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Issue 121 April 2011 FREE

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For further information contact **Emma Stride** at **Forshaws Davies Ridgway LLP** on **01925 604713** or visit www.fdrlaw.co.uk

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worldwide.co.uk

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Old Road, Warrington

Cheshire WA4 1AT

Distribution

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.

Appleton:

Village Hall, Co-Op

Grappenhall:

Co-op, Community Centre

High Legh:

Garden Centre

Lower Walton:

Spa Shop

Stockton Heath:

Co-op, Library

Stretton:

Beehive Stores

Thelwall:

Post Office

Welcome

WELCOME to the 10th anniversary of Village Life magazine which has been given a fresh new look to mark the occasion.

As well as a new look, Village Life is now being delivered to over 5,000 selected homes in the area, as well as still being available in many of the usual pick up points.

We have seen many changes over the past decade but one thing which has been consistent is your local community magazine, which has been published every month since our launch in April 2001, bringing you the best coverage of community life.

Looking back at our very first issue we reported on the new Vicar of Stretton and Appleton Thorn, the Rev Elaine Chegwin Hall, who we are delighted to report is still very much a fixture in the local community - and as we said at the time, is most certainly not the Vicar of Dibley!

Meanwhile another new development is the availability of all your community news at www.village-life.co.uk including downloads of the magazine in pdf format.

You can also access Village Life on facebook by joining the Village Life magazine group.

Here at Village Life we realise we have to move with the times so now you can keep up to date with everything going on in your local community, either through the magazine or online at the touch of a button.

It also means we can bring you the breaking news stories as they happen and you can also interact with fellow readers and the local business community.

We are always looking at ways to innovate and welcome feedback.

Finally we would like to say a big thank you to all those who have supported us over the past 10 years, especially through these difficult economic times.



■ Peter with one of the sets of twins.

Twins at the treble!

ZOO rangers at Walton Gardens are celebrating the birth of eight African Pygmy goats - including three sets of twins.

The arrival of the cute little goats is always a highlight of the calendar for zoo ranger Peter Cookson as it signals the arrival of Spring, which is always a busy time at the zoo.

"While sets of twins are quite common we don't normally get three sets," said a delighted Peter.

Allotments deal

Cover story

Under the new agreement, the association can sell to the wider community.

The allotments are unique in that they are managed by the association's members rather than by the parish council.

Every year, parish councillors visit the allotments in Red Lane, Appleton for a formal inspection - and are entertained by the gardeners who put on a buffet in their hut.

Village Life is published monthly by Orbit News Ltd.

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Printed by TwentyFourSeven

In recent years, the association has also put on an open day as part of the Stockton Heath Festival.

Visitors travel along the canal from London Bridge to Red Lane Bridge where they disembark and buy produce from the allotment holders.



■ Left: Steve Arnold (Ashley in Coronation Street)

■ Below left: Owner, Shane Wrench, Ellis, his son and Steve Arnold

■ Bottom: Shane and Steve outside the shop



Corrie star helps dream come true for Shane

Photography: Neill Monks
www.naturalfocusphotography.co.uk

STOCKTON Heath resident Shane Wrench has opened a new clothing shop in the village named after his 11-year-old son Ellis.

Family friend Steve Arnold, former Coronation Street star 'Ashley', was on hand to perform the official opening, which is a dream come true for Shane, who has wanted to open a clothing shop in the village for the past eight years!

Steve, who recently featured in Dancing on Ice said he was happy to support Shane's new venture, giving the thumbs up to his menswear range.

Shane says the clothes he sells are 'more relaxed casual clothing' for teenagers, ladies, men and children with ranges from eight-years-old up.

He stocks jeans, T-shirts, sweatshirts, beachwear, footwear, flip flops, bags and accessories with brands including Roxy, Quicksilver, O'Neil, DC Shoes, Nixon and Etnies.



Filling a 'gap' with family fun

A BUSY village centre hopes to fill an early evening "gap" in activities with family friendly fun.

Stockton Heath is a thriving shopping area and a popular venue for late night revellers. But it goes quiet between 5pm and 7pm - and councillors want to change all that.

