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Cheshire's Community Magazine

life

Issue 151 October 2013 FREE

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Ruby is a little star

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David Mowat

David Mowat, MP for Warrington South, holds regular surgeries throughout the constituency. If you would like to arrange an appointment to discuss an issue of concern to you please e-mail him at david.mowat.mp@parliament.uk or telephone 01925 231267.



David Mowat

Member of Parliament for Warrington South
www.davidmowat.org

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

Compelling case

A COMPELLING case has been put to Government for maximum levels of investment in Cheshire and Warrington based around its resilient and diverse economy, according to business leaders.

The Cheshire and Warrington Local Enterprise Partnership LEP has worked with partners in all sectors to produce the case for the area.

The LEP has held a second



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New Media Centre

Old Road, Warrington

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Distribution

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

Appleton:

Village Hall, Co-op

Grappenhall:

Co-op, Community Centre

High Legh:

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Printed by TwentyFourSeven

Opinion

WE are sure Cheshire Police are right to feel satisfied about the policing operation at this year's Creamfields music festival at Daresbury.

When 58,000 people descend on a tiny village without bringing traffic to a complete standstill on narrow country lanes, the police have obviously done something right.

There were a few problems on local roads caused by traffic heading towards the site on the Friday and the Saturday morning and some congestion on the M56. But overall, traffic kept moving.

For once, the weather was kind, so festival goers did not have to endure the mudbath conditions of the two previous years. Perhaps this was why the police were able to describe them as a "good natured" crowd.

But there can have been little good natured about the 82 people arrested for drug offences, assault, criminal damage and public order offences.

Nor the 47 people who received a caution on site - mainly for possessing Class A drugs - nor those who committed the 39 reported thefts.

We wonder how many other thefts went unreported?

It is, we accept, inevitable that when 58,000 people congregate on one site, there will be some among them who live their lives on the wrong side of the law.

But surely this only strengthens our argument, rehearsed in this column before, that rural Cheshire is not the place for a major pop music festival?

Daresbury residents, many of who turn their homes into fortresses for the Creamfields weekend, have now endured this festival for eight years.

Isn't it time they were given a break?

Still the planners are not satisfied and have requested a further environmental impact assessment before the proposals can be considered.

On the face of it, this sounds good. The planners are giving contentious proposals a thorough scrutiny before they are considered by the strategic planning board.

This being so, it seems strange the council has already pledged £1.5 million of public money on infrastructure and a £5 million loan towards construction costs.

We think Tatton Park is already a wonderful, regionally important and highly successful leisure facility which can only be spoiled by a theme park.

Surely the council should be having second thoughts about a development partner who can't get a planning application right at the second attempt?

IT IS now some 18 months since a planning application was submitted to Cheshire East Council for a theme park within the historic Tatton Park, near Knutsford.

How long that application was in the making we can only guess, but major proposals like this are not usually thrown together overnight.

But the planners were not happy and demanded more details - leading to a revised application being submitted in May this year.

Ruby is a "Little Star!"

A 12-year-old school girl from Appleton has landed a dream role in the TV soap Hollyoaks.

Ruby O'Donnell, a pupil from Bridgewater High School has been attending Little Stars Stage School for three years.

Her teacher Lauren Kelly said: "We really recognised Ruby had a talent for acting and encouraged her parents to allow her to audition for an agency in Manchester. Ruby successfully auditioned for Scream Management and was offered the part in Hollyoaks at the start of the summer holidays. Ruby is now in her sixth week of filming and having a ball.

"Obviously myself and the other

teachers at Little Stars are really proud of Ruby. We are the only drama school she's ever attended and to help her achieve her goal of a professional acting career is amazing as it shows we're doing what we set out to do! We now have about 15 children working professionally but this is the biggest role one of our students has ever had."

Meanwhile Hollyoaks bosses have confirmed that Ruby will play the part of Peri one of Ste Hay's three sisters.

