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Your Community Magazine

Issue 170 May 2015

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## Hundreds sign petition over rectory

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## Pension Freedom

It's finally arrived, pension freedoms. On 6th April the new rules came into effect which now allow individuals to take unspecified amounts out of their pension pots. Including of course the whole pot, if that is what you wish to do. I noticed as I was watching breakfast TV on Easter Monday (6th April) that there were advertisements between the news bulletins on the new reforms suggesting things like 'invest in gold coins'. This is all carefully targeted at the public specifically to get you thinking. However, my advice to anyone over the age of 55, is to do nothing. Unless, of course, due to personal financial circumstances you need to make changes. Just let the situation settle down for a while. There will certainly be new products coming to the market over the next 12 months or so, many of these are still being developed. Therefore, if you do not need to take action, then don't is my advice.

I have heard many more people talking about property and buy-to-let as an alternative to investment in pensions. What you must consider with this type of venture is that it is just another alternative investment to a pension, therefore, it will not necessarily get you a better return and may, in fact prove to be a worse investment than your pension fund. There are other costs to take into account, for example valuation and Legal fees, Management/Letting charges, repairs and maintenance, rental voids, to name but a few. There are also many tax implications to take into consideration when investing in buy-to-let property not least the capital gains tax when you eventually sell the property.



Don Wernham,  
Financial Planner

If you have considered cashing in your pension to do something else with the funds, you have to be very careful of the tax implications of doing this. After the initial Pension Commencement Lump Sum (tax-free cash) has been taken then the rest of the funds are taxed at your marginal rate. This means you could pay 40% or even 45% on some of the money you are taking out. I saw a quote last week that a £70,000 pension pot could net down to £47,929 if taken as a single lump sum. There is also an added problem that HMRC are putting people on emergency tax codes until they have got the correct amount of tax calculated.

In summary, the new Pension rules are excellent. They will allow people more freedom and control over their own money. However, my advice to all is to take care when making your decisions. If you are unsure or do not understand, it is important to seek the right advice as a wrong decision could prove costly.

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• Pensions are changing due to the March 2014 budget and you now have a lot more options to consider'

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# Editor's comment

## HOW many villages don't have a village hall or community centre?

We can't claim to have done a survey so we can't answer our own question. But we think it fair to say that most do.

However, despite being large enough to be thought of by many as a small town rather than a village, Stockton Heath doesn't have either.

There are church halls, of course and the Sandy Lane Centre performs some of the functions of a village hall. But, as has been noted a few times over the years, no village hall.

So the parish council is right to be looking into the possibility of using the former Royal British Legion Club in Ackers Road for community purposes.

The building has been closed for some months following a brave effort to run it as a pub following the demise of the British Legion Club. Some refurbishment was carried out and, from a cursory exterior inspection, we would think it could be used as a community centre. But if it stands empty for too long, the benefits of the refurbishment will soon be lost.

It is not in an ideal location but it does have a reasonable car park which could probably cope with the demands of people travelling from other parts of the parish and even beyond.

The building is, apparently, owned by the borough council, so we would not expect there to be any great

obstacle in using it for community purposes.

We hope the parish council initiative meets with success.

## MEANWHILE we are coming up to election time, both locally and nationally.

I know of many people who have said this year they are going to "waste" their vote because they are fed up with the major parties failing to deliver on their promises and all becoming clones of each other in a bid to win the popular vote.

It seems such a shame to "waste" a vote if you don't really believe in the policies of those you are voting for. In fact how many of us actually sit down and read the party manifestos?

Let's be honest - the vast majority of us probably only read the headlines.

Political party manifestos hardly make for interesting reading.

With almost every newspaper, TV and radio programme talking about the elections there is also the risk of overkill - and people just being so fed up they switch off.

I would urge people not to waste their vote and use it wisely voting for the person you think is best able to represent you locally and nationally.

If they don't live up to their promises you can then hold them personally accountable and vote them out at the next elections.



But don't waste your votes and then complain about the way your local council or the country is being run.

The Warrington South General election is one of the top key marginals in the whole country - so every vote will count.