Cllr Celia Jordan said: "There is a gap in provision between these hours. It is the time between people going home from work and those going out at night.

"We are looking to make the village lively and vibrant for families at these times."

The council is to ask family friendly cafes and restaurants to introduce special deals to keep the village buzzing with families.

A team is to be sent out and about in the village asking people why they were out and what they felt about the village.

It is all part of a borough council bid to obtain "Purple Flag" status for Stockton Heath.

This recognition, awarded by the Association of Town Centre Management, is a new accreditation that recognises excellence in the management of town and city centres at night.

It is awarded to entertainment areas that offer "a better night out" to visitors.

Local businesses and community groups will also be asked play a part.

Pick up the poop!

DEVIOUS dog owners who only pick up their pets' poop when someone is watching have been criticised in Stockton Heath.

Parish councillor Tudor Pole said: "If someone is watching they will pick it up - but if they think no-one is about they will leave it."

Members of the council are to tour the village putting up stickers informing dog owners they must clean up after their pets.

One site where there is a major problem with dog fouling is local beauty spot Ackers Pit, they say.

Student wins regional award

A HIGHER Whitley student has been named North West Apprentice Plumber of the year in the regional finals of the Heating Installers and Plumbers (HIP) UK competition.

The competition, is a nationwide trade competition aimed at supporting the younger generation of apprentices and practicing tradesmen. It gives trainee plumbers and heating engineers the opportunity to work their way through a series of challenges,

providing them with insight and valuable lessons on life in their chosen career. Kristian Poyner, 21, a student at Warrington Collegiate, won the North West heat of the competition hosted at the Winwick Road campus after completing a challenge to carry out a plumbing installation from a set of drawings in an allocated time and achieving the highest number of points for precision of installation. He now goes through to the national final in London later this year.

Divorce doesn't need to tear you apart

Caroline Payne recently joined the Betesh Partnership Solicitors family team and is now continuing their impressive reputation in Hale village.

Betesh established a family law team in 1948 and their reputation and experience supersedes them. Harry Lipson, Senior Partner and Sarah Brown, Solicitor are located in the firms Manchester City Centre office however both are available to clients who wish to see them in the Hale office. Harry and Sarah have built a strong reputation surrounding a unique service that has proved to be invaluable in achieving superior results and a less stressful divorce for all involved.

Caroline says, "I was impressed by the ethos Harry and Sarah have incorporated into their service to clients. The same excellence will be delivered to clients from our Hale office. We understand that divorce is not just 9-5 Monday to Friday. We feel we have a duty and responsibility to give clients the support and advice that will always be in their best interests and enable us to achieve superior results. This is why we are careful to limit the clients we represent enabling us to offer them more than just legal advice. We want to be available to our clients whenever they need our support and guidance".

"In my experience I have learnt that the uncertainty of finances is a major factor in the stresses involved with divorce. We offer funding

arrangements to clients and in certain circumstances will agree to receive payment at the end of a case on agreed terms. We hope that this will go some way to alleviating the additional worry of having to pay for the divorce while dealing with all of the other emotional anxieties."

"With children frequently being involved in divorce and parents contact being a complex issue, I appreciate the need to be able to reassure my clients at all times. A high percentage of child handover happens outside office hours when difficulties can arise, this is why I am available to my clients immediately should circumstances change".

"I would often have a large number of phone calls on a Monday morning from clients when situations have arisen over the weekend and they have been waiting all weekend to be

able to contact me. I realised I needed to adapt the way I work to suit my client's needs and enable me to offer a more complete service. I consider this approach to be instrumental in the successful divorce settlements and court orders I have obtained for my clients. I have also seen the benefit this communication has had upon my clients in relieving their anxiety and preventing disputes escalating".

"We have a number of international clients due to the significance of a service like this. They can see the value and importance of being able to contact us at a time that suits them".

"We understand that the thought of divorce is daunting. This is why we also offer a free legal clinic to anyone who requires advice regarding initiating proceedings or you just want reassurance on your position in a family matter. The Family Legal Clinics are held every Wednesday from 5pm by appointment at our Hale Office".

