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Cheers!! Friends take over village pub

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Political Risks affecting Investments

The contrast between the first quarter of this year and the same quarter of 2016 could not be more stark. In 2016, we saw an horrendous start on the financial markets, whilst this year it has been a very positive start. During last year, there were significant political risks – the UK referendum, and the US presidential elections. And into 2017 this has continued first with the Dutch elections and now the French presidential election. However, political risks don't fundamentally affect the financial markets in the long term. Sure, there is short term volatility, especially in the run up to any uncertainty of an election. But you only have to look at the results from last year's political events (the UK referendum and US election) to see that politics only has a short-term effect on the financial markets.

What will have an impact in politics is structural weakness in the political or economic system. If we think back to 2007 and the on-set of the banking crisis, this was brought about in the US by loose lending initially, which led to allowing people access to credit that probably should never been allowed it

in the first place. This led to mortgages being packaged together and sold on to other organisations. Credit rating agencies then gave these packaged investments a high rating because they were investments in property. And as we all know many people think that bricks and mortar investments cannot fail. But it can. And ultimately it led to the banking crisis at the end of 2008.

European Business Awards

At the recent European Business Awards held in Dubrovnik, True Potential LLP won the European Business of The Year Award. To put this into perspective, there were over 110000 entries for this prize. We are proud of our association with True Potential, they provide our back-office system, and we also use them for one of our platforms. The judges remarked that they operated in a very traditional financial market, the rules with which they deliver success are firmly entrenched in the psyche of the sector.

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



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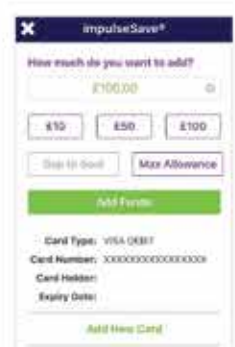
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Editor's comment

THE principle of housing at Grappenhall Heys and Appleton Cross was established more than 40 years ago in the days of the then, largely unpopular, Warrington New Town Development Corporation.

It seems, therefore, quite remarkable, that these very same housing proposals are still causing controversy and that some people are looking back, almost with nostalgia, to what seems the "good old days" when public consultation actually meant something. The Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) is being compared very unfavourably with the now deceased development corporation.

It may be that people are looking back through rose-coloured spectacles. But back then, the worry was certainly not about the infrastructure lagging behind development. Roads were built which still lead to nowhere today!

In August last year we expressed concern that consultation on the major housing developments at Appleton Cross, Grappenhall Heys and Pewterspear Green was being

carried out in a piecemeal manner. In December, we noted that the planning applications were also arriving in a piecemeal way.

Now we have the shambolic situation of the planning applications being deferred because so many people turned up to object that there was no room to get them all in the Town Hall!

Add to that the fact that reports prepared by consultants for the HCA apparently contain information which at best is misleading and at worst inaccurate and we have a recipe for disaster.

For almost a year, local councillors have been arguing that the three major housing developments should be considered together, as one, so that proper consideration could be given to the infrastructure necessary to support them. They have warned of the possibility of up to 2,000 additional cars being unleashed onto the already chronically congested roads south of the Manchester Ship Canal.

But the HCA and, we have to say, local planners also, have blundered on regardless, ignoring the views of



local residents.

It is not too late for local people to influence the proposals. A special meeting of the borough council's development management committee is now to be held on June 29 at The Pyramid in Warrington.

We urge local residents to attend it and make their voices heard. They won't be able to prevent houses from being built but there is still some chance of the getting a properly thought-out infrastructure to ensure they don't completely destroy some of the few remaining green and pleasant parts of the borough.

Cheers - locals take over historic village pub

FIVE "locals" have taken over the historic Hatton Arms pub.

When the opportunity arose to take over their local, Carl Palmer, Mark Condliffe, Stuart Parkin, Bob Savage and Russ Johnson, jumped at the opportunity.

They now have plans to refurbish the Historic Grade II Listed building, which once also housed the village post office and general store.

They have already resurrected the original "Hatton Arms" name and aim to keep it as a traditional village pub.

The building dates back to the early 1800s and was owned by Lord Daresbury, who used it as his local.

