

# VILLAGE life

Cheshire's Community Magazine

Issue 154 January 2014 FREE

## Panto group scoop top award

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# Play equipment put on hold

AN outbreak of vandalism has forced a parish council to delay installation of £5,000 worth of new play equipment in a park.

Grappenhall and Thelwall Parish Council reluctantly decided to hold back on installing the equipment

in Diamond Park, in Barley Road, Thelwall.

Chairman Cllr Dave Hockenhull said: "When a reasonable period of time has elapsed without any further incidents, the new slide play feature will be installed.

"Should anyone have any information about the perpetrators of this vandalism, please contact the parish council on 01925 264918."

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# Opinion

**IT IS A SIGN OF THE TIMES THAT NONE OF US LIKE. THE "Shop to Let" sign which proliferates in so many of our high streets. At first they were to be seen mainly in rundown town centres or in dormitory villages, but now they are spreading along what used to be thriving village shopping areas.**

Stockton Heath Parish Council has been debating what some older residents say is an unprecedented number of empty, or soon to be empty, shops in the village centre.

Cllr Ann Raymond carried out an informal survey in London Road and Walton Road and found eight empty shops – ample evidence, she believes, that busy Stockton Heath is no longer immune to the malaise afflicting the retail sector.

Her research further revealed that most of the businesses which had closed were fairly new. Established businesses appeared better able to survive. She also discovered the empty shops were already being advertised to let again – many at completely unrealistic rent levels.

Traders speak of reduced footfall and blame recent changes to charges on the village car park which were designed to increase the turnover of vehicles but in fact have driven many motorists away altogether. Shoppers say they want a broader range of shops.

The first-ever Small Business Saturday – an attempt to give a boost to independent traders – came

and went almost unnoticed. The Knutsford-based Forum of Private Business wrote to every council in the country, suggesting that parking charges should be suspended on that day. Cheshire East and Cheshire West and Chester councils agreed to do so but, sadly, Warrington did not. So an opportunity to test whether parking charges make a difference in places like Stockton Heath and Lymm was lost.

There is evidence that some people avoid shopping where they have to pay – and even more if they face extra penalties if they overstay by a few minutes. But we also feel the unrealistic expectations of landlords are a major contributor to the problem and find it amazing that so many of them are prepared to let a shop stand empty for years rather than reducing the rent and encouraging the wider diversity of businesses which shoppers want.

**THE BROOMFIELDS YOUTH PROJECT AT APPLETON HAS WON ALMOST UNIVERSAL PRAISE FROM LOCAL PEOPLE AND IS CREDITED WITH KEEPING YOUTHS OFF THE STREETS IN THE AREA.**

But you cannot please all of the people all of the time and proposals to provide the organisation with a temporary structure to serve as an "open, café-style space" have caused

some anxiety among near neighbours, including a Homewatch group, who believe it could result in anti-social behaviour and criminal damage.

As a result, planning chiefs decided to visit the site, while the project was in operation, to see for themselves what goes on. At the time of writing, they have still not decided whether the open cafe can be built.

The Broomfields Youth Project is a charity and a partnership consisting of Cheshire Police, Bridgewater High School, a number of local churches, a football club and local leisure services. It was established, some years ago, for the very purpose of reducing anti-social behaviour on the streets and operates on Friday evenings when two Police Community Support Officers are present. Attendees can use the facilities of Broomfields Leisure Centre for activities such as football and swimming.

Given the Youth Project's impressive track record to date we cannot help but think the fears of nearby residents are unfounded.

## Panto group scoop top award



A COMMUNITY drama group set up in 2011 with hardly any acting experience is celebrating after scooping a top award.

The first year was a steep learning curve for Antrobus Players, but their pantomime Ali Baba was an amazing success, a sell out at each performance.

The group went from strength to strength and in 2013 their production of Cinderella gained four nominations, three for individual awards from the Association of Community Theatres (ACT) winning the Community Theatre Spotlight Award for the 'Most Creative Pantomime' in the whole of the northwest!

They were up against companies with large theatres so they were amazed when they heard the result.

Sian Bowen from Appleton, who played Cinders, was also nominated for an individual award by the ACT, but was pipped to the post. Meanwhile the panto horse known as Dora involved two very talented dancers, Megan Alley and Hayley Blamphion, who managed to steal the show, with a hilarious performance.

Each year the whole village gets involved, with many people cutting out material, sewing or just threading elastic in the 100 or so costumes. Teams of people build sets or paint them, yet more helpers transform the village hall into a magical theatre. Those involved range in age from 8 to 84.