"Our aim is to always provide a distinguished legal service combined with the understanding and flexibility needed to ensure the best possible outcome for our clients".



"Caroline has exceeded all of my expectations...not only a formidable lawyer but a pillar of support"

"Caroline's knowledge of family law is remarkable hence her reputation. The service she offers is outstanding. Caroline could not come any more highly recommended"

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Chairman strikes gold

STOCKTON Heath Parish Council can now keep up with the Jones' - thanks to a local jeweller.

Chairman Cllr Graham Roughsedge struck gold when he approached jewellers Evans and Co - as they offered to restore the chain of office at a bargain price.

Cllr Roughsedge asked the jeweller if they could improve the appearance of the chain as it was looking "shabby" compared with other council chairmen's chains of office he had noticed while attending functions.

The jewellers agreed to rearrange and clean the chain at a cost of £200 - and said they would carry out repair work free of charge.

Cllr Roughsedge said if they had not agreed to do some of the work free, the cost would have been more than £1,000.

Cllr Tudor Pole said it was a "fantastic offer."

■ *Graham (left) with his chain of office and Simon Hammett, manager at Evans & Co's Stockton Heath premises.*

Pupils in touch with science

PUPILS at St Wilfrid's CE Primary School, Grappenhall, marked National Science Week with two special events on the theme of communication.

Members of the Grappenhall-based Warrington Amateur Radio Club visited the school and set up a remote communication link between the school and the club's headquarters.

Then the "Mad Science Company" dropped in at the school to make science come alive by performing "Static and Current Electricity." Parents were able to join their children for the show.

■ *William Hanson, aged five, communicating by radio watched by (from the left) Ava Partington, four, Rachael Segal, five, amateur radio operator Bill Rabbitt and Abigail Vizard, five.*



Highways dispute took planners back 246 years

IT was been one of the longest-running highways disputes at Appleton in living memory - and it might not be over yet.

Researchers have gone back as far as the 1765 Appleton and Lymm Enclosure Act to decide whether Firs Lane - and an adjoining section of Park Lane - are maintainable at public expense.

The Appleton and Lymm Enclosure Award of 1768 has been studied, as have commercial maps published between 1777 and 1831 and the Highways Act of 1835.

Nothing definite has been established - but borough council highways officer John Thorp has finally concluded that, on the balance of probabilities, Firs Lane and an unadopted length of Park Lane, are public carriageways maintainable at public expense.

It all started in 2009 when a Firs Lane resident challenged the borough council for including the road as an available route for cycling in a guide to cycle ways in the borough.

The complainant asserted there were no public rights of way over Firs Lane, which, he said, was privately maintained. Council officers had assumed it to be a highway, privately maintainable.

Town Hall chiefs decided the issue was whether Firs Lane should be left as it was, formally adopted by the council or designated as a wholly publicly maintainable road.

Residents were divided. Some wanted to maintain the status quo, even though it would mean they had to pay for maintenance themselves. Others wanted the council to maintain it. Few, if any, wanted it to be adopted - which would mean it being properly surfaced, kerbed and lit.

The borough's traffic committee has decided on a compromise - a publicly maintainable road.

Appleton parish councillor John Price said: "The majority of residents wanted to maintain the status quo, but most seem to feel they can live with the compromise.

"They feel that if the road is adopted and becomes a properly surfaced road it will become a 'rat run' for motorists using it as a short cut.

"But at least one resident wants to take the matter further to try and keep things as they are."



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Cup of cheer

■ Church members Sue Taylor (left) and Margaret Witter enjoying a cup of cheer.

ST Thomas' Church Stockton Heath is open every day for villagers and passersby to call in for a cup of tea or coffee offering the opportunity for a friendly chat or peaceful reflection.

You can light a candle in memory of a loved one while at the same time taking in the history of the church. The church is open from 10am-12 noon Monday to Saturday.

Meanwhile the church AGM takes place on Sunday April 10 at 12 noon.

Tudor named as Community Ambassador

THE man behind the highly successful Stockton Heath Festival is to receive one of Warrington's first Community Ambassador Awards.