The three girls will be the daughters of Danny (Stephen Billington) and Sam Lomax (Lizzie Roper).



'Excellent' A-level results praised

HIGH school students across Cheshire were praised for excellent A Level results above the national average.

Cllr Colin Froggatt, executive board member for children and young people's services at Warrington, said: "The overall percentage of A-level pass grades is as high as last year, with 99.3 per cent of students achieving a pass grade.

"The percentage of Warrington students who achieved three or more A*-E passes has increased from 69.3 per cent to 75 per cent, and an impressive 72 per cent achieved A*-C grades.

"Also, the number of Warrington students taking subjects such as science and maths has increased by

24%.

"I'm delighted our schools, academies, colleges and the council continue to work together to share best practice and ensure our young people get the best education we can provide."

At Knutsford Academy, 98 per cent of Year 13 students achieved passes at Grades A*-E.

Seventy eight per cent of students achieved passes at Grades A*-C - a 14 per cent improvement on last year. All students who applied through UCAS were successful in achieving university courses. Principal Kevin Hollins said: "The students have worked very hard to gain these results. We are delighted with their

achievements and wish them every success for the future whether that is at university or in their chosen career pathways."



Students at Bridgewater High School celebrating their A Level results.



Open garden event raises nearly £3,000 for charity

Pictures by Arthur Caldwell

A THELWALL couple who opened up their impressive gardens to members of the public raised nearly £3,000 for National Gardens Scheme charities.

Wendy and Howard Platt from Laskey Farm, opened up their garden under the National Garden Scheme (Yellow Book) with all proceeds from admission and refreshment sales going to the various NGS charities.

They opened up their garden for a weekend and had 85 visitors on Saturday and a massive 350 on Sunday, making a total of 435 beating last year's attendance when they raised just under £2,500 from nearly 400 visitors.

Howard said: "A big thank you to those who helped us over the weekend – Paul, Gabriele, Alison, Gail, Chris and Christine, Lynne, Allan and Sally."



Advertiser's announcement

Exploring Picasso's birthplace

Malaga has developed over the last ten years and it has not lost its Andalusian roots, and the city offers a mix of Andalusian tradition and cosmopolitan experiences.

In recent years the city has been overlooked, but is now attracting increasing numbers of visitors. Previous holidaymakers bypassed Malaga to make a beeline for the Costa del Sol resorts! With frequent air links from the UK; Malaga is a great destination as a place to visit for culture and leisure, and works well for a long-weekend break.

Popular sights include the botanical gardens, the Picasso museum, which celebrates its tenth anniversary this year, the Automobile museum, the Alcazaba fortress, the recently developed promenade at the port, Palmeral de las Sorpresas, plus city beaches, shopping and restaurants. Other notable sights include the Museo Carmen Thyssen, which focuses on Andalucian art, and the Museo de Malaga which is located in the Aduana Palace and is due to open next year. Malaga can also be incorporated into a longer Andalucian itinerary.

Granada; home of the fabled Alhambra Palace and its beautiful Generalife Gardens, is accessible from Malaga. Getting around is easy and the main bus station is right across the street from the train station, a km or so west of the city centre on Paseo de los Tilos. The station serves buses from all over Spain and is a major transfer point if you're passing through the region. Málaga is making big improvements when it comes to cycling.

Nowadays Malagueños use their bikes more often to go to work, or for recreational use in the weekends. The use of bicycles is promoted as being eco-friendly, fun, safe and healthy. Promotional campaigns in the form of group cycle activities or excursions outside Málaga are being introduced and this has led to big success. Besides cycling in the city, the area of Málaga is also worth to cycle through. For example biking from Málaga to Torremolinos is a popular route! Believe it or not; there is lots of great rock climbing in and around Malaga. The amazing El Chorro gorge is 50 minutes' drive to the

North West and this also features the 'Kings Walkway' – an amazing pathway suspended high above the gorge.