Village Life and our associated titles are all proud to be politically independent and we have worked with local councillors and politicians from various parties over many years.

There are good, bad and indifferent in all the parties. Vote for the one you believe to be the most capable - vote for the person - not the party.

But most importantly vote - people gave their lives for us to live in a democracy so use it!

Roll on May 7 when normally service will be resumed!

# Name the baby goats

SPRING has arrived and so have the African pygmy goats at Walton Hall and Gardens Childrens zoo.

Now youngsters are being invited to name the baby goats with the chance of winning an adoption pack which normally costs £12 a year.

Children are invited to send in their drawings and names for the goats by dropping them in by hand or via email to [waltongardensrange@warrington.gov.uk](mailto:waltongardensrange@warrington.gov.uk) before May 1.



■ Pictured with the new arrivals are work experience students Shannon Clare aged 17 and Robbie Kelly aged 18.

# Hundreds sign petition over disused rectory

**AN online petition calling for urgent action to restore a crumbling former rectory building in the centre of picturesque Grappenhall village looks to have spurred council chiefs to action.**

The borough council is considering enforcement action on the owners of the Grade 2 listed building, listing 47 requirements for the building to be restored.

The owner, Sara and Mike Sutton have indicated they may be willing to sell the property and the council would engage with any new owner on a step-by-step programme of restoration.

Before compulsory purchase could be considered, a formal notice would have to be served and funding partners found. It would also require the approval of the Secretary of State.

Hundreds of people have signed the petition, launched by local resident Kathryn Leach and addressed to Mr and Mrs Sutton.

It reads: "Our beautiful ancient cobbled village has been ruined for more than a decade by the run down building site that was formerly the village rectory.

"The residents of Grappenhall feel strongly that this should not be allowed to carry on. We implore you to respect our village and either take action or sell up, this has gone on for long enough.

"The Rectory is steeped in history and holds happy memories for Grappenhall residents. The beautiful building in the heart of the village

should be restored to its former glory, not left to rot for year after year.

"Complete the works on The Rectory in Grappenhall Village or sell to someone who cares!"

Grappenhall councillor Mike Biggin said: "I first took this up some 10 years ago and arranged a visit with the borough council's enforcement officer and the conservation officer.

"Mr and Mrs Sutton assured us that work would be undertaken. But since then little if any progress has been made, though the boundary wall has been removed along with a large outbuilding.

"It now looks as if the petition has spurred people into action and this is excellent news. Apparently the owners have indicated they are considering selling.

"I am much heartened by the conversations that have taken place and feel much more optimistic about the future of the building. I sincerely hope we will see some real progress in the coming months.

"Residents of Grappenhall have finally had enough of the prevarication and so contacted me about the possibility of starting a petition. More than 200 names were added over the first weekend and I really think this demonstrates the strength of feeling in our village."



■ Kathryn Leach and Cllr Mike Biggin.

## Priestley swimmers secure bronze in nationals

SWIMMERS from Priestley College Warrington are celebrating after returning from a national championship with bronze medals.

Bradley Harrison, Andrew McLay, Andrew Ravenscroft and Aaron Hill (pictured) helped the North West secure third place in the British Colleges National Swimming Championships.

"We're really proud of their achievements," said Priestley Tutor Katie Radford, who accompanied the students to the competition in

Millfield.

"They train hard so finishing third in the country is just reward for their efforts."

Students from Priestley made up half of the North West team and each contributed to the final result.

Points are allocated for the position each swimmer finishes in their races and added to their region's total with double the score for final placings.

McLay swam the 200-metre medley in 2:26.14 to qualify for the final where he finished fifth.

In the 50-metre breaststroke Ravenscroft swam the heat in 30.85 to finish third and was also third in the final of the 100-metre breaststroke in 1:09.50.

Harrison finished fourth in the 50-metre backstroke heat and sixth in the final in 31:95.

All three - together with Hill - swam in the 50-metre freestyle relay winning the heat in 1:44.90 and qualified first for the medley relay final with a time of 1:57.60.





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# One man's rubbish is another's treasure

WHEN builders move on to a previously developed site they often face the problem of disposing of "rubbish" left behind by the previous occupier.