Parish councillor Tudor Pole, who instigated the festival idea, has been the driving force behind its success for the past four years.

He says the festival brings together the community in a unique way.

"I'm very proud to be nominated but also proud to just be one of the thousands of volunteers across the country," he said.

Tudor is to receive the award as he stands down as director of Stockton Heath Festival. He said: "I think it is time to hand over the reins."

"I have enjoyed the challenge, but running the festival is almost a full-time job at times and I am not getting any younger. Fortunately the festival has a strong committee to ensure it continues."

Tudor is also planning to stand down as a parish councillor.

Other unsung heroes from across Warrington will become Community Ambassadors at a community ball hosted by the Mayor Cllr John Joyce.

The event, on March 25 at the Halliwell Jones Stadium, will honour nine people who have made outstanding contributions to the community.

The Community Ambassador Awards are open to anyone or any age. This year nominations have been made by borough councillors. Details of how to make nominations for the 2012 awards will be available on the council website nearer to the time.

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Thelwall – city of legend

LEGEND says it was once a city. It is most famous for a viaduct that isn't even in the same parish.

It is one of the oldest habitations in Cheshire, having survived flooding from the Mersey since the 10th century. It has a post office that isn't a post office and another one that is - it is the attractive village of Thelwall.

But despite the inscription on the Pickering Arms which reads: "In the year 920 King Edward the Elder founded a city here and called it Thelwall" it is unlikely the village was ever more than a military encampment.

Today it is more a modern, suburban community with smart detached and semi-detached houses - and its own friendly, helpful, independent shops and businesses.

Barley Road is a useful, convenient centre for the village with a range of businesses and, importantly, room to park.

At Greenfield's Deli and Bistro, owner and chef David Lowe, sets high standards with breakfasts, lunches, afternoon teas and an a la carte menu

in the evening. David puts the emphasis on using fresh, local produce and making everything on the premises.

The bright, inviting bistro is very much a place to relax and enjoy good food - but it is also ideal for parties of up to around 20 who can book the whole place any evening.

Cards by Samantha is an interesting craft boutique owned by Samantha Worsley.

She will make to order stylish, individual wedding stationery and other cards, etc, at affordable prices.

Samantha also runs card making classes where you can make new friends and learn fascinating new skills leading to an absorbing new hobby.

Paul Lundy owns independent funeral directors P.J. Lundy. He believes in providing a caring, sympathetic service to aid families through the difficult time that follows the passing of a loved one. He stresses the importance of using an



independent funeral director committed to providing a unique, thoughtful service.

The Post Office - the real one, that is, not the old one near the Pickering Arms, which is now a private house - is run by Norman and Mandy.

It is much more than a post office, of course and is now offering that sadly disappearing service, the morning newspaper delivery.

Around the corner in Thelwall New Road is the Little Wonders Day Nursery and Ferry Link Club, run by Anne Marie Gleave.

If an early start is vital to you - and for many parents it is - then the 7.30am start time at Little Wonders will be important.

Anne Marie spent five long years planning and preparing to realise the dream of opening a nursery for Thelwall and surrounding areas. Her aim is to provide a warm, caring and stimulating environment to help children feel secure, happy and loved.

Staff are fully qualified, experienced and friendly and the nursery follows the pre-school curriculum planning for 3-4 year olds and 0-3 matters for the younger children.



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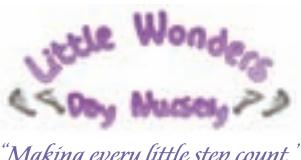
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The company has been trading for ten years and over time has built up a reputable business for providing a professional, friendly and personal service to meet the individual needs and brief of the client, whether it is supply, fitting or supply and fit for a particular project, commercial or domestic.

They are specialist in a full range of varying flooring products to suit all budgets including, high quality and economy laminates, real wood

flooring, engineered wood flooring, luxury vinyls, safety flooring, cushion floor, carpets and carpet tiles, marbles and travertines plus many more flooring products. At ABC Flooring they only supply and fit from reputable flooring brands such as Bausen, Quick-Step, Kahrs, Elka, Kersaint Cobb, Karndean, Amtico, Vusta (luxury vinyl), Altro (safety flooring), Georgian Carpets and Parquet to name a few.

