

VILLAGE life

Cheshire's Community Magazine

Issue 141 December 2012 FREE

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Christmas cheer for hospice

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'Royal Oak' planted

A 'Royal Oak' sapling has been planted in the wildflower meadow at Stockton Heath's Mill Lane Diamond Jubilee Field.

The common oak sapling was grown from acorns gathered from a royal estate and has been presented to Stockton Heath Parish Council by Fields in Trust, in partnership with the Woodland Trust.

The aim is to provide an additional living legacy of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

Similar "Royal Oaks" have been presented to other QEII fields across the country.

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Mere:
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Opinion

GIVEN that Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service needs to make savings of some £6.5 million over the next four years and that the total number of incidents they attend annually has fallen by more than 41 per cent since 2004-5, it would not be surprising to hear they were closing fire stations.

In fact, they plan to increase the number of fire stations across the county from 24 to 28 or 29.

New fire stations are planned for Lymm and Penketh, among other places, to be staffed by firefighters transferred from Knutsford, Stockton Heath and Warrington.

The new Lymm station will be manned 24 hours a day and, because of its proximity to the M6 and M56, will be an "operational response hub" with specialist vehicles.

This means the Knutsford and Stockton Heath stations, currently manned during the day only, will become "on call" stations manned by part time firefighters.

Chief Fire Officer Paul Hancock is confident the changes will not result in any diminution of service and promises a 10-minute response time to all life-risk incidents. He puts a very plausible argument to support his case.

The Fire Brigades Union is less convinced, although we are told their opposition to the proposals comes mainly from

their national officers rather than locally.

Time alone will tell if Mr Hancock's optimism is justified.

We are impressed with the 41 per cent reduction in incidents, brought about by the brigade's programme of preventative and educational work and hope this will not suffer from a proposal to transfer some of this work to volunteers.

AFTER a year in which the whole country and has been enriched and enlivened by events such as the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, the Olympics and the Paralympics, there must be a risk that Christmas could turn out to be something of an anti-climax.

We hope not - and with all the festive events being organised in almost every town and village in Cheshire, we are pretty sure it won't.

The weather will make a difference, of course, but if the wettest summer for 100 years could not spoil the fun, surely the winter cannot throw anything at us to get in the way of Christmas.

So we thank all those who work so hard to make sure 2012 goes out with a bang - and wish all readers a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Remembrance Day service with a difference

A UNIQUE Remembrance Day service took place in the village of Appleton Thorn when wreaths were laid on a newly renovated War Memorial close to the Church of St Cross.

Among those attending the service was a Dutch officer who visits the village every year in memory of Dutch naval officers killed while serving at the wartime Royal Naval Air Station, HMS Blackcap, which was just down

the road.

The service was conducted by the vicar, the Rev Elaine Chegwin-Hall, assisted by Eirlyss Jessop, a recently qualified lay reader who lives in the village.

The local PCSO, Dave Mahon, laid a wreath on behalf of Cheshire Police and other other wreaths were laid by Thorn Cross Young Offenders Institute, Appleton Parish Council, The Manchester Association of the Fleet

Air Arm and St Cross Church vergers.

HMS Blackcap was originally built in 1942 as an RAF night fighter station to help protect Liverpool and Manchester from the Luftwaffe.

But it was later transferred to the Navy and more than 40 Fleet Air Arm squadrons operated there until its closure in 1958.

Other Remembrance Day services were held at churches in towns and villages across Cheshire.



Beauty queens provide Christmas cheer for hospice

A YOUNG beauty queen helped provide some early Christmas cheer for a childrens' hospice by raising over £2,000 from their various fund-raising efforts.

Cheshire based Olivia Davidson-Slack, aged 14, was one of the finalists in the Miss Teen Great Britain 2012 competition, organised by Holly Ikin from Warrington which raised a staggering £7,568.68 for Claire House Childrens' Hospice.

But sadly Olivia, Miss Teen Cheshire

Does a village need a village hall?

A COUNCILLOR who believes a village should have a village hall has been set the task of showing there is a demand for one.

Clr Tudor Pole has been asked to prove the need for a village hall or community centre at Stockton Heath, after raising the issue at the council's monthly meeting.

Members agreed unanimously to support the idea if a site became available - and if a demand from the public could be shown.