There is also Via Ferrata and rock climbing at El Torcal near Antequera. For those who like the beach; the nearest beach to the centre is La Malagueta – this is fine for a day's sunbathing although quieter and prettier beaches can be found further east. It can be a nice (if rather long!) walk along the waterfront to reach these beaches. Otherwise you could get a bus from near the bull ring in the direction of El Palo.

Along the coast there are dozens of restaurants and chiringuitos (beach restaurants) where you can have fish, seafood, paella, sangría, etc. One of the most famous chiringuitos is El Tintero, at the east end, where there is no menu: the waiters sing out what they are carrying and they leave you a plate at your signal. From time to time, one of them offers to give you the bill. The most typical thing to eat in Malaga is espetos, sardines squewered on a bamboo stick and grilled over a fire (typically driftwood).

A speciality of Andalucia is fish (most commonly dogfish "cazón", although sometimes other fish such as tuna) marinated in a garlic and vinegar. Try also the coquinas (small clams cooked in white wine). Simply delicious! Jamón is a regional specialty, and is an aged, salted ham, from acorn-fed pork, similar to prosciutto. Malaga has a typically sweet wine called Mosto made from muscat grapes. There are several nice Moroccan-style tea houses in town, serving an amazing variety of teas in addition to other interesting non-alcoholic drinks. The road and motorway links are exceptional, making it an excellent base for exploring the nearby villages and towns. Wonderful drives inland reveal the hidden gems of this



■ Linda Crowder – Stockton Heath Travel

region, with small restaurants nestling in the hills where you can experience a truly authentic taste of Andalucia. Definitely time to rediscover Malaga! Call in for a quote or ring 01925 269400

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Student's book is poetry in motion

A UNIVERSITY student from Thelwall has written a book to help make all children happy in their own skin.

Catherine Lord, 22, plans to dedicate her life to helping children with difficulties, and Mr Millet's Farm was originally written to help a little boy for who she cared for, Raj aged 12, who has Cerebral Palsy.

A volunteer at the Warrington Association for Special Needs Children since the age of 15, Catherine has recently completed a degree in Speech and Language with Deaf Studies, and is now set to move to Essex to begin her Masters in Speech and Language Therapy.

Her proud sister, Rebecca, said: "She is the most passionate person that I know and she cares so much about the children she works with."

"In between her weekly time spent being a personal assistant for a little boy called Raj who has Cerebral Palsy and a little girl called Valentina who has Autism, she has written a book.

"The book which was originally for Raj who responded well to the story he heard, is aimed not just at special needs children but all children and it tells the story of a bear in a wheelchair who goes to Mr Millet's Farm, where all the animals are a little bit different. The moral of the story is that it's great to be unique and be who you are."

"The book had been designed, illustrated and self published on Lulu and we are hoping to sell as many copies to schools and to play schemes over the country. I am now trying to get the book published so that is accessible to schools and play schemes."

"She had her last summer as play leader at Playability Warrington and she has been working there since she was 15, so it's been quite an emotional time for her but she has continued promoting her book.

"Cat's aim is to make all children happy in their own skin and with who they are. Autistic children often find it hard to make friends and she wants to dedicate her life to this."

Catherine lived in Australia for six months and worked with adults on camps, taking them away on holidays. She has spent this summer leading the WASC, now known as Playability, summer play scheme, where she was in charge of volunteers and staff, as well as children between five and 11.

She said: "I had written a poem in sixth form and read it to Raj and he responded well so I decided to turn it into a story. Raj was laughing along to the story and he loves that he is actually in the book."

To find out more about Catherine and her book visit, www.facebook.com/catherinelordbooks



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Tropical fundraiser

STAFF from The Co-operative Food store on Knutsford Road, Grappenhall, Warrington, organised an in-store tropical beach party to help raise funds for charity.

