

# cheshire matters



## blooming marvellous

The County Council has enjoyed a summer of sweet success at shows throughout Cheshire.

Our proudest moment was to win a coveted gold medal for the Cheshire County Council garden at the RHS Show at Tatton Park in July – but even that was surpassed by the award of Best in Show for our Show Garden whose theme was “Living today with tomorrow in mind”.

We had success at the Cheshire Show too with thousands of show-goers visiting our marquee to sample some of the activities and displays that highlight our work in the community. Even our entertaining and larger than life-size Cheshire cat was purring with delight at all the attention!

Then it was on to the Nantwich Show – a superb sunny day when we again showcased our services

and tempted visitors with a taste of Made in Cheshire fare. We also won second prize for our display in the General Trades Professional Class.

August Bank Holiday weekend saw us at the Poynton Show with our yellow school bus – another opportunity for us to tell visitors about our wide range of local services. And finally, the annual Ploughing Match takes place on 28 September – so if you’re in the Dunham Massey area that day do come and see us.

For more information contact Betty Manford, Events Manager on 01244 603711 ([betty.manford@cheshire.gov.uk](mailto:betty.manford@cheshire.gov.uk))



*Works*

## view from the bench

Magistrates are ordinary people from all walks of life – that’s the message from the Lord Chancellor. If you’re an ordinary person aged between 18 and 65, can offer up to 35 half-days a year and want to make a difference to your local community then see if you match up to some of the other eligibility criteria. You should be of good character and socially aware, able to communicate well, have maturity and sound judgment, be reliable and fair-minded and know your local community well.

As far as possible Benches should reflect the communities they serve and so the Cheshire Advisory Committee looks at the needs of local Benches both in terms of the numbers required and, perhaps more importantly, with a view to maintaining a balance of gender, ethnic origin, location, occupation, age, disability and social background.

To find out more about becoming a magistrate, you can:

- call the National Recruitment phone line on 0800 003 007
- visit the Magistrates website at [www.magistrates.gov.uk](http://www.magistrates.gov.uk)
- email: [chris.wilson@cheshire.gov.uk](mailto:chris.wilson@cheshire.gov.uk)
- telephone: 01244 602445

## stride out

**Did you take part in Step into Cheshire 2004? If so then you’ll no doubt be looking forward to this year’s festival of walks and activities celebrating Cheshire’s glorious countryside.**

Wherever you live in Cheshire you’re never far from fresh air, open spaces and scenic views. River valleys, former railway lines, canals and over 3000km (2000 miles) of public rights of way quickly lead you out of town into the surrounding countryside. Cheshire also has some great country parks, spectacular historic houses and gardens, major visitor attractions,

## 2016 structure plan review

Public consultation on the proposed changes to the policies of the Structure Plan Alteration are taking place between 17 August and 28 September. The Structure Plan sets out the broad planning strategy for Cheshire and covers topics such as the general location of land for new homes, businesses, shops and leisure facilities; proposals for the protection of Cheshire’s environment; and schemes to improve our transport networks.

You can find copies of the Plan at County Hall, Backford Hall or in any of our libraries: alternatively, visit the website at [www.cheshire.gov.uk/planning](http://www.cheshire.gov.uk/planning)

If you’d like more information about the Structure Plan phone 01244 603175 or e-mail your query to [structureplan@cheshire.gov.uk](mailto:structureplan@cheshire.gov.uk)

**“wherever you live  
in Cheshire you’re never far from  
open spaces”**

local craft workshops and plenty of friendly country pubs to tempt you out and about.



step into **cheshire** 2005

Step into Cheshire 2005 takes place over the week from Saturday 17 September until Sunday 25 September. A brochure detailing a huge range of events is available through Cheshire libraries, tourist information centres, country parks and online at [www.stepintocheshire.org.uk](http://www.stepintocheshire.org.uk)

## quality parishes

Congratulations to Cranage, Somerford, Lower Withington, Mickle Trafford & District, Tarporley and Twemlow parish councils and Middlewich town council on being awarded Quality Parish status on 31 August. They now join Poynton-with-Worth, Helsby and Upton-by-Chester parish councils and Winsford town council who have already received the accolade.

**“The County Council  
is committed to the idea of local  
service delivery”**

Quality parish status confers extra powers on a local council – with, of course the equivalent responsibilities! The County Council is committed to the idea of local service delivery and supports Cheshire’s town and parish councils in their bids for quality status.

## Queen’s award for voluntary service



The closing date for nominations for the 2006 Queen’s Award for voluntary service is 30 September, so if you want to nominate a group (ie two or more people) you’ll need to do it soon!

The Award is given in recognition of outstanding achievement by volunteers who offer their own time and effort to improve the quality of life and opportunity for others in their communities.

## Honorary Alderman George Ford – a tribute

The funeral of Honorary Alderman George Ford – who died on 17 July following a short illness – took place at Alvanley Parish Church on Monday 25 July.