The group is now busy rehearsing for their next production - Aladdin, a traditional family pantomime, which will be performed in Antrobus Village Hall on January 24, 25 at 7.30pm and 26 at 2.30pm.

Ticket order forms can be obtained by telephoning 01606 891379 and cost £7.50 adult, £5.00 Children and £22.00 for a family of 2 adults and 2 children.

# Mark of approval for tutor's great work

A TEACHER has been rewarded for his efforts in raising the aspirations of young people.

Mark Salmon, a senior tutor at Priestley College (pictured centre with some of his students) was named Young People's Champion at the recent O2 Awards.

The honour recognised his determination to ensure high fliers at Priestley reach the UK's top universities while also offering support to others during their A Levels or BTEC studies.

"My passion for this comes from never wanting to give up on anybody," said Mark, from Lymm. "I want all students to leave us with the skills they need to succeed in life."

Three years ago Mark launched The Graduate programme at Priestley College with the aim of helping students reach the UK's best universities.

So far it has helped 150 young people. Last year, 26 of the 27 'graduates' went on to study at a Russell Group university while the other secured a place at their first choice of Lancaster.

Mark, who teaches history and has been a tutor at Priestley for 13 years, said one of The Graduate's main goals was convincing young people they belonged at universities such as Cambridge and Oxford.

"I want to shatter any preconceptions they may have about who studies at these universities and break down any barriers about what they believe they can achieve," he said.



"One of the ways we do this is by arranging for former Priestley students who are now studying at the likes of Oxford to meet our current cohort and give them a tour of the university."

O2's Young People's Champion award was also given to Mark for his pastoral role as a personal and senior tutor.

Meanwhile he has also launched

a new programme aimed at giving students the edge in securing a job when they leave Priestley College.

The workshops focus on writing CVs, job interviews and providing a greater understanding of what it takes to be a good employee.

"Not everyone who studies at Priestley will want to go to university and it is vital we give all students the

skills they need to achieve their full potential," said Mark.

Colleague Fran Evans, who nominated Mark for the award, said: "Mark's work on The Graduate programme has been inspiring to so many students and made a difference to their lives. He thoroughly deserves the award for all his hard work and commitment."

## Guides host 'Royal' celebration to raise vital cash for charity



A Guide group has taken action to improve the lives of others by hosting a Royal Tea Party in aid of Children in Need.

The 2nd Appleton Guides raised the princely sum of £170 after hosting a Royal Tea Party.

The girl-only group are completing a series of challenges to celebrate the birth of the future king, Prince George, to earn their Royal Baby Challenge Badge.

The girls are well aware of the importance of helping other people, and so decided to turn their tea party into a fundraising event.

Guide Emily Palmer, 12, said: "We had lots of fun serving our guests scones while also raising money for a very important cause, Children in Need."

Girlguiding Appleton, which offers girls and young women the chance to have fun, make new friends and try new and exciting activities, is currently seeking new volunteers to support its Rainbow, Brownie and Guide sections.

Girlguiding welcomes volunteers of all backgrounds, ages, cultures, faiths and abilities. They are flexible and volunteering can be arranged to fit around a busy lifestyle.

If you are interested in volunteering with Girlguiding Appleton and helping them continue to create amazing opportunities for girls call 0800 1 69 59 01 or visit [www.girlguiding.org.uk](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk)

Advertiser's announcement

# Abu Dhabi

Abu Dhabi is the spectacular capital of the United Arab Emirates, and is one of the fastest developing emirates in the Arabian Gulf. Abu Dhabi is a more leisurely destination when compared with its more frenetic neighbour, Dubai. Abu Dhabi will show you a real insight into how Arabian culture and modern society fit together.

Enjoying year round sunshine (currently they have not seen rain for three years!), warm hospitality and an ever-increasing selection of diverse, world-class leisure facilities and attractions are sure to satisfy its cosmopolitan visitors. Direct flights with Etihad from Manchester make this a very appealing Winter-sunshine destination; the best time to visit is between September and April.

The latest crop of five star hotels and resorts are mainly developing on the islands of Saadiyat and Yas, which are a short distance off the coast of Abu Dhabi and connected to the mainland by road bridges. Both are easily accessible by local bus and taxis, which are inexpensive to hire. Saadiyat is destined to become the cultural epicentre of Abu Dhabi – the world's largest Guggenheim Museum is due to open in 2014 and a Louvre art gallery is also in the pipeline, while the island also boasts an eighteen-hole links golf course, designed by Gary Player. Yas Island has become famous for being the location of Abu Dhabi's stunning Formula 1 Grand Prix circuit, which is incorporated into Yas Marina. Set on a majestic stretch of white sand beach, the laid-back Yas Beach is a blissful new development. Here local families mix with holiday-maker's and is open daily from 10 am – 7 pm. You do have to pay to enter the beach, where you

can book a cabana; and the beach bar offers drinks, snacks and sheesha! Licence has just been granted for a resident DJ.