Clr Pole - founder of the annual Stockton Heath Festival - said he had been approached by a resident who believed a need existed for a hall.

He said: "I have myself noted a shortage of suitable premises when events are being organised for the festival.

"If we had a hall, we could hold our meetings in it and it could also be let out for community events.

"I am wondering if there would be support for building a hall if a suitable site became available."

Cllr Wendy Emsley said there had been previous attempts to provide a village hall, one by converting the former fire station and another by building on land at the rear of Chapel Lane.

But the meeting heard both attempts had failed because of objections from nearby residents.

Chairman Cllr Stephen Taylor said: ""We don't know if there is a demand - we need to find out."

It was agreed that Cllr Pole should investigate the likely demand for a hall.



East, who won the Miss Teen Charity award after raising more than £2250 for the charity - the highest amount of all of the finalists, was unable to compete after being involved in a car accident.

Consequently, she spent the weekend of the competition recovering at home, rather than being on stage.

However, organiser Holly insisted that her hard work still be recognised.

Holly explained: "It was so upsetting to hear that Olivia would not be able to compete in the final. It was only after her accident that her family explained how much she had raised for the charity and I was speechless. "Olivia is only 14 and to raise so much money in a three month period is quite simply

amazing. I was so upset for her when I realised how hard she had worked and that she could not compete.

"Miss Teen Great Britain is not a typical 'beauty pageant,' it is about celebrating teenagers, their ambitions and their achievements. Olivia and her fundraising is the perfect example of this.

"It was very important to me that everyone in the competition knew how much Olivia had done in the build-up to final. Consequently, although she was unable to actually be there, she was still awarded the title of Miss Teen Charity. When this was announced at the final, she received a standing ovation from all of the girls and the audience - it was really lovely to see."

Holly went on to explain that they have also offered Olivia a place in the competition for next year, so she will

get her chance to attend the grand final and compete!

Olivia said: "I was disappointed to not be able to compete in Miss Teen Great Britain 2012, I had been looking forward to it so much - I had my dresses and everything ready to go! However, after the accident, my main priority was that my sister and I were both ok. We were both very lucky but she did have some terrible injuries and must wear a back brace for several months. I am just thankful that it was not any worse.

"The good news is that I will definitely be competing next year and I am so grateful to have been given this opportunity again. I thoroughly enjoyed supporting Claire House and it was so rewarding, I'll definitely be continuing with my fundraising for 2013."



Advertiser's announcement

Coaching for all!

It is very refreshing today to be able to deal with a family-run company, and even better that they are predominantly based in the North West of England. Holidays can be arranged for the UK and Europe, but they also offer great value Short Breaks, which are open to all ages.

Good news for single travellers; as they try to eliminate single room supplements for as many holidays as they possibly can. However, a good suggestion is to book as early as possible to avoid disappointment because single rooms are limited. Children (or grand-children) are welcome on holidays and many holidays offer great reductions for children sharing with adults. If sitting on a coach is not for you; then self-drive can be offered and reductions will vary depending on the tour.

As well as a pick up base in the North West of England, collections at any motorway service stations enroute to your chosen destination can be arranged. For customers based in the North West "Door Step Pick Ups" are offered on many of the holidays. The taxi/minibus service will take you directly to and from your home to join your holiday coach.

A wide range of holidays are offered to suit all tastes, from weekend breaks (London weekends, Dublin or the stunning Lake District) to themed breaks (the spectacular Edinburgh Tattoo, Dutch Tulip fields or Flower Shows), Golfing breaks, Walking Holidays, Historic Houses and Gardens, Race Meetings and in keeping with our North West heritage

there are Rugby League Weekends!

The drivers are friendly, smart and knowledgeable. Your coach driver should not be there just to drive the coach, but to assist in the smooth running and of course the enjoyment of your holiday.

With Christmas on our doorstep why not try to book a Christmas Market short break (UK or Europe); a Christmas or New Year break and if you have not had enough of the Yuletide celebrations, try a 'Twixmas' Break, which offers departures for the 27 & 28 December 2012.

Following the success of a one off event for their 30th Anniversary; their fabulous Christmas party is now a regular event in the calendar! For £18.50 your day will include a delicious three course Christmas lunch followed by an afternoon of entertainment, dancing, raffles and good old fashioned fun. Coaches will pick up at approximately 09.30 / 10.30 am and the day finishes at 6pm when coaches return to your drop off point.

