

# VILLAGE Your Community Magazine *life*

Your Community Magazine

Issue 187 October 2016

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## Investment Expectations

I had an interesting conversation recently with a client about investment expectations. They asked me what I would have expected a balanced portfolio to yield over the next 5 years. My reply was around 5%pa after all charges and fees. And at this point I could see the recognition of disappointment, so I asked the client what did they think a balanced portfolio would produce? They replied that they would be hoping for more like 7% to 8%pa. Now I am not saying that this is unachievable, it may well be, but people do have to think about the world as it is today. And by this I mean we are in a low growth environment.



Don Wernham,  
Financial Planner

In November 2006 inflation was around 3%pa and UK interest rates were just about to increase from 4.75% up to 5.0%. So if a balanced portfolio in 2006 had produced say 7.5% this is 4.5% above inflation and just over 2.5% what could have been achieved in the bank. Fast forward 10 years and you have interest rates at 0.25% and inflation at virtually zero. So why is it that we still think we could achieve 7.5% in a balanced portfolio. If 5%pa growth was achieved, this is still 5% in front of inflation, and 4.75% better than bank deposit. So all of a sudden 5% doesn't seem all that bad. But that is why we have all got to expect less from virtually every asset class.

Over the last 7 years since the banking crisis central banks have used Quantitative Easing as a mechanism to help or influence the markets. This has led in turn to yields in fixed income dropping to record low levels. It has also made people move away from cash and fixed income and go into equities. So in effect we are taking more investment risk with our money. This is not a bad thing, but it does increase volatility – the amount that a portfolio can increase or decrease. You may not like this, but in reality there is very little serious alternative.

Disclaimer - Please note views are my own and do not constitute advice

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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

**WE are all familiar with the various devices used to break bad news. The most obvious, is to try and make it sound like good news – and some of these can be quite funny. But the borough council's description of the impending changes to the parking arrangements in Stockton Heath as "an improved parking experience for shoppers" would be hilarious if it did not have such potentially serious consequences.**

The changes are detailed elsewhere in this issue, but put shortly, they mean there will be no free parking in the village centre until after 3pm.

When we broke the news in our online editions (www.villagelife.co.uk) we were inundated with emails from worried and angry villagers.

There were dire predictions of "the death of the village", threats to stop shopping in the village, accusations of the borough using Stockton Heath as a "cash cow" to subsidise free car parks elsewhere and even to subsidise car parking for council staff.

One presumably facetious suggestion was that the shops should stay closed until 3pm after which the car parks would be free.

It is easy to over-react in a situation like this but two things are clear – the changes will not bring

an improved parking experience for shoppers and they will certainly not help village shopkeepers. Some already struggle and some may find they have to close.

An extra £1 on the shopping bill may not deter someone spending £40 or more on a weekly shop, but Stockton Heath relies more on "top-up" shoppers who would find £1 on a pint of milk or a loaf unreasonable and may go elsewhere, thus reducing footfall in the village centre generally.

Ironically, when Stockton Heath is probably at its busiest, in the evening with restaurants and wine bars full of people enjoying a night out and spending enough for a £1 parking fee to go unnoticed, the car parks are, and will continue to be, free.

**RESIDENTS of Grappenhall, witnessing the disquiet being expressed in neighbouring Stockton Heath over the possible closure of the village library, may be experiencing a sense of déjà vu.**

Their library was axed in 2011 but was re-opened the following year by local volunteers who have set up a charity – and is still going strong today. It has even undergone a make-over after winning a grant of more



than £30,000.

We do not for one moment suggest that a library run by volunteers is an ideal replacement for the existing Stockton Heath Library, but the success of the community library at Grappenhall shows what can be done if enough local people feel strongly enough about something to roll up their sleeves and get cracking. The people at Grappenhall seem to be having a whale of a time running their library, which has developed into more of a community centre, providing a useful venue for local organisations as well as somewhere to borrow books.

The book exchange at Appleton Parish Hall is a similar, if smaller, success story.

