

The A41



Linking the villages, people and businesses along the A41 and beyond!

February 2011

Inside this month

A life in Christleton ♦ Help needed down under

Tidying your garden in February ♦ We review the new Nissan Infiniti

Welcome to the February issue,
Now here's a tale for you:



One of the strangest things ever to happen in England took place in Devon on February 8, 1885. After a bitterly cold night, the villagers and townsfolk woke up to find that over night the county had been covered in snow. Nothing unusual in that you may think, however imprinted in the snow were footprints. They were 'U' shaped like a cloven hoof with one after another, indicating that a 2-legged creature had created them.

These mysterious hoof-shaped prints were reported as being seen in various inaccessible places. They were found on rooftops, going up the sides of houses, in and out of barns, within gardens and courtyards enclosed by high walls and through solid walls, appearing on the other side as if there were no barrier.

They covered a distance of 100 miles or more through the towns of Topsham, Lypstone, Exmouth, Dawlish and Teignmouth and the villages that surrounded them. At first people were intrigued, but then became very frightened with panic setting in, and many people refused to leave their homes after dark. Various newspapers, including the Times of London, extensively covered the story, but to this day, although there have been many theories it remains a mystery what caused the footprints!

Now on a lighter note, here's a poem about the Amethyst, your birthstone if you have a February birthday.



"The February born shall find
Sincerity and peace of mind,
Freedom from passion and from care,
If they, the amethyst will wear."



Don't forget Valentines Day on the 14th!

Until next month, Julie

Front cover: Eggbridge, Waverton by David Probert

The A41 Magazine

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The A41 is delivered in Rowton by Dad and Ben, Littleton by Tim and James, Christleton by Julie, Luke and Tom, Waverton by Dad and Elliott. Old Waverton, Handley and Milton Green by Julie. Zoe delivers in Saughton. Jorge has started delivering in Tattenhall and last but not least into Tattenhall, Huxley and surrounding villages by Sally.

Disclaimer. The opinions and views expressed in articles and advertisements published in this issue of The A41 are not necessarily the views of the Editor. All details are correct to the best of my knowledge.

Every effort is taken to ensure accuracy in this magazine, however I cannot accept any liability for any error, inaccuracy or omission that may have occurred.





February – Tidying your plot

The frosts and snow from November through to January will have taken their toll on some of the more borderline hardy plants. One of my evergreen shrubs, a Pittosporum, which came though last winter has now started to lose leaves and will probably need replacing. I will see if it sends up new growth in spring but if not, I will regard it as an opportunity to go shopping and try something new!

Start to tidy up by cutting back dead foliage on perennials and grasses to allow new growth to come through. Prune fruit trees and Wisteria. Older Wisteria plants can be pruned to remove old stems and long whippy growth back to a few buds. Prune back to plump buds on newer growth and cut out some congested older branches each year to leave younger stems to grow on.

The first bulbs such as snowdrops and crocuses will start to show but may flower later this year after the hard winter. Hellebore plants will be flowering. If you do not have these in your garden they are well worth trying as they can stand some full sun and shade with the bonus of large flowers in the depths of winter.

There are some clematis that flower in late winter so try Clematis cirrhosa with small bell like flowers or Clematis armandii Apple Blossom with larger pink flowers. Both are scented and have evergreen foliage. Best planted on a south or west facing wall, fence or trellis.

The vegetable garden can be started by buying some seed potatoes and selecting an early variety such as Arran Pilot or Pentland Javelin. Start them off by chitting (chitting is the process of placing seed potatoes in a cool, light place to encourage strong sturdy shoots to grow before they are planted in the ground) in a light, frost-free dry area so that they develop short shoots prior to planting out in mid spring. Planting tomato seeds in pots on a windowsill later in February will give you a head start for planting out when frosts are past.

Mulch all fruit trees, bushes and cane fruit with a generous layer of well rotted manure around the roots and apply a general purpose fertilizer to set the plants up for the coming season.

