is to make its parking service cost neutral, although it has admitted surpluses made in Stockton Heath and Lymm will subsidise losses made elsewhere.

In fact, most of the income will

come from people who simply forget to pay-and-display or forget how long they have been away from their car. People who will probably, when caught by a prowling parking warden, decide not to shop there again.

Which, we repeat, is bad news for shopkeepers.

THIS issue is something of a landmark for "Village Life" – our 150th edition.

Looking back to our first edition in April, 2001, we find on the front page the news of the Rev Elaine Chegwin Hall arriving as new vicar of Stretton and Appleton Thorn.

"The Vicar of Dibley she is not" we reported. "But she is rapidly becoming as popular as her television counterpart."

Over the 12 ensuing years she has retained and enhanced that early popularity and won the affections of local people.

So it is with some sadness that elsewhere in this issue we report that she is leaving to go to a church in Stockport.

We wish her all the best in her new parish.

Hope wins through to global final!

AN eight-year-old girl has won through to the finals of a beauty pageant being held at Disneyland Paris.

Hope Burton-Baddeley from Stockton Heath, came runner-up in the Face of the Globe regional heat at Chester Music Theatre, winning three of the four possible titles.

The contest has four age categories, ranging from five years upwards and Hope is in the Mini category and has now been invited to Disneyland Paris in October to compete against girls from all over the world.

Hope was aiming to raise £400 for charity but has smashed that total by raising nearly £2300 so far!

At her heat Hope won three of the 4 possible titles - She won Miss Charity as the highest fundraiser in the pageant so far, she won Miss Publicity and Miss People's choice, which was a public vote.

She came 2nd overall.

Hope, a pupil at St Wilfrid's CE Primary, Grappenhall, is still raising money for the pageant's chosen charity, The Rainbow Child Foundation.

She has been running an ebay auction and managed to secure signed celebrity items from people such as Gloria Estefan, Daniel Craig, Olly Murs, Lord Alan Sugar, Matt Lucas, Mo Farah, Usain Bolt, Paul O'Grady, Noel Edmunds, Coronation Street and Atomic Kitten.

Hope has also been busy car washing and cake baking to raise money and is seeking donations from local businesses.

Proud mum Carolyn said: "We are all extremely proud of her - she is pretty amazing!"

She has a facebook charity page www.facebook.com/pages/hope-burton-baddeley-face-of-the-globe-fundraiser/103341276523197



Found farewell at Stretton Walking Day

THE annual Stretton Walking day was the last one for local vicar Elaine Chegwin-Hall who will soon be moving on to pastures new.

Elaine, who arrived in Stretton and the neighbouring Appleton Thorn Parish more than 12 years ago, is moving to St George's Church in Stockport in the near future.

Meanwhile New Rose Queen for the annual event was 10-year-old Olivia Rudd, (pictured right with family and friends and below with her retinue) a pupil at St Matthews Primary School in the village, who lists reading and writing as her interests and says she "loves being Rose Queen!"

Retiring Queen was Gabby Leicester.

Following a church service parishioners walked through the village and then attended the annual school fair.

Elaine says she will miss the many friends she has made during her years covering Stretton and Appleton Thorn but is looking forward to the challenge of working in a larger parish, with 22,000 parishioners, compared to the 8,000 in her existing parishes.

St George's Church is the largest in the county with seating for up to 1,000!



Elaine Chegwin Hall (2nd left) with Curate Chris Moore (left), work experience student Connor Miller and Reader Linda Buckley.



New Rose Queen Olivia Rudd



Retiring Queen Gabby Leicester and her attendants Amelie Dedee and Emma Johnston



The 21st Warrington Scouts, Cubs and Beavers prepare for the walk

Dental practice goes from strength to strength

GRAPPENHALL Dental Practice is pleased to announce further expansion due to increased demand allowing them to accommodate new patients.

A third surgery has been added and two new dentists have joined the current team.

Grappenhall Dental Practice was set up from scratch in 2006 by Dr Andrew Brown who had previously worked for the NHS in the centre or Warrington for 10 years.

Andrew decided he wanted to open his own practice and recognised the shortage of NHS dentists in the south of Warrington. Although he wanted to continue to offer NHS dentistry to

his patients he was informed by the primary care trust that they had no money to allow him to do so.

