

# VILLAGE life

Cheshire's Community Magazine

Issue 152 November 2013 FREE

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## 'Turned out nice again'

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# 'Craft bar' wins approval

A "CRAFT bar" – selling speciality beers – can open in a former video store, planners have decided.

They were told the bar, which would sell craft beers and real ales, from the former Blockbuster video store in Walton Road, Stockton Heath, would

provide two full time and three part time jobs and add to the diversity of food and drink provision in the village.

Stockton Heath Parish Council had opposed the scheme on the grounds it would result in an unacceptable loss of a retail unit and damage the village shopping centre's daytime economy.

They believed it would not add to the cultural provision in the village and be unsuitable for young people and children.

But planning chiefs said it was not the type of establishment that would attract "drunken yobs" and granted planning consent for a change of use.

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# Opinion

TOO many people seem prepared to leave litter in our streets, parks and other public areas. But perhaps more importantly, too many people are prepared to turn a blind eye to the problem.

People seem far too ready to tolerate filthy, litter-strewn places – even those who would not dream of dropping litter themselves. They walk over discarded food wrappers, empty cans and bottles and, of course, cigarette ends and chewing gum, without apparently even noticing them. Seldom do they think of picking up the offending items – and never ever would they consider confronting the culprits.

So it is particularly pleasing to be able to report that upwards of 20 volunteers turned out to pick up litter in Stockton Heath's Alexandra Park – and to learn that it was not the first, nor indeed the last, occasion that these people have shown such community spirit.

The operation was organised by two church groups and this, perhaps

inevitably, led to jibes about "do-gooders."

But what is wrong with doing good? Particularly if it results in clean and pleasant communities.

Councils should be taking the lead in the war on litterbugs. Occasionally, they do mount campaigns, but it seems to us they are largely ineffective.

So all praise to the church groups, or anyone else prepared to go out and pick up someone else's rubbish without expecting any reward.

### WHO do we believe when we read differing accounts of a council's financial management?

According to the opposition Labour Group, a report into the financial affairs of Cheshire East Council is highly critical of the stewardship of the authority.

But according to the controlling Conservative Group, the same report actually praises the authority for its financial management.

Well, it's an argument we would not wish to get into because we know how easy it is to pick a few pieces from a 70-page report and suggest they offer proof of whatever argument we wish to support.

We note that Cllr Peter Raynes, lead member for finance, asserts that the council is prioritising spending where residents want it to be spent – on repairing more than 54,000 potholes and resurfacing more than 60 miles of roads. We would certainly not try to argue that this was not money well spent.

But we would hope the council continues to take residents' wishes into account when considering future spending. We would have serious doubts about whether spending £1.5 million on "infrastructure" to support a theme park inside Tatton Park, or loaning £5 million to help build the theme park would go down too well with residents.

## New treats for animals at Walton Hall Gardens



ANIMALS in the Children's Zoo at Walton Hall Gardens are enjoying having some apple trees in their enclosures, thanks to Bents Garden Centre.

Bents, in Glazebury, donated the fruit trees to help furnish the canary aviary, providing roosting spaces for the birds, which will enjoy perching on real trees and hiding amongst the branches.

Having a real tree in the enclosure will also allow the red squirrels to behave more naturally.

Ranger Liz Rowlands said: "We really appreciate the donation of these trees as fruit trees are quite expensive, it will allow us to see if the animals enjoy and use the tree's before we decide whether to invest in more in the future."

The trees are only small at the

moment but will grow to fit the enclosures over the years and the rangers can shape the trees to provide lots of perches. The rabbits and guinea pigs in the zoo are also looking forward to eating the apples next year.

# Formby's former home flying the flag!

THE former Stockton Heath home of ukulele playing film star legend George Formby has been officially recognised with a specially commissioned blue plaque.

Members of the George Formby Society, who were joined by Formby's niece, Geraldine Smith who unveiled the commemorative plaque, gave a unique fanfare befitting their idol.

The event marked the official opening of a new hotel at the Hillcrest property on London Road and was also part of a wider aim to regain Stockton Heath's Purple Flag status.

Formby Jnr moved to Stockton Heath with his dad George Snr, mother Eliza and six siblings when he was young and followed in his dad's footsteps on the music hall stage.

