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Cheshire's Community Magazine

Issue 126 September 2011 FREE

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AddressNew Media Centre
Old Road, Warrington
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Village Life is distributed freely to selected homes throughout the area as well as being available to pick up from various outlets, some of which are listed below.

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Library, Heritage Centre

Opinion

STOCKTON Heath has more reason that most other places to fear an increase in shipping on the Manchester Ship Canal.

True, other areas would suffer increased traffic congestion arising from the three swing bridges in the Warrington area going "off" to road traffic six times a day rather than once or twice as at present.

But Stockton Heath has traffic queuing nose-to-tail in its main shopping street when the London Road bridge swings. Few drivers switch off their engines so exhaust fumes hang heavy on the air creating one of the worst areas for air pollution in Cheshire.

The parish council has campaigned for years without success for a sign advising drivers "Bridge off, switch off." But such a sign would be unlikely to make much difference - particularly if shipping on the canal increases significantly.

The answer, of course, is a proper high level bridge over the canal, but history tell us that is unlikely to happen.

A holding area for ships to wait until off-peak periods is one suggested solution but, while it might be helpful for road traffic, it would severely impede shipping.

Increased use of the canal would undoubtedly benefit the North West economy generally but it seems to us highly likely that the Warrington area, and Stockton Heath in particular, will have to pay the price.

FIRST the bad news. Council bosses at Cheshire East have decided to cut subsidies from a number of "low priority" bus services to save about £500,000.

As a result, some services will be withdrawn - with obvious implications for people in rural areas who depend on them.

Now the good news. One of the services to be affected, the Knutsford Village Rider, is to continue.

Currently it provides a link between Knutsford and villages like Mobberley, Great Warford, Cheshire, Ollerton, Marthall, Over People, Lower Peover, Plumley and Over Tabley on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays.

Operators Whitegate Travel say they will continue the service on Mondays and Thursdays.

We applaud their decision - but would caution residents that they should respond by using the service to ensure it

survives in the long term.

Staying with the "use it or lose it" theme, we would also draw readers' attention to the success of the three Cheshire councils - Cheshire East, Warrington and Cheshire West and Chester - in obtaining £3.24 million from the Government towards the cost of providing superfast broadband across the county.

This is good news, although the sum obtained is actually rather less than the three councils were hoping for. Earlier this year they put it a bid for £20 million.

They now say they still need another £40 million to provide faster broadband across the whole county by 2015.

It has been estimated that superfast broadband would help create 5,500 jobs across the county and add £197 million to the economy. It is particularly important in the more isolated rural areas.

The extra funding will have to come from the public sector - and that means the public can help by showing there is a demand for the service. The councils have made available a website where people can register support - www.connectingcheshire.org.uk

Log on and use it - or lose it!

WE in Cheshire know full well that we live in a green and pleasant land, so it comes as no surprise that across the county, councils should enjoy a rich crop of Green Flag awards for parks and open spaces.

Certainly, we expect major attractions such as Tatton Park, Teggs Nose Country Park, Lymn Dam and Walton Gardens to lay claim to a flag.

But it is also good to see smaller parks, such as Alexandra Park at Stockton Heath, Knutsford Moor and Little Wood, Northwich picking up awards.

We should not forget, either, that many of these smaller sites gain their awards not just because of the efforts of local councils but also through the dedication of volunteers, "Friends" groups, etc., who put in many hours of voluntary work.

Well done to all of them.

Cheshire Natural health celebrates 6th anniversary

WARRINGTON Wolves' rugby players Jon Clarke and Ryan Atkins visited Cheshire Natural Health as they celebrated their 6th anniversary.

Jon first visited the clinic on its launch, along with former Wolves boss Paul Cullen, and was impressed by how the clinic had grown since its launch.

The clinic was founded by Tracey Turton, who has been practicing Reflexology for 16 years.

The original team of eight practitioners has grown to 18, covering all popular natural therapies, including Osteopathy, Physiotherapy, Chiropody, Acupuncture, Colon Hydrotherapy, Hypnotherapy, Counselling, Herbal Medicine, Reflexology, Bowen Technique, Massage, Homeopathy and Nutritional Therapy.

There is also a private GP service, and specialist treatments such as Weight Loss and Stop Smoking. The clinic is also used as consulting rooms by a number of local doctors and consultants.