The dress up day, which included staff member Sue Taylor having a sponsored head shave, raised nearly £400 for Carers Trust, The Co-operative's Charity of the Year for 2013 taking the store total for the year so far to £2,674.

There are an estimated 500,000 young adult carers in the UK who care for a family member or friend. Money raised by The Co-operative will assist the charity in its work to tackle feelings of isolation and to provide desperately needed breaks, information, advice and support for 14 to 25 year olds facing the challenges of caring for a loved one.

With the support of members and customers, staff across The Co-operative's businesses, including food retail, funerals, pharmacy, banking and farming have been taking part in a series of events in aid of Carers Trust throughout the year.

Overall, The Co-operative is aiming to raise £5 million during 2013, money which will help fund programmes such as "Time Out", a scheme that provides young carers with residential breaks, giving them a chance to focus on their ambitions, putting their own physical health and mental well-being first.

Dave Appleton, Manager of The Co-operative Food store on Knutsford Road, said: "We would like to thank all our customers who visited the store to support the beach-themed fun. It's great to think that while we're creating a holiday atmosphere we helped raise funds to provide much needed breaks for young carers across the UK. We're determined to keep the fundraising momentum going and are planning more events before the year is out."



■ Above: Sue Taylor (front left), and other staff enjoying their beach party fundraiser

■ Left and right: Sue before and after having her head shaved.

High Legh girls Cambridge-bound

HIGH Legh students Charlotte Senn and Sarah Slattery - who attended Withington Girls' School - are thrilled to be heading to Cambridge University after scoring impressive results in their A Levels.

Charlotte, 18, achieved an exceptional 5 A* grades - for Maths, Further Maths, Chemistry, Physics and German. She will now go on to study Natural Sciences at Magdalene College, Cambridge. Charlotte is an accomplished musician - to Grade 8 distinction level - having played the cello for the Halle Youth Orchestra and leading the cello section in the Senior School orchestra. Charlotte received a school award for her long-term commitment to sport and is the Ladies Singles Champion at High Legh Tennis Club.

Sarah, aged 17, scored A*s in Maths and Latin and A grades in Greek and French. She is looking forward to studying Classics at Churchill College, Cambridge. Sarah was editor of the pupil-run school magazine "Scrawl" and also led the school's Amnesty International society through which she enjoyed raising awareness amongst other pupils of contemporary issues. As well as participating in the Mock Trial competition and several Model United Nations conferences, Sarah is also a keen horse rider.

Charlotte and Sarah are among a group of 7 Withington girls who are going on to study at Cambridge this year whilst a further 5 are going to Oxford.

Withington Girls' School has posted outstanding A Level results this year bucking the national trend to achieve a significant increase in A* grades. Overall, from a group of 75 sixth formers 37.6% achieved A*s, 80.4% secured A* or As and, 94% achieved A*, A and B grades. The overall pass rate was 100%. Withington was recently named as the top secondary school in the North West by the Sunday Times.



“What we want for our girls is to open their eyes to what they could be and give them the courage to try”

Sue Marks



WGS 2013 World Challenge Team, trekking in the high Himalayan desert

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Money Column

By Margaret Black

A guide for people who sell items online and/or at car boot sales

Online auctions, classified advertisements and car boot sales provide opportunities for selling and the possibility of making untaxed income.

This guide will help you to decide whether you have to notify HMRC and pay tax on the profits or income you make from such sales. It is only intended as a starting point. If you need more information about a particular topic, you can find out by contacting ourselves – contact details are found at the bottom of this article. The badges or indicators of trade are as follows:

- An intention to make a profit supports trading
- Systematic and repeated transactions support trading
- Are the goods only capable of being turned to advantage by being sold? Or do they yield income, or give enjoyment through pride of ownership?
- Was this a one-off transaction or part of a pattern that suggests trading?
- Were the goods repaired, modified or improved to sell them more easily?
- Were the goods sold in a way that indicates trading, or to raise cash in an emergency?