Andrew did not want to charge very high private fees to his loyal patients so decided to provide independent 'nhs style' dentistry.

He said: "Our prices have actually been cheaper than the NHS for over seven years. We provide a full range of general dentistry both NHS quality and private quality and are able to give the patients all the options without any restrictions or limitations from NHS bureaucracy."

Due to the fairness and popularity of how his system operated Andrew quickly became too busy and added

his second surgery in 2007.

Another Andrew, Dr Booth, joined the practice and was happy to work under the same ethos.

"We are now opening our third surgery and are very pleased to welcome Dr Ivan Wolfe to our practice. Ivan is a very dedicated enthusiastic and compassionate dentist."

Having qualified in 2012 in Cork, Ireland, Ivan has worked in a mixed NHS/Private dental practice near Manchester for the past year gaining a wealth of experience in general dentistry.

He now brings his skills to add to the team at Grappenhall.

Meanwhile a fourth dentist, Dr

Laura Pumford, will be joining the team in September.

Laura qualified in 2010 in Liverpool and has worked in both NHS and private practices.

Andrew concluded: "We are all committed to providing the very best of care using the latest equipment/techniques in a compassionate way with a fair and reasonable charging system."

"We are now able to accept new patients with no waiting lists, emergencies seen same day and we are also introducing a late night clinic to accommodate patients who struggle to attend during normal working hours."

Advertiser's announcement

Never judge a book by it's cover!

Village Life Editor Gary Skentelbery checks out a Four star All Inclusive in Tenerife.

Many of us now check out our holiday destinations on Trip Advisor before we make a booking so I knew not to expect to have my breath taken away on the road leading to the Hotel del Arena in El Medano, Tenerife.

Having read mostly good reviews of the four star All Inclusive Adult only hotel I knew the multi-storey car park appearance of the building would be transformed once inside the building – and I was not disappointed.

In fact I would go as far as saying that the junior suite we had on the 4th floor overlooking the breezy Atlantic Ocean and adjoining sandy beach, was probably the best hotel accommodation I have ever experienced while travelling abroad.

Even my teenage daughters were delighted with their suite.

The aim of the holiday was to have a week chilling out – and you can certainly do that at El Medano which is much quieter than the likes of Playas Da La Americas and Los Christianous.

Having said that the traditional Spanish town, which is about a 20 minute walk along the sea front – is lively during the evenings – and even if you are staying all inclusive, I would certainly recommend one evening out for a change.

The Hong Kong Chinese restaurant in the harbour area served outstanding

food and was excellent value coming in at just 60 Euros for a family of four – including drinks.

For those wanting to travel further afield the hotel lays on transport to the popular destinations such as the Siam Water Park – but be warned expect to queue for rides during the school holidays!

But it will be hard to pull yourselves away from the Hotel del Arena, with friendly staff, good food and a very relaxing atmosphere.

The evening entertainment was there if you wanted it and for the more energetic the hotel's entertainer Richard was always on the search for willing recruits to join in at aqua aerobics, volleyball, darts, pool, table tennis and even a hike up the local mountain!

The week went far too quickly and I would willingly return for another stay.



■ Linda Crowder – Stockton Heath Travel

But be warned – if you don't like a sea breeze – this is not the place for you – there is a constant breeze, which explained why we could sit and enjoy the World Windsurfing Championships from our balcony.

There are areas where you can shelter from the breeze – and the big benefit is you never got too hot – unless you want to!

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Legends cricket match drew 2,500 spectators

Pictures courtesy: Bob Brough and Alan Croston

SPECTATORS at village cricket grounds are usually heavily outnumbered by the players on the field, but more than 2,500 packed into Grappenhall Cricket Club's Broad Lane ground for their "Legends" charity game.

The sun shone, the cricket was entertaining – and the Aussies beat England for the first time this summer!

In addition, a Grappenhall XI captained by club secretary Paul Tyerman was turned over by a Warrington Wolves XI with the Rugby

League players showing they can strike a cricket ball with real power.

The day raised money for the club's pavilion fund, children's charity the AF Foundation and Rugby League star Ben Westwood's testimonial.