Tracey offers a free confidential consultation to discuss health concerns and advise on the most appropriate treatments. For further information call 01925 730123 or visit cheshirenaturalhealth.co.uk



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Morris Men prepare for Day of Dance

THE age old tradition of morris dancing is very much alive and kicking in a Cheshire village.

Thelwall Morris Men have been around since 1973 and are now planning a special day of dance on Saturday October 1.

Known traditionally as a "side" the group originated within the folk club based at the Pickering Arms in Thelwall and as well as dancers are ably supported by a merry band of musicians.

Group spokesman Kevin Farrell said: "We decided many years ago to be a men's team but welcome enquiries from partners, wives etc who wish to learn more to persuade their male



partner to join!!

Kevin added: "Morris Dancing itself goes back many hundreds of years and is enjoyed in many parts of the world. Thelwall Morris Men regularly travel to other parts of England to join with fellow Morris Men for weekends of dance. We recently spent a very enjoyable weekend in Rutland."

The group is hosting their own Day of Dance when they will be joined by Morris teams from Yorkshire, Merseyside, Cheshire and Derbyshire, dancing in various locations around Warrington.

Being very community focused the group also give instructional sessions to local groups including Scouts, Guides, Women's Institutes and schools.

Kevin added: "We are the sole custodians of the Lymm Morris dance which was revived after many years research in the 1970s.

"The dance is performed at the Lymm May Queen and Lymm Rushbearing and is considered to be a collector's item in the Morris Dance world."

The group practice on Wednesday evenings in Thelwall Parish Hall at 8.15pm. New dancers and musicians are always welcome to turn up and enjoy maintaining an English tradition.

For more information on Thelwall Morris visit their website www.thelwallmorris.org.uk



Freedom of the parish for inspector

A POPULAR police officer - who is leaving the area - has been granted the Freedom of the Parish of Stockton Heath.

The parish council heard that Inspector Gary McIntyre (pictured) is taking up a new post and members decided to bestow the honour to thank him for his work. Former police officer Cllr Graham Roughsedge said: "He will be a very hard person to follow. The crime figures for the Saturday of Walking Day were the lowest they have ever been.

"His staff work hard and are very well motivated." Chairman Cllr Celia Jordan said

people in the village "felt safe." She was sad to see the inspector go and felt he had shown strong leadership. Members presented him with a framed certificate.

According to local legend, people given the Freedom of the Parish are entitled to drive sheep through the village!



A chance for budding writers

CLOSING date for entering this year's Cheshire Prize for Literature is Thursday, September 1 - and already entries have been received from budding writers from a range of backgrounds.

A fire fighter, a librarian, a railway worker and a mother of five are just some of the early entrants for the competition, sponsored by Bank of America.

They will be awarded for an original and previously unpublished piece of writing for children and the entry may be in prose or verse. The prose entry should not exceed 1,500 words and the verse entry must not exceed 100 lines. The intended readership is seven to 14-year-old children.

Anyone over the age of 18 who lives, works or studies or has lived, worked or studied in Cheshire is eligible to enter.

Competition judge Jaki Brien, senior lecturer at Chester University, said: "We've had some excellent entries already but there's still time for aspiring writers to submit their work.

"It gives an ideal opportunity for budding writers who have a connection to Cheshire to see their work in print. As well as offering substantial prize money, it can offer new opportunities and who knows where that could lead?"

The winner will receive £2,000 with additional prize money of £750 for the runners up, and a selection of the best pieces will feature in an anthology published by the University of Chester Press.

The Cheshire Prize for Literature was inaugurated in 2003 as The High Sheriff's Cheshire Prize for Literature. It is funded by Bank of America and administered by the University of Chester.

For details on how to enter the competition visit www.chester.ac.uk/literatureprize

■ *Jaki Brien with competition entries.*



Diamond Wedding 'on a bicycle made for two ...'

A RIDE on a bicycle made-for-two led to love and romance for a Stockton Heath couple who recently celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary.

Kenneth Maskall, aged 86 and his wife Edith, 80, celebrated 60 years of marriage at a party with family and friends. The couple were married at Warrington Parish Church.

They met when they both worked at Richmonds in Warrington. Kenneth was service and sales manager and Edith worked in the office.

She said: "It was supposed to be just platonic. He asked me would I be a passenger on his tandem. It was supposed to be just a day out but the relationship developed."

Edith was born in London and moved to Warrington when she was a child. She did office work for various firms. She enjoys gardening, knitting and sewing.

Warrington-born Kenneth worked at Richmonds for many years. He used to be a member of Warrington Golf Club and enjoys reading.