Janet Heath, Garden Mentor, 01244 318258, janet@gardenmentor.co.uk

A Life in Christleton

Eric Handley Beech has died. He was 93 years old. He was our Dad. He was born at Brown Heath Farm on 26th March 1917 and died at Birch Heath Lodge on 18th December 2010. He lived all his life in Christleton.

Eric's grandmother had moved from Nantwich to Christleton with her four sons in 1896 to take up a farming tenancy. She farmed the land between Christleton and Waverton. The farm buildings at the time were in the middle of the village, a few yards from Birch Heath Lodge. The village pump provided the farm water supply. Eric's father George inherited the farm tenancy in 1913 and married Edith Handley, daughter of a farming family from a farm where Vicars Cross Golf Club House now stands.

Eric wished to join the RAF, but his parents thought otherwise and he followed them into farming. In 1940 he married Phyllis Johnson, a farmer's daughter from Staffordshire, and took over the farm tenancy. Eric was a determined character and shrewd businessman and through his hard work, he was able to purchase the farm of about 75 acres. It developed into a successful enterprise which he was able to hand on to his eldest son, Bryan in 1968. Bryan continues farming there today.

Eric's other main focus in life was the Methodist Chapel in Christleton. His grandparents had been early members and Eric continued the association, a period of more than 110 years. Eric was a chapel steward and his sister Ivy and wife Phyll. were joint organists at the chapel for nearly 60 years. At the age of 65, Eric joined a weekly snooker group at the Village Institute and for 25 years enjoyed the companionship of fellow players. A break of 35 was the pinnacle of his snooker career!

On Eric's 90th birthday, a celebration was held at the Cheshire View. An opportunity for Eric to regale the gathered assembly with the somewhat 'corny' jokes, for which he had a reputation. All of his direct descendants were present.



Eric is survived by his three children, fifteen grandchildren, twenty great grandchildren with another on the way!.

Eric's funeral was held at Christleton

Methodist Chapel on 6th January, a service conducted by the Reverend Claire Heald with enthusiastic singing to hymns chosen by Eric.

This tribute has been kindly written and supplied by Bryan, Ruth and Ian Beech December 2010



Christleton Gardening Club

Did you know that Christleton has its own Gardening Club?

We have been meeting together now for several years and during that time many new people have moved into the village, but rarely do they join us.

We have an excellent programme of speakers and events, regular visits to N.G.S. and enthusiasts' gardens. From time to time there are plant swaps where you could re-stock your garden with other member's overgrown perennials.

If you enjoy growing things, anything from a house plant to a market garden, we'd love some new members, new vitality, and new ideas.

The annual subscription is only £10, we meet every second Monday of the month at the Methodist Church Hall (by the pond) -----at 7-30 pm.

In order to entice you, we invite you to come along **FREE** to our next meeting on February 14th.

Mr Harry Delaney of Rease Heath College will be giving a talk entitled "Seeds=when, where, how?"

Of course, you don't need to live in Christleton in order to join us, if you read "THE A41" you won't have far to travel!

If you would like to know more, tel. Ann Wilkinson 01244 332388

CHRISTLETON JUNIOR BADMINTON CLUB

Christleton Junior Badminton Club runs on Sunday mornings at Christleton Sports Centre.

The club holds Club Mark status and the sessions are run by Badminton England qualified coaches. All young people who want to play badminton are welcome.

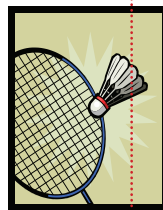
Mini club 10.30am to 11.30am for ages 7 to 10 - badminton basics and having fun.

Junior club 10.00am to 12noon for ages 11 to 16 - technique and introduction to competitive play whilst having fun.