England cricket stars on show

included Neil Fairbrother, Andrew Flintoff, Andy Caddick, Mark Ramprakash, Dominic Cork, John Embury and Devon Malcolm. The Aussie team boasted Jeff Thomson, Ian Harvey, Damien Martyn, Greg Matthews, David Hussey, Dirk Nannes, Simon Katich and special guest Wasim Akram.

Rugby players included Ben

Westwood, Stefan Ratchford, Joel Monaghan, Lee Briers, Trent Waterhouse, Richie Myler and Wolves' head coach Tony Smith.

For the record, Wolves scored 187 – a total that proved five too many for the Grappenhall XI and the England Legends team scored 164 – a total the Aussie Legends overhauled with one ball to spare!



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Dave defies the odds to deliver new drugs awareness project

A FORMER Cheshire police officer who has twice defied the odds by battling back from life threatening conditions is set to embark on a new career helping deliver drugs awareness training.

While many with 30 years distinguished years serving in the police would opt for a quieter life and retirement, Dave Betts, QPM is looking forward to a new challenge.

He has now been appointed as a consultant to the Cheshire based Drug Watch Trust – just 18 months after fighting back from a near fatal burst blood vessel which left him in a coma for two weeks – this more than 30 years after battling back from cancer.

The 63-year-old father-of-two had a rare form of cancer in the right side of his face in 1980 and it is thought radiotherapy treatment at the time caused weakness around his blood vessels. He had to be resuscitated twice and is lucky to be alive.

Dave, who lives in Appleton, said: "I am truly happy to again be making a positive contribution to the community and the business world. Although I am lucky to be alive I am now feeling fit and ready for a new challenge."

During a distinguished police career Dave received the highest accolade when he was presented with the Queen's Police Medal for his outstanding work in the community.

He added: "My background is 30 years in various departments of the Cheshire Police in the latter years specialising in Community Safety. Following this I became a Manager in the security and subsequently forensic technology industry for the North West region."

As Consultant to the Drug Watch Trust, Dave will be engaged over the coming months in the development and delivery of the bespoke INSIGHT drug awareness programme. This will be in partnership with communities, the police, voluntary sector, public and private sector workplaces.

As the Drug Watch Consultant he will be seeking to train suitably competent trainers from all sectors to enable and empower them to deliver the programme.

Dave added: "I aim to obtain voluntary sector support for the Drug Watch Trust and with partners, plan, devise and deliver a regional Drug Watch Trust Conference. An important part of my work will be the delivery of drug awareness in the workplace as a part of the Health and Safety policy for businesses throughout the region."

"Although early days I would like to meet with interested parties from agencies who have an interest with drug related issues or would be interested as part of their work training in the delivery of the programme. I would also be pleased to meet business representatives who have identified the need to build into their policies the requirement of drug awareness training for their staff and employees."

For more information contact Dave on 07544525992 or email: djb_drugwatch@hotmail.co.uk



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Withington Girls' Success

High-flying Appleton sixth former Rhona Dawson is really going places.

The 17-year-old Withington Girls' School pupil, who scored eight A* and three A grades in her GCSE examinations and is now studying A-level biology, chemistry, physics and maths, has enjoyed exciting school trips to France and China. She has also been voted Deputy Head Girl for the coming year.

Taking full advantage of the extensive extracurricular programme at Withington, Rhona plays clarinet in the school's senior orchestra, is lacrosse first team captain and is completing her Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

Acclaimed advice on careers and regionally unrivalled expertise in securing places at top universities – 92% over three years – alongside outstanding examination results, saw Withington again named as 'best value independent school in the country' by the *Financial Times*. Withington was also included in the *FT's* list of the country's top 20 schools – the only one in the north of England to be listed. In July, Withington was named as 'best school in the North West' by *The Sunday Times*.

In 2012, A-level candidates achieved a 96% pass rate at A*, A and B. The GCSE pass rate at A*, A and B grades was 98.6%.

Withington's lively, friendly and purposeful atmosphere produces an exceptional quality of opportunity, independence of mind and high aspirations. Girls relish the chance to engage in opportunities from music and drama to sport; mathematics and science Olympiads; Model United Nations; UK and overseas travel; debating; Duke of Edinburgh's Award and Young Enterprise schemes, to name but a few. The Withington community is proud of its multicultural and multi-faith nature and inclusiveness. One-in-six senior pupils receive means-tested bursary support.