On the mainland, the area known as the Corniche runs along a six-kilometre length of coastline boasting public parks, a beach, fountains and wide promenades. Here you will find a good selection of dining options. However, for the most part each hotel has a varied choice of restaurant outlets attached, but these can be expensive. It does make sense to book a half-board option at your hotel.

The Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque tops the list of must-visit attractions in the capital. It is open to visitors of all faiths and can accommodate more than 40,000 worshippers. It was built using materials from around the world, including gold, precious stones and marble. Free tours, which explain the role of Islam, are held from Sunday to Thursday. Just remember not to attempt to visit on Fridays because this is the holy day. The local hop-on hop-off tour bus will not stop here on a Friday; the sightseeing tour bus being the perfect introduction to Abu Dhabi. Your ticket is valid for 24 hours and the tour takes you to all the major landmarks, while the personal audio commentary



■ Linda Crowder – Stockton Heath Travel

provides fascinating insights into the history and culture of the city.

It is also possible to visit neighbouring Dubai either by taxi or bus. The bus takes approximately one and a half hours, is a great experience and refreshments can be purchased enroute!

Abu Dhabi is a very safe destination and perfect winter sun break for couples and families offering a variety of attractions. In fact, a destination you can visit over and over again where you will be made to feel extremely welcome.

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# Family's mercy mission to the devastated Philippines

**A FAMILY** from Appleton is back home after spending two traumatic weeks helping typhoon victims in the devastated Philippines.

John Rhodes, 66, his Philippino wife, Gerri and their 13-year-old daughter Holly travelled by air and sea to Leyte – one of the worst effected islands – where Gerri's family live.

They found the usually lush, green island – roughly about the size of England – stripped bare of all foliage and reduced to mud and rubble.

The town of Allang Allang, where Gerri's family live, was completely destroyed. Schools, hospitals, churches, the prison – all were reduced to ruins. There was no electricity and no drinking water. No food. Thousands of bodies lay decomposing in the sun.

There was no transport and no communication.

John said: "I consider myself to be a pretty articulate person but I cannot think of words to describe the scenes we encountered.

"The population of the island was about 1.5 million but thousands have died. Whole families have been wiped out. Winds of 250 mph hit the island and caused massive devastation – there has never been destruction on such a massive scale."

Amazingly, Gerri's family survived, although her brother and nephew were missing for eight days after Typhoon Haiyan struck. But their



home was destroyed and they lost most of their possessions.

John and Gerri took tents, medicines including antibiotics, and food.

"What we were able to take was negligible compared to the scale of the disaster," said John. "But we were able to be of some help."

"The food that is being sent out there by aid agencies and charities is just not reaching the people who need it. Anarchy is breaking out and there is also corruption. Basic food

such as rice and cereals is being sold on the streets of Manila.

"It is also being stockpiled and kept under guard to be sold later."

Disease is spreading. The Philippino military is largely ineffective although South Korea has sent 5,000 troops to help with relief work. A British aircraft carrier and a frigate are there, also helping. But the aid agencies are making little impression and some of the best work is being done by families who have relatives there.

John and Gerri are members of

Lynn Baptist Church and while on Leyte they came across a local Baptist church which had been destroyed.

"We plan to return to help with rebuilding that church. They have even lost their bibles – and the Philippinos are a very devout people. Bibles are important to them so we want to get some out to them as soon as possible.

"But the only way to help is go out there with money, buy goods on one of the unaffected islands and take them to Leyte yourself. That is the only way you can be sure of getting it there."

Lynn Baptist Church is supporting the Rhodes family in their efforts to raise funds and raise awareness of the plight of the Philippines which, although it has disappeared from the headlines, remains as desperate as ever.



## The hideaway home where a Beatle's parents' lived

**IT** was the hideaway house Beatle George Harrison bought for his parents to spare them the trauma of Beatlemania.

Over the years it has been the subject of more than a few planning applications – and almost inevitably they have aroused the wrath of nearby residents.

But their objections have had nothing to do with the history of the property, Sevenoaks, in Old Pewterspear Lane, Appleton.

In the most recent, they were more concerned about the impact on wildlife – birds, squirrels and bats – loss of trees and privacy and traffic issues.

But despite objections from 14 neighbours and from Appleton Parish Council, the plan – for a detached house and garage in the garden of Sevenoaks (below) – was approved.