- Was money borrowed to buy the goods? Were any profits to be used to repay the loan?
- Goods being traded are usually bought then sold quickly
- Goods acquired by an inheritance, or as a gift, are less likely to be the subject of trade

If you are trading and are liable to pay Income Tax, NICs or VAT, or are liable to CGT, then you must notify HMRC within certain time limits. You have 3 months from the date you first start trading to do this otherwise you could face a £100 penalty.

A tax year starts on 6 April and ends on 5 April the following year. Once you start trading and are liable to Income Tax or CGT, then unless you receive a tax return you have until 5 October following the end of the tax year to tell HMRC that you are liable to tax. For example, if you started trading on 25 March 2013 and were liable to income tax or CGT in 2012-13, then you have until 5 October 2013 to let the Inland Revenue know.

If you do not let them know in time you may have to pay a penalty. The penalty is based on the amount of tax chargeable



but unpaid by the 31 January the following year (in the example above, the date will be 31 January 2014).

Remember that if you are trading then the three-month time limit for Class 2 National Insurance will have effect first. In the example above this would be on 24 June 2013.

If you receive a Self Assessment tax return you need to ensure that you have all the supplementary pages (self-employment, Capital Gains) required to complete the tax return. For any further advice on this matter please do not hesitate to contact this office.

Please telephone 01925 413210 or e-mail info@warringtonaccountants.co.uk

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The epic novel that just might be true

IT runs to 672 pages and took 13 years to write and Richard Coady's novel set in Egypt at the time of Tutankhamun might just be a true story.

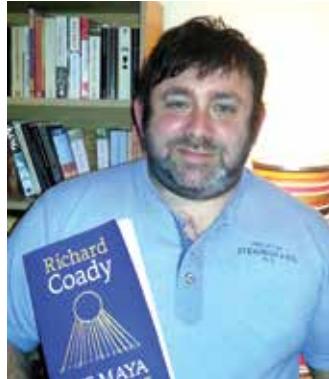
But whether it is or not, The Maya Papyrus has won a gold medal in this year's Global Ebook Awards.

It has also won four and five star reviews on 15 book websites.

All of which makes the enormous effort Richard put into his first novel well worthwhile.

Richard, aged 44, from Thelwall, spent two years researching the novel after being inspired by a work of non-fiction by Egyptologist Dr Bob Brier, who had come up with a theory that Tutankhamun was murdered.

Richard's story follows a ruthless character through wars, murder, treachery and political intrigue as he tries to get his hands on the Egyptian throne.



"I hesitate to say it is true," says Richard. "But it might be – and it is certainly, I think, very authentic."

"If you were to ask six Egyptologists you would probably get seven opinions."

Richard, who is married to Miriam and has an eight-year-old son, Adam, is delighted with the reception his book has received.

It is available in print from Amazon.co.uk and as an ebook from most of the online bookshops.

He is now working on his second book, set in ancient Athens, which he describes as "another epic true story."

"I promised myself the research will be finished by the New Year and the book finished a year after that. But going on previous experience I'll be delighted if it's out by the turn of the century."

Advertiser's announcement

1st Impressions matter!

AFTER more than 30 years business experience Mike Moss has founded 1st Impressions to help people have a better chance of being successful in a job interview.

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He said: "The common threads are the lack of candidate preparation and general interview technique particularly in 16-24 year olds.

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Walled garden's food fayre

A FOOD Fayre organised by the Friends of Grappenhall Heys Walled Garden attracted hundreds of people.

The event, at Grappenhall Community Centre, in Bellhouse Lane, involved more than 20 stalls, inside the centre and on the car park, and raised funds for the ongoing restoration and upkeep of the historic walled garden.



There was a variety of foods on sale, including Italian Sauces, Hand Made Fudge, Specialist Butchers, Scotch Eggs/Potted Meats/Sauces, Pies, Cupcakes, Loaf Cakes, Brownie Infusions, Middle Eastern Savouries/Meats, Food Hampers and Handmade Chocolates.