They have a team of specialist craftsmen and fitters who are highly experienced in their field of expertise. Our work is always delivered on time and is guaranteed, subject to free site survey and product suitability. We also have an understanding, sensitive and empathetic approach to all projects undertaken, irrespective of budget and size of project.

Launched by Julian Hurst he was joined in the business by his brother Justin, who runs the contracts arm of the company.

The business was established 10 years ago as a wood floor fitting service for all types of floor coverings from a bespoke range of flooring products.

The ABC flooring Showroom has now been trading from our Knutsford Road address in Grappenhall for the last 4 years and the progress of the business has been "nothing short of incredible," said Julian.

"We are very proud to serve the surrounding community and Warrington area as a whole with help and advice always available to both our domestic and commercial customers."

All products can be viewed at their Flooring Studio on Knutsford Road, Grappenhall, where expert knowledge and advice is always on hand. Please do not hesitate to visit or contact them for a 'no obligation' quotation and they will endeavour to price match or beat any quote offered to meet a budget. Meanwhile why not visit the company website at: www.abcflooringsupplies.co.uk



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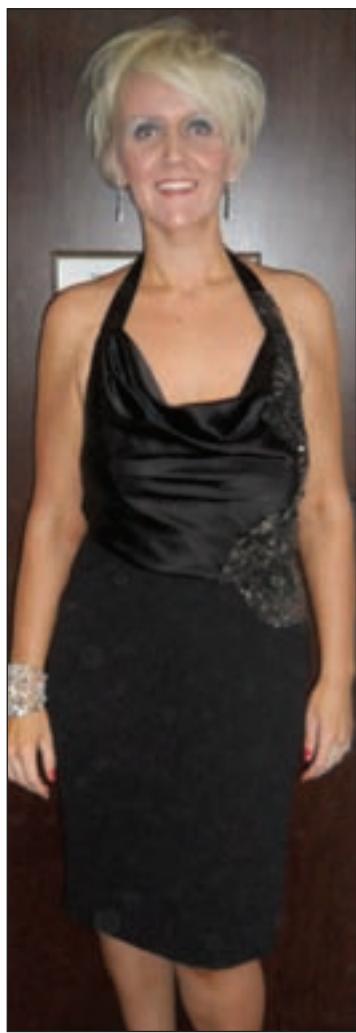
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How Holly found a new life

IT was after the birth of two children within twelve months that Holly Taylor-Holbrook started to put on weight. At 18 stone 12 pounds, she was desperately unhappy, had no confidence, never exercised and ate when she could as, with two young children, she had to eat when she had the time.

Holly decided to tackle her weight and joined a slimming club. But after 12 months her weight-loss had come to a halt. Although she had lost two stone, she wasn't losing anymore. Frustrated, she looked around for alternatives to kick start her weight-loss once again, as she had a further six stone to lose.

A family friend had undertaken the LighterLife programme and managed to lose an incredible six stone. Holly felt this could be the programme for her. After some research, she decided the Foundation programme could be the ideal solution for her.

A week later she met her local counsellor where she received a friendly welcome. She discovered she had a BMI of 37, which categorised her as morbidly obese. In July last year Holly decided it was time to change her life for good.

In her first week she lost nine pounds - and this gave her the boost to continue. Now, after losing an incredible six stones she has maintained her weight for three months.

Holly's life has completely changed. She now goes to the gym 3-4 times a week and loves exercising. She enjoys running so much she even enrolled in the Liverpool Marathon in October.

Sometimes when she looks in the mirror she genuinely doesn't recognise herself!

She said: "I am a shadow of my former self. LighterLife has given me self confidence to explore other areas of my life. Twelve months ago I never would have had the confidence to apply for other jobs or step out in a little black dress for a night out with the girls. I have more energy to play with my children as well as managing my time as a whole."