But when property developer Elan Homes acquired the site of a former garden nursery and restaurant in Chester Road, Walton they realised one man's rubbish might be another's treasure.

So they offered the various items left on the site to charity group The Walton Lea Partnership who operate from a walled garden just 200 yards away.

There were garden tools, hosepipes, furniture and timber – all items that were "treasure" for the charity, which offers gardening and recycling work to adults with learning difficulties.

Kate Fitch, from The Walton Lea Partnership, said: "We offer supported employment opportunities to adults with learning disabilities, mental health issues and mobility problems.

"We upcycle old furniture and create a range of wooden items.

"We're a bit like the Wombles in that we'll be able to find a new use for all sorts of things that other people have thrown away or no longer need. It was great that Elan allowed us to



■ Graham Hall shows Elan's Linda Bennett the plants being grown at The Walton Lea Partnership.

visit the site and to reclaim so many things that we can utilise. It will make a difference to the lives of a lot of people."

Among the items handed over to the charity were an old dresser that will be reworked to create planters and raised flower beds.

Marie Morris, sales director for Elan Homes in the North, said: "The Walton

Lea Partnership is a fantastic charity and we were happy to be able to team up with our new neighbours in this mutually beneficial way. It's helped us clear some surplus materials from our site and rather than simply go to waste, those items will be given a new lease of life by the charity who will then sell the items on to generate funds for their projects."

Fourteen homes will be built on the

site in an exclusive gated development, including redevelopment of the former restaurant.

The site offers easy access to the motorway network and is also within walking distance of Stockton Heath village.

# Sally wins "best book for teens" award

GRAPPENHALL-based author Sally Green has won the "Best book for Teens" award for her breakout novel "Half Bad"

Her win follows a whirlwind of global support for the supernatural thriller for young adults, which is the Guinness World Record holder for most translated book and most translated children's book pre-publication and has now sold into 52 languages worldwide.

A major Hollywood film deal with Twilight producer Karen Rosenfelt was struck at the Bologna Children's book fair in March 2013 and Half Bad went on to become one of the biggest selling young adult debuts of last year.

Half Bad is set in an imaginative new world that presents witches as an exciting new trend in the hugely popular young adult fiction genre.

Set in a parallel universe occupied by covert witches, where light and dark, good and evil are in continuous flux, it is also a journey into adulthood, whereby hero Nathan Byrne must find himself, and his place in the world. A journey of discovery that will lay bare the best and the worst of humankind.

Half Wild, which has just been published, is the second book in the trilogy, promises another atmospheric and thrilling read, as Nathan is on the run and must learn to control his three gifts.

Sally Green lives in Grappenhall with her husband and son. She has had various jobs and even a profession but in 2010 she discovered a love of writing and now just can't stop.

She used to keep chickens, makes decent jam, doesn't mind ironing, loves to walk in Wales even when it's raining, and will probably never jog again.

Half Bad was her first novel.



Advertiser's announcement

# Imperial Vienna

Vienna is one of Europe's top city tourism destinations in 2014. The list of reasons to visit the Austrian capital is endless. The city is world famous for its imperial heritage and, in recent years, has evolved into a gourmet's paradise. The city has more green space than virtually any other; it is a place where visitors can relax, with parks in the heart of the city. The infrastructure is excellent and is one of the safest major cities on earth. Be sure to visit a Viennese café as they are integral to the city's history and have earned a unique place on UNESCO's "Intangible Cultural Heritage" preservation list.

A stroll around Vienna is like a journey back in time. Vienna features 27 palaces and more than 150 other stately residences. A trip around Vienna's magnificent Ringstrasse

boulevard is always a special sightseeing experience whether you are on foot or taking a ride in a traditional fiacre. The boulevard is lined with parks and breath-taking buildings such as the Spanish Riding School with its famous Lipizzan ballet.

Every night in Vienna around 10,000 music fans are treated to live classical music, something that is simply unheard of in any other city in the world. Each year, the Vienna concert schedule includes more than 15,000 events of various sizes and genres. No other city has been home to so many composers – Mozart, Mahler, Beethoven and Johann Strauss, the king of the Viennese waltz, all worked in the city. Traditional strengths endure to this day and make Vienna a hotbed for

contemporary musicians – the Vienna sound pioneered by local DJs enjoys worldwide popularity.