Pupils come from a wide area – many, by dedicated bus services. The Warrington area service is provided by Maynes, and drops the girls directly outside the School.



Rhona Dawson

“The more difficult the victory,
the greater the happiness in winning”

Pele

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Roy's charity walk in memory of wife

AN annual walk in aid of breast cancer research and organised by a husband in memory of his late wife is set to take place again on Sunday, October 27.

The walk is organised by Roy Kettle, of Grappenhall and has raised more than £25,000 over the last eight years.

The three-mile walk will start from Grappenhall Community Centre at 11am.

Mr Kettle lost his wife, Susan, to breast cancer in 2003 and since then

he has organised a sponsored walk around Grappenhall every year.

He said: "Susan fought hard to beat this cancer, but sadly was beaten by it in 2003. Since then I have tried to help others beat breast cancer by organising this annual walk so

that everyone can contribute to the charity by raising money themselves.

"If anyone would like to join in or requires more information, then please contact me on 01925 262851 or email roy.kettle1@ntlworld.com"



■ Roy Kettle and some of the walkers from a previous year.

Advertiser's announcement

Reproductive Health open evenings

REPRODUCTIVE Health Group, comprising GyneHealth and Conceive International, is a leading, innovative healthcare service with clinics throughout the North West, which will include a brand new cutting edge facility at Daresbury Park, Cheshire, due to open in January 2014.

GyneHealth provides a comprehensive range of women's health services whilst Conceive International offers all aspects of fertility and IVF diagnostics and treatments including genetic screening.

Reproductive Health Group are strongly committed to involving patients in all aspects of their care and believe that holding regular informative events for women helps them to make well-informed choices regarding their health and wellbeing. A series of events are scheduled to take place at Cheshire Natural Health, Stretton, who share the philosophy of combining the wisdom of natural therapies with advances in modern medicine.

Patient Forums will take place on September 9, November 18, December 16 and January 27, 5pm - 6pm, which are free to attend to discuss any aspect of gynaecology or fertility. These forums will provide an ideal opportunity to meet with consultant gynaecologist and IVF specialist Mr Luciano Nardo in an informal environment. For a more private discussion, short free consultation slots with Mr Nardo can be booked in advance.

They will also be holding an Open Evening on Women's Health on Wednesday September 25, 6pm - 9pm, when Mr Nardo and his colleagues Mr Brett Winter-Roach, Mr Jed Hawe and Dr Bim Williams, along with therapists from Cheshire Natural Health, will be giving short interactive talks on topics including infertility management, period problems, urinary incontinence management, nutrition, digestive health, natural family planning and acupuncture for women's health.

For more details please contact education@gyne-health.co.uk or visit www.gyne-health.co.uk/www.conceiveinternational.co.uk

Charity's 'nearly new' sale

THE North Cheshire branch of the National Childbirth Trust is holding a Nearly New Sale on Sunday October 20 at Thelwall Parish Hall in Thelwall, Warrington from 12.00pm to 2.00pm.

NCT Nearly New Sales have become legendary and are run up and down the country, forming the backbone of fundraising activity for the charity.

The items offered are of the highest quality and include clothes, equipment and toys for babies, toddlers and children up to the age of six.

Larger items such as buggies, high chairs and safety equipment will all be for sale for just a fraction of the retail price. Mums-to-be can even find inexpensive maternity clothes.

Branch chairman Helen Finnigan said: "NCT Nearly New Sales are a great way to grab a bargain as well as to support the valuable work that the NCT does in supporting new parents.

"This is the fourth sale we have held at Thelwall which is a great venue where you can do your shopping as well as grab a tea or coffee afterwards."

Open Evening on Women's Health



Wednesday 25th September 2013 from 6pm - 9pm



at Cheshire Natural Health

Beehive House, Tarporley Road, Stretton, Warrington, WA4 4ND

An opportunity to hear experts give informal and interactive talks on:

- Infertility Management • Period Problems • Gynaecological Cancer Screening
- Urinary Incontinence Management • Balancing Hormones Through Nutrition
- Digestive Health & Colonic Hydrotherapy • Natural Family Planning
- Acupuncture & Women's Health

There is no charge to attend this event, however places are limited so please reserve your place by telephone or email. Drinks and refreshments available.