Even a Reunion Holiday is on offer - five days of entertainment, fun, games and raffles which raises money for well deserving charities. You can



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What's On, Where & When...

Christmas Lights Switch On – Friday 16 November - Golden Square / Market Gate, from 3pm
St. Andrew's Day Festival – Saturday 1 December - Bridge Street / Market Gate
Christmas at the Children's Zoo – Sunday 2 December - Walton Hall & Gardens
Christmas Gift Cabins – 2-8 December - Market Gate
Street Animation – 1, 8, 15 & 22 December - Bridge Street
Santa's Workshop – 8, 15 & 22 December - Bridge Street
Vienna Festival Ballet presents **The Nutcracker** – Saturday 8 December - Parr Hall, 2.30pm
Walton Winterland – 8-9, 15-16, 22-23 December - Walton Hall & Gardens
Christmas Carvery Lunch – 9, 15 & 23 December - Walton Hall & Gardens
Warrington Lantern Parade – Thursday 13 December - Queen's Gardens, 6.30pm & 7.30pm
Light Spectacular – Thursday 13 December - Town Hall, 7.15pm
Ken Dodd – Thursday 13 December - Parr Hall, 7.30pm
Houghton Weavers – 13 & 14 December - Pyramid, 7.30pm
Christmas in the Cultural Quarter – 13-16 December - Queen's Gardens, from 7.30pm
Christmas Comedy Store – Saturday 15 December - Pyramid, 7.30pm
Kate Rusby – Tuesday 18 December - Parr Hall, 7.30pm
Mother Goose (Panto) – 4-13 January - Parr Hall
Radio Warrington 87.8FM at Christmas – Tune in from 12 November - 9 December
Plus... A range of exhibitions and activities taking place at Warrington Museum & Art Gallery, Monday to Saturday, throughout the festive period.

Tickets for all
Pyramid & Parr Hall
events can be purchased at:
www.pyramidparrhall.com
or call
Box Office:
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www.itsallgoingoninwarrington.co.uk

All the details in this guide are correct at the time of print. For the most up to date information, please visit www.itsallgoingoninwarrington.co.uk

 **Culture**
Warrington

 Warrington
Borough Council

Volcano mums raise £8,000

SIX Cheshire mums have raised more than £8,000 for charity - by climbing three active volcanoes.

Not content with that, the winsome six, who call themselves Team Wildfire, are now thinking about a trek to the Everest Base Camp next year - and are wondering what they can do in 2014.

Whatever, they are carrying on fund-raising for the Children's Adventure Farm Trust at Millington.

The team consists of Nicola Taylor-Jones, Lymm, Dawn Cantarelli, Culcheth, Dawn Gross, Hale Barns and Caroline Evers, Simone Breedon and Lisa Donovan, all of Timperley.

Nicola said: "We were all very excited whilst at the same time, a little apprehensive about our challenge. But we had all trained hard consistently to be prepared.

"However, I do not think any of us could even have contemplated what an amazing experience this would be, both personally and as a team.

"We shared many precious moments whilst raising over £8,000 for the charity, which is close to all of our hearts.

"We greatly appreciate all of the sponsorship and support we have had from many businesses and people."

Team Wildfire tackled Mount Vesuvius, famous for destroying Pompeii in AD79 and the only mainland volcano to have erupted continuously over the past 100 years.

Next they went up Mount Stromboli, off the coast of Sicily, which is known

as the "Lighthouse of the Mediterranean".

It erupts up to 25 times a day - and did so while the mums were climbing

it!

Finally they climbed Mount Etna, on the east coast of Sicily, which at more than 10,222 feet is the tallest, most active volcano in the world.

The team experienced constant

plumes of toxic smoke coming from the summit during the climb.

Nicola added: "We will definitely be heading for the 2014 challenge, to give us enough time to fundraise and raise support again."



A new era of cinema-going

A NEW era of cinema-going will open at Knutsford early in the New Year when the much-loved studio cinema at the civic centre will become the Curzon Knutsford.

Operational management and programming for the studio cinema and civic centre in Toft Road will be taken over by the Curzon cinema chain.