The couple have two children, Valerie and Kenneth, and four grandchildren.

Edith said: "It feels like we have known each other all our lives.

"We are good friends and have been really happy together."



175 slimmers lose 155 stone for charity



A TOTAL of 175 slimmers got together to raise £700 for terminally ill, disabled and disadvantaged children across Cheshire.

They lost a combined total of 155 stone in weight over a 12-week period to raise the money for The Children's Adventure Farm Trust at Millington.

The slimmers - members of Slimming World clubs at Stockton Heath and Grappenhall - were asked to nominate a charity for their Slimathon and a shortlist of three was decided upon.

They were then invited to vote for their favourite charity and CAFT came out top, winning 80 per cent of the total votes.

The Slimathon ran through April, May and June, and each slimmer gave themselves a target weight to lose, getting generous family and friends to sponsor them to do so. They also made donations each time they attended a slimming session and two even made and sold greetings cards to boost the coffers.

One member is CAFT patron and ex-Coronation Street star Jennifer James who encouraged her fellow members to dig deep for the charity which is close to her heart.

Jennifer and her husband, Lee Boardman, have been closely involved with the charity since 2007 and regularly

spend time with the children as well as helping out at the charity's events.

She said: "I was so excited to hear that my fellow slimmers had voted for The Adventure Farm to be their chosen charity for their Slimathon. I am so proud to be a patron of this charity which makes a massive difference in the lives of so many very special children from all over our region. On behalf of the children I would like to say a huge thank you to each and every slimmer and their sponsors, they really are changing lives."

Kerrie Brettle, Slimming World consultant, said: "I'm so proud of what my warm and wonderful members have achieved! It's been such an honour to support all my slimmers each week as they have lost an amazing amount of weight, changing their lives and improving their health and at the same time being able to support CAFT in changing and improving the lives of the children they support - it truly is a fabulous achievement."

More details of the Childrens Adventure Farm Trust can be found at www.caft.co.uk

Picture: Patron Jennifer James accepts a cheque for £700 from Kerrie Brettle. The amount of weight lost by the 175 slimmers was equal to the weight of the farm's tractor!

Advertiser's announcement

The Corks OutSide Wine Garden – What a refreshing change!!

Corks Out, constantly innovative and staying just one step ahead of the rest have recently opened up their back garden as a wine garden.

If you can imagine a quaint, secluded sunny garden, complete with pear and apple trees and comfortable seating, a quiet spot off the roadside and rather than car fumes, the gentle smell of summer flowers mingled together with the bouquet from your favourite wine.

Then, imagine quality wine by the glass from an easy drinking Sauvignon Blanc, Merlot or Rosé to the heights of top Meursault, Classic Bordeaux and icon wines you have always wanted to taste, as well as being able to sample over 16 wines before you decide which glass you would like to sip.

Corks Out now offers a wine bar with a difference, in or out, where the wine list changes weekly to help you discover a little more about what's in your glass. With quality wine by the glass from as little as £2 for a 175ml glass. Fancy a bottle! Well, why not purchase a wine or Champagne from our shelves and pay just £3.50 corkage to sit and drink with friends.

Why not pop in and 'Taste' - A New Wine Adventure... on the OutSide!

Advertiser's announcement

Jersey's short break appeal is growing

While it is unlikely that Jersey will ever feature in a Club 18-30 brochure, it is beginning to attract a younger crowd. The biggest Channel Island still has a large and loyal following in the older market, attracted by the balmy climate, lovely scenery and comforting Britishness. However, there is a rise in the 30s and 40s market, visiting the island for short breaks.

It makes sense – with air links from just about every regional airport access is swift and easy.

For those who like to go by sea, ferries operate car and passenger services and fast ferry crossings can take just over three hours.

Jersey's location, nestled in the Gulf of St Malo between the coasts of Brittany and Normandy, brings better weather than most of the British mainland expects.

Its proximity to France, great food and cafe culture lends it a continental air, but with the English language and currency.

There are so many hidden bays and coves to explore, and car hire is really reasonable.



The Island is only nine miles by five miles, so you are never more than 15 minutes from the capital or the coast. A definite must is the Gerald Durrell Wildlife Park, or the Jersey War Tunnels.

The Channel Islands were the only part of the UK occupied by the Germans during the Second World War. A Jersey Pass is offered, giving visitors access to all major attractions for periods of two, four or six days.