"When the opportunity came along we just had to take it," said Carl, who is Hatton born and bred and still lives in the village.

"We have exciting plans for the future but our aim is to maintain a

traditional pub," he said

"We look forward to welcoming customers old and new."

For further details watch this space!

Pictured (L-R) Carl Palmer, Mark Condliffe, Stuart Parkin and Bob Savage, with a drawing of the five famous foxes, drawn by the late Brian Goodier who was a regular at the pub.



Controversial homes plan postponed as too many protestors turn up at Town Hall

PLANNING chiefs had to postpone making a decision on plans for 770 new homes after too many protesters turned up at the Town Hall.

Hundreds of local residents turned up at a meeting of the development management committee to object to proposals to build 770 new homes on land at Grappenhall Heys and Appleton Cross.

With only 43 seats available in the council chamber, committee chairman Cllr Tony McCarthy said he had no choice but to postpone the meeting on safety grounds.

The meeting has now been rescheduled to take place at The Pyramid, Warrington, on June 29.

But in a further development, council officers claim there is misleading information in reports submitted in support of the planning applications by the Homes and Communities Association (HCA).

The report, prepared by planning consultants, state the borough council is reviewing primary school provision and potential requirements to expand capacity as part of assessing the HCA proposals.

In fact the council is not carrying out such a review and has no plans to do so.

The proposals are for 400 properties at Grappenhall Heys and 370 at Appleton Cross.

Planning officers are recommending the schemes be approved – but the campaigners say there are major issues which need to be settled before the development can go ahead.

Cllr Ryan Bate, who represents the ward in which both applications are located, issued a rallying cry before the meeting urging residents to turn out in force saying: "These are two hugely important applications and local people rightly have many concerns about them."

"Highways, school places, health provision and protecting green spaces are just some of the major issues which



we feel haven't been done justice by planning officers' recommendations to approve the applications".

Greater commitments on transport infrastructure and provision of public services top their list of concerns of local residents. More than 300 objections have been received for each application.

The proposals are opposed by Appleton Parish Council, Grappenhall and Thelwall Parish Council, Stockton Heath Parish Council and Lymm Parish Council.

Meanwhile the borough council has been criticised over the way they handled the controversial planning applications.

It was "quite wrong" for the two items to be tagged on at the end of a lengthy agenda, said Cllr Bob Barr, leader of the Liberal Democrat group

on the council, and a candidate in Warrington South in the forthcoming General Election

Cllr Barr said: "These two applications, which will determine the character of the area for generations to come, were slotted in as the last two items on a 13-item agenda. The Town Hall couldn't accommodate the hundreds of interested residents who wanted to attend the meeting and the many who wanted to speak."

"Most residents accept that development is inevitable. They know that this land has been earmarked for development, but they have every right to expect a proper consultation and a proper vision of how the area will develop sustainably."

"They need reassurance that essential road infrastructure will be in place to ensure that, already



overloaded, roads are not grid-locked when new residents move in.

"They need to know that school places, medical facilities, shops and community facilities will all be provided to serve the expanded population before houses are occupied."

"They need to know where the new residents are likely to work or go to school and that unnecessary car travel is going to be minimised. The current outline applications give few of those assurances and lack detail."

Flags due out for Stockton Heath Festival

THE flags are due out for this year's Stockton Heath Arts and Culture Festival on its 10th anniversary which begins on Thursday, June 29.

To celebrate the 10th year, all the top events are at £10 per ticket for this year only including a Comedy Night at The Slug & Lettuce with 3 top comedians.

Meanwhile The Sounds of Simon, Shakespeare's 'Comedy of Errors', Motown Gold and the Covertones are just £5 per ticket. Alongside these events are concerts and plays in various venues in and around Stockton Heath.

There will be competitions for all which include the Art Exhibition, photography, spot the "foreign object" in shops and a favourite by many, the Scarecrows which will be Harry Potter themed.

A wide variety of new events for children will be taking place which will include a Virtual Reality Experience, Creation Station, Young Engineers Make & Take, Shooting Stars Circus Skills, Kraftynoon Mobile Pottery Painting & Craft, Mountain

Monkeys Climbing Wall, as well as old favourites Dylans Reptile World, Bubble Man, Face Painter, Cricket & Hockey Sports Tasters, Balloon Maker and a Children's Magic Show.