The building will remain in the ownership of Cheshire East Council, who have granted Curzon a 25-year lease.

Curzon plan to fully refurbish the cinema and café bar, updating the projection with the latest digital technology.

This will enable an improved, flexible and diverse programme of films, including art and minority interest films made by independent producers.

Online streaming technology will enable the venue to present special live events from London and elsewhere, ranging from the Metropolitan Opera and the National Theatre to rock concerts.

The best independent films will be available in High Definition.

Councillor Les Gilbert, Cheshire East's cabinet member in charge of communities and regulatory services, said: "I am sure many people in Knutsford will share the council's real satisfaction at moving forward successfully to secure the future of the civic centre and cinema.

"The council is confident that working in partnership with this renowned organisation will deliver the best facilities for the people of Knutsford and this venue will continue to serve the local community for many years to come."



What a carry on!

A NEW initiative intended to fill a gap in the lives of older people living at Grappenhall and Thelwall has got off to a flying start.

Fifty people turned up for the first meeting of the group "Carry on Carrying On" launched by local councillor Mike Biggin at Grappenhall Youth and Community Association.

They enjoyed soup and sandwiches, a showing of the comedy film "Best Exotic Marigold Hotel" and helpful talks from village PCSO Alex Stacey and Cllr Biggin.

He said: "As a councillor, I meet many people who feel socially isolated but who don't wish to join a club or go to a pub.

"I decided to call the group "Carry on Carrying On" because I thought older people would like Carry On films. But it turns out older people don't necessarily want older films so we ended up with a film released this year.

"Everybody seemed to enjoy the first session, including people who would never dream of joining a club. As a result, the next session is already fully booked."

The initiative is supported by Grappenhall and Thelwall Parish Council and future meetings will be on the second Wednesday of each month. But booking on 01925 686633 is essential.

There is a charge of £2 - and transport can be provided.

Future meetings will be attended by agencies such as the fire service, Age UK and the Citizen's Advice Bureau.



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Road trip inspires new business venture

A ROAD trip along the west coast of America inspired an Appleton man to take a chance in the fashion industry. Rob Neill, 43, has launched his debut collection under the brand name Lucky West. It features a range of men's printed and embroidered T shirts, with a vintage look and 'super soft' feel. His brand is available at www.luckywest.com

Rob, who is married with a daughter, works full time as a sales manager in the food industry.

He launched his company after two years hard work - working at weekends and in the early hours of the morning after his day job and family responsibilities were completed.

He said: "As a fashion conscious individual, I became constantly frustrated that I was buying the brand clothes that everyone else was. Especially when you had spent time looking for a quality product to give you that great feel and distinction, only to see someone else in the same

branded t shirt (you suddenly lose that great feeling don't you)."

He set out to create an affordable high-end brand and used his skills to find out about the fashion industry. He designs all goods himself and sources high quality materials and manufacturers.

Rob said: "The idea and the name Lucky West came about, after an inspired trip down the west coast of America. I wanted to capture that vintage feel from the America of old,

think back to 1950's Vegas and all its glamour and the cool diners that were spread across the states.

"I also fell in love with the designs of the old style neon signs, which are sadly a dying art form now. I was adamant though that the clothes had to be finished off with fine detailed tailoring, and then washed to give a super soft feel."

He said initially his designs are aimed at men, but he hopes the brand will feature women's clothing in the future.

Room dedicated to memory of Rotarian

A ROOM at Warrington Peace Centre has been dedicated to the memory of well known Rotarian Jim Melville, who tragically died during his year of office as club President.

Family, friends and Rotarians were present at the dedication, which was led by Jim's widow, Sue who cut a ribbon to officially open the Jim Melville Room.

Colin and Wendy Parry launched the charity The Tim Parry Johnathan Ball Foundation For Peace, following the Warrington bombings.

Colin said: "I can remember the telephone call from Jim in the very early days asking if he could help. This was an exceptionally kind gesture at a difficult time for the family.

"Jim was an example of the Rotary motto 'Service above Self' in his work for us and the community at large."

He spoke of the work Jim did for the centre in the days before the first stone was laid and his continual support.

Jim from Appleton, who died last June, also helped the charity in its successful bid to Rotary International for the organisation's

highest and most prestigious award for "World Understanding and Peace," which included a cheque for \$100,000 to the foundation.