It was from the property on London Road where he launched his career in the entertainment industry after first trying his hand as a jockey at the age of 10.

Helen Curwen, from Stockton Heath Purple Flag Committee, said: "The plaque is a way for Stockton Heath to help commemorate the village's culture.

"As part of our Purple Flag bid we have to demonstrate the village's vibrant culture and with schemes such as the purple flag project and marking the history of one of our most famous former residents we can do just that to judges."

Meanwhile the former Formby property has been converted into the Amado boutique hotel.



■ Town Crier Peter Powell declares the hotel open.

■ Geraldine Smith (left) with members of the George Formby Society at the official opening.

## Library to stage arts festival

VOLUNTEERS at Grappenhall Community Library are excited to be playing their part in bringing the Warrington Contemporary Arts Festival to South Warrington. The Warrington Art Group will be exhibiting in Grappenhall Community Library, in Albert Road until Thursday, November 21.

Prints can be purchased, contributing to library funds, and also, with a loaded programme of resident artists on week days including Aleks Partington, Donna Fadden, Margaret Hodgson and Gwen Croker.

There will be themed craft activities for 3-7 year olds, while their parents or carers can enjoy a hot drink and a snack in the recently opened new kitchen area.

Tony Smith from Grappenhall Community Library said: "All of our volunteers are really excited being part of this local festival and we welcome everyone in Warrington to come and take part and celebrate all the artist talent in our area."

For more information visit [www.grappenhall.org.uk](http://www.grappenhall.org.uk) or 07003-901098 or from volunteers during usual opening hours.

Advertiser's announcement

# Flavour of Jersey

Jersey is 100 miles south of Britain, 14 miles from France and consists of 45 square miles with over 350 miles of road and country lanes.

Jersey is accessible from regional airports, or fast sea cat from south coast taking approx 3hrs 30 mins. There are many hotels ranging from 5\* down to 2\* plus apartments, cottages, guest houses and self catering lodges. There is a network of approx 50 miles of 'Green Lane' where maximum speed is 15 mph as priority is given to walkers, cyclists and horse riders. Jersey has a mild humid temperate climate with warm summers.

This island is an ideal destination for a short break from the UK. St Helier has wide variety of shops and boutiques with some good tax concessions as many goods are cheaper than in the UK. One of the main events in Jersey is the Battle of the Flowers-Battle Day Parade was 8th August this year, and combined with Battle Moonlight Parade Funtasia Funfair and Jersey International Food Fair; makes the beginning of August a lovely time to visit Jersey.

Jersey is an excellent destination for everyone; particularly sport enthusiasts looking for an active year round holiday. It attracts cyclists, Harley Davidson tours and rides, wind surfers, waterskiers, scuba divers, horse riding, tennis, lawn bowls, croquet, clay pigeon shooting, fishing guided walks etc. Try two wheeled self balancing Segway at the Segway Rally at Les Mielles Fun Zone - here you can also experience Spaceball Gyroscope, dolphin and seal watching, bungee trampoline, laser clay pigeon shooting etc. There is an 18 hole championship golf course in St Ouen's Bay, if you don't want to take

your own clubs you can hire standard or premier clubs and either a golf buggy or a pull cart.

Take time to visit any of the following:- Jersey War Tunnels, Jersey Zoo, Jersey's Living Legend Village, Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust, Elizabeth Castle, Jersey Museum & Art Gallery, Mont Ogueil Castle, The Waterfront Centre at St Helier, La Mare Wine Estate, La Hougue Bie, Steam Motor & General Museum, Hamptonne Country Life Museum, Occupation Tapestry Gallery, The Gardens of Samares Manor-take time out to relax with afternoon tea in their Herb Garden Cafe (for the children they do a Family Nature Trail Quiz), Jersey Lavender Farm, Reg's Garden, Judith Querees Garden, Eric Young Orchid Foundation, Howard Davis Park etc.