T: 0845 600 9997 or E: education@gyne-health.co.uk



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Money Column

By Margaret Black

Self assessment campaign

A new campaign aimed at taxpayers who have failed to submit their self assessment tax returns for previous years has recently been announced by the tax office. The campaign provides an opportunity for these taxpayers to submit their outstanding tax returns and incur reduced charges.

During a similar campaign last year, targeted at higher rate taxpayers, over 3,000 people came forward voluntarily. This resulted in over 5,500 tax returns being submitted, generating over £30 million being received in additional tax.

Under the current scheme, taxpayers who have received either a self assessment tax return or a notice to complete a return for any year up to 2011/12, but who failed to submit it, must notify HMRC that they wish to take part in the campaign either by completing an on-line form or by telephoning the tax office. They will then have until 15 October 2013 to complete and submit their returns and pay any outstanding tax.

Taxpayers who come forward to

submit their outstanding returns and pay the outstanding tax will receive the best terms that HMRC can offer in relation to penalties. Anyone failing to meet this deadline, however, will be liable to penalties of up to 100% of the tax due, and could face criminal investigation, although they will still qualify for mitigated penalties and HMRC would expect that most people will not face penalties on this scale. Interest will remain payable for late payments of tax on all self assessment tax returns.

Intelligence gathering software

The tax authority will be writing directly to several thousand people it has identified using intelligence-gathering software, with follow-up calls expected to be made to many individuals in due course.

Marian Wilson, head of campaigns at HMRC, said, 'This is definitely the best time to catch up, on the best possible terms. While some penalties will apply, it is likely to cost people more if we have to find them rather than them coming to us'.



The campaign is the latest in a string of HMRC schemes designed to recoup unpaid tax. Previous initiatives have resulted in payments of more than £547m from voluntary disclosures, and nearly £140m as a result of follow-up activity.

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New CEO for law firm

WARRINGTON law firm Forshaws Davies Ridgway (FDR) has a new chief executive at the helm.

Oliver Burton, aged 30, has joined the full service solicitors practice after enjoying a meteoric career in the commercial and corporate banking sector.

A graduate of the top-rated Lancaster Business School, Oliver will be bringing his commercial and business expertise to the successful law firm which includes 18 partners and more than 100 staff.

He will be based in the firm's head office in Palmyra Square, Warrington, and will be managing staff in the Stockton Heath and Frodsham offices as well as the specialist commercial branch in Bold Street, Warrington. As part of his CEO role, he will also be a director of fdrIM (FDR Investment Management).

Commenting on his appointment Oliver said: "I am delighted to join a law firm with such a strong reputation in all legal sectors. My appointment

signals the partners' determination to focus on delivering business excellence, providing a top class professional service to all our clients, whilst also ensuring we invest in our people and their future.

"With the economic downturn and the recent changes to legal aid, many law firms are struggling to survive, never mind adapt and evolve. We will stand on the shoulders of our already successful platform and ensure that FDR will not just be fit for now, but also well-placed to take advantage of all future opportunities."

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Adam will be youngest town clerk

ADAM Keppel-Garner has become the youngest town clerk in the country – just a year after joining Knutsford Town Council as deputy town clerk and town centre manager.



He takes over from town clerk Steve McQuade, who has left after two years to take on the same role with Crewe Town Council.

Adam, 23, has become a familiar figure around the town, particularly with the business community.

He will act as clerk for at least four months while the council's personnel committee consider future options.

But he is looking forward to his new role, particularly being involved in one of the biggest challenges the council has faced in recent years – the "take over" of control of Knutsford Market from Cheshire East Council.

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What's on in the villages

September 10
STOCKTON HEATH PARISH COUNCIL
Sandy Lane Centre, Stockton Heath. 7.30pm

September 17
APPLETON PARISH COUNCIL
Parish Hall, Dudlow Green Road. 7.30pm

September 19
LIVE AT ST WILFRID'S
Alison Farr (piano). A graduate of the Royal Academy of Music and winner of the piano section of the 1998 BBC Young Musician competition, playing Bach and Chopin.