It is a great Island for foodies, with gastro pubs and trendy Michelin-starred restaurants. A favourite spot is St Brelade's Bay, where there are two or three really nice places overlooking the sea.



■ Linda Crowder – Stockton Heath Travel

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There is the smart Oyster Box with the more informal Crab Shack next door, and what must be the Pizza Express with the best views in Britain.

There are lovely bike rides too. The Corbiere Cycle track runs from St Aubin to the Corbiere lighthouse, along an old railway track, so it is easy and safe with no cars (even a lovely restaurant awaits cyclists at the end!).

During Jersey's Tennerfest in October and November restaurants offer two-course set menus for £10.

TOP TIP – Jersey is not in the EU, so remember you can take advantage of duty-free prices at airports without a long-haul flight.

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War's declared - just down the road!

BATTLEFIELD Live is a new, exciting and authentic combat experience - and it has arrived just down the road at High Legh.

It uses sophisticated infra-red gaming guns and is the most realistic simulation possible - short of joining the military!

In fact the guns are so sophisticated that the military use them when training! There is no pain, no paint, no bruises, just adrenaline fuelled fun!

Battlefield Live Knutsford is at Heywood Farm, Crabtree Lane, High Legh, WA16 6PE and the cost of going to war there is just £20 per person for a two hour battle.

The battleground is set in seven acres of exclusive woodland, with

forts, bunkers, barricades and realistic battle sounds. Up to 36 gamers can be accommodated at any one time, but smaller groups can join together.

Each session lasts a total of two hours and the game is played by dividing the group into two teams who are given "Live Plays" missions in which the players will receive a tactical briefing on what is expected of them. This will include team objectives, historical background, a map and behind-the-scenes game tactics.

In each mission the aim is to defeat the enemy while at the same time protecting comrades and securing your mission. There is unlimited ammunition on offer at no extra cost so there is always a lot of fun and loads of shooting!

Everyone playing is fully safety briefed prior to play. Camouflage overalls are provided, but gamers are expected to bring their own, suitable footwear.

Bookings can be taken from large groups or smaller parties. Smaller groups are paired up with other smaller groups to ensure the battle maintains its realistic atmosphere.

Battlefield Live is suitable for all players from age seven and upwards and is superb fun for the whole family.

The battles take place daily between 11am-1pm and 2pm-4pm and during the peak season at 5pm-7pm.

More information - including movies showing battle action - can be found at the website www.battlefieldliveknutsford.co.uk or by calling 07779 248622.

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Lou makes friends down on the farm

A FOUR-year-old Jersey cow named Lou is making lots of new friends at Tatton Park's Home Farm.

Lou has been bought by the farm to make the small herd of native milking breeds complete.

Home Farm is already home to three other native dairy breeds - Ayrshire, Guernsey and dairy shorthorn.

The Jersey is prized for the high quality and butterfat content of its milk. The breed originated, as its name suggests, on the Channel Island of Jersey. Today, the Jersey is the only cattle breed allowed on the island in order to maintain the purity of the breed.

Lou is a lovely fawn colour and has an easy-going nature and sweet temperament. She has been shown at many agricultural shows including the Cheshire Show.

Lou is older than the other dairy cattle at the farm and is now at an age where she can be milked.

Farm manager Jayne Chapman said: "We're delighted to now have all four native dairy breeds and to be able to give milking demonstrations in the shippon for the first time. We're really pleased with how well Lou has settled in - she's the crème de la crème!"

Home Farm is open from Tuesday to Sunday from 12noon-5pm until October 30. Lou is milked daily around 2pm.

■ *Lou makes friends with Home Farm staff Evan Powell and Elly Edwards*



Cllr Celia Jordan
■

Public should speak out on canal plan

THE chairman of Stockton Heath Parish Council is calling on local residents and organisations to make their views known about the controversial Mersey Ports Master Plan.

Cllr Celia Jordan - also a member of Warrington Borough Council - says the proposals, which would involve a four-fold increase in the number of ships using the Manchester Ship Canal, do little to inspire confidence.

She said: "The Mersey Ports Master Plan will bring huge benefits to the region.

"However, it is not clear whether the Warrington area will benefit to the same extent."

Cllr Jordan said when the three swing bridges in the Warrington area, on the A49, A50 and A56, are swung, it results in massive traffic congestion.

Traffic experts estimate it takes an hour for traffic in the town to return to normal.

At present, the bridges close to road traffic on an average of 527 occasions a year - or 1.5 per day.