Just want to relax then take advantage of the spas which are available at some of the larger hotels and spend the day on the beach or by



■ Linda Crowder – Stockton Heath Travel

the pool. In the evenings there are concerts, events, theatre, shows etc. Day trips are available to Guernsey, St Malo, Alderney and Sark Or for the ladies shopping, lunch and afternoon teas - remember Jersey is famous for pearls! There is an abundance of restaurants serving international cuisine, the staff at the hotels can always recommend and book a table for you. If you require any further information or a quote for a short break or weeks stay please either email [enquiries@stocktonheathtravel.com](mailto:enquiries@stocktonheathtravel.com) or call 01925 269400

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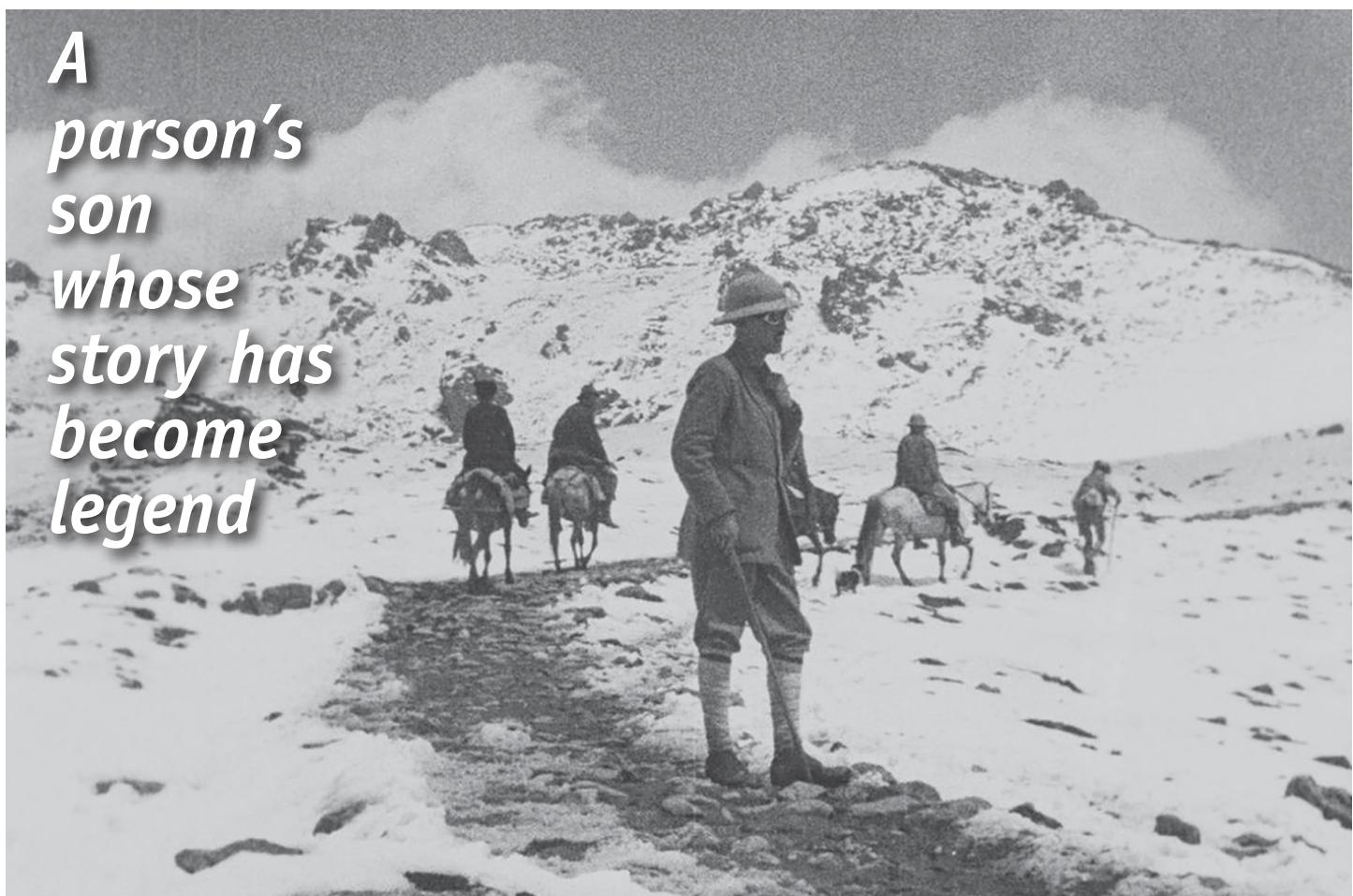
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# *A parson's son whose story has become legend*



**HE was born the son of a country parson but his story is one of the great, unsolved mysteries of mountaineering.**

Were George Mallory and his friend Andrew Irvine the first men to climb Mount Everest back in 1924, only to die as they attempted to descend from the world's highest mountain?