More details about LighterLife are available from local weight-management counsellor Colleen Butchart on 01925-261831 / 07961-650865 or by visiting www.lighterlife.com/colleenbutchart



Volunteers ready to run book exchange

AT least 14 volunteers have offered to help run a new book exchange scheme at Appleton when the mobile library service ends.

Members of Stretton WI and the Park WI, Appleton, have agreed to run the scheme at Appleton Parish Hall on Monday afternoons. Fourteen members have volunteered.

In addition, a group which uses the Parish Hall on Tuesdays is interested in running the service between 10am and 12 noon.

Appleton Parish Council has agreed to give a grant of up to £150 towards the cost of shelving and book storage.

The book exchange will operate in the foyer at the parish hall. The borough council will provide a one-off starter pack of about 100 books and users of the scheme will be encouraged to donate unwanted books.

The mobile library is closing at the end of March, along with Grappenhall Library, as part of borough council cut-backs

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Electric car scores well on safety

THE first ever crash test on an electric car carried out by Euro NCAP - the European New Car Assessment Programme - has allayed safety fears about the new vehicles.

A Mitsubishi i-MiEV supermini was awarded an overall score of four out of a possible five stars.

As a result, crash test experts believe five star protection is attainable for future electric cars.

Edmund King, the AA's president, welcomed the test result.



Three-in-one car unveiled

VOLVO have unveiled the V60 plug-in hybrid - which they claim features the best properties of three different car types in one, single attractive sports wagon.

Three buttons on the centre console give the driver access to either an electric car with a range of up to 50km, a high-efficiency hybrid with carbon dioxide emissions averaging just 49g/km or a muscular, fun-to-drive car with acceleration from 0-100km in just 6.9 seconds.

He said: "This i-MiEV sets a benchmark in safety that other electric vehicles will have to achieve. From the point of view of future buyers, the success of this crash test will dispel much of the worry about what happens when an electric car is involved in a significant crash."

The same 4-star rating applies to the Citroen C-Zero and the Peugeot iOn, both of which are structurally identical to the Mitsubishi i-MiEV and have the same interior fittings and levels of safety equipment.

Crash testers' chief worry was how well the car's batteries stood up to the impact and the effectiveness of cut-off switches in isolating the high-voltage battery. Euro NCAP observed that no electrical or fire hazards were detected during the testing of the i-MiEV.

Euro NCAP has recently crash tested four other new cars and awarded stars as follows: Dacia Duster (small off-road 4x4) 3 stars; Mitsubishi ASX (small family) 5 stars; Nissan Juke (supermini) 5 stars; Hyundai ix20 (small MPV) 5 stars.

Save money by driving slower

AS fuel costs soar, millions of motorists are driving more slowly on motorways to try and save money.

Some 59 per cent of all drivers say they are reducing speeds to cut fuel consumption - and among women drivers, the figure rises to 65 per cent.

Drivers are now paying more than £10 more per tank of diesel than a year ago, and more than £8.40 more per tank of petrol, according to one survey.

Sticking to the speed limit, especially on motorways is one of the most effective ways to cut fuel costs.

Cruising at 80mph is not only illegal, but it uses up to 25 per cent more fuel than driving at 70mph.

Experts say that sticking to the 70mph limit on motorways can save £500 a year on fuel.

Will motorists who say they will drive slower actually do so? The evidence suggests they are doing. Speeds on local motorways appear to have dropped in the last 12 months - although of course there are still plenty of those drivers who appear to think the speed limits only apply to other people!



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Money Column

By Margaret Black

How big a problem is record keeping?

During the development of HMRC's new powers, and when the tax authority was ready to start bringing forward legislation, it set out its objectives for compliance checks on taxpayers including businesses.

"It is envisaged that an officer of HMRC might begin a compliance check in respect of any of the relevant taxes for one or more of a number of purposes. These include checking that:

- a tax return, amendment to a return or claim is correct
- statutory record keeping requirements are being met
- tax has not been underpaid or over-claimed
- any issues concerning possible tax avoidance are considered."