Viennese cuisine is the only cuisine in the world to be named after a city. The city serves up a cornucopia of different taste experiences, from hearty to organic and ethnic, and in a variety of settings including the slowly revolving restaurant in the Danube Tower with its breath-taking views. The Viennese coffee house is known around the globe for its informal pleasantness. A close relative to the café is the pastry shop; where you will find Bundt cake and Sachertorte.

For getting around you can purchase a Vienna Card, which is a 48/72 hour rover ticket, which grants unlimited travel on Vienna's public transportation system, as well as a number of discounts at museums, events, attractions, shops and restaurants. It is available at hotels in the city, as well as the Tourist Information office. However, Vienna is also easy to explore on foot.



■ Linda Crowder – Stockton Heath Travel

Vienna is a beautiful city to explore at any time of the year, but in late November and December it takes on an even more magical appearance. The city's passion for Christmas is evident everywhere, but you should not expect gaudy Christmas lights and decorations; the city is adorned in lavish chandeliers, elaborately decorated trees are dotted on every corner, whilst the aroma of gingerbread, gluhwein and sausage drifts from the many Christmas markets!

Refinement reigns supreme in the Austrian capital and direct flights from Manchester make this a fabulous summer and winter destination.



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# How 'Girlie' the swan found a new home and

Pictures: *Darren Moston*

**THE remarkable story has emerged of how two women spent every night for 16 weeks protecting a swan which had lost its mate and was being attacked by other swans.**

Gaynor Collins and Sharon Rice, from Stockton Heath, mounted guard between 10pm and 4am every night at local beauty spot Ackers Pit to make sure the female swan – nicknamed "Girlie" – survived.

They sought help from the RSPCA – who told them they were interfering with nature – and the RSPB without success.

In the end, Gaynor even telephoned

Buckingham Palace, who put her in touch with the charity Swan Lifeline.

She said: "I 'phoned the Palace because swans are supposed to be the Queen's birds. They, at least, helped us by putting us in touch with the charity.

"Swan Lifeline came and took the swan. We paid for their petrol for the journey."

"Girlie" has now been re-homed at

Fort Belvedere in Windsor Great Park, Surrey.

She lost her mate and seven eggs following a raid by vandals on her nest at Ackers Pit.

After the incident, Gaynor and Sharon noticed that Girlie was not being accepted by another pair of swans on the lake.

Whenever she tried to enter the water, the other swans drove her away.

Gaynor said: "We started going down at night with buckets. We threw water at the other two swans to keep them away from Girlie.

"She would then get in the water while we kept the other swans away. In the end, we are sure she got to know us. She would come right up to us.

"We kept it up for 16 weeks, but we could not have kept it up for much longer, so we were really pleased when Swan Lifeline came to the rescue.

"We have kept in touch with them ever since to see how she was going on and we are really pleased she has been found a new home."

The story has been recorded by local photographer Darren Moston and his wife, Carolyn, who have been taking pictures of swans at Ackers Pit for years.

They have also kept in touch with Swan Lifeline to follow Girlie's progress.

Darren said: "She has now found another mate and they have been rehomed at Fort Belvedere in Windsor Great Park in Surrey.

"They don't normally home them like this and leave them to pair off but due to the horrible and painful events Girlie had been through, they decided to take her somewhere safe."

No-one knows what happened to Girlie's mate or her eggs





# new love



## Money Column

By Margaret Black

### National Minimum Wage changes

**The government have announced the changes to the National Minimum Wage ("NMW") that will be taking effect in October.**

If you are aged 21 and over, the rate at which NMW is payable will increase from the current rate of £6.50 per hour to £6.70 per hour. For someone working 35 hours a week this will mean that the minimum wage that you should expect increases from £227.50 per week to £234.50 per week. Of course, that is the wage before the deduction of tax or national insurance because at these dizzy heights of financial reward the government feel it is only fair that they have a cut!