For adults there will be Flower Arranging Demo & Workshops (in the Scout Hall), non-stop music and dancing on the field from local bands and groups and of course on Sunday, the Dog Show.

The organising Committee said: "We believe this will be the best Festival yet to celebrate our 10th year with tickets at £10 as a thank you to our supporters."

The Jubilee Field will be jam-packed with lots of events and activities for all, with the addition of a special 'Kids Zone' marquee, as well as the usual main marquees, Arts & Crafts market stalls and Farmers Market".

Tickets will be available from the Box Office outside Marks & Spencer's in the Forge Shopping Centre and online from June 2nd. Full details are on their website: stocktonheathfestival.co.uk



Advertiser's announcement

Our big Fat Greek Cookery Class

Kalispera! Last month Sandra and Sarah were invited to the Greek Gourmet Touring Roadshow in Altrincham. Emphasis was made on the ideals of gathering together to share fresh and traditional food with friends. Greek hospitality directly affects attitudes to tourism and a warm welcome is guaranteed.

After donning our chef's hats and

aprons we tentatively gathered around in the Cheshire Cookery School under the watchful eyes of the Aldemar Resorts executive chefs to cook a four course meal. For the starter we prepared a seafood platter of king prawns and calamari, the second course was a fresh green Greek salad. The main course was a sea-bass fillet, served on a bed of diced avocado, cucumber and tomato, seasoned with

mint and fresh lime juice. To finish off we prepared a healthy dessert of avocado and chocolate mousse, sweetened with honey, served on a bed of dried fruit and nuts. All courses were served accompanied by Greek wine and beers. We entered into the Greek spirit of the evening and ate, drank and made merry!

Holidays to Greece offer a wide choice of destinations; from a cultural city break, to a romantic getaway on the island of Santorini, or a family holiday in Halkidiki. We can offer tailor-made package holidays combining the flights to suit you, single destination, multi-centre or island-hopping, and transfers or car hire. Accommodation ranges from large luxury hotels offering bungalows with private infinity pools, to smaller boutique hotels within walking distance of local tavernas, and remote villas where a hire car is a must have. Greece isn't just for beach lovers; for the more active holidaymaker walking, cycling, painting, greek dancing and



Stockton Heath @ Hays

cooking holidays are on offer.

The season starts at the end of April and goes through to October with dry hot summers and up to 12 hours of sunshine a day. Sea breezes help to reduce the temperatures on the coast and the islands but the larger cities such as Athens and Thessaloniki can be oppressively hot with high humidity. Spring and late Summer are far more comfortable as regards temperature. Direct flights depart several times a week from Manchester or Liverpool. Most destinations close down through the winter months when it can be chilly.

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All set for Grappenhall walking Day and Summer Fair

FOLLOWING on from the success of last year's event Grappenhall St Wilfrid's Annual Walking Day and Summer Fair promises to be an exciting family event which can be enjoyed by the whole community.

Taking place on Saturday June 24, the day will start at 12.45pm with celebratory community worship led by the Rector of St Wilfrid's Church, Rev'd Jane Proudfoot, on St Wilfrid's School field.

The crowd will then begin their annual Walk of Witness around Grappenhall Village, led by Dobcross Youth Band.

Grappenhall Walking Day, a tradition which goes back almost 180 years, holds many fond memories for residents of the area.

"Walking Day followed by the Summer Fair is a wonderful opportunity for the community to get together. Catching up with old friends



and making new ones, everyone is welcome in Grappenhall! Says Rev'd Jane. "It will be a great family event for everyone."

Back at the field the new Rose



Queen Olivia Proctor and Rose Bud Holly Higham will be crowned and the Summer Fair will be opened.

There will be some great new additions to the event this year with

an amazing Hog Roast, Nerf Gun Arcade, Elsa & Anna singalong as well as stalls to browse and all the favourites from last year.

Library working group seeks partners to share site

A WORKING group set up to secure the future of Stockton Heath Library is on the lookout for interested parties who could share the site as part of a "co-location" scheme.