■ Sevenoaks, as it was when Mr and Mrs Harrison lived there.

Would it have made any difference if Harry and Louise Harrison (right) had still lived there? No-one can say.

It was in the late 1960s that George Harrison bought Sevenoaks for his parents so they could escape the attentions of hundreds of fans who regularly descended on their former council-house home in Macket's Lane, Woolton, Liverpool.

The couple moved home quietly using a small van to move all but the most bulky items of furniture. Even Liverpool Corporation didn't know they were going until they had gone.

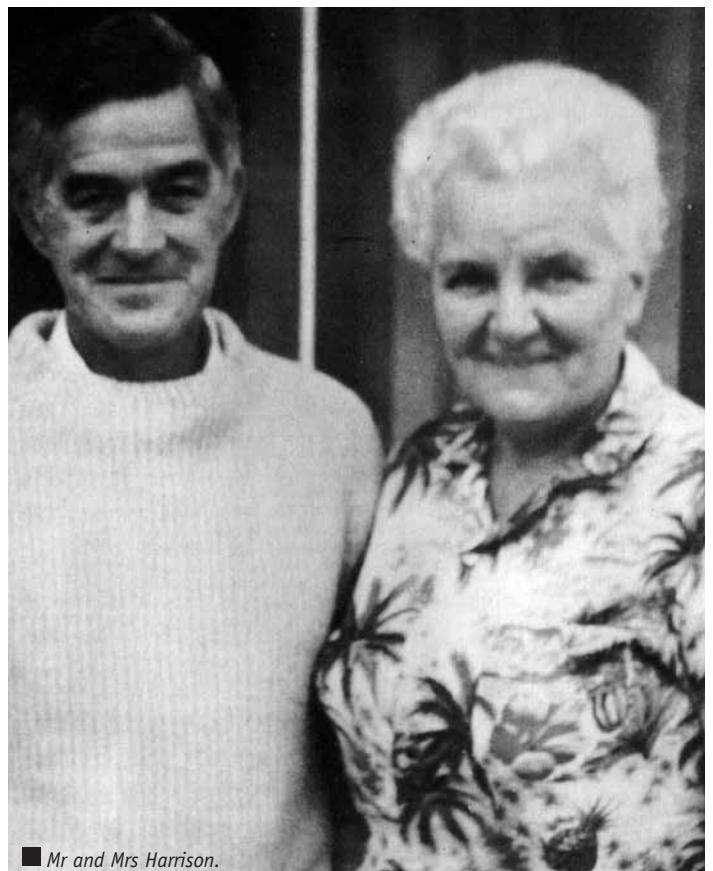
The ruse worked. The occasional, determined American tourist tracked Mr and Mrs Harrison down to house behind its high hedges at the end of a dirt track. But in the main, they were able to live their lives quietly – even though George dropped in for a visit occasionally.

What was life like for them when their son was at the peak of his fame?

Well, it was good. If you didn't mind bus loads of teenagers arriving at the door, or hitchhikers calling at all hours of the day and night.

Or the postman bringing gifts from all over the world, ranging from a ready-cooked bacon and egg breakfast to a pickled octopus in a bottle!

It all stopped when they moved to Appleton – which was perhaps as well if only for the sake of the neighbours.



■ Mr and Mrs Harrison.

## What is financial risk?

### I am often surprised by peoples misunderstanding of financial risk.

Often people just think it is a question of 'can I lose my money?' It isn't. There are all different types of risk in finance.

There is Interest rate risk, counterparty risk, liquidity risk, as well as Investment risk. But probably the biggest "killer" of them all is inflation risk. By killer I say this because people ignore it. Imagine having £100000 in the bank getting 1% interest. That is £1000pa added to your capital. But if inflation is increasing at 2.7%pa then this tells you that you need £102700 this time next year to buy the same items that you could do at the moment. Now I accept that losing out on around £1700 in a year may not keep you awake at night. But, if this is allowed to go on for say 10 years or more, this is the real risk with people's savings.

## How we manage risk

Well first we build portfolios of different risk levels by including in these portfolios asset classes from all different areas. This is called Asset Allocation, or rather strategic asset allocation. A simple way of describing it is not having all your eggs in one basket. We then use a variety of different funds with the intention that if one asset class does not do too well, then possibly this will be offset by another asset class that will do better.



We then have a review process which measures the performance of these funds on a regular basis, this is called tactical asset allocation. Tactical, because like a football coach they may set a team up to play a one off game, unlike maybe he would for the whole season.

By having a tactical asset allocation approach it enables us to make short term changes to reflect the current market and economic outlook.