The club will be taking on new players after half term for 6 weeks, at a cost of £15 for the junior club and £9 for the mini club,

For further information contact Jeremy Pearson – Head Coach Christleton Badminton Club

on 01244 676721 or Judi Jennings – Asst Coach on 01829 732402



BURLEY BRIDGE CLUB in Waverton - Friendly Duplicate Bridge sessions held every Monday evening at the Burley Hall. Play starts at 7pm and finishes at 10pm. New playing members are always welcome. (Please note - this is not a beginners club).

Contact Gill Harrand Tel: 01244 332105



Jennie's Catering

of Christleton (est. 1985)

Canapés, Finger Buffets, Buffets, Casseroles
Specially prepared freezer food – Soups, and
Puddings.

Contact: - Jenny Adam
01244 330090

Christleton plans for the future

Christleton has become the latest Cheshire village to ask residents to help prepare a vision for the future.

A project team made up of local people will spearhead the development of a community plan for the village and its surrounding areas.

The plan will set down how residents, organisations, community groups and other stakeholders want to see the village develop over the next 5-10 years.

In the coming months, residents, businesses, schools, churches, shops, pubs and other organisations will be encouraged to make their views and suggestions known as part of a comprehensive consultation process.

"We want to preserve and enhance everything that makes Christleton such a superb environment to visit, live and bring up a family," said Community Plan Steering Committee Chairman, Richard Bennett.

"However, like every other community, there are challenges we need to address and opportunities we want to seize to improving our environment and the services and facilities that are available to residents."

Richard continued: "We know there are concerns about traffic and road safety. What we need now is for as many local people as possible to let us have their own views, concerns and suggestions so that we can build these in to a meaningful and sustainable blueprint for the future of the village."

The consultation process will include questionnaires and interviews covering a wide range of topics including social, environmental, economic, transport, housing, village facilities, recreation and planning.

The campaign to secure local views will be supported through posters, public meetings and other initiatives.

Dozens of communities from Ashton to Wybunbury have already completed their own village plan development process.

For more information, or to get involved in the consultation project, contact Richard Bennett tel: 01244 336335.



**Christleton
Community Plan**

A vision for the future of our village

The Breast Cancer Care Pink Ribbonwalk is here!

Walk to support people with breast cancer

The Breast Cancer Care Pink Ribbonwalk sponsored by Santander in association with woman&home is now open for registrations, so come and join us on a stunning 10 or 20 mile countryside walk at our beautiful venue, Cholmondeley Castle in Cheshire on Saturday 4th June 2011 and be a part of something special.

Every year 46,000 people hear the devastating news that they have breast cancer. From the shock of diagnosis to coping with the effects of treatment, Breast Cancer Care wants to be there for every one of them when they need us most. Walk and help us support women and men living with breast cancer.

Visit: www.pinkribbonwalk.org.uk or call 0870 145 0101

Quote **BCC21** at registration for a chance to win two tickets to the Breast Cancer Care Carols by Candlelight 2011.

We are also looking for around 100 volunteers for each venue to make the events a success. You could be helping support our walkers on the route, cheering them on at a rest stop, or handing out medals at the finish line. There's a role to suit everyone, so please email pinkribbonwalk@breastcancercare.org.uk for more information and a registration form.



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**8 Arrowcroft Road
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chezzabain@gmail.com

thomas talk

Well, it is confusing with doom mongers saying the market will decline by 10% in 2011, yet we have made a good start to the year against the predictions of these national experts. Two weeks into 2011 and we have 12 sales already agreed at sensible prices. Sellers, go for it now but be sensible about your expectations and valuations. Already we have some sales without full marketing as we have buyers ready to proceed for the right property for them, of course.

Martin and his lettings team have achieved a record number of new lettings in January and are now in need of more properties to accommodate the needs of both our sales and lettings customers.

Thanks to you all in The Gowry for supporting our expansion there and for the opportunity to become the leading local agent. It is a great community.

We now have a unique and new marketing outlet-the NHS intranet. All our properties for sale or let are now circulated on the internal internet across NHS outlets, attracting buyers from Consultants, Doctors, nurses and support staff and also their friends and family. They are reliable buyers and tenants. No other Chester agent has this great marketing outlet.