Or did they perish on the icy, upper slopes of the mountain before reaching the summit?

The answer to the mystery may never be known - but their story is told in "The Epic of Everest", the British Film Institute's newly-restored official film of the legendary expedition which had its world

premiere at the 57th British Film Institute (BFI) London Film Festival.

Mallory was born at Hobcroft House, Mobberley in 1886. He died on Everest in 1924 when he was 37.

A memorial window at St Wilfrid's Church, Mobberley, where his father was rector, bears the inscription: "... in the flower of his perfect manhood he was lost to human sight between Earth and Heaven on the topmost peak of Mount Everest."

In fact, Mallory and Irvine - also a Cheshire man - were last seen about 800 ft from the summit.

Mallory's frozen body was found in 1999 and Irvine's has never been found.

There was no clue as to whether

they had reached the summit before dying - other than the fact that Mallory was known to be carrying a photograph of his wife which he intended placing on the summit.

When his body was found 75 years later, he did not have the photograph.

The film has a remarkable new musical score, composed by Simon Fisher Turner and featuring electronic music, western and Nepalese instruments and vocals.

Robin Baker, head curator, BFI National Archive said: ""This is one of our greatest treasures. It represents a key moment in the history of mountaineering and remains an enduring monument to Mallory and Irvine.

"This film is a precious record of endurance and is a powerful piece of cinema now beautifully restored to show how Everest was so nearly conquered.

"It is highly appropriate to present the film now, just 60 years since Everest was finally conquered by a British expedition and one hundred years since Captain John Noel, the film's director, first set eyes on the mountain itself."

Filming in brutally harsh conditions with a specially adapted camera, Captain Noel captured images of breath-taking beauty and considerable historic significance.

The film is also among the earliest filmed records of life in Tibet.



## *Hotel hosts kids at work day*

MORE than 20 children of employees enjoyed a "kids at work day" at The Park Royal Hotel, Stretton.

The day involved youngsters arriving at work with their parents at 9am and then attending the normal morning meeting to see first hand the normal day to day running of hotel.

The youngsters then made plaques for their bedroom doors before a conference buffet break with parents.

After lunch they made cookies with chef followed by games in the Leisure Club.

Then it was back to the restaurant to eat baked biscuits followed by home time!

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# 'Tis the season to be (st)rutting!

Visitors to the parkland will be able to witness the deer rut until the end of November – but should not approach or disturb the deer.

It's a highly competitive time for the 400 Red and Fallow deer who roam freely within the 1,000 acres of parkland with many antler-clashing battles between the males.

Tatton has been a deer park for more than 700 years, but the spectacle is as great as ever.

Park manager Phil Lucas said: "You cannot fail to be impressed by the sheer power

and beauty of two stags in battle as muscle and antler is used to the utmost to prove the superior strength, experience and determination, before one roars in magnificent victory at his fleeing opponent."

Males begin to roar and "parallel walk" to intimidate rivals and to attract the mature females.

They also have some more subtle techniques, such as urinating and wallowing in mud hollows. The pungent scent is – apparently – very attractive to the females!

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## Mariam takes gap year after A\* success

THE small size, community spirit and friendly atmosphere at Withington Girls School went along way to helping Mariam Aly, from Warrington, clinch an A\* in Maths and A grades in Chemistry and Biology.

She is now taking a gap year and hopes to study Medicine.

"I really enjoyed the vast range of extracurricular activities and tried to take full advantage of them when possible, including photography club, Duke of Edinburgh, Young Enterprise and religious societies," said Mariam.

"During my eight years at Withington I was able to succeed academically but I was also continuously encouraged to flourish as a person. I have gained many important life lessons due to the ongoing support I received from not only my peers but also the staff. The tight knit community at the school was really beneficial to me, I was always able to seek help and advice when needed with my studies as well as support and motivation from my friends. What I will remember most about Withington is how much I was helped as an individual and received guidance catered to my own personal needs," she added.

Withington Girls' School's small size, community spirit and friendly atmosphere combined with inspirational teaching and a balanced approach to education were amongst the qualities most rated by pupils in a recent survey.