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Don Wernham

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# Strictly St Rocco's raises £30,000

*Pictures Matthew Fisher*

TEN amateur dancers with their professional partners took to the stage for Strictly St Rocco's raising more than £30,000 for the Warrington based hospice.

The novice dancers from across Warrington had their own Strictly experience in learning how to dance!

After months of practicing the dancers finally took to the dance floor at Mere Golf & Country Club in front of judges Warrington Wolves' star Ben Westwood (pictured), Beryl Rigby, Ralph Casson and The Mayor of Warrington Cllr Peter Carey.

More than 350 guests attended the event and after judge's scores had been given and audience votes had been counted the winners were announced.

Winner was local reporter Vicki Stockman and dance partner Jamie Sloan who wowed the judges with their Viennese Waltz. In second place was entrepreneur and former Miss Cheshire Holly Ikin and dance partner Chris Savage who performed a cheeky Cha Cha and got the guests up on their feet!

Hospice Matron, Alison White commented: "Strictly St Rocco's was a very special night! It summed up everything about St Rocco's that is so special- it captured the hearts and minds of the community and raised over £30,000 towards patient care at the Hospice. We would like to thank everyone who attended and the ten dance couples who were brave enough to put themselves through the experience!

"Special thanks must go to our sponsor Jones Lang LaSalle and

■ *Top: Judge Bennie Westwood.  
Left: Contestant Mike Lomax and his partner.*



to Cadman's Dance Centre, whose support and expertise made it all possible.

"The judges and hosts also did a superb job on the night. All in all - a real night to remember!"

## Christmas tree recycling

St Rocco's hospice is delighted to announce the dates for the second year of their Christmas Tree Collection, as January 11 and 12.

The hospice has again teamed up with Warrington Borough Council to run a Christmas tree collection service to raise valuable funds for the hospice. In January 2013 the Christmas Tree Collection raised an amazing £5000 for the hospice and this year they hope to collect double the amount of trees! The collection will be run solely by volunteers supporting the hospice and with support from the council. The collection will be done throughout Warrington and will take place over the weekend following the 12th night.

Over this weekend St. Rocco's team of volunteers will collect Christmas trees in return for a donation to the hospice. All Christmas tree collection bookings must be made before Friday January 10 at 12pm. Every penny raised going towards caring for hospice patients and providing support for their families.

If you would like to make a Christmas tree collection booking please go to [www.stroccos.org.uk](http://www.stroccos.org.uk) or call 01925 579211.

## Pioneering drugs project hailed great success

A PIONEERING drug awareness project being spearheaded by a former police officer has been hailed a great success after signing up more than 20 new ambassadors - with more to follow.

More than 60 representatives of local authorities, police, NHS, education, parents, voluntary and community sectors attended an Insight Awareness Event at Cheshire Police Headquarters in Winsford, organised by the Drugwatch Trust consultant Dave Betts QPM (pictured right).

All were welcomed to the event by the Police and Crime Commissioner John Dwyer on behalf of the Constabulary and Brendan Anderson LLB, Chairman of the Drugwatch Trust.

Dave from Appleton, described the work of the Trust, its mission and

how he had developed the Drugwatch Trust network to encompass all areas in the County over recent months.

He explained he had noticed a void in service delivery for substance misuse awareness within the community and he wished to extend the initiative to all areas to enable all communities, of all ages in all corners of the community, to benefit from the well researched and up to date information within the Insight programme.

Dave then introduced Robbie Burns a professional in the field of substance misuse training, who ran through the content Insight Awareness programme.

Dave rounded the event off with his hopes for the future development of the Trusts work. This would rely on attracting funding to support free

delivery of the programme to the community in all areas of the county.

In the short term this could be by way of funding support from key areas as well as income generation from delivering to the private sector.

Dave said: "The icing on the cake will be the preventative work of the Trust and commissioning a project in each area of the County. A key goal of the day was to attract new ambassadors to deliver the project throughout the County. On the day 21 people signed up to be trained. Others indicated that they would confirm later.

"The day was important and successful for the Trusts future development. Our sincere wish is to achieve greater prevention through awareness. This must be the way forward for our community."



Anyone who would like further information on the Trust should contact Dave Betts on email: [djbdrugwatch@btinternet.com](mailto:djbdrugwatch@btinternet.com) or mobile: 07544525992.

# Doctor First will speed up patient care

A VILLAGE medical centre, swamped by demand, is to introduce a radical new appointments system.

The "Doctor First" programme is already operating successfully in some parts of the country and will be introduced at Stockton Heath Medical Centre in mid-January. It means patients calling the centre will speak first with a senior clinician – usually a GP.