The Chronicle remains an important sales tool. Some agents say they get little business from there but we do. Their hidden agenda is not to spend money on adverts but on a Thursday and Friday it is a ritual for buyers and tenants to get the Chronicle and find their dream property. THOMAS adverts are in the top 6 pages and never rotate but every other agent has to rotate their pages in the Chronicle newspaper. With Thomas yours will always be up front and stay there. We are also able to offer great editorial and special features which provide great coverage for your property.

Look carefully and spot the agent who never advertises in the Chronicle but does not tell their customers until they have been signed up. Very Naughty.

We would welcome feedback regarding our Thomas Talk articles and also any ideas for future articles you may have. We try to keep it varied for your interest and so any thoughts would be most appreciated. Please email me on rachel@thomaspropertygroup.co.uk

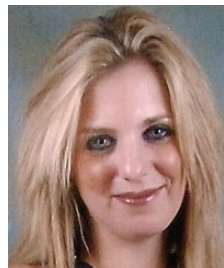
Spring will soon be here and for those considering entering the market, we recommend that you start the process as soon as possible. We offer free valuations and can promise to have your property on the market within less than a week with advertising on Rightmove amongst other websites including our own www.thomaspropertygroup.co.uk. Both our rural and city offices are linked so you do always get the added benefit of being covered in both areas.

We would like to say a special thanks to Mr. Lightfoot in Waverton, a recent client who has presented us with a framed water colour of our Offices that he has painted for us and we are very proud to display it in our Waverton rural office for you all to see. He has a wonderful talent—I am quite jealous. It was incredibly thoughtful, very touching. He has been one of our favourite clients.

We would like to say a big thank you to all those who sent in Christmas and Thank you cards. They all took prime position around our rural and our City offices over the festive period and always made us smile.

We have done a full refurbishment at Waverton and now just need to finish the new front display window as soon as the weather improves.

Spring is just round the corner----remember-----so are we---- from you.



TATTENHALL AMATEUR DRAMATICS SOCIETY
(Bringing you a night at the Theatre in your own Village)

ATTENTION, ATTENTION, ATTENTION!!!

AUDITIONS

For the next Production will take place at ALISON'S COUNTRY KITCHEN ON
TUESDAY 1ST MARCH AT 7.30 pm

An ADULT comic farce by Ray Lawrence - "It's On, It's Off" is this summer's Production and will be directed by Jane Richards. Performances will be held on Friday 20th and Saturday 21st May at the Barbour Institute. Rehearsals will be determined once the cast is chosen and will be the day most suited to all.

The action takes place two days before Tina's wedding day and has parts for 2 males and 4 females!

AUDITIONS OPEN TO MEMBERS AND NON MEMBERS

For more information please contact Jane Richards on 01829 770482

LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU!!

The Barbour Institute, Tattenhall • For info on events or bookings tel 01829 771649 • or email tcabi@tiscali.co.uk

Film@Barbour ~ Thurs 17th February, 8.00pm 'The Secret in Their Eyes' (2009) Cert 18

Argentine crime thriller film, directed by Juan José Campanella, based on Eduardo Sacheri's novel La Pregunta de Sus Ojos (The Question in Their Eyes), won an Oscar for Best Foreign Language Film. Pay on door; £5 (cert 18-no under 18s) Bar.

Rural Touring Arts ~ New Spring Season:

Thurs 3rd Mar, 7.30pm; 'Tales of The Country' - Pentabus Theatre; (advise 8yrs +) Inspired by Brian Viner's regular dispatches in The Independent. A heart-warming chronicle of the pleasures and pitfalls that await a family from the city chasing a rural idyll.

Fri 8th April, 8.00pm; Robin Ince's 'Bad Book Club' (adults) Stand-up comedy, TV & Radio regular.