George Ford became Chairman of the County Council in 1976 and held the post until 1982. He was Chairman of several Committees, and represented Frodsham and Helsby from 1974 until he stood down in 1989, when he was made Honorary Alderman. He was appointed a deputy lieutenant for Cheshire in 1979.

Born at Ince in 1916, Honorary Alderman Ford began farming at Manley Old Hall in 1938 and entered public life in 1945 when he was elected to Manley parish council. He went on to become Chairman of Runcorn Rural District Council in 1963.

Friends and colleagues of all political persuasions remember George Ford as a quiet and wise politician who worked hard for the people of Cheshire. He is described as a solid friend, a devoted public servant and a man of generous spirit.

George Ford leaves three sons, a daughter, eight grandchildren and one great-grandchild. His wife Nora died last year.

A group is eligible to be nominated if:

- it is providing a high quality service to benefit individuals or groups in the community
- it is operating and providing a service in the United Kingdom
- it has been operating for a minimum of 3 years
- it is made up entirely of volunteers (or where paid staff are in the minority)

For more information and a nomination form, go to [www.queensawardvoluntary.gov.uk](http://www.queensawardvoluntary.gov.uk)

# discovering lost ways

Cheshire's Public Rights of Way Unit has been chosen to take part in a pilot Countryside Agency project "Discovering Lost Ways".

Ask any PROW Unit across England if they're busy, and they'll all tell you about the backlog of updates that need to be entered on the definitive maps. This Countryside Agency project will test the viability of their funding this major task of verifying and entering all the data waiting to be recorded.

The need for this work to be done – over the next seven years, it is hoped – is because of the government's imposition of a cut-off date of 2026 for any changes to the definitive map that are based on historical evidence. The idea is that the definitive map becomes truly definitive, so that the public and landowners know exactly where they stand (or, indeed, walk).

For more information about this pilot project – or about rights of way generally – contact Jane Krause, Countryside Access Manager, on 01606 541820.



## partnership works



A £19m deal with government to improve Cheshire's quality of life was signed on 8 September by senior representatives of a host of agencies – County and

district councils, police, fire and the Cheshire Partnership. The signing of the second Local Public Service Agreement (LPSA) took place at Frodsham Community Centre.

Driven by the Cheshire Partnership, the agreement will fund groundbreaking schemes to meet the concerns highlighted in the County Council's recent quality of life survey and other public consultation

exercises. Tackling anti-social behaviour, increasing safety from domestic abuse, improving housing standards and reducing bed-blocking are just some of the projects planned.

The agreement could bring in as much as £17m – the equivalent of an added £66 on a single year's council tax. And pump priming cash of around £2m from government and the partners will kick-start eleven projects under the broad headings of improved life opportunities, safer and healthier communities and sustainable communities.

For full details of the Cheshire Partnership's LPSA targets contact Mike Armstrong, Performance Business Manager on 01244 602285, or visit the website at [www.cheshire.gov.uk/psa](http://www.cheshire.gov.uk/psa)

## transforming learning communities

Following the series of meetings with school headteachers, governors, community representatives and officers over the last six months, options on the future of community learning needs in Crewe and Nantwich, Frodsham and Helsby, and Ellesmere Port are now starting to emerge.

We plan to present these options to our elected Members as "**Cheshire Matters**" goes to press and, assuming they gain approval, we will begin

the process of sharing these options with the wider public from October onwards. A series of public consultation meetings will then be arranged during November and December for discussion and development.

For more information, contact Margaret Bullock, School Organisation Manager on 01244 602380 ([margaret.bullock@cheshire.gov.uk](mailto:margaret.bullock@cheshire.gov.uk)) or visit the website at [www.cheshire.gov.uk/tlc](http://www.cheshire.gov.uk/tlc)

## planning decisions

An application from the County Property Officer, Cheshire County Council for an extension and alterations to the existing library incorporating a new Community Activity Space at **Holmes Chapel Library** has been approved subject to conditions.

An application from the Director of Education and Community, Cheshire County Council for the erection of a specialist IT unit and garage at **Middlewich High School** has been approved subject to conditions.

## honorary aldermen

Two of Congleton's long-serving County Councillors, both of whom stood down at the last election in May, have been made Honorary Aldermen. Derek Bould, former Liberal Democrat Councillor for Alsager, and Ken Hemsley who represented Sandbach East and Rode for the Liberal Democrats have between them a total of 31 years of service to their constituents. They received their certificates of honour at the July meeting of the full Council.



### Rural Touring Network – autumn programme

|          |                       |                                  |
|----------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|
| 14.10.05 | Goostrey Village Hall | Garden of the Heart              |
|          | 01477 544467          |                                  |
| 10.11.05 | Jodrell Bank          | Bharata Natyam                   |
|          | 01477 571386          |                                  |
| 17.11.05 | Daneside Theatre      | Morning, Noon and Marilyn Monroe |
|          | 01260 273098          |                                  |

For more details about the RTN's programme, pick up a brochure at your library or go to the website at [www.cheshire.gov.uk/arts](http://www.cheshire.gov.uk/arts)

## regeneration in congleton

Thanks to Heritage Economic Regeneration Scheme grants, two more shops on Lawton Street in Congleton have had facelifts that blend in with the surrounding architecture. The shop owners are delighted with the results, which they say would not have been possible without the HERS help.