As a result, many patients are happy not to visit the surgery and the number of missed appointments fall to almost zero.

However, if the patient needs to be seen, the doctor will organise a time for them to visit the surgery – the same day if necessary.

Stockton Heath is not the only place where rising demand is causing problems for GPs – it's a growing national problem.

The increased demand is partly a result of more patients with complex medical conditions being cared for in the community. Increasing numbers of elderly patients contribute to the problem. This increases the workload for GPs

Under the Doctor First system, 80 per cent of appointment slots are free at the start of the day which means same day access is always available when necessary.

Sister Beverly Hackwell, executive lead, who has been with the practice 23 years, said: "Most patients like Doctor First once they understand the new programme.

"Telephone consultations are not an obstacle to seeing a GP but a faster form of access to the doctor's knowledge and care."

Stockton Heath Medical Centre has 17,268 patients, 5,189 of who have high risk problems.

On average there are 3,400 GP and nurse practitioner appointments each month.

The practice also looks after many patients of residential care homes in the area.

Patients with minor illnesses may also find useful, evidence based information on the practice web site [www.stocktonheathmedicalcentre.co.uk](http://www.stocktonheathmedicalcentre.co.uk)

During the transitional period, patients are being asked to be understanding.

Sister Hackwell added: "It is a huge change for our staff in the way we work.

"To help our patients understand the new system we will be putting information in the surgery and on the web site."

Advertiser's announcement

## Chronic Pelvic Pain

Pelvic pain symptoms may have a debilitating individual impact on a woman's life and tailored care should be considered. Around 15% of women experience symptoms of chronic pelvic pain at some point in their lives, and for them appropriate specialist advice is very important.

Gynaecological causes of chronic pelvic pain lasting for more than 6 months (chronic pain) may differ at different chronological stages of life. An ultrasound scan of the pelvis should be one of the first investigations to be arranged, but other tests may be requested to assess the bowel and bladder. In over half of women with chronic pelvic pain if a gynaecological cause is suspected a laparoscopy

(keyhole surgery) is performed for diagnostic and therapeutic purposes.

The commonest gynaecological causes of chronic pelvic pain include: endometriosis (lining of the womb growing in other places inside the pelvis), adhesions (clingfilm-like scar tissue caused by infections, previous surgery or endometriosis), ovarian cysts (benign or malignant masses of different size) and some types of fibroids (benign hormone dependent tumours that grow in the uterus and vary from the size of a pea to a grapefruit).

Superficial vulval pain, experienced on the outside of the vagina rather than deep in the pelvis, is a less common symptom, and can relate

to infections, dryness, nerve damage and some skin conditions. This type of pain has no relationship with the menstrual cycle, and can occur during sexual intercourse.

Non-gynaecological causes of chronic pelvic pain may be associated with problems in the bladder or bowel, and/or musculo-skeletal, nerves and psychological issues.

Women can't do anything to prevent ovarian cysts, endometriosis or fibroids causing pelvic pain symptoms, but better knowledge and appropriate clinical management help prevent any of these impacting more on the quality of life and daily activities.



Luciano G. Nardo MD MRCOG, Director GyneHealth, Consultant gynaecologist and reproductive surgeon, Centre for Reproductive Health, Daresbury Park, Warrington



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# Keep law local, says new Law Society President

**KEEP law local is the message from newly elected Warrington Law Society President, Stephen Lawson, a partner at Stockton Heath based Forshaws Davies Ridgway (FDR).**

Mr Lawson was elected president at the Warrington Law Society's annual meeting and he is determined to use his year in office to promote local law firms.

Echoing remarks made by the Lord Chief Justice in a speech in October, Mr Lawson urges both individuals and businesses to employ local solicitors instead of going to expensive, big city law firms.

"We have some brilliant lawyers right here in Warrington. They are experts in their fields and their charges are a fraction of the cost of the big city law firms, particularly in London," he said.

"The way to achieve more cost-effective, affordable justice is to think local. Businesses particularly often think they are getting better advice if they get it from lawyers based in large, impressive city offices. But this is usually not the case at all.

"Take FDR, we have a commercial department that has delivered complicated legal deals for a wide range of nationwide companies. The fact the firm is based in Warrington does not in any way make their professional service inferior to the big London, Manchester and Liverpool firms. It just means the client will receive a much smaller bill at the end of the project."

In his speech, the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Thomas, said he would like to see many more cases, both criminal and civil, being settled in courts outside London, which will make justice more affordable and convenient as well as being a boost to the local economy.