The dedication concluded with a tour of the centre and a talk about its work in supporting those affected by conflict, acts of terror and politically motivated violence.

Jim was President of the Grappenhall based Warrington Rotary club at the time of his death.



Scouts get their hands on the World cup

SCOUTS from Grappenhall got an unexpected bonus when they went on a tour of Parliament - a chance to see the Rugby League World Cup up close.

Luke Turner, Amy Sprott, Maddison McCormick, Matthew Hennessy and their leader Denis Ward, from 25th Warrington East Scouts, were on a tour of the Palace of Westminster with Warrington South MP David Mowat.

But their tour coincided with the World Cup trophy visiting the Houses of Parliament as part of the year-to-go celebrations for next year's Rugby League World Cup.

Sitting in front of newly-named Elizabeth Tower, still affectionately known as Big Ben, the scouts had the opportunity to see and hold the cup.

The tournament, the first major international sports event in the UK after the Olympic Games, kicks-off next October with England playing Australia at Cardiff's Millennium Stadium.

Warrington's Halliwell Jones Stadium will host the group clash between New Zealand and Samoa as well as one of the quarter finals.

Mr Mowat took the opportunity to hold the trophy himself.

He said: "It is fantastic that we have so many sporting events taking place in Britain over the next few years.

"As the first after London 2012, the Rugby League World Cup 2013 has a great opportunity to showcase British sporting talent and put on a fantastic tournament.

"We saw the power of sport during the Olympics, and it seems that hasn't left us. I wish the players, coaches, organisers and volunteers the best of luck as they put on what I am sure will be an outstanding spectacle of international sport."



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**Auto Enrolment... Are you prepared?
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Experts are stating that employers should act 18 months prior to their eligibility date in order to ensure that everything is in place within the timescales given. With effect from 1st of October 2012, large scale employers will be required to automatically enrol eligible employees into a qualifying pension scheme.

By 2018, the smallest employers will too. Many still have no idea that this is coming and, even when they do, will have no idea how to handle it.

There are 54 staging dates in total spanning October 2012 to February 2018. The largest employers (those employing 120,000 workers or more) must have a pension scheme in place from the 1st of October 2012. Employee numbers get progressively smaller as the staging

dates head towards 2018.

Running alongside are the minimum contribution levels that rise over time. For employers with staging dates to 30th of September 2017, the total minimum contribution is 2% (1% employer funded). From 1st of October 2017 to 30th of September 2018, the total minimum contribution is 5% (2% employer funded) and from the 1st of October 2018 onwards, the total minimum contribution will stand at 8% (2% employer-funded).

All eligible jobholders' must be automatically enrolled: this means employees aged 22 to state pension age, working in the UK and earning more than £8,105. Workers outside of these criteria may have the right to join the scheme, and the employer must supply opt-in details-but the employer is not obliged to enrol them automatically.

Employers can use any 'qualifying scheme'. This can be a defined-contribution scheme including a minimum contribution or hybrid scheme meeting certain criteria. Since Defined Benefit schemes are a

dying breed, most employers are likely to opt for the former. The pension chosen can be either an occupational or personal pension scheme. Employers can split their workforce-for example using one scheme for higher-end employees and another for lower-earning or transient ones-as long as both schemes are qualifying.

Employers must register with the Pensions Regulator (www.thepensionsregulator.gov.uk) within 4 months of their staging date to show that they have a qualifying scheme in place and re-register every 3 years. They also have to write to their employees detailing how auto-enrolment affects them and of their right to opt out within one month. Employers must re-enrol eligible employees every 3 years and must not provide any inducements to opt out.

TailorMade will be providing further guidance to businesses on this as time progresses. Should you require further information in the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact Peter Legerton.

Do you have any **preserved** pension arrangements? • Would **you** like to decide where **your** pension fund is invested? • Would **you** like **all** your funds in **one** place? • Would **you** like the option to put **your** funds into a **wider variety** of Investments? • Would **you** like a more **proactive service** from your pension provider? • Have **you** been **dissatisfied** with your current pensions performance? • Are **you** **concerned** about having enough income when your time comes to retire? If you answered yes to any of the above questions.

It's time to act...



A glimpse of the future

AUDI have provided a glimpse of the future with its crosslane coupe concept car - a new fusion of technology, engineering and design.

