

VILLAGE life

Cheshire's Community Magazine

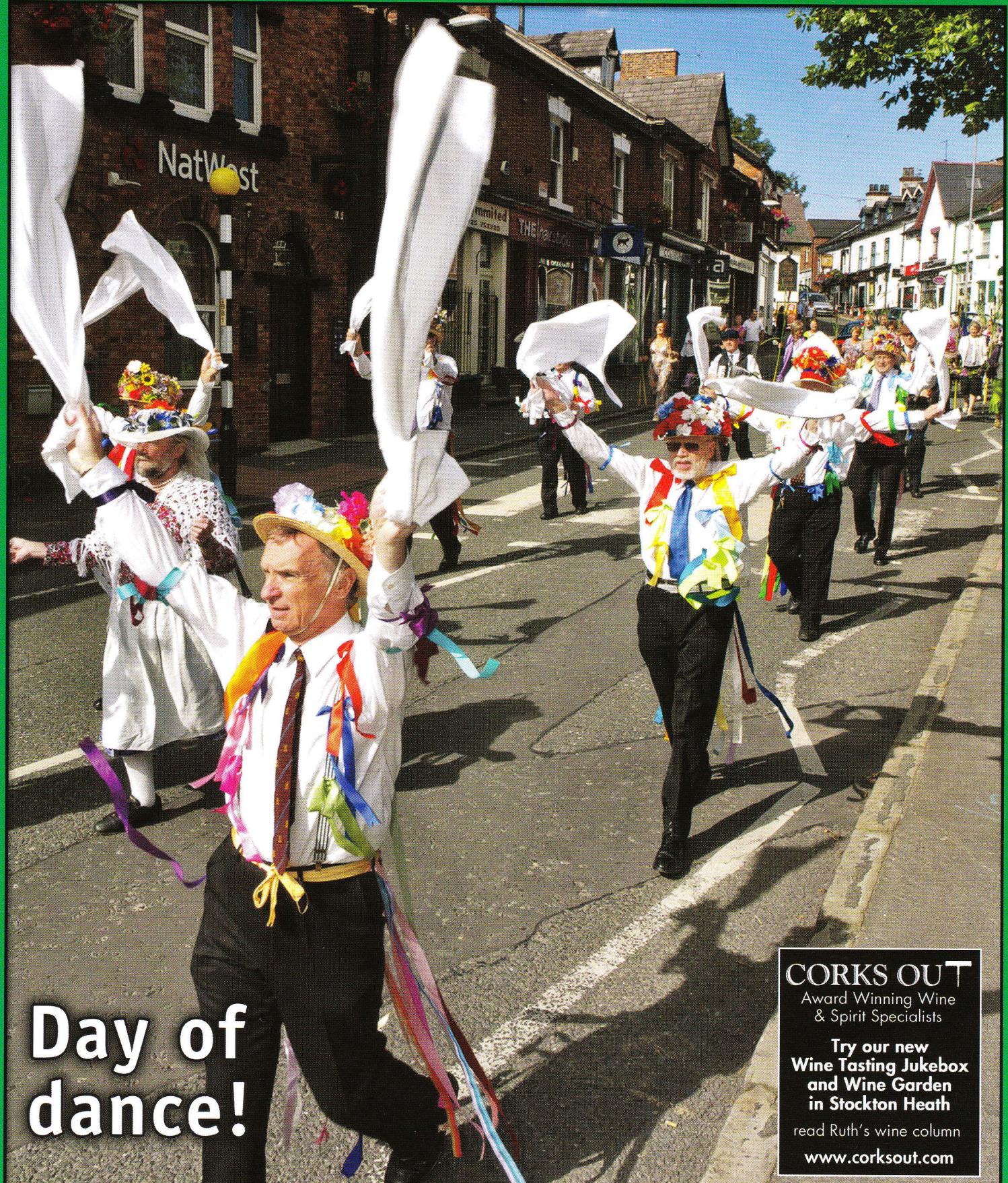
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Day of dance!

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Morris Men prepare for Day of Dance

THE age old tradition of morris dancing is very much alive and kicking in a Cheshire village.

Thelwall Morris Men have been around since 1973 and are now planning a special day of dance on Saturday October 1.

Known traditionally as a "side" the group originated within the folk club based at the Pickering Arms in Thelwall and as well as dancers are ably supported by a merry band of musicians.

Group spokesman Kevin Farrell said: "We decided many years ago to be a men's team but welcome enquiries from partners, wives etc who wish to learn more to persuade their male

partner to join!!

Kevin added: "Morris Dancing itself goes back many hundreds of years and is enjoyed in many parts of the world. Thelwall Morris Men regularly travel to other parts of England to join with fellow Morris Men for weekends of dance. We recently spent a very enjoyable weekend in Rutland."

The group is hosting their own Day of Dance when they will be joined by Morris teams from Yorkshire, Merseyside, Cheshire and Derbyshire, dancing in various locations around Warrington.

Being very community focused the group also give instructional sessions to local groups including Scouts, Guides, Women's Institutes and schools.

Kevin added: "We are the sole custodians of the Lymm Morris dance which was revived after many years research in the 1970s.

"The dance is performed at the Lymm May Queen and Lymm Rushbearing and is considered to be a collector's item in the Morris Dance world!"

The group practice on Wednesday evenings in Thelwall Parish Hall at 8.15pm. New dancers and musicians are always welcome to turn up and enjoy maintaining an English tradition.

For more information on Thelwall Morris visit their website www.thelwallmorris.org.uk



Freedom of the parish for inspector

A POPULAR police officer - who is leaving the area - has been granted the Freedom of the Parish of Stockton Heath.

The parish council heard that Inspector Gary McIntyre (pictured) is taking up a new post and members decided to bestow the honour to thank him for his work. Former police officer Cllr Graham Roughsedge said: "He will be a very hard person to follow. The crime figures for the Saturday of Walking Day were the lowest they have ever been.

"His staff work hard and are very well motivated." Chairman Cllr Celia Jordan said

people in the village "felt safe." She was sad to see the inspector go and felt he had shown strong leadership. Members presented him with a framed certificate.

According to local legend, people given the Freedom of the Parish are entitled to drive sheep through the village!



A chance for budding writers

CLOSING date for entering this year's Cheshire Prize for Literature is Thursday, September 1 - and already entries have been received from budding writers from a range of backgrounds.

A fire fighter, a librarian, a railway worker and a mother of five are just some of the early entrants for the competition, sponsored by Bank of America.

They will be awarded for an original and previously unpublished piece of writing for children and the entry may be in prose or verse. The prose entry should not exceed 1,500 words and the verse entry must not exceed 100 lines. The intended readership is seven to 14-year-old children.

Anyone over the age of 18 who lives, works or studies or has lived, worked or studied in Cheshire is eligible to enter.

Competition judge Jaki Brien, senior lecturer at Chester University, said: "We've had some excellent entries already but there's still time for aspiring writers to submit their work.

"It gives an ideal opportunity for budding writers who have a connection to Cheshire to see their work in print. As well as offering substantial prize money, it can offer new opportunities and who knows where that could lead?"

The winner will receive £2,000 with additional prize money of £750 for the runners up, and a selection of the best pieces will feature in an anthology published by the University of Chester Press.

The Cheshire Prize for Literature was inaugurated in 2003 as The High Sheriff's Cheshire Prize for Literature. It is funded by Bank of America and administered by the University of Chester.

For details on how to enter the competition visit www.chester.ac.uk/literatureprize

■ Jaki Brien with competition entries.