Stockton Heath Library Working Group – made up of councillors and residents – is looking for not-for-profit organisations who are willing to rent space within the library building while retaining as much of the current, core activities of the library as possible.

Group chairman Cllr Sharron Harris said: "We wish to work closely with

the community, library users and Livewire to develop a strong business case which will secure the future of this service at the heart of our village.

"As part of this, we are open to, and would welcome, approaches from social enterprises who may express a desire to share the use of the library building. We are very keen to explore this option further and willing to look at how the building can be used more flexibly to enable community-minded organisations and businesses to rent space within the building.

"Extra income generated would go straight back into the library, ensuring

that we maintain a traditional library presence in Stockton Heath for the benefit of all South Warrington residents.

"We want to hear from any organisations, or social enterprises who think that 'co-locating' within the library building is something that they may want to consider. At this stage we are seeking expressions of interest as we simply want to cast the net as far and wide as possible to see who is out there and how we can work together.

"This is a great opportunity for the library and the local community. We

are seeking innovative, sustainable ideas which will develop the library further in terms of how the building can be used, a possible extension of opening hours and the introduction of commercial/social activities that will complement and develop a community facility serving South Warrington."

Anyone interested should contact Cllr Harris on 07814 153398 or email CllrSharon.Harris@warrington.gov.uk for a preliminary discussion as soon as possible.

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Take the kids to see the kids at Walton Hall zoo!



THREE new arrivals are causing a bit of a stir at the children's zoo at Warrington's Walton Hall and Garden.

The three baby African pygmy goats were born to mums Rose and Ellie – and dad is Mr Bumble.

Children of all ages are being welcomed to see the animals – young and old – at the zoo and are being invited to name the baby goats.

There are also some new-born rabbits and baby squirrels.

For a video of the goats kidding around see: <https://www.facebook.com/pg/warringtonbc/videos>

The zoo is open from 10.30am to 5pm daily.

Zoo keeper Peter Cookson-Dean is pictured (right) with a work experience student and the baby goats.



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A Sunflower for John

LEANNE Mercer-Buckley couldn't believe it when a friend tagged her into a Facebook post for the St. Rocco's Sunflowers event at the end of May and she couldn't wait to share the news with her sister Laura and her Mum, Marie.

Leanne said: "Our lovely Dad, John, was looked after at St. Rocco's before he passed away and his bedroom there was called the Sunflower Room,"

"He loved sunflowers," added Laura, "and they are such bright, happy flowers – a lovely way to remember him, as he was always so cheerful and positive. We were really excited when we heard about St. Rocco's Sunflowers and felt we were meant to dedicate a sunflower to him."

St Rocco's is inviting people to dedicate an everlasting sunflower to a loved one in return for a donation to patient care. The sunflowers will then be displayed in the flowerbeds in front of the Town Hall for everyone to see and enjoy for two weeks from May 27, before being available to collect as a lasting keepsake.

It will be nine years this May since John passed away but the family say that they still cherish very positive memories from John's time at St. Rocco's.

The family, who all live close to each other in Appleton, say that their experiences have very much



drawn them together. Dedicating a sunflower to their beloved husband and father has been a really positive thing for them to do.

Leanne said: "Dad was only 61 when he died and he's missed so much – although he was great pals with my son, also called John, he has

three other grandchildren that he's never met but we talk about him all the time and dedicating our sunflower has been another lovely way for us to remember him."

Anyone who would like to dedicate a sunflower can do so online at www.stroccos.org.uk or call 01925 575780.

Advertiser's announcement

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For more information contact Rob Conroy on 01925 654341 or 07770 899506.

Rose Queen festival will have circus theme



THE annual Rose Queen festival at Thelwall takes place on Saturday, June 17 – and the theme this year will be "The Circus."

A procession of floats and bands will leave Thelwall Parish Hall car park at 1.30pm and parade through the village returning to Chageley School field where there will be stalls, fairground attractions, arena events and of course the crowning of the Rose Queen.

Other attractions will include an Extreme Mountain Bike Show, a Dog Show, a Giant Inflatable Assault Course, remote control cars, donkey rides, fairground rides, Crazy Golf, Thelwall Morris Men, Bands and much more.