If the proposals go ahead, the bridges would each be "off" six times a day - and records show that peak canal traffic is in the middle of the working day and not coinciding with tides as the canal

company has always claimed.

Cllr Jordan said the master plan consultation document makes no mention of how emergency vehicles will cope when the bridges are "off."

Nor does it put forward any suggestions for how Warrington's roads would cope when they are affected by M6 closures, nor consider extra traffic likely to arrive in the borough to avoid tolls on the new Runcorn bridge.

Cllr Jordan said one solution could be a holding area on the canal - possibly at the proposed Port Warrington at Moore - where vessels to be held until peak road traffic periods had ended.

Parish councils in the areas likely to be affected are sending a joint response to the canal company's public consultation.

She added: "It would be helpful if people and organisations also responded so that a real cross-section of opinion can be considered."

The address for comments is: Mersey Ports Master Plan Consultation, Maritime Centre, Port of Liverpool, L12 1LA or email merseymasterplan@peelports.co.uk by September 5.

WINE COLUMN

by Ruth Yates from

CORKS OUT
Retail Wine & Spirit Specialists



Classic alternatives that won't cost you the earth!

SOME of the classic wines we all know and love can sometimes be a little disappointing, remember, when you buy a wine like Champagne, Rioja, Claret, Sancerre or Châteauneuf du Pape you are buying a brand name, the most important thing is the producer of a wine and the underrated areas go unnoticed, therefore, why not explore a little. To help, I have thought about a few classic brands that we all tend to go for and then put quality alternative to it that represents great value for money and often gets overlooked. The Corks Out guarantee means you can bring it back if it's not to your taste!

Philippe Herard Blanc de Blancs £10.99 - Now this Burgundian fizz is a fantastic alternative to the up market renowned Blanc de Blanc Champagne that takes some beating and is a quarter of the price. I pour this regularly at parties and you wouldn't know the difference.

Valencay Sébastien Sauvignon Blanc Loire £10.95 - Sancerre can be so disappointing when it's at this entry level, you really do need to know the producer here, therefore, forget that, go for the this little beauty, same grape and region, stunning with fresh, zippy fruit and will easily compete with some

of the more expensive Sancerre and Pouilly Fume.

Vacqueyras Château De Montmirail, Rhône £15.95 - Vacqueyras lies in the Southern part of the Rhône Valley, not too far from the famous Châteauneuf du Pape and this fantastic alternative is far better than most that come anywhere near this price level, in fact I think we have forgotten what true Châteauneuf should taste like unless you spend over £25. Lovely rich red berry fruits, great structure and depth of character and will age a further 10 yrs if you can keep your hands off it.

Concha y Toro Late Harvest Sauvignon Blanc £6.50 - Concha y Toro's Late Harvest Sauvignon Blanc is a rich, delicious, enticing dessert wine, not as cloying or as rich as Sauternes and a fraction of the price, a beautifully honey-led sweet wine, ripe papaya and peach fill the palate and it has a lovely refreshing finish to the palate, especially good with blue cheese and pate.

Call in to Corks Out for great advice and affordable luxury in wine.

News round-up

Village stages transport festival

CLASSIC cars, trucks and bikes will be on display at a special festival at High Legh on September 10-11.

Following two successful classic car shows over the last two years, this year's event is being extended for the first High Legh Festival of Transport.

It is being organised in association with Knutsford and District Motor Club.

The display, at High Legh Garden Centre, will include a range of interesting vehicles and a display by Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service.

The event is free to both exhibitors and the public, and all donations raised during the weekend will go towards the North West Air Ambulance service.

Festival opening times will be 10am to 4.30pm on the Saturday and 10.30am to 4pm on the Sunday.

Residents' views sought on tree planting

RESIDENTS are being asked for their views on the planting of trees on verges in Stockton Heath.

Members of the parish council's Village Committee had a visit from Walton parish councillor Robert Hardie.

His parish had been concerned that diseased trees, on roadside verges, had been removed by the borough council but not replaced.

Following a Walton questionnaire arrangements were made for the borough to plant 29 trees on the verges of Mertoun Road and Stetchworth Road in Walton at a cost of £4,600 - funded by Creamfields money and a grant from the borough council's Stronger Together initiative.

Stockton Heath Parish Council is to discuss planting of trees on verges with borough councillors and is seeking residents' views.

Chip shop can open for breakfast

A FISH and chip shop has won planning consent to open from 9am to serve breakfasts - despite opposition from nearby residents.