A community "take over" is one option to consider at Stockton Heath, if the worst comes to the worst. But surely the busiest library in the borough should be one that should not be allowed to close?

## Walton Lea Partnership seek volunteers

**The Walton Lea Partnership were delighted to welcome a group of volunteers to their Walled Garden at Walton Lea.**

The local charity which supports adults with learning difficulties is always on the lookout for volunteers be it corporate groups or individuals.

They are open 7 days a week 10.00am til 4.00pm and volunteers are welcome to come for a few hours, full days or even a week.

Manager Julie Groom said: "At the moment with all our home grown crops coming into season as many hands as possible are needed in the garden, not forgetting our woodwork, craft,

furniture and bicycle departments.

"Anyone with any amount of spare time who would like to turn their hand at any of these activities to help our charity to continue with our vital work would be very much appreciated."

Any one interested in volunteering should call 01925 860143 or email waltonlea@btconnect.com





# Creamfields the good, the bad and the ugly

**THE annual Creamfields event at Daresbury came to an end leaving mixed feelings from local residents following four days of music involving around 70,000 revellers.**

While many welcomed the biggest event of its kind in Cheshire, which provides a welcome boost to the local economy, many others complained about noise and traffic problems and the drug related issues associated with the event.

Police made 137 arrests - almost double the previous year - the majority related to drug supply offences.

Others included weapon possession, assault and those wanted for other outstanding offences. There was also tragically one fatality.

Elsewhere, around 287 crimes were reported to officers on-site or via the 101 number, including thefts, assault and drugs offences.

This compared with 180 last year.

Cheshire police have thanked organisers, partners, attendees and the local community for their co-operation during what they describe as "a successful Creamfields festival".

A tight policing operation relied on working closely with the event organisers to ensure that the event ran safely and smoothly.

Inspector Stewart Sheer, who led the planning of the policing operation at Creamfields, said: "Once again we are able to look back on a successful event from a policing perspective, which would not have been possible without the help and co-operation between the organisers and other partners."

"I must also thank all of the officers who policed this year's festival for their continued hard work, along with the officers and staff who have assisted with the planning of this year's event. Creamfields is our biggest event of the year, which comes at a time when many would

want to spend time with family, so it is great credit to those who embrace the spirit of the event while carrying out an important job."

Meanwhile thousands of items left behind at the site became "rich pickings" for a Warrington based charity.

Tents, sleeping bags and airbeds were just some of the items left behind in their hundreds if not thousands.

Lymm residents Su and Alan Williams were there as part of a team lead by Alison Collins supporting Nora Carlin's Appleton Thorn based Refugee Aid NW charity.

"It was hard to know where to start," explained Su. "Everywhere you looked there was what seemed like brand new equipment not to mention, shoes, boots and socks and a few cushions that looked like they had come straight off mum's sofa!"

The organisers weren't the only ones who were lucky to have a dry weekend as it meant all the salvage was in good condition for the volunteers. The items collected, mainly sleeping bags and clothing, were transported from the site by the team to be checked out and washed as necessary before being brought together at the charity's base in Museum St ready for shipment by container to Greece.

Once there they are destined to provide warmth and a little comfort for migrants fleeing Syria.

"At one level it was devastating to see the chaos and the sheer amount of perfectly good stuff left behind by festivalgoers" added Alan. "But we preferred to focus on the positive and think about how something bought for one weekend's use could actually help keep a whole family a little warmer over Winter."

To find out more about the charity's activities go to [facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com) and search Refugee Aid NW.





**david hester** wealth management

## All About Money

**It is interesting that most people are benefiting from up to date HD television and the latest Mobile Phones and gadgets, yet they have not had the far more important matter of their financial affairs reviewed professionally for many years.**

David Hester of David Hester Wealth Management is looking to address this issue with a series of complementary, no obligation seminars at the Lymm Hotel with the next being on the 11th October 2016, to provide public education in the vital area of "Money" and personal finance. David, a resident of Lymm, has been advising and helping clients manage their financial affairs in a career spanning 17 years.