Organisers say they can never have too many floats in the procession so anyone who thinks they can get a group together and enter a float or have some spare time to decorate a float and join the parade should contact the committee at thelwallrosequeen@gmail.com. There is also space for additional stalls on the field.

Volunteers are also being sought to help out on the day.

More information is available at www.thelwallrosequeen.org.uk



Music festival offers something for all

AN intimate evening with top blues singer Rebecca Downes and the Warrington-based Back to Front Band will kick-start the first ever Knutsford Music Festival on June 23.

A wide variety of music will be offered over three nights at more than 20 venues, ranging from pubs, restaurants and clubs to the parish church.

Headlining the festival will be 90s Britpop stars Dodgy who will perform an acoustic set at St John's Church on the Saturday night.

Rebecca Downes – voted last year's best female blues vocalist – will play the Brook Street Club on the Friday night, supported by the Back to Front Band and blues singer Rick Whitehead.

London-based Freja Frances, 16-year-old local girl Abigail Chetham and local composer and pianist Adrian Lord will also be appearing, along with by local string quartet Fiddlesticks and the Knutsford Catenian and Friends Male Voice Choir.

Town clerk Adam Keppel-Garner, said: "This is our first music festival and we are hoping it will grow to be a key event in Knutsford's calendar.

"It's incredible to be hosting Dodgy and Rebecca Downes in particular."



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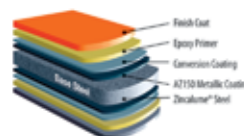
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Park Royal Hotel recognised as one of the best places to work in hospitality

STRETTON based The Park Royal Hotel is celebrating after being recognised as one of the best places to work in the UK hospitality industry.

Part of the QHotels Group, which has 26 hotels across the UK, the group was recognised as one of the top six employers in the UK hospitality industry, by trade bible The Caterer, in its annual 'Best Places to Work in Hospitality Awards 2017'.

Based on the feedback from anonymous staff questionnaires, the league tables recognise organisations that put people at the heart of the business, supporting employee development to deliver exceptional products and services.

The group were praised for award-winning training programmes, including a bespoke Hospitality Management Foundation degree.

The accolade is the latest recognising QHotels' commitment to staff development and retention. In February, the group received the Distinction in Developing Future Talent award at the national HR Distinction Awards, and in November 2016 it received three Springboard Excellence Awards, including one for the best Education and Industry Partnership.

The Park Royal has also recently won a highly commended hotel of the year award for 2016/2017 in the Marketing Cheshire Annuals awards in November 2016.

QHotels was specifically recognised by The Caterer for its "clear remit to



develop talent". In 2016, the group launched its 'Get into Q' apprenticeship programme with 52 apprentices, and now the group is looking to recruit a further 100 apprentices this year. The apprenticeships are available in a range of specialist areas, such as operational management, maintenance, accounts, food and beverage and spa.

In addition, QHotels' Professional Hospitality Operations Management programme is the first qualification of its type to be provided by a UK hotel group and is awarded by University College Birmingham.

Annie Brown, general manager at The Park Royal said: "To be recognised as a great place to work, and as a

business that cares about and looks after its employees is an incredible feeling. At The Park Royal we always try to support and develop team members so that they can reach their full potential.

"We've built strong links locally with schools and colleges to encourage more people to consider working in hospitality. Our hope is that this award demonstrates that QHotels and The Park Royal offer a fantastic environment to work, learn and to build a long-term, fulfilling career."

Michael Purtill, Managing Director at QHotels, said: "This is a stunning result for QHotels. We put a huge amount of focus on team development

and particularly on finding the right people with the right attitude, which we can foster, regardless of background or experience.

"The return is an engaged and motivated team that know there are real opportunities for them to progress their careers with QHotels and be fully supported by the business. This inspires them to listen to customers and able to take decisions to help improve the experience of staying at QHotels and guests recognise and appreciate that. I'd like to thank the team for their fantastic effort and this recognition is richly deserved."