But the Big Blue in Knutsford Road, Grappenhall, says it will not be serving any food traditionally associated with a fish and chip shop until after 11.30am.

Early morning customers are able to buy hot sandwiches, hot drinks, coffee, tea, bacon and sausage sandwiches, etc.

Originally, the shop wanted to open from 8am, but after nearby residents, backed by Grappenhall and Thelwall Parish Council and borough councillor Elaine Welborn, objected to the changes, they agreed to put opening time back an hour.

Objectors argued it could lead to early morning traffic and parking problems, noise and smells.

The Big Blue opened about 12 months ago but its opening hours were restricted to 11.30am to 10.30pm.

Cllr Welborn said early morning opening would increase local traffic and clash with parents taking children to the nearby Bradshaw Primary School at an already hazardous time.

Planning officers recommended the scheme be approved and said the earlier opening times would not significantly affect neighbours who were far enough away not to be affected by smells or noise.

33 Green Flags for the 'green' county



COUNCILS across Cheshire scooped a total of 33 Green Flags - the prestigious award for the best parks and open spaces in the country.

Warrington, Cheshire East and Cheshire West and Chester were each awarded seven flags while Halton gained 12.

Phil Barton, Green Flag Plus Partnership chairman, said: "The Green Flag Award scheme, and its growth, is essential in driving up the standards of our parks and green spaces. Access to quality green space is something we all desire and the scheme plays a key role in providing it.

"In these challenging financial times it is heartening that the number of Green Flag Awards continues to grow. As the value of green space and the role it plays in our communities strengthens, we must ensure these high standards remain."

The seven flags in Warrington went to Walton Gardens, Lynn Dam, Alexandra Park, Risley Moss, St Peters Park, Walton Crematorium and Burtonwood Cemetery.

In Cheshire East, the flags went to Tatton Park, Knutsford Moor, Teggs Nose Country Park, Sandbach Cemetery, Brereton Heath Local Nature Reserve, Congleton Park and Bollington Recreation Ground.

Cheshire West and Chester Council received awards for Castle Park, Frodsham, Helsby Quarry, Little Wood, Northwich, Fury Wood, Wintrington, Stanney Fields Park, Neston, Whitby Park, Ellesmere Port and Westminster Park, Chester.

At Halton, the winning sites were Clinton Wood, Victoria Park, Hough Green Park, Pickering's Pasture Local Nature Reserve, Spike Island and Victoria Promenade in Widnes and Hale Park in Hale Village, and Phoenix Park, Rock Park, Runcorn Hill Park, Runcorn Town Hall Park, and Wigg Island Community Park in Runcorn.

Art group's trophy exhibition

GRAPPENHALL-based Warrington Art Group will hold its annual Trophy Exhibition at Tatton Park, near Knutsford from August 27 to September 11.

It will be the eighth successive year for the exhibition which has become an established event at Tatton.

More than 30 Cheshire artists will be exhibiting and competing for the Jean Wild Cup for the best overall entry and the Edwin Allen Cup for the best interpretation of the special subject, "Forces of Nature". Guest judge will be artist and art tutor Bee Morrison.

The "People's Choice" competition, to be decided by the votes of visitors to the exhibition, will be sponsored by the Studio Art Gallery of Warrington, who have commissioned a special trophy from award-winning glass artist Mark Briggs.

Note: the exhibition is in the Knutsford Room in the Stableyard at Tatton but is closed on Monday, September 6.

Provided by:
WatkinsonBlack
Chartered Accountants



**Chartered
Accountants**

**Registered
Auditors**

Contact
David Watkinson
or **Margaret Black**
at:
1st Floor,
264 Manchester Rd
Warrington

Tel:
**01925
413210**

or email:
info@warringtonaccountants.co.uk
www.watkinsonblack.co.uk

Money Column

By Margaret Black

Have you heard of the 'VAT Initiative' and why you should act NOW

THE VAT Initiative campaign is an opportunity for businesses to tell HMRC, between now and 30 September that they should be registered for VAT. The campaign is aimed at businesses that:

- have already passed, or are expecting to pass within the next 30 days, the current VAT threshold of £73,000
- have passed the VAT threshold in a previous 12 month period but did not register for VAT
 - would like help to register now
 - want to take advantage of a reduced penalty

You must register for VAT if any of the following applies:

- your VAT taxable turnover for the previous 12 months is more than £73,000 (the current VAT registration threshold)
- you think your VAT taxable turnover will exceed the threshold in the next 30 days
- you exceeded a VAT threshold at an earlier point in time and have not registered for VAT
- you take over a VAT-registered

business as a going concern

Not registering for VAT when you have exceeded the threshold is an offence and, in addition to the VAT due, there may be penalty charges. If you tell HMRC voluntarily under the VAT Initiative before 30 September you will incur a lower penalty than if HMRC have to enforce your registration. In some cases, there will be no penalty charge at all. You may also be able to spread the length of time over which you have to pay HMRC rather than paying in one lump sum.