The vehicle breaks new ground in terms of weight, costs and energy usage over its lifecycle, and is an evolutionary stage of Audi ultra - the lightweight construction principle from Audi.

An innovative and efficient plug-in hybrid drive based on a purpose-designed 1.5-litre three-cylinder TFSI and two electric motors redefines the benchmark, with potential fuel economy returns equivalent to 256.8 mpg and CO2 emissions of just 26 grams per km.

The result is a sophisticated vehicle that will appeal to young customers in particular, thanks to a removable roof and the customisable services available under the Audi connect concept.

The Multimaterial Space Frame of the compact coupe comprises three materials - aluminium, carbon fibre-reinforced polymer (CFRP) and glass fibre-reinforced polymer (GFRP). The car has an unladen weight of about 1,390 kg, including the large lithium-ion battery.

The plug-in hybrid drive, which is described as a dual-mode hybrid, is as innovative as it is efficient. It comprises a combustion engine, two electric motors and a single-stage transmission. It sprints from zero to 62mph in 8.6 seconds, and in pure electric mode takes 9.8 seconds. The car's top speed is 113mph. It offers the potential for up to 256.8mpg and emits 26 grams per km of CO2. The lithium-ion battery has an output of 17.4 kWh, sufficient for an operating range of around 53 miles in the electric mode.

The car is classed as a 2+2-seater and is 4.21 metres long, 1.88 metres wide and 1.51 metres high, with a wheelbase of 2.56 metres. Its body design comes across as powerful and striking, and it already provides a foretaste of the design language of a future generation of Audi Q models.



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Money Column

By Margaret Black

Cash flow

Keeping an eye on Cashflow can not always be given the priority it deserves or needs. Most have to juggle their time and concentration on many other aspects to achieve a successful business, as follows:

Sales - ensure products are as described and that customer needs are met. Staff - where applicable, ensure you recruit the right staff for the various roles. Advertising - devise a marketing strategy/corporate image etc. Licenses and Insurances - relating to vehicles and the relevant business needs. Legislative policies - e.g. health & safety, employment law, waste management. Reports to the various authorities where applicable, i.e. Inland Revenue, Companies House. The above names just a few of the areas where time is spent.

Suddenly you find that you are dealing with annoyed suppliers not yet been paid, payroll is due and you know that your cash flow will cope. This may seem very basic but here are some of the ways you can take control and improve your cash flow. Firstly look to see what your business's current cash position is and then take the following step:

- Where applicable, list all known payments you need to make to suppliers, wages, the taxman, your landlord etc, and schedule the payments by their due date

date

- Prioritise these payments. There will possibly be some bill payments you can delay and some that you can't, such as tax bills, payroll, telephone etc
- Look to see if there is any work in progress or any unbilled sales
- Produce an up to date, detailed list of unpaid customer invoices
- By carrying out the above steps you will be able to calculate how much cash is going out of the business and how much cash you can expect to come in

Cash Flow

Review the list of unpaid sales invoices, telephone those customers who have exceeded your payment terms, starting with the largest and oldest of these and work towards the smallest and most recent.

Invoicing

Turning sales into cash starts with invoicing - consider invoicing in advance or part thereof, i.e. 50% on start of work or on the placing of an order, with the balance on completion. Raise invoices throughout the whole month rather than all at the month-end, this can bring cash in up to 30 days earlier. You could also consider an early payment discount on the invoices encouraging customers to pay you sooner.



David Watkinson and Margaret Black

Cash out

Go back to your prioritised payment list and approach selected suppliers to negotiate extended terms. If you agree extended terms make sure these are honoured so that you don't lose your credibility with your suppliers. Negotiate a payment plan with HMRC for any payments of tax, better to agree this up front than to just ignore a payment. You may be able to ask your Landlord if you can pay your rent monthly instead of quarterly in advance.

Please note that these ideas are intended to inform rather than advise and you should always obtain professional advice before taking any action.

Telephone 01925 413210 or e-mail on margaret@warringtonaccountants.co.uk

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December 7
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Christmas Lights switch-on 6pm

December 11
STOCKTON HEATH PARISH COUNCIL
Sandy Lane Centre, Stockton Heath. 7.30pm

December 20
APPLETON PARISH COUNCIL
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
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
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 December 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.