Hotel launches Wedding Photo Awards 2017

The Park Royal has launched its annual search for Warrington's best wedding photos, as the QHotels Wedding Photo Awards opens for entries on Facebook and Instagram. After receiving over 2,500 entries and votes in the first Wedding Photo Awards last year, The Park Royal is now calling for entries to the 2017 competition, which will celebrate the memorable moments captured at weddings, from the funny to the romantic.

Anyone in the UK can submit a photo - whether an experienced

photographer or a guest at a wedding - by posting it on QHotels' Facebook or Instagram page using the hashtag #WeddingPhotoAwards, along with the name of the category they wish to enter.

The winner of each category will receive a one-night QHotels break for two with dinner.

The 2017 Wedding Photo Award categories are:

- * Best 'first look' photo
- * Funniest wedding photo
- * Best 'perfect kiss' photo
- * Best 'first dance' photo

* Best 'themed wedding' photo

Entries will close on July 3 when QHotels' expert wedding panel will announce the shortlist for each category, before going to a public vote on social media to decide the winner.

Annie Brown, General Manager at The Park Royal launched the awards, saying: "We received some fantastic entries from the people of Warrington into last year's competition, from stunning black and white photography, to comically-staged group photographs and photo-

bombed selfies.

"We're expecting to see even more creative shots entered into the 2017 awards, as brides and grooms-to-be take their inspiration from social media channels, such as Instagram and Pinterest. We can't wait to see more wonderful and unique photos!"

For more information about The Park Royal's Wedding Photo Awards and how to enter, please visit: QHotels.co.uk/weddings/WeddingPhotoAwards, Facebook.com/QHotels or @QHotelsgroup on Instagram.

Stage all set for Lymm Festival

THE stage is set for this year's Lymm Festival with some great acts focussing on the spoken word - comedy, drama, poetry and author events for all ages - booked for this summer's event.

Headlining the Festival is Gyles Brandreth, broadcaster, author, entertainer and former MP, who will be presenting "Word Play" at Statham Lodge Hotel on Monday, June 26 and this is bound to be a popular event. The show is based on his latest book, full of puns, anagrams and other contortions of the English language to make you laugh and even cry!

Local favourite Terry Waite returns to Lymm Festival at the Lymm Hotel on Wednesday, June 28 to talk about his new book "Out of the Silence", a collection of poems linked together by an autobiographical narrative. Terry will take a Q&A session as well as signing copies of his books, available on the night.

Other author events include Tara Guha discussing her debut novel "Untouchable Things" at The Church Green on Saturday, June 24; Matt Goodfellow, a poet and primary teacher from Manchester with a high energy and exciting performance that will entrance children of 6+ at Lymm Baptist Church also on Saturday, June

24; and then there's Philip Caveney, author of the Sebastian Darke adventures and the Alec Devlin mysteries for children 8-12 - he will be at the Baptist Church on Saturday, July 1.

Fancy yourself as Poirot or Miss Marple? Then you can't miss "Murder on the Terrace", an open-air whodunit at Lymm Oughtrington Park Cricket Club on Friday June 23. This interactive murder-mystery play with references to Downton and Agatha Christie is part romp, part farce and a whole lot of fun!

For poetry lovers, there is the Festival regular "Our Favourite Poems" at Lymm Methodist Church on Friday, June 23. Why not submit your request or simply enjoy an evening of varied poems all read by the regular team from the village.

All of this and lots of art, music, foodie and outdoor events are there for you to enjoy at Lymm Festival Summer 2017. Full details of all events can be found on their website at www.lymmfestival.org.uk, along with details of tickets, which go on sale on May 25.

Don't miss out on these great events - make a date in your diary and be sure to book early to avoid disappointment.

Lymm Festival Summer 2017

22nd June to 2nd July

11 days. Over 40 events!

Something for everyone. Music, Comedy, Arts, Walks, Family Fun, Poetry and much more.

Music
Blues, Rock, Folk, Indie, Opera & Choral.