One stall offered produce from the walled garden itself, and attracted plenty of attention.

Hot food and drinks were available and the bar at the community centre was also open.

Janet Richards, clerk to Grappenhall and Thelwall Parish Council and a trustee of the Walled Garden charity said: "We are hoping this Food Fayre will be the first of many."

Advertiser's announcement

New support for women's health

KARIN Elgar, PhD, recently joined the team at Cheshire Natural Health in Stretton to provide nutritional support to women who experience hormonal imbalances or want to boost their fertility. Over the autumn and winter she will run a series of talks on specific women's health issues and how to approach them naturally.

The talks will be run on the last Saturday of each month at Cheshire Natural Health and will include the following topics: menopause (28th September), polycystic ovary syndrome/PCOS (26th October), premenstrual syndrome/PMS (30th November) and bone health (25th January). They will offer practical tips on how diet and lifestyle can support hormonal balance and with that health and wellbeing. Small changes in diet may lead to big changes in health. Previous attendees have commented that Karin's seminars were "enlightening", "very interesting and enjoyable", "helpful on a personal level" and provided "ideas to take away with you to put into practice". For more details on what will be covered please see www.karinelgar.com/events.

Karin also works with individuals one-to-one, devising tailor-made nutrition programmes and providing individualised support. She offers a free 15 minute telephone consultation to anyone interested in how nutritional



therapy may help them towards health and vitality.

Karin has been practicing as a nutritional therapist for over 9 years and specialises in women's health and fertility. She works alongside a variety of other complementary therapists as well as GPs and consultant gynaecologists. Karin is registered with the Complementary and Natural Healthcare Council, the UK regulator for Nutritional Therapists. For further information see www.karinelgar.com email info@karinelgar.com or telephone 07745 306 552.

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What's on in the villages

October 8
STOCKTON HEATH PARISH COUNCIL
Sandy Lane Centre, Stockton Heath. 7.30pm

October 15
APPLETON PARISH COUNCIL
Parish Hall, Dudlow Green Road. 7.30pm

October 19
LIVE AT ST WILFRID'S
The Kinder Children's Choir, from High Peak, with a variety of popular music including, to celebrate Benjamin Britten's centenary, "A Ceremony of Carols."
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

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
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 740201.

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.