According to research questionnaires completed by this year's Sixth Form leavers, students celebrate the caring and supportive environment experienced during their time at



Withington, enjoy the "work hard, play hard" ethos and praise the variety and breadth of extra curricular opportunities available at the school.

Although consistently celebrating exceptional academic results – with 94% this year achieving A\* to B grades at A Level and 99.5% A\* to B at GCSE – girls reported that they enjoy a wide variety of activities. From music and the arts, dance and drama to sports; subject-related clubs; fashion; enterprise; debating; a show jumping team; even a pets' club; community volunteering; a wide variety of school trips both at home and overseas and much more on offer, Withington's students agreed they are spoilt for choice.

Headmistress Sue Marks is delighted at the recent research results and says that girls are nurtured and motivated to achieve their full potential both inside and outside the classroom, preparing them for their University years and their future lives. Students from Withington go on to study at the country's top universities, with 12 this year heading to Oxford or Cambridge, as well as other leading destinations – but, says Mrs Marks, they are also encouraged to develop their talents, follow their passions and "dare to dream".

New students from state and independent schools are welcomed annually into the school. Open Days for Junior and Senior School entry are on Thursday 7th November 4.30pm to 6.30pm and 9th November 10am to 12 noon.

# “The roots of true achievement lie in the will to become the best that you can become”

*Harold Taylor*



**OPEN DAYS  
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# Money Column

By Margaret Black

## Remuneration of Directors

**It has been a long established practice for company directors to be remunerated with a small salary and, where after tax profits allow, receive a monthly dividend. This method may be a tax efficient method for profitable companies, however, it may not be if the company is struggling to make profits.**

It has been reported that there are at least 150,000 business's which are only able to meet their interest charges and are not able to reduce their debt. If this situation exists whilst interest rates are low it may very well mean that if the interest rates increase that these companies will more than likely fail. The owners of these business's have no means of escape and are subsequently obliged to continue to trade whilst this situation is forced upon them.

If you do have a company that is only just existing rather than flourishing then you may wish to review how you and/or any other directors are remunerated. As very often happens, the payment of regular dividends in the expectation of profits causes the directors loan account to become overdrawn when the profits are not there. With the introduction of RTI (Real Time Information) the flexibility of reconsidering and adjusting the methods

of remuneration for directors on an annual basis has now been removed. If your company is only marginally profitable it may be more favourable to take all remuneration as salary thus subject to PAYE, whilst this may be more costly from a cashflow point of view it may be the cheaper option from the director's standpoint

If for instance a company enters a formal insolvency procedure and the final balance sheet shows an overdrawn directors loan account and not enough profit has been made to allow a dividend to cover the amount overdrawn then the director(s) of the company will be requested to repay the amounts individually overdrawn, which of course in reality these sums have been regarded as part of the salary during the year, unfortunately, the argument that the dividends were in effect salary will not be accepted. At the time that the company fails personal guarantees will be called and there is no income, the director(s) now faces the likelihood of repaying his overdrawn loan account. This normally comes as a complete surprise to the director(s), the "other debtors" figure in the annual accounts has never truly been understood and they have usually failed to recognise that this figure actually relates to them.

It does appear that RTI has worked



and it is widely believed that it is only a matter of time before HMRC will use the new system to collect PAYE/NIC more efficiently and the informal extended credit previously employed as a matter of necessity will come to an end. Those companies who are already struggling will suffer increased cashflow pressure due to HMRC's collection procedures, which means that as the odds of survival declines it is even more important that directors pay is dealt with correctly.

The idea of having to wind up a business is never pleasant, however, steps need to be taken to ensure that the impact of this does not have too great a personal financial effect on the director(s) just because they failed to consider the method of remuneration.