"The differences in costs are now huge," he said. "London has no monopoly on skill or experience.... In the age of the internet, of teleconferences, Skype and Facetime there is no reason why a litigant should not or could not properly instruct a lawyer from outside London to work for them at a cost significantly less than in London but with equal quality experience in most fields."



STEP (The Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners). As chairman, he has overseen the formation and expansion of the group, which is now flourishing with a membership of more than 60 professionals from across the county.

He was recently elected to represent North West solicitors, accountants, financial advisers and will-writers on the STEP worldwide council and is a former national secretary of the Association of Personal Injury Lawyers (APIL).

And in September he was appointed to one of the country's top legal advisory panels – the Law Society's Civil Justice Committee. His own legal expertise is in personal injury claims, inheritance disputes and child maintenance issues. Several of his cases have attracted attention on the national stage including a recent Court of Appeal test case which successfully challenged Child Support Agency procedure in collecting child maintenance.

Stephen Lawson can be contacted at FDR on 01925 230000 or email [Stephen.Lawson@fdrlaw.co.uk](mailto:Stephen.Lawson@fdrlaw.co.uk). Follow us on Twitter: @QSFDR

## Pyjamas for Pudsey

SOLICITORS and staff at Stockton Heath based law firm Forshaws Davies Ridgway FDR, have raised £115 for Children in Need by having a dress-down day.

Pictured in pyjamas for Pudsey are (left to right) seated: partner Margaret Evans

Mr Lawson, who is head of FDR's litigation department, hopes to use his year in office to shine a spotlight on the expertise of all 55 members of the Warrington Law Society.

Taking the chair is a familiar role to him. Three years ago he was asked to launch a new Cheshire branch of

and Vicky Leonard. Standing: Pat Fagan, Kate Hodd, Carla Stanton-Roberts and Sandra Bentley.



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# Money Column

By Margaret Black

## What is trade: badges of trade

A trade is defined as including "any venture in the nature of trade" where the badges of trade apply. A summary of each 'badge of trade' is shown below with a brief pointer to its meaning.

### 1. Profit-seeking motive

An intention to make a profit supports trading, but by itself is not conclusive.

### 2. The number of transactions

Systematic and repeated transactions will support 'trade'.

### 3. The nature of the asset

Is the asset of such a type or amount that it can only be turned to advantage by a sale? Or did it yield an income or give 'pride of possession', for example, a picture for personal enjoyment?

### 4. Existence of similar trading transactions or interests

Transactions that are similar to those of an existing trade may themselves be trading.

### 5. Changes to the asset

Was the asset repaired, modified or improved to make it more easily saleable or saleable at a greater profit?

### 6. The way the sale was carried out

Was the asset sold in a way that was typical of trading organisations? Alternatively, did it have to be sold to raise cash for an emergency?

### 7. The source of finance

Was money borrowed to buy the asset? Could the funds only be repaid by selling the asset?

### 8. Interval of time between purchase and sale

Assets that are the subject of trade will normally, but not always, be sold quickly. Therefore, an intention to resell an asset shortly after purchase will support trading. However, an asset, which is to be held indefinitely, is much less likely to be a subject of trade.

### 9. Method of acquisition

An asset that is acquired by inheritance, or as a gift, is less likely to be the subject of trade.

These 'badges' will not be present in every case and of those that are, some may point one way and some the other. The presence or absence of a particular badge is unlikely, by itself, to provide a conclusive answer to the question of whether or not there is a trade. The weight to be attached



to each badge will depend on the precise circumstances.

The approach by the courts has been to decide questions of trade on the basis of the overall impression gained from a review of all the badges.

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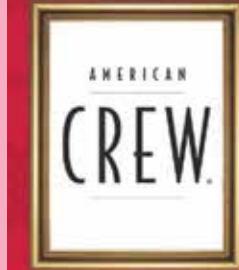
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# Golf club raises nearly £12,000 for charities

MEMBERS of the Appleton based Warrington Golf Club have completed an incredible year of fund raising on behalf of two charities presenting cheques for £5,800 each to both the Foundation for Peace and Alder Hey Hospital in Liverpool.

As well as raising nearly £12,000 the Ladies and Mens sections of the Club also made a traditional Christmas donation to the Salvation Army.

The fund raising was led all year by the two Club Captains Anne Smith and Keith Newnes, by organising a whole series of events since taking up their appointments in February.

Anne, who is Captain of the Ladies chose the Foundation for Peace as her Captains charity of the year following a visit, at the end of 2012, to the international Peace Centre in Great Sankey.



The golf season fully benefited from an exceptional summer and has seen the Ladies organising numerous fund raising events and activities and culminated in a cheque presentation and lunch at the London road club.