And during September the south side of Lawton Street will be refurbished and repaired, with natural stone slabs replacing tired tarmac and strategically placed bollards deterring the "pavement parkers". The work will be carried out by the County Council who have also provided match funding along with Congleton Town Council and HERS.

For more information about the HERS contact Louise Wallace at Congleton Borough Council on 01270 769274.

## community dig

Young and old alike are feeling the lure of the past and getting involved with the community dig that's taking place at Buckley's Field in Middlewich.



Finds so far include both medieval and Roman pottery (but not at the same level!), some human remains and – the most exciting find so far – a major roadway. It seems that this would have been a significant north-south road that was used as a trading route as well as for getting soldiers from place to place – perhaps even between Lichfield in the south and Carlisle in the north. The archaeologists and volunteers working on the site are naturally very excited by the find, which they've dubbed a Roman superhighway!

If you're interested in getting involved as a volunteer on the dig – which will finish for the season on 23 September – contact Jonathan Williams, Middlewich Town Council, on 01606 833434.

## diary dates

The next meeting of the Congleton County Forum will be on Thursday 6 October, starting at 7pm. The venue will be advised in due course.

And the Police County Forum for Congleton is scheduled for Tuesday 18 October at St Luke's Church Hall in Holmes Chapel. Again, the start time is 7pm.

## natural breaks

### Sunday 25 September Nature's Bounty

A walk along the Biddulph Way looking for wild foods: tastings included! Booking is essential through Cal Sherratt on 01260 297237



### Tuesday 4 October Fungal Foray

Explore Brereton Heath nature reserve with Chris Turner and discover the amazing array of fungi to be found in autumn. You'll need to book, so call 01477 534115

## archaeology news

Under the Cheshire Archaeology and Planning Partnership, the County Council has provided advice on the archaeological implications of proposals for developments at:

- **Chapel Street, Congleton** and
- **Brooks Lane, Middlewich**

## planning decisions

Applications from the County Property Officer, Cheshire County Council for the following works have been approved subject to conditions:

- a proposed entrance lobby/cloak room and alterations at **Burwardsley Outdoor Education Centre**, Burwardsley, Tattenhall
- three replacement steel portal framed buildings at **Shotwick Lodge Farm** near Chester
- replacement silage clamp and steel portal framed livestock building at **Woodside Farm**, Wervin
- two replacement steel portal framed buildings, a replacement silage clamp and enlargement of the existing lagoon at **Pleasant View Farm**, Saughall

An application from the School Governors for:

- the demolition of the existing drama studio and
- the construction of new drama/dance/P.E. facilities with offices

at **Upton-by-Chester High School** has been approved subject to conditions

## natural breaks

### Tuesday 4 October: Canalside Walk

Join an 8-mile walk along the Shropshire Union Canal from Chester to Ellesmere Port. There'll be a (very welcome, no doubt!) stop at a hostelry along the way, and a minibus to bring you back to Chester at the end of the day. Booking is essential, so call the Rangers on 0151 357 1991 to reserve your place.

## Rural Touring Network – autumn programme

|          |                             |                                  |               |
|----------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------|
| 8.10.05  | Mollington Village Hall     | Sam and I                        | 01244 851395  |
| 13.10.05 | Upton Village Hall          | Frankly Sinatra                  | 01244 383254  |
| 15.10.05 | Little Stanney Village Hall | Garden of the Heart              | 0151 512 3560 |
| 15.10.05 | Malpas Jubilee Hall         | Backwater                        | 01948 860125  |
| 28.10.05 | Capenhurst Village Hall     | Ghost                            | 0151 339 3327 |
| 18.11.05 | Kelsall Community Centre    | Morning, Noon and Marilyn Monroe | 01829 752647  |

For more details about the RTN's programme, pick up a brochure at your library or go to the website at [www.cheshire.gov.uk/arts](http://www.cheshire.gov.uk/arts)

## plans afoot for former police hq

A Chester-based development company, Liberty Properties plc, in conjunction with McCormick Architects, has submitted a detailed planning application to the City Council for how the former Police HQ site might look in the future. New office space, restaurants, an hotel and apartments are among the proposals for this important city site.

There'll be extensive consultation on this planning application: have your say by visiting the Forum offices or by going online at [www.chester.gov.uk/planning](http://www.chester.gov.uk/planning). The City Council expects that the application will be formally considered and determined in October.

## be a better driver

The County Council's Road Safety Unit is running another of its hugely popular Better Driving courses in early November. The courses are aimed at all age groups and tend to concentrate on improving driver concentration and anticipation, hazard awareness, driving techniques for motorways or foul weather and – hopefully never needed – what to do at the scene of an accident.

The next two-day course will be at the County Sports Club in Newton on 1 and 8 November. Book early to avoid disappointment: contact Cheshire County Council's Road Safety Unit on 01244 603728.