The aim of the event is to enable those who attend to gain a better understanding of how financial advice and in particular financial products have evolved over the years. Many of the new clients David sees share the common theme of their products being out of date with the modern approach.

The back drop of the EU referendum, the record low miserly interest rates for cash deposits and the general lack of trust in the banking sector following various miss-selling scandals, leaves people with questions about where to turn for quality advice.

People have often had their investments set up years ago, then never hear from the adviser again and so miss out on the potential of better returns and lower cost products available with modern

investment opportunities. It is also common that those invested purely in cash deposits lack the knowledge about alternatives that can dramatically improve their returns.

The good news is that there are solutions to all these questions and concerns. The "All About Money" seminar is designed to address these issues. The topics covered will include:-

- Current news topics - recent changes to pensions and tax matters, BREXIT
- Investing today - current trends - the modern approach
- How to increase your confidence in your money

David will also outline his unique Wealth Management System. This ensures excellent outcomes for those who go on to become "Family Clients" where they receive monthly contact, tactical adjustments and changes to their portfolios and an exceptional personal service from David and his team. New clients often have a number of different products with a variety of companies and struggle to understand their investments and their combined value. The Wealth Management

Plan that David designs for all clients provides confidence and direction that is clear and easy to understand.

**Look out for your invitation that will be dropping through your door in the next few days with more details on the forthcoming seminar on Tuesday 11th October at 10.30am, at the Lymm Hotel.**

If you would like further information or would like to reserve a place at the seminar, please contact David Hester on 01925 758850 or email [david@davidhesterwealthmanagement.co.uk](mailto:david@davidhesterwealthmanagement.co.uk)

There will be ample opportunity to speak one to one with David at the event and a buffet lunch is being provided following the presentation.



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# Fears growing over proposed development at Grappenhall Heys

**FEARS are growing over a proposed "huge" housing development on greenfield land at Grappenhall Heys, Warrington.**

Although local residents have always known the land has been earmarked for further development there are concerns over the scale of the proposed development which has been outlined by the Homes and Communities Agency.

The Agency has published notice of a public meeting at Appleton Parish Hall, on Wednesday October 5th, to outline more about the proposed housing development.

But one local resident said: "We have always known the land has been

earmarked for development at some stage in the future – but the scale of this development looks huge!

"Although a public meeting has been called it hasn't been very well publicised with just a few signs being posted in the area.

"There are not many facilities in the area to serve the existing homes – let alone all these proposed new ones."

The proposed development will cover a large area of the local countryside around a pathway which

currently leads to Grappenhall Cricket Club.

The public meeting which takes place from 1.30-7.30pm on Wednesday October 5th will give people the opportunity to view and comment on the proposals.



## Free one-hour parking to end

ENDING free one-hour parking for shoppers on Stockton Heath's Forge car park could result in increased parking problems in side roads near the village centre.

This was the fear expressed at the monthly meeting of Stockton Heath Parish Council when a majority of members voiced their opposition to changes to be introduced by Warrington Borough Council – probably during November.

The free one hour ticket will be

replaced by a £1 charge which will allow a driver to stay up to three hours. There will be a £2 charge for more than three hours – but after 3pm parking will be free.

Cllr Peter Walker, chairman of the parish council, said: "It is fair to say that most members were opposed to ending the free one hour ticket."

"The borough has told us that 75 per cent of people who use the car park stay for only one hour. But we feel that once a driver has paid for

three hours they will probably stay longer – possibly for up to three hours.

"This will be good for traders, because people will have more time to browse around the local shops and we would welcome that. But it will also mean there will be less turn-over of vehicles on the car park, resulting in more motorists looking to park elsewhere. This could lead to more congestion on the roads – particularly residential roads near to the village

centre."

The parish council has written to the borough opposing the end of free one-hour parking. But if the borough insists on ending free parking, parish councillors have asked that the period during which a charge must be paid be reduced to 9.15am to 2.45pm.

Cllr Walker said: "This would help parents who park while they are taking their children to school."