Sun 22nd May, 7.00pm; 'Sward!-The story of a Meadow' — Blaize Theatre (advise 8+yrs) A magical tale; a love story, with roots in ancient myth, oral records and modern science.

Tickets £8.00 per show; Season ticket £21.00. Available from Village Greens, Tattenhall, or ring 01829 771442 / 771649

Jumble Sale ~ Sun 20th March, 2.00pm Please bring any jumble on the morning of the sale from 9am

Tiverton District Garden Club

Tuesday February 1st, 8pm, at Tiverton Village Hall, Huxley Lane (just off A49).
Enjoy some sunshine with "Travels in Australia" by Mrs Margaret Sixsmith, an excellent speaker and photographer.

Entrance £1.50, (£2.00 for visitors), including refreshments and free raffle tickets. All are welcome. For further details contact Joyce 01829 733465.

History & Restoration of the Garden at Erdigg by **Glyn Smith** will be our next talk on **WEDNESDAY 9th February 2011** at **7.45pm in the Barbour Institute.**

February competition: Bring an unusual snowdrop. Glyn might bring plants for sale.

New members are welcome to join at the meeting. Membership costs just £10 for single and £15 for joint membership. Visitors £2.50



Cheshire West & Chester Council

Gowy Community Forum

Including Ashton Hayes, Christleton, Clotton, Duddon, Foulk Stapleford, Guilden Sutton, Hargrave, Huxley, Kelsall, Littleton, Oscroft, Quarrybank, Rowton, Tarvin, Utkinton, Waverton, Willington

**Tuesday
8 February 2011**

**Stands on display 6.30pm:
Ashton Hayes project,
alternative energy, affordable
warmth, home insulation,
grants, community
development support, Wardens,
meeting starts 7.00pm**

**Ashton Hayes
Primary School
Church Road
CH3 8AB**

For more information please contact
Rob Callow, Rural West Area Manager,
Tel: 01244 972858
Email: Robert.callow@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

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- Ashton Hayes Community Shop, How does it work?
- Ashton Hayes Carbon Neutral Project, outline, benefits and where we are today
- Ashton Hayes play area development and funding

Visit: cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk



**Cheshire West
and Chester**

A final thought...

Just Who Will Be Your Valentine?

The observance of Valentine's Day spreads far and wide across the globe. Joining Britain in romantic celebration, in February, are the US, Canada, Mexico, Australia, France and, of course, those notorious lovers the Italians (although I'd steer clear of asking Mr Berlusconi about it just at the moment!). Where though does the tradition come from and just who was the original Valentine?

I'm afraid the answer, like so many, is more one of legend than of truth. Today the Catholic Church recognises at least three different Saints named Valentine (or Valentinus), all of whom were martyred. The best fit with today's celebration would seem to be a priest who served in Rome during the 3rd Century. When Emperor Claudius II decided that single men made better soldiers than those with wives and families he outlawed marriage for young men. Valentine, believing this to be unjust, continued to perform marriages for young lovers in secret. Unfortunately Claudius found out, and ordered the priest to be put to death.

It would seem then that the origins of Valentine's Day if this legend is to be believed, is the stuff of pure Shakespearean tragedy. Yet the modern day celebration has become a far more commercial concern. In Great Britain the day was being

recognised by small tokens of affection or handwritten notes as early as the mid 18th Century.

These became replaced by printed cards before that century had ended, which became ever more popular as an easy way for people to express their emotions in a time when direct

expression of one's feelings was discouraged.

From this point it's a pretty easy transition to the modern day, mass market celebration of Valentine's Day which we all know and love!! According to the Greetings Card Association there are now an estimated 1 billion cards sent each February, putting it second only to Christmas at 2.6 billion.

As a final thought though, one wonders whether this romantic cash bonanza is now coming under threat from the seemingly unstoppable growth of social media. Will modern day lovers continue to write out their messages, when they can just text them, and even more unlikely will they make that long journey to the post box when they can simply tweet?!