## diary dates

The next meeting of the Chester Police Forum is on Monday 10 October at Chester Town Hall, starting at 7pm.

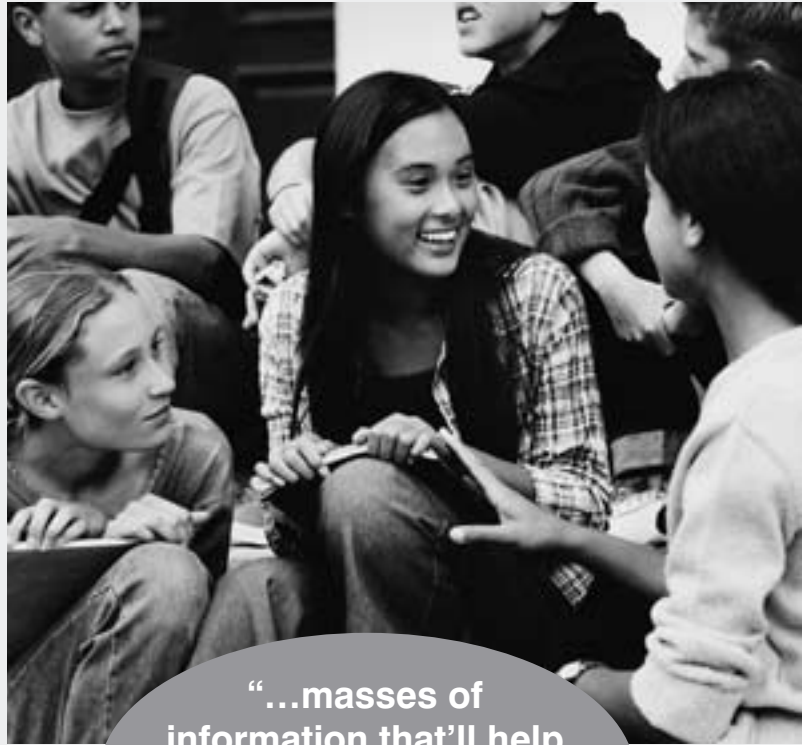
# love to listen

During the week beginning Monday 19 September children and young people in Chester district will be canvassed for their views about:

- being healthy
- staying safe
- enjoying and achieving
- economic wellbeing
- access to neighbourhood services

A group of young people from Chester Hub – including two of the West Cheshire deputy members of the Youth Parliament – will take a lead in collating and analysing the findings. Many of the area’s schools have committed to take part, so it’s hoped that there’ll be masses of information that will help tailor our services for young people in the future.

To learn more about the project call Jo Austin-Preece, Community & Lifelong Learning Service on 01244 602908



“...masses of information that’ll help tailor our services for young people in the future”



## what’s on at the gateway

**Tuesday 27 September – An audience with Dan Cruickshank:**

Join the TV presenter and historic building expert for an evening of travel to exotic places as he unravels the mysteries of some of the world’s most fascinating man-made monuments

**Wednesday 28 September – Camp:** Set to Vivaldi’s Four Seasons, a tale of pitching a tent told in dance

**Friday 30 September – The Edinburgh & Beyond Comedy Tour:** Four of Britain’s best comic talents, fresh from Edinburgh, present an evening of laughter

**Monday 3 and Tuesday 4 October – Carmen:** Mid Wales Opera’s brand new production of a much-loved classic

**Monday 10 – Saturday 15 October – Daisy Miller:** A starry cast (Jean Boht, Sandra Dickinson and Shirley Anne Field) in Henry James’ classic love story

**Wednesday 12 and Thursday 13 October – Rosebud:** A chronicle of the life of the young man who became one of the world’s greatest film directors – Orson Welles

## the write stuff

Over the next 12 months Chester library will have on display more than 20 literary magazines that showcase the talents of up-and-coming writers and poets. This new initiative is sponsored by Arts Council England North West and builds on the work of Literature Northwest and the Time To Read network. If you’re keen on “discovering” new writers before they become famous, then Chester library can now point you in the right direction.

In July next year the scheme will transfer to Congleton library for a further 12 months. For more information contact Liz Newall, Literature and Reading Development Officer, on 01244 602898.

# crewe and nantwich

## top chef

The school chef at Berkeley primary school, Tracey Robinson, has won the Cheshire heats of the School Chef of the Year competition. Her menu of Sizzling Sausage Stack with carrots and green beans followed by a pudding of Apple, Date and Caramel in Filo Pastry really impressed the panel of judges.

Our congratulations to Tracey, as well as our best wishes for her success in the regional heats later in the year.



## queen's park

While the lake in Queen's Park remains closed because of a bloom of algae, the good news is that work will start very soon on the £3million restoration of the whole park. Top priority will be to dredge the lake and clear away all the debris that's accumulated over the years – a huge and expensive specialist job.