Advertiser's announcement

## Cherry Blossoms & Snow!

Japan is an extraordinary and enchanting destination, which Joanna Lumley has recently brought to the forefront.

The scenery is outstanding and has a culture as far removed from our own as is possible to imagine. Japan's society is built around centuries-old traditions and is a country like no other, at once futuristic and high tech, but also with a strong sense of tradition, as well as an incredible natural beauty. Cities that set the trend for the modern world rub side by side with timeworn temples, gardens and palaces, all surrounded by snowy volcanic peaks, valleys of pink cherry blossom in spring and fiery reds in autumn, remote mountains to the north and subtropical islands to the south. What's more, high-speed rail links mean that you can discover much of the diversity of this country in comfort. Japan's rail network is famed across the globe, and justifiably so, as it is argued to be the most efficient and convenient rail service in the world, travelling up to speeds of 270 kilometres per hour and

linking all of its major cities. Exploring Japan's rail network can be a rewarding experience and is an enjoyable and cost effective way to traverse the country's diverse scenery. There are two classes of travel; Standard and First Class and the pass can be used an unlimited number of times on almost all networks including the bullet train (excluding Nozomi trains). Passes can only be purchased outside of Japan and by foreign tourists.

For a truly Japanese experience and to immerse fully into the culture, a stay in a traditional inn, or Ryokan, is a must. There are a lot of Ryokans throughout Japan with a variety of styles, but traditional examples offer a truly memorable cultural experience added to outstanding levels of service. Your simple and functional room will usually consist of one large space which, during the day, is used as a living room but then transforms into a comfortable bedroom with a futon on top of the tatami mat flooring. Relax in an onsen (a hot spring bath) before changing

into your traditional Yukata (robe) to enjoy the Afternoon Tea and traditional meals, usually served in your room. Ryokans outside the major cities of Japan often have peaceful, traditional gardens. Please remember that prices vary according to the standard of Ryokan and the time of year.

Japan's outstanding success as a ski destination can be summed up in one simple word - snow! You really have to ski it to believe it. For skiers looking for amazing powder snow conditions, then quality and indeed quantity of snow is the main reason you want to travel. There are not many resorts worldwide where you have such a high probability of hitting premium powder conditions in January and February. Consensus is that Niseko is Japan's best resort and the most suited to international skiers. The vast ski mountain has three different 'resorts' - Niseko Hirafu, Niseko Village and Annapuri - and with 50 feet of snow annually this is powder heaven! Niseko is a 'ski-what-you-can-see' resort, with superb terrain to suit



■ Linda Crowder – Stockton Heath Travel

all standards and lots of off-piste. Their peak season stretches from December into late February and can persist into early March. The resort is dominated by nearby Mount Youtei, an extinct volcano, and the area is rich in hot springs. Niseko Hirafu offers a fantastic ski resort experience with funky bars, shops and restaurants offering both traditional Japanese and western-style options. Niseko village has great ski-in/ski-out lodging and a developing village scene together with several new ski lifts for Winter 2016-17. As well as hotels there is a massive choice of stunning well-designed apartments and townhomes.



*Keep the village alive support your local traders!*

**We are open Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm and Saturdays 9am to 4pm. If you cannot make these times we are happy to arrange an appointment at your convenience.**

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# Mayor takes trip back in time with author

**THE Mayor of Warrington has been given a fascinating glimpse into the past by local author Mike Hewitt.**



Cllr Faisal Rashid sat down with Mr Hewitt, from Burtonwood, at the Town Hall, to find out about his new book, *A Most Remarkable Family* linked to Appleton.

The book looks at the history of the Lyons from 1066 – 2014, detailing the life and times of one of the most enduring families in the United Kingdom, with over 900 years of history and hundreds of thousands of family members.

The book, which was written following three years of research by Mr Hewitt, also includes a chapter linking to Warrington, in particular the Appleton area.

