



# Stockton Heath Parish Council Newsletter

January 2010 Edition

Website: Stockton Heath Parish Council - - - - - 

<http://parish.cheshire.gov.uk/stocktonheathpc/>

## Ackers Pit

The Vision Statement incorporating The Vision, the Aim and the Terms of Reference and Governance of the Pit has been formulated, approved and accepted as a basis for the further management of Ackers Pit. It has also been agreed that Stockton Heath Parish Council (SHPC) & Warrington Anglers Association should work together in a Joint Management Group (JMG) to finalise the required aims, objectives and plans for the Pit. Six new British native trees have been planted on the Ackers Lane side of the bank plus aquatic plants around the banks in June and bulbs/native plants in areas around the Pit in September. Residents of Ackers Road were pleased with the removal of trees on that side of the Pit. The removal of further trees without replacement is now under the jurisdiction of JMG.

## Police Matters

The new Police Inspector, Gary McIntyre introduced himself to your Parish Council and confirmed he was in position for a minimum of 2 years. His overall aim is to provide a good service to the public and is reducing bureaucracy to ensure a higher proactive visible presence of Police Officers and PCSOs on the streets. This resulted in 20 less crimes in June and 100 crimes detected. Detection rates have continued to rise through the year. Changes have been made internally at the Police Station with the old Court Room being used by local groups.

## Library 50 Years

Stockton Heath Library celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> birthday on 13<sup>th</sup> October 09. The building has been refurbished and is now more open plan and bright with a self service system introduced. Remember the previous 'Penny' libraries on Walton Road and Carlton Street.

## Mill Lane Bridge

The safety walls of the bridge which spans the Lumb Brook were rebuilt during 2009. They were becoming a danger after continual vandalism to them over several months.

## Village Toilets

At a meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> June 09, when 2 Officers from Warrington Borough Council (WBC) were in attendance, a request was made if the present funding could be paid to SHPC to assist them in running the toilets. At a meeting in September it was confirmed by WBC that the present funding will not be made available to SHPC if it was to undertake the provision of the toilets. Further meetings will be held.

## Walking Day - 11<sup>th</sup> July 09

The annual Walk went well with large crowds watching the Procession of Witness as it wended its way through the Village. The Police reported minimal problems.

## Stockton Heath Festival

The Festival of 2009 was another great success with large numbers of people attending at the many venues (500 people watched and sang songs from Mamma Mia in heavy rain). Congratulations must again be given to the Committee for the production of the many and varied displays, competitions, musical and other events. Special thanks go to the young volunteers of the 'Festival Team' who were a credit to themselves while assisting in the smooth running of the Festival. Here's to 2010!!

## Christmas Market

The market was held on Sunday, 6<sup>th</sup> December with stalls in the Forge Precinct and outside the Mulberry Tree & Red Lion Public Houses. There were more stalls this year and although the weather was rainy and cold, a large number of people came along to buy from the varied items for sale. Congratulations again to the 'Festival Team.' Another triumph.

## Allotments/Senior Citizens Gardens

There has been an increase all over the country in the numbers of people wanting to produce their own vegetables and fruit in their own Allotment (plot). The WBC allotments and the Parish Council Allotments (Red Lane) have few vacancies. If you are keen, why not approach an elderly householder who has a large garden which they are unable to manage and suggest a written agreement with them that you will keep their garden neat in exchange for an area of land where you could grow garden produce for yourself/your family and also provide fresh vegetables/fruit for the elderly garden owner.

## Best Kept Front Garden Competition

Again this year your Parish Councillors chose gardens on their Wards which they thought were worthy of entry in this annual competition. The nominated gardens were judged and the prize winners selected. 1<sup>st</sup> Prize – Mesdames M Clarke & A Thorburn, 111 Grappenhall Road : Joint 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize – Miss A C Sollory, 12 Bedford Street and Mrs F A Williams, 16 Summerville Gardens : Joint 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize – Mr & Mrs D Donoghue, 63 Fairfield Road and Mrs L Rigby, 26 Chester Road. *Why not have a go? Get your gardening gloves on in the Spring and enter the 2010 competition. Gardens will be assessed in early July and the winners notified in September.*