Once your business is VAT registered, you can usually reclaim any VAT that you pay when purchasing goods, supplies or services for use in the business. Being VAT registered may also raise the credibility and status of your business with potential customers.

Important dates to note:

- 30 September 2011 - the last day you can notify HMRC that you want to take part in the VAT Initiative
- 31 December 2011 - the deadline for returning your completed VAT registration form (VAT1) to HMRC

Accountants, agents or a third party



David Watkinson and Margaret Black

such as the Citizens Advice Bureau can notify HMRC on your behalf.

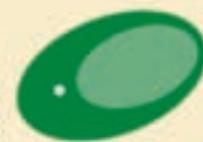
You can also tell HMRC now if you do not need to register for VAT but would like to put your other tax affairs in order or if you are already registered for VAT and have made an error on an earlier VAT Return.

Please note that you cannot make your VAT registration online if you wish to take part in the VAT Initiative. You should follow the instructions in this guide and submit a paper application

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

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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

www.davidmowat.org

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



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 Appleton Parish Hall Thursday 7-8pm

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The car with a smile on its face

THE Corsa is Vauxhall's second best-selling model after the Astra and is a near-permanent fixture in the UK's top-three best sellers' list.

Recently it has been given a makeover with many of the premium styling cues from other Vauxhalls, such as the Insignia, Astra and Meriva now features a signature chrome bar carrying the new Griffin badge.

It stretches across the front grille and, with a re-styled front bumper with a more prominent, wider lower grille has given the Corsa a smiling appearance.

Framing the Corsa's new face are "Eagle-Eye" headlamps, which have also made an appearance on the recently launched Meriva.

The units have a chrome finish and include daytime running lights as standard across the range. New chrome-finished fog lamps and housings complete the picture at the front of the car.

Complementing the Corsa's fresh look are five new exterior colours in



the range.

Vibrant new colours also dominate the Corsa's cabin, brightening the interior.

Also inside, is Vauxhall's new optional Touch and Connect multi-media system, which replaces the existing CD60 unit.

Touch and Connect uses a five-inch touch screen display featuring both 2D and 3D maps for the navigation system, as well as a CD/tuner, aux-in, USB and Bluetooth mobile phone connectivity.

Outside, the new Corsa benefits from new 16-inch alloy wheels on both SE and SXi models, while the 192PS VXR receives a new 18-inch alloy wheel, modelled on the design of the optional 20-inch wheel worn by the Insignia VXR.

Corsa's new appearance complements recent upgrades to chassis and powertrain

With its fresh new look, it is now a very different car to the one on sale little more than a year ago. Before the latest exterior and interior design

changes were made, the Corsa had already benefited from a long list of significant upgrades to its chassis and powertrains. For example, certain ecoFLEX engines now feature Vauxhall's Start/Stop technology, which has reduced emissions on the 1.3 CDTi (95PS) ecoFLEX model to just 94g/km, combined with fuel consumption of 91.1mpg on the government's extra

urban cycle (80.7mpg combined).

Vauxhall's engineers have also made important revisions to the car's steering and suspension set-ups. Softer springs were employed in the front suspension, mate to an anti-roll bar with new bushes and an increased diameter, improving ride and control characteristics.

Complementing this were revised

damper setting all round, an optional re-tuned ESP system and enhanced steering geometry, ensuring that the Corsa remained as pleasurable to drive as it was economical to own.

The new Corsa range starts at £9995.

'Oldies' more likely to be Good Samaritans

OLDER drivers are much more likely than younger drivers to stop to help if they saw someone broken down at the roadside, according to a recent AA/Populus poll.

Almost one quarter of drivers would not stop to help as they would suspect that the breakdown was a con trick.

Participants were asked: "If you saw someone by the roadside (not a motorway) by a vehicle that looked like they had broken down, what would your reaction be?"

Sixty one per cent would stop if they felt comfortable it was safe and thought they could help - 65 per cent male and 55 per cent female.