Cllr Rashid said: "It was fascinating to chat with Mr Hewitt about the detailed research he has carried out to unearth some of the untold stories of this historic family. I was particularly interested to learn that the largest

number of Lyon family members resided here, in Warrington, and the surrounding areas, in the 1600s.

"It is always good to have the opportunity to meet local authors and

scholars and find out more about their work. I wish Mr Hewitt every success with this book.

To find out more, visit [www.thelyonfamily.org.uk](http://www.thelyonfamily.org.uk)



## *Morris men will dance on Apple Day*

THELWALL Morris Men will be performing at "Apple Day" at Grappenhall Heys Walled Garden on Sunday, October 2.

The event starts at 12 noon and

continues until 3.30pm and has been organised by the "Friends" of the walled garden in Witherwin Avenue, Grappenhall Heys.

Apples will be very much on the menu - home grown apples, apple

juice, apples pies and apple crumbles - thanks to the local Women's Institute.

But there will also be other garden produce, cakes, local honey and home made jams.

Entrance is free and the cafe will be from 10am selling hot and cold snacks, soft drinks, tea, coffee and home-made cakes.

More details are available on 01925 264918 and 213638.





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# Walton Gardens Country Fair attracts huge crowds

*Pictures: Barrie Scholes and Karen Dakin*

**DESCRIBED** as the biggest event of the year the Walton Gardens Country Show attracted huge crowds.

With rural crafts, amazing live arena acts, live music, children's fun fair, crafts stalls, farmers market, gourmet hot food, real ale and narrow boat rides, there was fun for all the family.

As well as dog displays there was also English Civil war re-enactment and stunning bike displays to entertain the crowd.



Advertiser's announcement

## Personal training tips

Welcome to Personal Training at the Park Royal Leisure Club

Here at the club, we appreciate that everybody has different lifestyles and that is why we have a number of trainers here at the club that will tailor your training to your specific needs or goals.

In the coming months we will be dropping in different hints and tips for both your training and nutrition plans.

This months Tip of the Month:- STOP THINKING QUICK FIX !

If you're putting a short time period onto your success then I hate to break it to you but you are setting yourself up for a long term fail. Wanting to crack on is all very good and making a commitment is fantastic but habits that usually occur when you rush things along include under-eating, under recovery, poor nutrition and probably slowing down the rate that you body breaks down calories, in turn making you put more weight on when the short term target passes. For information on how to manage your time in the gym correctly and what foods to eat and also to take up the offer of a FREE 30 minute personal training taster session then please do not do not hesitate by calling 01925 730 000 or alternatively email at [parkroyalleisure@qhotels.co.uk](mailto:parkroyalleisure@qhotels.co.uk).







English Civil War enthusiasts carry out a re-enactment at Walton Gardens.




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# Award winning Thai restaurant up for sale

**THE award winning authentic Thai restaurant Siam Village in Stockton Heath is up for sale.**

Awarded a 2016 Certificate of Excellence by TripAdvisor and five stars by the Food Standards Agency for food safety and hygiene, the Siam village is a 100-cover restaurant which currently offers an extensive selection of Thai dishes prepared by the restaurant's team of chefs from Bangkok.

Occupying two floors, the main restaurant operates from the first floor with a well-equipped bar to the rear and a kitchen to the back of the floor. There is an open plan pre-drinks area with sizeable bar at the front of the property, while alfresco dining can be offered to the front of the premises.

Ashley Cobban, Business Agent in Christie & Co's Manchester office, comments, "This is a fantastic opportunity for an experienced licensed operator to get involved in a vibrant and growing Thai food market in an affluent area. However, the bright and modern restaurant is largely neutral and could be converted to suit many cuisine styles.

"This opportunity has only become available due to our clients moving back to Thailand. It is a well-established operation and is the only Thai restaurant in Stockton Heath. The new operator could therefore be up and trading on the day of completion."

The current owners are planning to move back to Thailand to spend more time with family.

Christie & Co is seeking an asking price of £269,950 for the leasehold interest in the restaurant.