**Please Turn Over**



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## Alexandra Park

Older residents of Stockton Heath will remember the Park Keeper who collected the money for the Tennis and Bowls. We now have a new 'Community' Park Keeper, Alan Nugent. There are plans to demolish the long time unused toilets attached to the pavilion, repaint the pavilion, remove graffiti, cut the hedges and plant more flowers, renew seating and generally revitalise King Georges Playing Field (Alexandra Park). His remit also includes discouraging people from using the bowling greens to exercise their dogs, advising on the removal of dog poo and litter and assisting the PCSOs in deterring the consumption of alcohol and the reduction of noise by those frequenting the park in the evenings. It is hoped that along with a new group, 'Friends of the Park' this recreation area can be entered for and win a Green Flag Award which will open the way for grants to further improve the park. Details of the 'Friends of the Park' are available, if you wish to join please contact Alan Nugent at the Park.

## Timely Reminders.

### Euro Health Insurance Card

If you are the holder of a European Health Insurance Card (it replaced the E111 form) which allows you the same state health care as a resident of the country you are visiting. Remember, it is free and is valid for up to 5 years. Check the date on your card!

### Driving Licence – 70 years of age

Your driving licence entitlement expires when you reach the age of 70. If you want to continue to drive, you will need to renew your licence with the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA). Your renewed licence will normally be valid for three years. 90 days before your 70<sup>th</sup> birthday the DVLA will send you a D46P 'Application for Renewal of a Driving Licence.'

## Speeding

PCSO Peter Crellin continues to undertake speeding checks on our local roads using a camera approved for the issue of Endorsable Tickets to speeding drivers. A major concern is the number of local residents exceeding the speed limits on our roads.

## Examples - Local Speeding Statistics

### Endorsable Camera. (Points)

Date	Place	Speed Limit	Caught	Highest Speed	Local Drivers
18/5/09	Walton Rd	30mph	0	N/A	N/A
26/6/09	Chester Rd	40mph	45	60mph	9
23/9/09	Chester Rd	40mph	40	78mph	19
25/6/09	Fairfield Rd	30mph	12	47mph	9
16/9/09	Fairfield Rd	30mph	3	44mph	3
17/10/09	Walton Rd	30mph	0	N/A	N/A

### What do Points make? Disqualification!!

These are the highest speeds registered between 14.05.09 and 17.10.09. In that period, **214** drivers were caught exceeding the speed limits on Chester & Fairfield Roads. **FIFTY SEVEN** prosecuted on the 30mph Fairfield Road. Walton Road has flashing Speed Warning Signs. The worrying statistic is that 84 local drivers have been caught speeding on two of our busiest local roads.

## Traffic Light Timings

At the November Parish Council Meeting, John Redmond, Operations Manager, Urban Traffic Management and Control Centre spoke to Councillors about Traffic Controls and Management on the traffic light system on the major roads leading into and through Stockton Heath. A six month trial is to commence in late November on various parts of the system.

Forge Pedestrian Crossing – "Puffin" type lights sequence commencing when a pedestrian presses the button. As these lights cannot be configured with other Traffic Lights on the A49 they are a major source of congestion. The pedestrian phase is to be delayed by 10 seconds allowing more vehicular movements.

Victoria Square – It is hoped that finances are to be found to include infra ray detector lights on pedestrian usage and right turn filter from Grappenhall Road into London Road North. In addition an Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) camera is to be provided to penalise offending vehicles for such offences as 'jumping' red lights.

Grappenhall Road/Chester Road//Lumb Brook Road – Providing a pedestrian phase at 3 of the junctions would hinder traffic movements and cost £370,000 and is difficult to justify as surveys have shown maximum usage of 23 children per day during school time.

London Road/Ellesmere Road/Fairfield Road – Right filter from Fairfield Road to be introduced and the parking of vehicles near the junction to be reviewed as hindering emergency service vehicles. Comment made that problems eased when recently these traffic lights were not operational although difficulties encountered without the lights when the bridge closed.

Trans-Pennine Trail Pedestrian Crossing - extended crossing time to accommodate both pedestrians and cyclists. "Puffin" (Infra Red) detector lights on pedestrian usage would be beneficial as the change of lights commences when pedestrian presses the button. A suggestion to divert the Trail under the swing bridge was welcomed though any such changes restricted by funding issues.

## A Happy New Year to All Our Parishioners

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