Other improvements on the "shopping list" are: resurfacing all of the footways, repairing the

Victorian railings, installation of new play areas, new and refurbished bridges over the lake, replacement of diseased trees, repairs to the Clock Tower and restoration of the Boer War Memorial.

Funding for the project is coming from a variety of sources, including almost £1.9million from the Heritage Lottery Fund. For more information contact Ron Clarke at Crewe & Nantwich BC on 01270 537777.



## what's on at the lyceum

**Sunday 18 September – Mad About the Musicals:** Two hours of razzle-dazzle and unforgettable showstoppers plus dancing, comedy and stunning vocals

**Monday 19 - Saturday 24 September – Round the Horne:** relive those Sunday lunchtimes when Kenneth Horne and cronies ruled the airwaves

**Tuesday 27 September – Glenn Miller Orchestra:** more nostalgia with golden oldies from the forties

**Friday 30 September – The Blues Brothers:** billed as “the best Blues Brothers show ever !”, how can we miss it?

**Tuesday 4 - Saturday 8 October – My Fair Lady:** Acton Amateur Dramatic Society speaks posh, goes to Ascot and treats us to some of Lerner and Loewe’s wonderful music

**Monday 17 - Saturday 22 October – Gaslight:** this psychological thriller will keep you on the edge of your seats

## excellence in crewe

The aims of the Excellence in Crewe project (EiC) are to inspire, motivate and develop the area’s young people and offers an exciting opportunity for all sorts of organisations to work together to make that happen.

Central government initiated and funds the Excellence in Cities programme, and EiC is a part of this. By being offered positive role



models, new learning experiences and recognition of achievements, the EiC partnership believes that youngsters will develop and improve their self-confidence, communication skills and motivation.

All schools in the area now have specialist staff – such as Aimhigh Co-ordinators, Nurture Groups, Gifted and Talented Co-ordinators and learning mentors – whose focus is to make it possible for young people in Crewe to achieve the very best that they can.

An ARTScool celebration took place recently and, as our photo shows, gave some of Crewe’s young people the chance to shine.

For more information about the EiC initiative, contact Sharon Ayres, EiC Arts Development Manager on 01782 636455 or 01979 381279 or go to the website [www.excellenceincrewe.org](http://www.excellenceincrewe.org)

## archaeology news

Under the Cheshire Archaeology and Planning Partnership, the County Council has provided advice on the archaeological implications of proposals for developments at:

- **Audlem Country Nursing Home**, School Lane, Audlem and
- **99 Welsh Row, 66 Welsh Row, 1 High Street, and Kingsley Farm, Red Lion Lane**, Nantwich

## diary dates

The next meeting of the County Forum is at 2.30 on Thursday 13 October: the venue will be advised in due course.

The next meeting of the Police Forum is on Thursday 27 October at the Municipal Buildings in Crewe, starting at 7pm.

## Rural Touring Network – autumn programme

|          |                         |                     |              |
|----------|-------------------------|---------------------|--------------|
| 7.10.05  | Bickerton VH            | Garden of the Heart | 01829 720138 |
| 9.10.05  | St James School, Audlem | Rumpelstiltskin     | 01270 811250 |
| 11.11.05 | Wistaston MH            | Backwater           | 07812 184456 |
| 26.11.05 | Faddily Goodwill Hall   | Backwater           | 01270 524581 |

For more details about the RTN’s programme, pick up a brochure at your library or go to the website at [www.cheshire.gov.uk/arts](http://www.cheshire.gov.uk/arts)

# children's centre at Neston

Following the launch of Cheshire's first Children's Centre at Stanlaw Abbey earlier in the year a second centre will be officially opened at Neston on 23 September by County Councillor Barrie Hardern, Chairman of the Council and Andrew Miller MP. The Centre, on Raby Park Road, will work closely with the local community to provide joined up health, education and childcare for young children and their families.

Over time similar centres will be developed across the county in line with the Government's plan for every community to have access to such provision and services by 2010.

For more information about the new Neston centre, children's centres in general or other queries about services for families and children contact the Children's Information Service on (Freephone) 0800 0852 863 or e-mail them on [cis@cheshire.gov.uk](mailto:cis@cheshire.gov.uk)



## planning decisions

Applications from the County Property Officer, Cheshire County Council for the following works have been approved subject to conditions:

- construction of a new children's centre incorporating day nursery and Sure Start facility, car parking, replacement fencing, and installation of CCTV at **John Street Community Primary School**, Ellesmere Port
- removal of an existing twin classroom and replacement with a classroom/26 place nursery linked to existing classroom block at **Woodlands Infant School**, Ellesmere Port

## Neston town hall

Neston town hall reopened its doors to the public on 24 August after major refurbishment that has given the building improved access, a revamped post office, a police office and new communications equipment. The temporary borough council offices in Neston High Street closed the same day.

# free safety checks for all

Residents of Ellesmere Port and Neston are being encouraged to get in touch with Cheshire Fire Service to take advantage of free fire safety checks in their homes.