The second of these objectives is now generating some publicity and HMRC is expected to target smaller businesses to check the quality of their records during 2011. Although the stated intention of the record keeping checks is to ensure that smaller firms are keeping adequate records, there are potentially more serious issues at stake than a "slapped wrist" for poor records. There is not presently any evidence that HMRC is planning a "big stick" approach to smaller businesses, but

the consultation process that concluded on 28 February made it clear that there will be a focus SME record keeping in 2011. There is also some history for HMRC of looking at business records (in the relatively recent past) and being dismayed with what was observed!

'Interventions'

The 2006 Budget included details of HMRC's plans to use new approaches to compliance. Business and the accountancy profession were consulted to see how this might work. Although this all occurred five years ago, the work done then will have a bearing on what happens in 2011.

Almost as soon as the consultation closed, HMRC announced a trial of the new methods that started on 10 July 2006. The accountancy profession's view was that the trial was set under way far too quickly, and many advisers had doubts about participating in the trial.

Although the 2006 pilot scheme was much criticised, a number of key lessons were highlighted in the evaluation report produced in April 2007. These are likely to shape compliance developments over the next few years, and indeed are likely to form the basis of the entire structure of



David Watkinson and Margaret Black

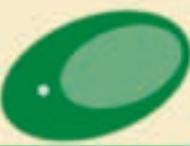
compliance effort in the medium term.

There is a risk that some of the more specific issues arising have not had sufficient attention from the profession. The pilot scheme review included the following comment, which highlighted the specific issue of record keeping: "Some taxpayers are not able to declare the correct amount of tax because their business records are not adequate. If this is left unaddressed it could subsequently lead to more significant errors."

HMRC identified the poor records they observed in the trial as a key risk to the integrity of the tax system. It would be naive to expect that this conclusion would not form a major part of the compliance drive in the future.

This article is only meant to inform, if you require more advice please do not hesitate to contact us telephone 01925 413210 or e-mail on margaret@warringtonaccountants.co.uk

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

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discuss an issue of concern to you please e-mail him at david.mowat.mp@parliament.uk or telephone **01925 267580**.



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Bid to unlock answer to multi-million pound problem

AN ingenious way to stop wheelie bins going missing – and save local authorities hundreds of thousands of pounds a year – has been devised.

The Oasis Bin-Loc is simple to install and operate, making the bin impossible to remove, and has an attachment that prevents anyone accessing the contents.

Some local authorities are spending up to £0.25million a year replacing stolen or damaged wheelie bins and Merseyside Fire Brigade reckons the cost of putting out wheelie bin blazes costs taxpayers around £1.3million a year.

The system comes in two forms: A simple bracket fixed to a wall and a free-standing node that locks bins together in a waste station for communal areas in social housing areas. The bins can be unlocked by a caretaker.

Recyclable and residual waste will be kept in separate stations, thus encouraging residents to recycle more.

Huge savings can be made by councils as the Bin-Loc:

- Eradicates wheelie bin theft.
- Controls the spread of waste from damaged or upturned bins.
- Prevents wheelie bin fires. Keeps wheelie bins in one secure location.

- Stops the risk of identity theft from wheelie bins.

The Oasis Bin-Loc, which has been invented and patented by social enterprise company Prescot Oasis, replaces old, heavy and cumbersome bin shutts.

Prescot Oasis, a social enterprise business that uses its profits to transform deprived communities through jobs, training and business development, came across the idea after asking residents at a communal block where they had been doing landscape gardening if they could suggest improvements to the area where they live.

The residents complained about missing or vandalised wheelie bins and Oasis Project Director Colin Hill set about finding a solution. After extensive enquiries he discovered there was no product available and began the process of inventing the Bin-Loc.

Mr Hill said: "We believe our Bin-Loc system provides a cost-effective answer to wheelie bin theft, fires and identity theft, as well as providing a cost-saving and environmental solution to communal waste disposal."

The Bin-Locs are made in Prescot and Prescot Oasis hopes to set up a factory in the area to manufacture and tailor the product for individual local authorities.

Little Box Of Treats !

THE Little Box Of Treats, the first Chinese Bakery and Tea House in Warrington has now opened in Stockton Heath!