People aged 18, 19 or 20 will see their NMW increase from £5.13 to £5.30 per hour, resulting in an increase from £179.55 for a 35 hour week to £185.50. At this level there would be no tax payable, but there would be deductions for National Insurance. This is because National Insurance contributions start when you earn £155 or more per week whereas you can earn over £200 per week before starting to pay tax.

Those of you who are lucky enough to be aged under 18 can expect to see a massive increase of 8p per hour from £3.79 to £3.87. The good news is that, if you work that same 35 hours, you get to keep the whole of your £135.45 with no deduction for either tax or national insurance. Every cloud has a silver lining, as they say.

The rate for Apprentices is currently £2.73 per hour, and this will increase by 57p to £3.30. This lower rate is justified by the fact that they are receiving funded training towards a trade or professional qualification which should increase their earning potential in the future.

These deductions will, of course, increase once you are affected by the auto enrolment regulations. When that is depends on how many people are employed by your employer, and some of you may already be affected. These new regulations mean that you will be enrolled automatically into a workforce pension into which both you and your employer will contribute. You do currently have a right to opt-out of the contributions but whether that option continues after the forthcoming election is open to question.

Please note that the advice above is pre March 2015 budget. For a summary of the budget together with other important topics like auto enrolment, tax relief for married couples and other helpful subjects check our website: [www.warringtonaccountants.co.uk](http://www.warringtonaccountants.co.uk)

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# Schoolboy's starring role in musical

A SCHOOLBOY from Stockton Heath starred in the musical "Her Benny" which was produced by a professional touring company at The Brindley, Runcorn.

Nine-year-old Finn Richards (pictured) has been acting, dancing and singing on stage since he was four years old.

He starred in his first major theatre performance in 2014 in "Peter Pan" at The Brindley playing the role of Michael. Finn has since appeared in "Annie Get Your Gun" and was delighted to be offered the title role in "Her Benny".

Writer and director Anne Dalton said: "The part of Benny is a challenging one.

"He is honest yet streetwise, tough yet sensitive. The part is bigger than most juvenile lead roles in musicals and I was delighted to have found a youngster who was just perfect for the role. Due to his age and the licencing laws, Finn had to share the role with other local performers."

Along with Finn, the professional adult touring cast was supported by other local performers aged between 8 and 18 who beat off fierce competition to win places in the production.

Esme Nevitt (8) from Lymm and Emma Morris (10) from Warrington shared the part of Benny's little sister "Nell" while Charlotte Allcock (11) from Walton and Sadie Whitehurst (9) from Lymm took on the role of rich merchant's daughter "Eva".

The musical, which won The International Quest for New Musicals award, was based on the original book "Her Benny" which was the first ever book to sell a million copies in its author's lifetime.

It told of a young orphan boy's struggle to survive the intense poverty experienced by many city dwellers in the Victorian era.




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## Vandals on the rampage

VANDALS have been on the rampage in Grappenhall and Thelwall - and causing anguish for local residents and councillors.

At Jubilee Park, in Euclid Avenue, Grappenhall, the parish council replaced vandalised netting on the netball equipment at a cost of £120 - only for it to be vandalised again two weeks later.

In Diamond Park, in Barley Road, Thelwall, living willow shelters built by the Mersey Forest were also destroyed.

Cllr Mike Biggin said: "The parish council is very disappointed at these and other acts of vandalism around in our parks. It's soul destroying when we spend public money on providing play equipment and other facilities only to see it destroyed by vandals.

"We would appeal to everyone to keep a look out in the parks and report any incidents of vandalism they see."

Local residents and councillors have been out litter-picking in Grappenhall and Thelwall. Thirty volunteers collected 35 binsacks of litter in the two villages.



## Charity golf programme

A BUSY programme of charity events has been arranged by the new lady captain at Appleton-based Warrington Golf Club.

Jean Warburton has chosen Children with Autism and Assistance Dogs for the Disabled as her charities for the year.

On May 29 there will be a ladies charity dinner at the club while on August 18 there will be a ladies charity golf day and coffee morning.

July 3 and July 27 will see two mixed charity golf days, which will be open to non members.