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

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

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Regulars now in charge!

PUB regulars Louise and Steve Mackman recently took over the running of their local, the Ring O Bells in Lower Stretton, a traditional country pub serving quality cask ales.

Having been regulars for many years, when the pub came up for sale they decided it was the place they wanted to make home for themselves and son Jordan who attends Bridgewater High School. Louise says the Ring O Bells is the heart of the local community with its own darts team and regular quiz nights.

"We have a fantastic relationship with the local Village Association and will be putting together an exciting programme of activities in the New Year," she said.

Their next event is an outdoor Christmas Market on Sunday 2 December 2.30-4.30, followed by the switching on of the Lower Stretton Christmas lights when everybody is welcome.



Pineapple crop ready for picking!

AN eagerly awaited first pineapple crop at Tatton Park, Knutsford - the first in more than 100 years - is now ripe for the picking.

The exotic fruit has been nurtured in Tatton's 18th century restored Pinery - it is the only garden and property in the country with a traditional working pineapple house.

Tatton celebrated the revival of the Great British pineapple by welcoming Councillor George Walton, Mayor of Cheshire East Council, who was presented with the first pineapple from the Pinery by gardener John Hoxworth.

This highly-prized fruit was greatly

valued in the 18th century (around £5,000 in today's cash!). Known as "The King of Fruits" it was duly celebrated when Tatton re-created a historical scene from the late 1600s when Charles II was presented with the first pineapple cultivated on English soil by his gardener John Rose.

It is more than 100 years since the last pineapple crop was grown at Tatton. Imported fruit killed the status of the crop. The Pinery became a Vinery, and later fell into disrepair.

Thanks to £2.5m from the Heritage Lottery Fund the six-acre walled kitchen gardens have been restored. The Pinery represented the last phase of this

restoration and is built in the footprint of the 1774 original with the help of old plans and archaeological excavation.

It was opened in 2007 by Sophie, Countess of Wessex. Two years later the first pineapple was produced, and five years on it marks its first fully functioning crop.

Tatton's head gardener Simon Tetlow said: "It has been well worth the wait, and we hope to soon be growing as many as 300 pineapples a year, which will supply Tatton's Garden Shop and restaurant."

Visitors can see the pineapples in the Pinery during a visit to the gardens.

The phantom toilet-roll dumper!

PARISH councillors are searching for the phantom toilet-roll dumper of Stockton Heath.

The unknown miscreant regularly dumps plastic bags full of part-used toilet rolls on the Forge car park near the village centre - but no-one ever witnesses the deed.

Parish ranger David Greig finds them at six o'clock in the morning - and knows they were not there the previous evening.

Council clerk Louise Parker has enquired at nearby shops - but no-one knows anything about them.

She said: "I assume it is some commercial property which has a policy of providing new toilet rolls every day and discards the part-used ones."

Cllr Peter Walker said: "It is probably some pub or restaurant. They could be dumping them after midnight."

Chairman Cllr Stephen Taylor said: "We should set up a stake-out and catch the offender in the act."

Members agreed to carry out surveillance at the site.

Plan approved after costs warning

PLANNING chiefs have approved a controversial application to convert a barn into two dwellings - after receiving a warning from officers that in the event of a successful appeal by the applicant there was potential for an order for costs to be made against the council.

The application by farmer John Bryan involved a barn at Birch Tree Farm, Red Lane, Appleton.

The planning committee had, in August, refused an identical application from Mr Bryan - contrary to officers' advice.

The committee was told: "This application is a further chance for members to consider this matter. Members are reminded that if an appeal is lost then there is the potential for an order to be made against the council in respect of costs."

Officers said two additional dwellings would have very little impact on the green belt and the buildings were no longer required for agricultural purposes and were not suitable for business use.

The barn was built in 1986 and there have been 26 planning applications on the site since 1983. Appleton Parish Council and a neighbour objected to the change of use and warned that approval could set a precedent for the conversions of other farm buildings in the area.



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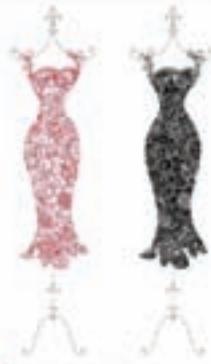
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