Every year in the UK 400 people die as a result of fire in what should be the safest place – their own homes. A free safety check will look for a variety of hazards that may be present but not always obvious – for example frayed wires, trip hazards, low lighting levels, unserviced gas appliances – and is just a phone call away. Phone the Fire Service on Freephone 0800-389-0053: give them your return telephone contact number, your address and a date / time when you would like them to visit.

The Fire Service will also supply and fit smoke alarms (again, free of charge) and, in certain cases, specially adapted smoke alarms for people who are deaf or hearing impaired.

And a reminder: don't let anyone into your home if you're not sure they are who they claim to be. Fire Officers will be in uniform and will have a made a prior appointment to visit (if you want you can also leave a code word when making your appointment).

# natural breaks

On Sunday **25 September** you're spoiled for choice! You can either join a guided circular cycle tour around Burton, Ness and Parkgate: ring Saul Burton on 0151 327 5145 to book your place. Or you can have a guided walk around Stanney Woods: book this with Justin Dykes on 0151 357 1991.

## diary dates

The next meeting of the Ellesmere Port & Neston Police Forum is on Tuesday 25 October at Neston Town Hall, starting at 7pm.

# wellies to the fore!

Spurred on by the fact that 2005 is the Year of the Volunteer, a team of around 20 staff from the County Council's Economic Development and Environment Policy Service spent a day at Gowy Meadows nature reserve near Stanlow a few months ago. They built walkways across ditches and dykes and put up gates on part of the site.

Since 2002, the 165 hectare site has been leased to Cheshire Wildlife Trust by owners Shell UK for a peppercorn rent – becoming the Trust's biggest management project in the process. Three years and a lot of hard work later, it's now prime habitat for wading birds, otters, water voles, harvest mice and barn owls, dragonflies, beetles and snails. It also plays a vital role in flood defence and protection of the Mersey Estuary (itself a site of European importance for birds).

For more information about the work of the Wildlife

Trust and how you can be a volunteer for a day, phone Lee Greenhough on 01270 610180.



# developing our potential

The County Council, with the local Primary Care Trusts and health authorities, hospitals, training establishments, Ellesmere Port & Neston Borough Council and Chester City Council, is one of the major partners in the West Cheshire Health and Social Care Workforce Collaborative.

The Collaborative is continuing to develop a range of training and development programmes that will ensure the continued high standards of Cheshire's health and social care professionals. The focus is very much on practical, work-based learning programmes, with an obvious emphasis on generic and shared learning.

For more information about training opportunities and programmes, contact Colin Ashcroft, Workforce Development Manager, on 0151 373 4918.

## good neighbours



The Pinewood Centre for young people in Winsford has been the beneficiary of the talents of a group of employees from the local Barclays Bank business contact centre. Daniel Jeffries, who works in the bank's customer immigration team, was charged with financing, planning and executing a voluntary project – restoring the gardens at Pinewood. He put forward a convincing case for a grant from the bank's funding pot and found himself with £2,500. In the event, many of Daniel's colleagues joined him on the garden, which now boasts pergolas, three patio areas, corner seating and free-standing benches as well as colourful plants and shrubs. The transformation has delighted services users and staff alike.

Pinewood provides short term breaks for young people with complex health care needs or multiple disabilities. Demand is high for Pinewood's special brand of respite care and the garden's restoration now gives the centre another area where fun activities can be enjoyed in safety.

“... the garden's restoration now gives another area where fun activities can be enjoyed in safety”

### Rural Touring Network – autumn programme

|          |                   |                 |              |
|----------|-------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| 7.10.05  | Whitley VH        | Rumpelstiltskin | 01925 730419 |
| 7.10.05  | Byley VH          | Frankly Sinatra | 01606 841933 |
| 12.10.05 | Great Budworth VH | Frankly Sinatra | 01606 891019 |
| 19.10.05 | Rudheath HS       | Black Umfolosi  | 01606 338616 |

For more details about the RTN's programme, pick up a brochure at your library or go to the website at [www.cheshire.gov.uk/arts](http://www.cheshire.gov.uk/arts)

## planning decisions

Applications from the County Property Officer, Cheshire County Council for the following works have been approved subject to conditions:

- extend existing private car park and relocate existing sectional garage at **Pinewood Children's Care Centre, Winsford**
- replacement steel portal framed general purpose building for storing hay/straw and housing livestock with ancillary works: silage clamp for storing grass with ancillary works: and steel portal framed cubicle building for housing livestock with ancillary development at **Hill Farm, Warrington Road**
- replacement steel portal framed cubicle and general purpose building for storing hay/straw and housing livestock with ancillary works: steel portal framed hayshed for storing hay/straw with ancillary works: and extension to existing above ground slurry store with ancillary works at **Meadow Farm, Marsh Lane**

An application from Starkey Family Trust, Town Farm, Norley, for an extension of time for four years to complete extraction and restoration of the site at **Town Farm Quarry, Norley, Frodsham** has been approved subject to conditions

An application from Holford Gas Storage Limited of Glasgow for Hazardous Substance Consent to store natural gas in associated above ground gas processing plant at land near **Drakelow Lane & former RAF Cranage Airfield, Byley** has been approved subject to conditions

## people power...

There's a village shop in the small village of Antrobus near Northwich. So, you may ask, what of it? Lots of villages have village shops. But this is a shop with a difference.