Anyone who would like to take part or support the fundraising events should contact the club.

# Thelwall Rose Queen



To volunteer on the day  
or do a float

[thelwallrosequeen@gmail.com](mailto:thelwallrosequeen@gmail.com)

## Village festival in danger of dying out

ORGANISERS of the Thelwall Rose Queen Festival are appealing for more people to get involved to help save the annual event from dying out.

Following on from last year's Golden anniversary event the number of floats scheduled to take part in the June 20 event has dropped from 12 to four.

One of the organisers Rebecca Lord-Lyon said: "Unfortunately this year the Rose Queen festival is not doing as well as hoped after its Golden Anniversary last year.

"Once upon a time the procession had around 12 floats but this year we only have four confirmed.

"The committee is also a few members down this year and we really need new members and we also need helpers for on the day when setting up the field.

"We really need all the help we can get or the tradition will eventually die out."

In the meantime, however, preparations are well advanced for the festival.

The Rose Queen will be Jennifer Tipping and her attendants are Emily Foot, Teegan Hindle, Elizabeth Lewis, Amelia McGerty, Ellie Schofield and Jadine Tomkins. The Crown Bearer is Juan Mottram.

Theme for the floats this year is "Book Characters" and anyone prepared to spare some time decorating a float and joining the parade is asked to contact Martha Regan on 01925 261763 or email [thelwallrosequeen@gmail.com](mailto:thelwallrosequeen@gmail.com)

The procession of floats and bands will leave the Village Hall car park at 1.30pm and parade through the village returning to Chaigeley School field where there will be many stalls, fairground attractions, arena events and of course the crowning of the Rose Queen ceremony.



A float from last year's event.



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## Learn to Paint in Oils

### New dates for the Summer

Oil Painting Courses by Marc A Turner  
Grappenhall youth and community centre.

The new dates launched for summer 2015

Marc has over 20 years experience in painting and working for a professional Painting school in Norfolk.

The two day courses cost £120

all materials, hot drinks and snacks included

Courses run from 10am to 4pm with a 30 minute lunch break.  
The Basic workshop is an introduction to painting in oils for complete beginners or people that want to get back into painting, no drawing skills required.

The Foundation workshop is a structured course developing from the basic course including colour mixing, value planning and different techniques; direct and indirect painting.

En Plein Air workshop will be painting open-air then developing a painting in the studio.

### Course dates to be confirmed

Foundation Oils	Apr 25-26	Structured course for anyone
Basic/Foundation	June 13-14	Structured course for all painters
En Plein-Air	July 4-5	Painting outdoors
6 Week ½ day	TBC	Running through basics & foundation
Impressionist	August 15-16	Paint like Monet

Contact Marc: 07779 320362 or 01925 495718

Email: info@marc-a-turner.com Website: www.marc-a-turner.com

# Villages celebrate with a two-day festival

**TWO villages are to host a weekend festival to celebrate the wide range of community groups and activities which people can take part in and enjoy.**

The "open weekend" at Grappenhall and Thelwall will take place on Friday and Saturday, May 1-2.

A variety of events will take place

## The Little Shop of Horrors

A NEW production of the comedy sci-fi spoof musical "Little Shop of Horrors" is to be staged by Knutsford Musical Theatre Company at the Grange Theatre, Hartford on May 20-23.

Featuring music from the hit 1986 film, the story tells how down-and-out Seymour Krelborn slaves away in Mr Musnik's florists, mooning over glamorous assistant Audrey and dreaming of a way out of Skid Row.

Then one day, during a total eclipse of the sun, Seymour stumbles upon a strange and exotic new plant.

An overnight success, the newly christened Audrey II offers Seymour hope for the future and perhaps even a chance of a date with the real life Audrey. But this ain't no ordinary shrub. Audrey II grows to monstrous proportions and develops a blood thirsty appetite.

Will Seymour survive Audrey II's plans for global domination? Or can he grab his chance for a life of fame, fortune and true love?

More details are available from Tracey on 01606 75270, or tickets can be purchased online from [www.ticketsource.co.uk/thegrangetheatre](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/thegrangetheatre) or the theatre box office on 0333 666 3366.