Nick Taylor, Chief Executive, who received the cheque (pictured above) said: "Anne and the golf club members have been magnificent and the money they raised will help us continue our vital work to support those affected by terrorism and to turn people from

violence to further their cause.

"We are immensely grateful for all their efforts."

A similar cheque was presented to Alder Hey Liverpool by Ruby the granddaughter of Keith Newnes, Mens Captain.

The Warrington Golf Club was founded in 1903 and recent improvements to the course and its woodland areas have created a course that is both a challenging test of golf and an enjoyable experience for members and

visitors.

In 2014, due to popular demand, the course will be the location for the Foundation's two major charity fund raising team golf days.

To reserve a team place you can e-mail [wendy.parry@foundation4peace.org](mailto:wendy.parry@foundation4peace.org)

To find out more about the club contact the General Manager on 01925 261775

## Lighten our darkness

ON the face of it, a plan to reglaze a few windows to make a building lighter inside, seems a pretty uncontroversial proposition.

But when the building is the 18th century, Georgian, Grade 2\* Listed St John's Parish Church at Knutsford, the proposal has the potential to split a community.

The windows in question are four stained glass windows installed in Victorian times.

Members of the parochial church council want to relocate the windows to allow more light into the church and "open it up" to the community, offering better internal and external views.



But the plan involved moving some ground floor windows to the first floor.

This, according to Cllr Raynes, would mean access to the window would be severely restricted, especially for people with mobility issues.

The detail of workmanship and commemorative inscriptions would be inaccessible to future generations, he says.

English Heritage do not object from a heritage point of view. But they to accept there may be other considerations – such as the community value the windows have in their current positions.



There are no objections from the Georgian Society, nor the Victorian Society.



Nearly 30 local residents and a local councillor support the proposals.

But Knutsford Town Council and the Knutsford Conservation and Heritage Group have objected.

The conservation group say the windows were the work of Heaton Butler and Bayne, one of the principal stained glass makers of the period whose work includes the Brunel memorial window in Westminster Abbey. The Knutsford windows are in Renaissance style, depicting Biblical scenes and are an integral part of the Listed building.

They also say there are other viable methods of bringing extra light into the church.

The Town Council says relocating the windows would be to the detriment of the historical integrity of the building.

Cheshire East Council's conservation officer raises strong objections, warning of the potential for the windows to be damaged during relocation.



He believes there is sufficient light in the church already.

The stained glass windows signify both a Biblical story but also a memorial to local worshippers and their personal story and relationship to the church.

Photographs taken inside the church do not show a dark and unusable building, he says.

## What's on in the villages

**January 14**  
STOCKTON HEATH PARISH COUNCIL  
Sandy Lane Centre, Stockton Heath. 7.30pm

**January 16**  
GRAPPENHALL & THELWALL PARISH COUNCIL  
Council Offices, Bellhouse Lane. 7.30pm

**January 21**  
APPLETON PARISH COUNCIL  
Parish Hall, Dudlow Green Road. 7.30pm

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

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

**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

**HIGH LEGH RUBBER BRIDGE CLUB**  
Village Hall, 7-10pm. Details: Audrey Greaves 0161 904 0120

**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  
Grappenhall Community Library, Albert Road, Grappenhall. 7.30pm

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

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

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

**Every Wednesday**  
APPLETON HALL BADMINTON CLUB  
September - March at Hall Drive, Appleton. 7.30-10pm.  
Details: 01925 262356

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**GRAPPENHALL WI**  
Grappenhall Community Centre, Bellhouse Lane  
2.15pm

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

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# Shopping and music at festival market

**FORTY** stalls provided a wide variety of crafts and seasonal foods at the annual Stockton Heath Festival Christmas market and many traders completely sold out.

As well as serious shopping there was entertainment from the Golborne Brass Band, Wired for Sound Community Choir, the Bridgewater Singers and Sixpence Voice Studio.

Mince pies and mulled wine were served by festival volunteers.

Deborah Cook, festival co-ordinating director said: "We were delighted with the success of this event and are pleased to report that we made a healthy profit which will go towards funding the main festival in the summer."

The festival takes place on the first weekend in July.

■ Picture (by RD Photography) shows one of the market stalls.



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DARESBURY'S Ring O' Bells pub has re-opened after a £250,000 makeover.

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The Session Room – where court proceedings once took place – is a homage to Lewis Carroll and his magical "Alice in Wonderland" and mine hosts Joana Fletcher and David Ridout and keen to ensure their customers always leave grinning like a Cheshire Cat!

A new menu features classic dishes with a contemporary twist, award-winning wines, cask and craft ales, bottled lagers and ciders, soft drinks and freshly brewed coffee.



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