The people who run the shop don't get paid: the villagers are all co-owners: and all the profits on sales are given back to the community. This is a real co-operative venture, and its customer base increased recently following a special report shown on a regional news programme.

When the original shop was due for closure in 2002, a core group of local residents looked for ways of keeping it open and turned to the Village Retail Services Association who gave them inspiration and hard facts about how to develop a community shop. Funding has come from the sale of shares to local people as



well as from the Vital Villages Programme, Cheshire County Council, Vale Royal Borough Council and Antrobus Parish Council.

The store sells all the basic necessities (as our photo shows!) and has a deli area that showcases locally produced food and drink. It also incorporates the village post office. All rather different from a supermarket – and much friendlier!

Trading began at the end of 2003 and in the 21 months since then donations from the profits have gone to the village school and churches, the village magazine and the friendship club.

If your village or community is interested in doing something similar get in touch with Gaynor Bowen-Jones, Rural Development Officer at Cheshire County Council, on 01244 603373.

## plans for the sandstone ridge

Funding of £200,000 from the County Council is just the start of major investment in a programme of development of the Sandstone Ridge. A whole range of projects – new wildlife areas, updated promotional material, investment in rural skills and crafts and so on – is on the cards, according to the Sandstone Ridge ECONet Partnership Board.

The Board held its first meeting in mid-August when the main aim of the development programme was identified – to improve the whole area for the indigenous wildlife, local residents and the economy.

Bids for further funding to move this forward have been made to the Cheshire Rural Recovery Programme and the Heritage Lottery Fund.

The Board recognises that the hard work is now just beginning and that a major marketing exercise is needed to attract visitors to this area that covers 10% of Cheshire.

If you have any ideas for projects, the County Council's Environmental Planning Service wants to hear from you on 01244 603195.

**“a major marketing exercise is needed to attract visitors to the area”**

## a splash of local colour

A fascinating exhibition of watercolours and sketches by the late Geoff Worrell goes on show at the Salt Museum in Northwich between 27 September and 6 November.

Geoff lived in Northwich and painted many scenes of the town during the 1950s and '60s. In particular he captured moments of change – for instance, the demolition of old buildings and the construction of new ones – so he leaves a very important legacy in terms of the social history of this town.

Admission to this temporary exhibition is free: a small charge is made for entry to the other galleries. For more information contact The Salt Museum on 01606 41331 ([www.saltmuseum.org.uk](http://www.saltmuseum.org.uk))

## diary dates

The next meeting of the Vale Royal County Forum will take place at 2pm on Thursday 29 September: the venue will be advised in due course.

The next meeting of the Vale Royal Police Forum is on Wednesday 12 October at Tarporley Community Centre, starting at 7pm.

## fred & ethel's potting shed

As their contribution towards catching the eyes of the Knutsford in Bloom judges, the staff and services users who belong to the gardening club at The Stanley Centre for Adults in Bexton Road, Knutsford have put together an amazing piece of horticultural art.



It's attracted more and more attention since it appeared outside the Centre, with lots of local people returning to check on Fred and Ethel – the inhabitants of the potting shed! It's clear that a lot of hard work went into both the design and execution of such a novel attraction – but

the smiles that it's provoked are witness to the enjoyment it has brought. The potting shed display should still be in place until later in September, so go along and have a look!

Information Service on (Freephone) 0800 0852 863 or e-mail them on [cis@cheshire.gov.uk](mailto:cis@cheshire.gov.uk)

## planning decisions

Applications from the County Council for the following works have been approved subject to conditions:

- creation of new access road and reorganisation of current car parking facilities at **Park Lane School**, Macclesfield
- erection and installation of floodlighting at **Tytherington High School**, Macclesfield.

An application from A Daniel Plant Hire Limited, Brickhill Lane, Ashley, Macclesfield for retrospective planning permission for the re-use of a field barn for storage and reclamation of soil, stone and wood at land **adjacent to Brickhill Lane**, Macclesfield has been refused.

## Events in Bollin Valley

**Sunday 25 September:  
Ford House, Prestbury...**

...is the meeting point for "The Memory Walk" to raise funds for World Alzheimer's Day

Call Doreen Smith on 01625 828625.

**Sunday 2 October:  
Quarry Bank Mill**

Bring fruit from your own trees for identification on "Apple Day". Drop in between 10am and 4pm for games, stalls and apple-tastings

## macclesfield compact

Compacts are written understandings between local statutory service providers and the voluntary and community sector. Their aim is to provide a framework for new and improved partnership working, particularly with black and ethnic minority groups.

Two years ago the Macclesfield Compact Working Group was set up involving representatives from Cheshire County Council, the voluntary and community sector, Macclesfield Borough Council and local health services. After an extensive period of consultation, Macclesfield's local compact has now been adopted by the partners.