## Local pupils' outstanding GCSE results

**TWO local students who attend Withington Girls' School are amongst the top performers in this year's outstanding raft of GCSE results.**

Ella Slater, from Grappenhall, and Grace Bodha, from Lymm, both achieved 10 A\*s, and also secured one A grade each.

Ella, who hopes eventually to become a journalist, enjoys writing. She has written for the Guardian newspaper for which she has achieved a Young Critics Award and she has regularly contributed to the School magazine, Scrawl. She has also had work experience at the Economist magazine.

Delighted with her results, Ella comments: "Withington's small size has made it easy to connect and engage with others and to form great friendships."

Grace, a talented sportsperson, is the School netball Captain, and is also a member of Tameside Netball Club. The 16-year-old is also Captain of Withington's rounders team and is currently working towards her Silver award in the Duke of Edinburgh scheme.

Hoping eventually to pursue Dentistry or a career in Marketing, Grace says she enjoys the supportive environment Withington offers as well as the friendship between pupils and between girls and the teaching staff.

Withington's Year 11 cohort of 83 girls attained A\* grades in 72.2% of GCSE papers taken this year, with an exceptional 96% attaining grades A\*

to A. All GCSE and IGCSE papers taken were passed, with 65 girls earning 6 or more A\* grades and 14 girls sweeping the board with straight A\* grades in all their subjects.

Every Withington girl also achieved at least one GCSE in a modern foreign language, with the majority being

awarded an A\* or A grade: French (96%), German (85%), and Spanish (79%). These exceptionally high standards were maintained in English Language and English Literature, where 98% and 90% of entries respectively were graded either A\* or A.

Withington's newly appointed Headmistress Mrs Haslam comments: "We are delighted with the girls' exceptional results and just as proud of everything they achieve and contribute outside the classroom."



■ Withington Girls' School pupils Ella Slater, from Grappenhall, and Grace Bodha, from Lymm, celebrate outstanding GCSE results, each achieving 10 A\*s and 1 A grade.



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# Money Column

By Margaret Black

## Staff entertainment

**Christmas is coming, so time to look at the rules governing staff entertainment, and even a "one-man" business should continue reading on to the very end.**

Firstly, the general rule. The cost of annual events up to a limit of £150 per employee is tax deductible. The most common annual event is the Xmas do, but can be applied to any event that is "annual". The limit of £150 includes all expenditure including, room hire, food, drink, accommodation and transport. Any number of events can be included, but as soon as the limit of £150 is exceeded then the whole cost of the event that causes this to happen is disallowable, as are all subsequent events. The event must be open to all employees of the business or recognisable department of the business.

Taking an extreme example, a (very generous) company:

- take their employees out each year to the local hostelry in May to celebrate the firm's "birthday". Cost £25 per head
  - take their employees out in October to prepare them for the Xmas rush. Cost £35 per head
  - hold a Xmas party in December at a local hotel, paying for the evening's entertainment and an overnight stay for the staff members and their partners. Cost £95 per head
  - hold a post Xmas revue party in February. Cost £15 per head
- The total cost is £170 in the year. As this is more than £150, and the total exceeded the limit due to the Xmas party, the total allowable is a mere £60 (ie the first two events) with the whole cost of the Xmas party and any subsequent events disallowed for tax.

So how does this apply to "one man" businesses (for "man" read "lady, for "him" read "her", etc)? Provided all employees are invited then the expense is deductible. And each employee can bring a guest. Therefore:

- a sole trader who employs his partner within the business can spend up to £150 each year on entertaining his employee(s) and their partner, ie himself
- a director/shareholder of a one-man limited company can similarly treat himself and his partner
- there is no restriction on who an employee can invite as a guest. So if a director/shareholder of a one-man limited company also employs his spouse then they can both take a guest, ie the kids!

Go on! Treat yourself this Christmas and let the taxman pay 30%. Just remember, you must do it every year thereafter.

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■ Crowds at the Arley Hall Antiques Roadshow.