Susan Kelly (business owner) has always enjoyed making Chinese buns and cakes with her Mum when she was

younger, and is now following that passion in this new business.

There are lots of things to choose from - individually made buns, baked fresh everyday with sweet and savoury fillings. Lighter Chinese-style celebration cakes are available upon request. There is a huge variety of

lower-fat sponge cupcakes made with fresh cream.

So far, people have really taken to the Bakery, as the Chinese Tea and other products are healthier than higher-fat alternatives.

Susan said: "Give it a try if you're in Stockton Heath. The atmosphere is pleasant, and you can sit in or take away."



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Spring into action

WITH spring in the air, many households are beginning to prepare for the dreaded spring clean.

Paul Clark from professional oven valeters Ovenu believes this time of year is the perfect time for homeowners to give their ovens a well deserved spring clean.

Even the most enthusiastic spring cleaners, donning rubber gloves and tackling the oven is still one of the most loathed household chores. If people are not thorough with their oven cleaning, fat and food can cause future problems, which could result in an oven fire.

Paul said: "As outside temperatures plummeted during the winter many people turned to their ovens for hot wholesome meals, but more you use your oven the more debris and grease can start to build up and this can affect its efficiency."

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

The whole process takes around three hours and leaves the oven, hob and exterior in immaculate condition. Ovenu is accredited by the British Accreditation Bureau to ISO 9001 and all cleaning products used by Ovenu are environmentally friendly, biodegradable and conform to the latest government REACH regulations. Ovenu's Carbon Remover is also approved by the Vitreous Enamel Association.

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What's On

in the Villages

April 12

STOCKTON HEATH PARISH COUNCIL
Sandy Lane Centre. 7.30pm

April 16

LIVE AT ST WILFRID'S
Lucille Burns and Victoria Davies, flute and harp.
St Wilfrid's Church, Grappenhall. 7.30pm

April 19

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

Every Monday

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

ST MARY MAGDALENE MONDAY CLUB
1.30pm

FOLK 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,
helwall 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

STOCKTON HEATH FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY
St Mary Magdalene's Church, Dingle Way, Appleton.
8pm. Contact: Linda Pearson 01925 602803.

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 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

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 268133.

To list your event call **Village Life** on
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APPLETON
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COUNCIL



Crime was no yoke!

STRANGE crimes in Stockton Heath included a man smashing an egg on someone's head and someone trying to steal garden lights not realising they were connected to cables.

Police Community Support Officer Ben Blandford said during the course of one month, crimes included three vehicles broken into, a shoplifting incident and four acts of criminal damage including windows smashed at Sandy Lane Centre.

There was an attempted burglary at the Royal British Legion, where a window was smashed.

Three thefts were reported, including the garden lights, and a bike taken from outside a village pub. The assault with an egg was reported in a shop.

There was one incident of drugs and nine anti-social behaviour incidents - including cars racing on Ellesmere Road and a woman who was drunk and disorderly.

No short cut for school bus

A NEW bus company operating the school service has been stopped from taking shortcuts through residential streets in Stockton Heath.

Drivers had been turning off London Road and taking a shorter route through Orchard Street, Cawdor Street and Whitefield Road - rather than the approved route to the village centre and then along Walton Road.

Parish councillor Stephen Taylor said that following complaints from residents, the company had been told drivers must use the approved route.

Fun day

A FAMILY fun day and craft fair is taking place at Thelwall parish Hall on Saturday, May 14 to raise funds for Thelwall Pre-School.

Many local businesses are taking part and there will be craft stalls, light lunches and refreshments, children's games and a raffle with prizes. The event starts at 10am and will continue until 2pm.

Afternoon teas for charity

A SERIES of monthly charity afternoon teas is to be launched at Thelwall Parish Hall on Sunday, April 3.

Sandwiches, cakes, scones and drinks will be available on the first Sunday of each month, between 12.30pm and 4pm.

The teas are being organized jointly by the hall management and some of the organizations that use the hall. Profit will be split equally between the hall and the organization hosting the event that month.



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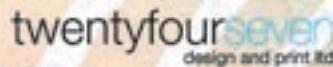
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