The Group's first major task has been to produce more detailed Codes of Practice: so far three have been agreed on 'Volunteering', 'Funding' and 'Consultation' and the work is continuing.

For more information about Compacts go to [www.thecompact.org.uk](http://www.thecompact.org.uk) or contact Marion Kennerley on 01625 534720 ([marion.kennerley@cheshire.gov.uk](mailto:marion.kennerley@cheshire.gov.uk))

he green henbury rainow walker burngin clough monks heath nether alderley bollington hurdsfield tytherington gurnett brok alker burngin clough monks heath nether alderley bollington hu sfield tytherington gurnett brok encross long mosslyme green

# Tatton news



## Saturday 17 and Sunday 18 September The International Property Show:

To find your home in the sun, come along this weekend. Normal entry charges apply

**Saturday 24 and Sunday 25 September  
Harvest Festival at the Farm:** Celebrate harvest time with your favourite animals, and make scarecrows and corn dollies. Normal entry charges apply

**Saturday 8 and Sunday 9 October  
Craft and Design Fair:** A huge selection of ideas for Christmas gifts, and puppet shows for the youngsters. Normal entry charges apply

**Tuesday 11 to Sunday 16 October  
Family Learning Week:** For more information about all the events on offer ring 01625 534400. Normal entry charges apply

**Saturday 15 to Sunday 30 October  
Discover Japan:** A series of events and activities exploring Japanese culture and horticulture. Booking is essential, so call 01625 534400

**diary dates**  
The next meeting of the Macclesfield Police Forum will be on Monday 17 October at the Royal British Legion in Wilmslow, starting at 7pm.

**archaeology news**  
Under the Cheshire Archaeology and Planning Partnership, the County Council has provided advice on the archaeological implications of proposals for a development at **St. Bartholomew's Church, Wilmslow.**

## Rural Touring Network – autumn programme

|          |                       |                                  |              |
|----------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|--------------|
| 1.10.05  | Mottram St Andrew VH  | Garden of Llangoed               | 01625 583930 |
| 8.10.05  | Ollerton/Marshall VH  | Frankly Sinatra                  | 01625 861361 |
| 8.10.05  | Bollington Civic Hall | Garden of the Heart              | 01625 573413 |
| 29.10.05 | Kettleshulme VH       | Ghost                            | 01663 735149 |
| 19.11.05 | Plumley VH            | Morning, Noon and Marilyn Monroe | 01565 722848 |

For more details about the RTN's programme, pick up a brochure at your library or go to the website at [www.cheshire.gov.uk/arts](http://www.cheshire.gov.uk/arts)

knutsfordellesmereportcrewenantwichchestercongleton  
macclesfieldwinsfodnorthwichknutsfordellesmerepor  
crewenantwichchestercongletonmacclesfieldwinsfodn  
orthwichknutsfordellesmereportcrewenantwichchester



## gift with a difference

A gift that grows, a gift that helps us all breathe, a gift that'll bring pleasure to thousands. What is it? You've guessed, of course – it's a tree.

For just £10, you can dedicate a tree to a loved one, a work colleague or a newly married couple and watch it grow in the Mersey Forest. Just call Community Forests Northwest on 0161 872 1660 for more information, or visit [www.cfnw.org](http://www.cfnw.org)

## operation red card

Police and the CPS have warned football hooligans across Cheshire that troublemakers run the very real risk of being prosecuted rather than cautioned this season. Prosecutions could well include banning orders which stop the offender from attending any domestic football matches in England and Wales for a period of three years and require him to surrender his passport when national or local teams travel to play abroad. Breaches of banning orders carry maximum punishments of six months in prison and/or a £5000 fine.

The Football Association has welcomed these moves towards tougher measures against football violence.

## cheshire's children

The Cheshire Children & Young People's Strategic Partnership has recently produced a leaflet describing its vision and values (see enclosure with this issue of "Cheshire Matters"). The partnership – made up of senior officers from a range of organisations that have responsibilities for meeting the special needs of our children – is very keen to share this vision as widely as possible.

For more information about the Partnership phone Maxine Bretherton-Budd on 01244 603288.

## feedback your views or news

If you've enjoyed this month's Cheshire Matters and want more copies for friends or colleagues, just ring Di Hanning-Lee on 01244 602102 or email: [di.hanning-lee@cheshire.gov.uk](mailto:di.hanning-lee@cheshire.gov.uk)

To promote accessibility for all, Cheshire Matters can be made available in other formats on request

This publication is printed on environmentally friendly paper.

J8136 Designed and printed by Cheshire County Council Graphic Design  
01244 603197

## stop press...stop press



Look out for the Autumn 2005 edition of "Your A-Z of County Council Services", which should be dropping onto your doormat from early October. We know from research and feedback that the A-Z is highly regarded as a reliable source of information about all the services that we – and our partners – can offer. If you haven't received your copy by the end of October, please give Di Hanning-Lee a call on 01244 602102 and she'll be happy to send one to you.