## £300,000 painting 'discovered' at Arley roadshow

**A PAINTING which was "discovered" when the BBC Antiques Roadshow visited Arley Hall is believed to be one of the most important pictures ever seen on the show.**

The portrait by Victorian artist Sir Lawrence Alma-Tadema was valued at up to £300,000 by art expert Rupert Maas when the programme was screened recently.

It shows the engraver Leopold Lowenstam and was taken to the show on the filming day in June by his great, great grandson.

Mr Maas described it as one of the most "telling and beautiful" the Roadshow has seen in its 38-year history.

He said: "I think this might be

one of the best pictures we have ever seen on the Roadshow in its entire history. There are hardly any portraits of engravers at work at all."

Alma-Tadema was a Neo-classical painter and is the most valuable Victorian artist today. He holds the record for a Victorian painting at \$36 million for an enormous picture sold in New York a few years ago. The work discovered at Arley does not reach that level because it is not a Neo-classical subject and is not huge.

Lowenstam and the artist were close, family friends and Mrs Lowenstam was governess to Tadema's children. The portrait was a wedding present in 1883 and it was exhibited at the Royal Academy a year later.

## Anger over closure plan for best-used library

ANGER surfaced at the monthly meeting of Stockton Heath Parish Council over the proposed closure of the village library – despite the fact that it issues more books than any other library in the borough.

Councillors and members of the public – who attended in unusually large numbers – were totally opposed to the closure.

Council chairman Peter Walker said: "We have been assured by the library operator, LiveWire, that no final decision has been made yet and we accept this.

"But we have written a letter to them stressing that our library is a highly valued facility used not only by the people of Stockton Heath but also those of Appleton, Walton, Stretton and other nearby villages."

Cllr Walker said the library played a huge role in introducing young children to reading. It also supplied books to the voluntary library run at Appleton Parish Hall – particularly specialist books and large-print books.

There were complaints from members of the public that the consultation period was not long enough – although LiveWire subsequently extended the consultation by 17 days to allow follow-up meetings to be held where requested. It will now end on Friday, October 21.

Many people also complained that proposals to minimise the impact of

any closure excluded those who were not internet users.

A spokesperson for LiveWire admitted that Stockton Heath Library has the highest borrowing numbers in the borough but pointed out that the number of books borrowed had still declined, year-on-year, with 33 per cent less books borrowed in 2015 than in 2010. They also point out that it was the library which hosted the most book club and creative writing groups and it was known that members of these groups borrowed multiple books at one time.

Up until August a library user could borrow up to 20 books at one time so the number of issues could not be compared with how many individuals were using the library.

LiveWire said they recognised that not all its users had access to the internet and a number of measures would be put in place to ensure people who could not make it to a LiveWire site or access books online could still access reading and learning.

"We would review the scope of our home library service to take books to people's homes and would run a number of basic IT skills outreach schemes with partners in all areas."

From 2010 to 2016 there was a 35 per cent decrease in the number of people visiting the library.

The final public consultation session is at Walton Hall on Tuesday, October 4 and the extra 17 days is intended to give people more time to respond.



# Rob – so proud he wears his cap in the dressing room!

**FORMER Bridgewater High School pupil Rob Jones has achieved a boyhood dream – scoring a century at cricket for Lancashire.**

What's more he did it in only his third game in first class cricket, he opened the innings and batted right

through to finish unbeaten on 106 when the last wicket fell.

He moved from 94 not out to 100 by whacking the ball over the boundary for six!

Afterwards he said: "I can't believe it – it's a bit of a blur. It's a boyhood dream."

Rob became the youngest Lancashire player to bat right through an innings – "carrying his bat" in cricketing parlance – since the legendary Cyril Washbrook in 1935.

Remarkably, the 20-year-old from Stockton Heath started the summer playing for Toft, at Knutsford, in the Cheshire County League, where, unsurprisingly perhaps, he scored 876 runs in 14 innings, top score 165 and with an average of 109.50.

Rob started his cricket at a very young age at Stretton before moving to Toft.

He has played for Cheshire in the Minor Counties League and for Lancashire 2nd before stepping up to the first class game.