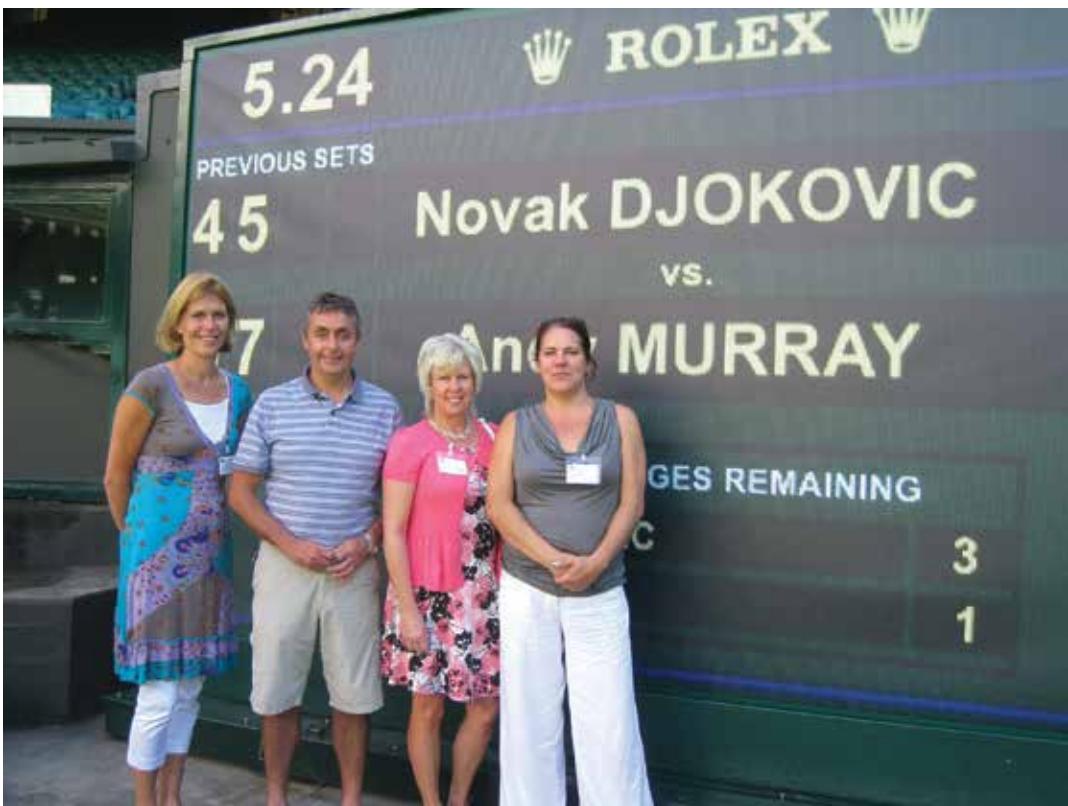
GRAPPENHALL PROBUS CLUB
Grappenhall Community Centre, Bellhouse Lane, 10am. Details: 01925 264427.

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.

To list your event call Village Life on
01925 623632



Tennis players' dream trip to Wimbledon

SEVEN members of Stockton Heath Tennis Club were invited to spend a day at Wimbledon to celebrate their club's centenary year.

Players Alison Lewis, Maria Boundy, Bill Moore and Aidan Williams joined officials Steve Fensom, Jane Argent and Sandra Birks on the trip, along with representatives of five other clubs in the UK also celebrating their centenary.

All agreed it was "the experience of a lifetime."

The All England Lawn Tennis Club is probably the most prestigious tennis club in the world and boasts a membership including Andy Murray, Tim Henman, The Duchess of Cambridge, and Mervyn King amongst its select group of 350 full members.

The Stockton Heath party were given a fascinating insight into the club, its history and its facilities.

They had lunch on the Members

Terrace and a tour of the buildings and grounds, including the Centre Court which still had the scoreboard showing the result of the Murray vs Djokovic final.

Changing rooms, press rooms, Henman Hill and the Tennis Museum were included in the tour.

The players were allowed a warm-up session on the hallowed turf and then took part in round robin matches against tough opposition - most fiercely from All England Club members, some of who were the best in the UK in their age group - including a 75-year-old!

After a quick change there was dinner and a presentation in the impressive Millennium Building attended by top All England Club officials.

Stockton Heath chairman Steve Fensom received, on behalf of the club, a photograph of the occasion and a newly published book on the history of Wimbledon.

Jane Argent said: "The whole day

was truly amazing. Everyone made a huge effort to welcome us and ensure the day was one to remember. To gain an insight into what goes into holding the Wimbledon tournament, particularly in this historic year, was very special.

"To have our centenary year acknowledged and celebrated by the All England Club made all the hard work of being part of a voluntary committee seem very worthwhile."

Millennium Green hosts a picnic

THE annual Lumb Brook Millennium Green picnic was again a great success, with people from Appleton, Stockton Heath and surrounding areas turning up for a day of fun.

Adults and children were able to enjoy sports and there was food and drink on sale in aid of the Millennium Green.

The green is a free, open space managed by volunteers on behalf of the charity and financed by donations, with support from Appleton Parish Council and local schools, as a "natural breathing space" for local people.

It has been awarded a Green Flag for the last two years.

The charity's annual meeting will be held on October 29 and more information is available www.millenniumgreen.moonfruit.co.uk



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