## Councillor's 25 years service



TRIBUTES were paid to Cllr Brian Axcell at the monthly meeting of Appleton Parish Council when a presentation was made to mark his 25th year as a member.

Cllr Axcell, a university lecturer, was first elected to the council on April 17, 1990. The following year he was elected to the borough council as a Liberal Democrat, representing Appleton Ward and he has served on both councils ever since. He was Mayor of Warrington in 2009-10 and was a member of the council's executive board during the period that the council was controlled by a Liberal Democrat/Conservative alliance.

During his year as Mayor, his wife, Irina, was Mayoress. She is now also a member of Appleton Parish Council.

over the two days.

On the Friday there will be a comedy night at Grappenhall Ex-Servicemen's Club with admission by ticket available from the club.

On the Saturday, there will be free guided tours of St Wilfrid's Church, Grappenhall followed by a rock choir concert with admission by ticket.

Traditional garden games and refreshments will be the attraction at Grappenhall Heys Walled Garden on Saturday, followed by an early evening hog roast (ticketed).

Tennis taster sessions and football-related fun will be on offer at Grappenhall Sports Club on Saturday, St Wilfrids Scouts will be showcasing bush-craft, campfire cooking and other outdoor activities and there

will be crafts and family activities at Grappenhall Library.

Thelwall and Grappenhall Model Railway Club will be putting on a display at Grappenhall Community Centre.

There will also be a family treasure trail taking place with £100 of Golden Square shopping vouchers available in prizes.

For more information look out for the free Open Grappenhall and Thelwall Weekend brochure which will be available in local businesses soon.

The weekend is being co-ordinated by Grappenhall and Thelwall Parish Council but for more information on ticketed events, contact the community groups themselves for more details and to purchase tickets.

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# What's on in the villages

**May 12**  
STOCKTON HEATH PARISH COUNCIL  
Sandy Lane Centre, Stockton Heath. 7.30pm

**May 19**  
APPLETON PARISH COUNCIL  
Parish Hall, Dudlow Green Road. 7.30pm

**May 21**  
GRAPPENHALL & THELWALL PARISH COUNCIL  
Council Offices, Bellhouse Lane. 7.30pm

**May 21**  
LIVE AT ST WILFRID'S  
Solem String Quartet will play music by Haydn, Mozart and Debussy.  
St Wilfrid's Church, Grappenhall Village. 7.30pm

**Every Sunday**  
GRAPPENHALL HEYS WALLED GARDEN  
Witherwin Avenue, Grappenhall Heys, WA4 3DS.  
Café open from 1-4pm serving teas, coffee, home-made cakes and savouries.

**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**  
Belong Warrington, Loushers Lane 7.30pm. Details 01925 262534

**LADIES' FRIENDSHIP CLUB**  
The Quays Community Centre, Thelwall New Road, Thelwall. 8pm. Details: 01925 264099

**HIGH LEGH RUBBER BRIDGE CLUB**  
Village Hall, 7-10pm.  
Details: Audrey Greaves 0161 904 0120

**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**  
MARLFIELD WI  
Grappenhall Community Library, Albert 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 second Tuesday**  
STOCKTON HEATH LIONS CLUB  
London Bridge Inn, 8pm  
Contact: Grahamclisse58@outlook.com.  
Tel 01925 262669

**Every Wednesday**  
APPLETON HALL BADMINTON CLUB  
September - April at Hall Drive, Appleton. 7.30-10pm. Details: 01925 262356

**Every first Wednesday**  
WALTON WI  
St John's Church Community Hall. 7.30pm  
Details: 01925 604384

**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 262001.

**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  
Warrington Golf Club, London Road, Appleton. WA 5HR 2pm Details: 01925 740419

**GRAPPENHALL WI**  
Grappenhall Community Centre, Bellhouse Lane 2.15pm

**Every Friday**  
APPLETOTS TODDLER GROUP  
Appleton Parish Hall, Dudlow Green Road. 9.45-11.30am. Details: 01925 268153.

**To list your event call Village Life on**  
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