He skippered the England Under-17 team in South Africa and was in the England Under-19 World Cup team. He has also played in India.

Rob says he really loves playing for Lancashire – and it shows.

One national sports journalist has already noted that he is so proud of his county that he wears his Lancashire cap in the dressing room!



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# What's on in the villages

**October 11**  
STOCKTON HEATH PARISH COUNCIL  
Sandy Lane Centre, Stockton Heath. 7.30pm

**October 18**  
APPLETON PARISH COUNCIL  
Appleton Parish Hall, Dudlow Green Road 7.30pm

**October 20**  
GRAPPENHALL & THELWALL PARISH COUNCIL  
Council Offices, Bellhouse Lane. 7.30pm

**LIVE AT ST WILFRID'S**  
Ensemble Perpetuo – James Turnbulol (oboe), Anna-Lisa Bezrodny (violin), Rosalind Ventris (viola), James Barralet (cello) play Mozart, Bach, Krommer, Schubert.  
St Wilfrid's Church, Grappenhall. 7.30pm.

**Every Saturday & Sunday**  
GRAPPENHALL HEYS WALLED GARDEN  
Witherwin Avenue, Grappenhall Heys, WA4 3DS.  
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**Every Monday**  
COFFEE TIME, St Mary Magdalene's Church, Appleton, 9-11am.

**COUNTRY DANCING CLUB**  
St Thomas' Primary School, Parkgate Road, Stockton Heath. 8-10pm. Details: 01925 262356

**BRIDGE CLUB**  
Belong Warrington, Loushers Lane 7.20pm. Details 01925 262534

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

**HIGH LEGH BRIDGE CLUB**  
Village Hall, 7-10pm. Rubber, Duplicate and Chicago played. 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

**BOOK CLUB**  
Bizzie Beans Coffee House, Bridge Lane, Appleton 11am-12 noon

**Every Wednesday**  
APPLETON HALL BADMINTON CLUB  
October - July 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**  
Belong Warrington, Loushers Lane 7.20pm. Details 01925 262534

**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. WA4 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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■ The jubilant Grappenhall players after winning promotion.

# Grappers are back in the top flight

THERE were celebrations at Grappenhall Cricket Club when the club won promotion to the ECB Premier division of the Vivio Cheshire County League a week before the end of the season.

But for the vagaries of the weather in a disappointing summer, they could easily have been promoted as champions rather than runners-up. They had four matches cancelled by rain – two more than champions Didsbury who claimed the title by just three points.

However, the important thing is that "Grappers" are back in the top flight of Cheshire cricket after just one season at the lower level.

Skipper Adam Roylance, who often led from the front with both bat and ball, won praise from club officials for his captaincy but the team also benefitted from the talents of several young players who are maturing rapidly.

But Grappers have been something of a "yo-yo" club in recent years, with promotions being followed swiftly by relegations, so some more team building may be necessary if they are to stay at the higher level.

Other local clubs had mixed fortunes. Toft finished in a mid-table position in the county league premier division. Warrington live to fight again after finishing one place above the relegation zone following a disappointing first season in the first division. Mobberley just avoided relegation from the second division.

Lymm Oughttrington Park completed their first season in the Cheshire League first division in a reasonably comfortable mid-table position.

Appleton enjoyed a good first season in the Cheshire League third division, finishing third – one place short of promotion. Stretton also had a good season, finishing one place below Appleton.

Knutsford just missed out on promotion from the Cheshire Alliance second division.



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David Mowat

Member of Parliament for Warrington South

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Produced by David Mowat MP, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

# Litter picking in the villages

A COMMUNITY litter picking event is being organised by Grappenhall and Thelwall Parish Council on Saturday, October 8 between 10am and 2pm.

Anyone able to give some time to help tidy up the local area is asked to contact the council, who will provide litter pickers, gloves, bin bags, high visibility vests, etc.

More information is available from 01925 264918 or by emailing [info@grappenhallandthelwallpc.org.uk](mailto:info@grappenhallandthelwallpc.org.uk)



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