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

COUNTRY DANCING CLUB
St Thomas' Primary School, Parkgate Road, Stockton Heath.

8-10pm. Details: 01925 262356

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

LADIES' FRIENDSHIP CLUB
The Quays Community Centre, Thelwall New Road, Thelwall.
8pm. Details: 01925 264099

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

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

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

Every fourth Monday
MARLFIELD WI
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

Every Wednesday
APPLETON HALL BADMINTON CLUB
Starting Decemberat Hall Drive, Appleton. 7.30-10pm.
Details: 01925 262356

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

GRAPPENHALL PROBUS CLUB
Grappenhall Community Centre, Bellhouse Lane, 10am.
Details: 01925 264427.

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

GRAPPENHALL WI
Grappenhall Community Centre, Bellhouse Lane
2.15pm

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



Fury of the 'vocal minority'

FIVE thousand people who signed a petition calling for more free parking time on pay-and-display car parks at Stockton Heath and Lymm are angry at being dismissed as a "vocal minority."

They are even more furious that Warrington Borough Council's response to their plea is to decide to scrap free parking completely in the two villages.

In future it will cost 30p to park – even if you are only stopping to pick up a pint of milk from the village convenience store.

The petitioners were asking for restoration of a two hour free period instead of the one hour currently offered.

What they are going to get is up to two hours for 30p.

Cllr Linda Dirir, the borough's lead member for highways and transportation, said: "We believe the strategy is the right one for the borough as a whole."

"Parking services across the borough made a loss of £107,000 last year – an improvement on the loss of £125,000 the previous year, she said.

"Any surplus from car parks should help to pay for other areas of the service that are non-profit making, such as on-street enforcement, non-profit making car parks and residents' parking zones."

Cllr Brian Axcell, a member of Appleton Parish Council and a Liberal Democrat member of the borough council, said: "The Stockton Heath and Lymm car parks were already in profit before the time for free parking was cut from two hours to one and the combined surplus from them is now



running at £96,000 a year.

He said if car park usage in the two villages remained the same, the surplus from them would rocket to £280,000 a year.

Even if 40 per cent of short stay visitors stopped using the car parks, they would still generate more than £210,000 a year for the council.

Cllr Axcell said: "It is obvious from these figures that the ploy of a 30p minimum charge is simply about cash generation.

"The council's approach for these

car parks is in stark contrast with that for their other district car parks, all of which are free to use. The council tactics also compare badly with their policy of free permits for residents' parking zones, which is responsible for the mess in the council parking service finances.

"The campaign by local residents and businesses in Stockton Heath and Lymm is to get free parking for two hours reinstated and for fairness in the parking service budget to continue."

Comedy @The Park Royal Hotel

THE popular Comedy Club returns to the Park Royal Hotel, Stretton on Friday September 20 with three Top Comedians as Seen on TV.

Guests can enjoy a pre – show meal and then dance the night away with the resident DJ all for just £22!

With FREE membership at www.thecomedyclub.co.uk (which gives £2 discount on ticket prices) there has never been a better time to receive

club discounts, win free tickets and get all the comedy gossip free each month.

Host Comedian is Rhodri Rhys who has moved up swiftly since joining the comedy circuit and can now be seen regularly as an act and compère in London, across the UK and internationally.

Before becoming a comedian Rhod qualified as a Chartered Surveyor and became a property entrepreneur in Eastern Europe.

Opening Comedian – Tim Clark is one of the brightest lights on the national comedy scene and a familiar face on television. His regular appearances at live venues throughout the country and especially at The Comedy Store and Jongleurs keep his wit sharp and his material fresh. His striking looks, quick wit and affable nature has made sure that Tim makes an instant impact on his many TV and radio appearances.

Headline Comedian – Mike McClean has hosted numerous television shows for the BBC, ITV, C4, C5, Sky1 & Nickelodeon and excels at live TV.

He originally trained as an actor, at the Arden School of Theatre in Manchester. However, after leaving college Mike gravitated towards stand-up comedy and quickly broke onto the circuit with a comedy magic act.

In 2010 Mike returned to his acting routes, playing 'Father Tony' in "Shameless". Previous cameos had included 'Club Host' in "The Office Christmas Special".



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