Please telephone 01925 413210 or e-mail [info@warringtonaccountants.co.uk](mailto:info@warringtonaccountants.co.uk)

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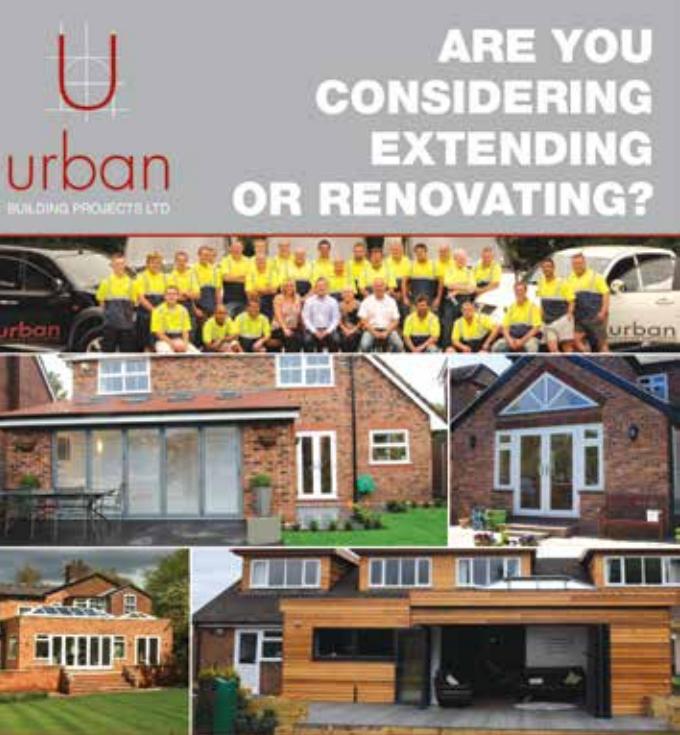
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# New members join the team

A NEW member has joined the team at Cheshire Natural Health in Stretton to provide hypnotherapy and psychotherapy services.

Katherine Leather is also an experienced EFT, CBT and NLP practitioner offering clients an integrated approach and tailored support packages.

A personal and relaxing environment where clients can have time-out from their lives to invest in themselves. Solution focused therapy is provided to support a wide range of life challenges and psychological issues such as stopping smoking, weight loss, stress management, fertility issues, hypnobirthing, phobias and many more.

Blending conventional and alternative approaches, a variety of techniques are used to incorporate what will be most helpful for each client.

A personable approach helps clients' build on their strengths in order to identify and achieve their life goals.

Katherine has an Advanced Diploma in Hypno-Psychotherapy and practitioner level of EFT and NLP and CBT. The treatment approach focuses on providing support and feedback to help



clients resolve current concerns and long-standing patterns.

Katherine is registered with the General Hypnotherapy Register. For further information see [www.equipoiselife.com](http://www.equipoiselife.com), email [enquiry@equipoiselife.com](mailto:enquiry@equipoiselife.com) or call 08000 612 848.

She offers a free 15 minute consultation to discuss how her therapeutic approach can help to empower you to get back in the driving seat in life!

Meanwhile Cheshire Natural Health also welcome a new osteopath to their team of professional therapists.

John Corfield gained his Master's of Osteopathy (M.Ost) at Leeds Metropolitan University and is experienced in treating a wide range of musculoskeletal problems. He has enjoyed treating a variety of patients, including his regular patient celebrity chef Dean Harper, professional boxers, tri-athletes and musicians, to those patients with more serious conditions including cerebral palsy.

John ran his own business for 9 years. The job required him to be physically fit and for most of his life he has been heavily into fitness mainly through boxing and wrestling. It was whilst wrestling that he suffered a disc herniation. After a lengthy period of being in pain and being repeatedly mis-diagnosed, John started reading anatomy books as a way of understanding what was happening.

It was suggested he go to see an osteopath and the treatment was able to relieve the symptoms enabling him to become more mobile and get back to his previous fitness level.

He was so fascinated and impressed by Osteopathy that he took the life-changing decision to embark on a four year Masters Degree course in Osteopathy at Leeds Metropolitan University. With three young children and the daily commute to Leeds it was a challenging four years for John, but he is passionate about Osteopathy and its benefits and he looks forward to sharing his knowledge and dedication.



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## What's on in the villages

**November 12**  
STOCKTON HEATH PARISH COUNCIL  
Sandy Lane Centre, Stockton Heath. 7.30pm

**November 19**  
APPLETON PARISH COUNCIL  
Parish Hall, Dudlow Green Road. 7.30pm

**November 21**  
GRAPPENHALL & THELWALL PARISH COUNCIL  
Council Offices, Bellhouse Lane. 7.30pm

**LIVE AT ST WILFRID'S**  
Manchester Camerata Brass Ensemble: "Spirit and Adventure" - works by Mozart, Robert Steadman and Jim Parker.  
St Wilfrid's Church, Grappenhall. 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. 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

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

**To list your event call Village Life on  
01925 623632**



APPLETON  
PARISH  
COUNCIL



# Volunteers aim to keep village green and pleasant

STOCKTON Heath is a green and pleasant place to live in – that's one of the reasons it was first village to receive the coveted Purple Flag.