Of those that definitely would not stop, 16 per cent were in the 18-24 age group and only 10 per cent over 65s.

Twenty two per cent think most people have mobile phones so can seek assistance themselves and 24 per cent would be concerned it was a con trick.

Londoners would be least likely to stop.

More affluent drivers would be more likely to stop than semi-skilled or unemployed drivers.

AA president Edmund King believes it is perhaps surprising that 61 per cent of motorists would stop.

He said: "Our poll shows that the 'Good Samaritan' is alive and well and driving along the highways and byways of Britain. On the other hand it is disappointing that almost 40 per cent don't feel able to stop.

"It is interesting that older drivers seem much more likely to stop to help other drivers."

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What's On

in the Villages

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

September 20
APPLETON PARISH COUNCIL
Parish Hall, Dudlow Green Road. 7.30pm

September 22
LIVE AT ST WILFRID'S
James Lisney, piano, plays Mendelssohn, Schubert, Schumann and Chopin.
St Wilfrid's Church, Grappenhall Village, 7.30pm

Every Monday
THE EVERGREENS Senior Citizen's Club
Bellhouse Community Centre, Grappenhall.
Details: 01925 261381

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

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

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

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

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

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

Every fourth Monday
MARFIELD 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.

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

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

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

Every Friday
APPLETON 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



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Advertiser's announcement

Wasps – handle with care

THIS spring and summer have been quite dry - perfect for wasps! Over the next few weeks wasp activity will peak. A large nest resembles a huge intricate sculpture and may contain many thousands of workers along with the queen. Early in the spring it is possible to treat a small nest yourself as long as it can be accessed safely, but in later summer it is absolutely essential to have it destroyed professionally.

Adult wasps rely on the wasp larva (or grubs) to feed them a sugary excretion, when the queen stops laying eggs the food supply gets cut, and the wasps go foraging for anything containing sugary liquid - children's ice creams, soft fruit and even your pint! It's at this time that most stings occur and problem nests should be treated in advance.

Although they can occur almost anywhere, a great majority of wasp nests occur within roof spaces. A reputable pest controller MUST, BY LAW, inspect the loft space for open water tanks and bat roosts. This is in order to satisfy the legal requirements of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and the Control of Pesticides regulations 1986. It is also good practice to determine the position of the nest. Just because wasps are seen going under the eaves, don't assume this is the nest, it may be anywhere within the loft. For this reason the householder must be present to allow access for inspection. A lot of failed treatment attempts are due to lack of professional procedure, and re-treatment may be necessary at extra cost to the homeowner. Disturbing or poisoning bats could result in fines of thousands of pounds, a simple check is all that's required.

Atlas Environmental Solutions, are a local pest control company based in Warrington. Technicians are fully trained and hold the latest Royal Society for Public Health qualifications, along with all necessary public liability insurance. For help and advice, please phone 01925 445222 or 07999 487925.

Email: enquiries@atlas4u.co.uk and website: www.atlas4u.co.uk

Wind turbine plan withdrawn

A PLAN for a 25m high wind turbine at a Stretton farm was withdrawn before it could be considered by borough planners.

The application by Tim Blackshaw, of Walnut Tree Farm, Northwich Road, has been on the agenda of the development management committee twice. On the first occasion it was deferred to allow time for councillors to visit the site and on the second it was withdrawn by the applicant.

Stretton and Whitley parish councils lodged objections, as did 32 neighbouring residents, mainly on the grounds of the visual impact on the Green Belt. But officers recommended the application be approved and said the turbine would result in only a moderate impact on the openness of the Green Belt.

The applicant will be able to resubmit the plan.

Do you MC2?

STOCKTON HEATH based MC2's commitment to the team has again been rewarded with stylist Danielle Brookes claiming this year's under 25's Young Total Beauty Award.

Danielle's achievement follows in the footsteps of MC2's previous successes, Stacey Mills 2010 and Vickie Gourley 2009.

MC2's programme for stylist education is certainly paying off. General Manager Martin Coleman said: "Awards are fantastic for the team, but it all stems from working really, really hard to simply improve and provide a better service for our clients.

"This is how we work: We give Mary from West Avenue a good hair cut and she tells her daughter Kathryn from Denbury Avenue who comes along and loves the MC2 experience and she tells her work mate from Thelwall and that's how it all works.

"That's why we're successful. Winning International Awards is great but it doesn't mean a thing if it's not improving the service we give our cherished Warrington clients; who do MC2."



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