But this doesn't mean it's free of people who think they can drop litter wherever they please, according to parish councillor Tudor Pole.

And this is why the parish council has said a big "thank you" to 20 volunteers who turned up to give Alexandra Park a spring clean in the autumn.

The event was organised by Jon and Becky Curtis from the local church groups known as The Hive and Life Church.

Cllr Pole said: "This wasn't the first litter pick they have done. They have been doing it for some time – but this was the biggest turn out so far."

Becky said: "We have got to know a lot of people while doing our litter picks and are thrilled so many volunteers turned up.

"It can also be a lot of fun.

"But this is not the only thing we do. We also make cakes and deliver meals to the elderly and sick people in the community."

The two groups meet once a month at the Scout Hall in Parkgate Road and the meetings are open to all.

Becky added: "We want the people of the village to come and get to know one another and if they have a little spare time to volunteer to do useful things for the community".

Cllr Pole said: "I am impressed with



## 'Kindly leave the stage'

THE Bridgewater Players' next production at Thelwall Parish Hall is "Kindley leave the Stage" - a frothy comedy which pokes fun at theatrical people.

Laughs come thick and fast as a "play within a play" gets under way, with the characters - all supposed to be professional actors - get rather confused between real life and the plot of the play they are taking part in.

A talented cast has been lined up consisting of Richard Hawes, Andrew Cook, Elwyn Thomas, Ann Crawford, Helen Chapman, Cat Mercer, Laura Booth and Kelly Sergeant.

The play is directed by Vronnie Rogers and the play runs from November 14-16.

On February 2, the curtain rises on the Bridgewater Players' annual pantomime "Help I'm a Celebrity Pantomime Dame Get Me Out of Here."

## 'A kindergarten Godfather'

DESCRIBED by one critic as "a kindergarten Godfather", Knutsford Little Theatre's next production should provide plenty of a laughs.

"The Flint Street Nativity", by Stockton Heath-born playwright Tim Firth, of "Calendar Girls" fame, will provide a pre-Christmas glimpse of what it's like putting together a school nativity play.

The main characters are 7-8 year-olds, all played by adults – and that alone is enough to ensure plenty of hilarity. But matters become more confusing and more hilarious when the adults then go on to play the parents.

The play has received considerable critical acclaim. It broke all records at the Liverpool Playhouse theatre a couple of years ago.

Another critical comment: "Exposees what an ungodly snake pit of paediatric power-politics the staging of your average Nativity play can be ... there are moments when you may wet yourself laughing."

The show goes on at the Queen Street theatre on November 6-9, curtain up at 7.30pm



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the commitment of these volunteers and their enthusiasm has not gone unnoticed by our borough and parish councils.

"The borough council swiftly organised the loan of litter picking tools and high visibility jackets and the parish council is looking into funding equipment for the groups on a more permanent basis."

Anyone wanting to join in should ring Becky and Jon on 01925 600843.

## Bird and bat boxes

TWELVE bird and bat boxes have been placed at the Mill Lane QEII Jubilee Field, Stockton Heath, by the parish council.

The boxes were made by the members of the Walton Lea Project as part of a Life Long Learning woodwork course, with the help of their tutor, Simon Hardcastle.

Similar boxes were placed at nearby Ackers Pit last year and nearby residents have already reported seeing Pipistrelle bats in the area.

## Autumn Fair

AN Autumn Fair is to be held for St Cross Church, Appleton Thorn, on Saturday, November 23 at 2pm.

The event, to be held at Appleton Thorn Village Hall will include stalls selling crafts, soft toys, cards, cakes and produce, books, toys and bric-a-brac.

There will also be tombola, a raffle and refreshments.

## Church fayre

ST Matthew's Church Stretton are holding their annual church autumn fayre on Saturday November 9, starting at 2pm.

There will be a variety of stalls including cakes, produce, good as new, toys, books, tombola, two raffles and children's activities.

Refreshments will also be available.

Admission is £1 for adults and 50p for children.

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