Headline Acts Gyles Brandreth Terry Waite Festival Comedy Club	Favourites FoodFest Historic Transport Day Family Garden Party 60s Tribute Night	New Murder on the Terrace Scarecrow Trail Children's Workshop
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View latest programme at lymmfestival.org.uk
Pick up an Event Guide (from mid-May) at Lymm Library and various shops and bars in the village

Registered Charity No. 223422 | Connect with us on Facebook: [LymmFestival](https://www.facebook.com/LymmFestival)



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LYMM Historic Transport DAY

SUNDAY 25TH JUNE 2017
10.00am to 5.00pm

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- Narrow Gauge Railway
- Kids "Drive-a-digger"
- History of Cycling at new Heritage Centre
- 400+ Classic Vehicles, Model Railways, Historic Working Boats, Traction Engines, LEGO Expo, Model Car Racing.
- Drive-In Parade (10.30) Historic Sail Past (16.30)
- Live 40s/50s music + World Foods, Bar, Markets
- Special Guest - BBC presenter Liz McAvoy

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Lymm Festival Summer 2017

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Sell-out crowd for crime writers' visit

A SELL-OUT crowd of 50 packed into Stockton Heath Library for an evening with two best-selling crime writers.

Rachel Abbott and Daniel Cole spoke about their work, their lives, and their inspiration when interviewed by Daily Telegraph crime fiction critic Jake Kerridge.

Abbott, the UK's number one Kindle author, also revealed extracts from her newly-published thriller, *The*

Sixth Window.

The white-knuckle ride thriller has a beautifully complex plot and a heart-wrenching moral dilemma at its core.

Daniel Cole talked about his first book in the William Fawkes series, *Ragdoll*. The thriller is the first release from the former paramedic – who has received a three-book publishing deal to tell the story of the detective and a serial killer.

The audience was able to purchase books and have them signed by the authors before enjoying a cuppa and a chat.

Those present said they thoroughly enjoyed the evening and found the event really interesting.

One Local resident said: "It was an excellent evening and it was really interesting to hear the different approach both authors had."

Another resident said: "What an

informative evening on crime writing. It gave a complete insight into this world by two amazing authors, and it was a pleasure to meet them."

The event at Stockton Heath marked the start of a number of author visits and special events at LiveWire libraries across the town. To find out more, visit the LiveWire website www.livewirewarrington.org/library

Girls Guides hike to victory

TWO 12-year-old Guides took part in the annual Cheshire Hike competition for Scouts and Guides – and won the junior category competing against more than 100 pairs of youngsters from across the county.

Sally Dodd, from the 3rd Thelwall Guides and Saranne Wright, from the 2nd Lymm Guides, had trained and planned for the event for six months, with the support of the Girlguiding Cheshire Forest outdoor team,

The hike took place over two days and covered more than 20 miles. Those taking part had to carry all they needed to hike, camp and cook their meals.

The hikers were scored on their map reading, navigation, observation and camping skills and on challenges they had to undertake at each of a number of checkpoints they passed through.

Both Thelwall and Lymm have Guide groups for girls aged 10 to 14 and a senior section for girls aged 15 to 25 and are looking for adults who like to help use their skills to help run the groups.

Anyone who would like to help should email thelwallguides@yahoo.co.uk



Pictured: Saranne (left) and Sally.



To celebrate this summer's Lawn Tennis Association's Great British Tennis Weekends, David Lloyd Warrington will be opening up their club from 2pm - 5pm to anyone interested in tennis. It doesn't matter about your age or ability, whether you're a beginner or a seasoned player, we want everyone to get involved.

Book your place for: **Saturday 22nd and Sunday 23rd July**

Visit www.davidlloyd.co.uk/GBTW to book or call 01925 258300

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Jockey Club presents open air live experiences like no other



THE Jockey Club Live's summer line-up for Aintree and Haydock Park Racecourses, features some of the hottest chart talent and legendary household names.

Open-air concerts from The Jockey Club Live featuring Jesse Glynne, The Jacksons' 50th anniversary tour, Culture Club and Olly Murs, offer a live experience unlike any other this summer.

Alongside show-stopping headlining performances by some of the world's biggest artists, the action kicks off earlier in the day with a six race card - giving fans the chance to witness powerful equine athletes who are stars in their own right, and enjoy the thrilling drama and spectacle of them racing for glory.

The season opened at Aintree Racecourse with indie stalwarts Kaiser Chiefs and Jess Glynne will be headlining the home of the Grand National on June 16.

But across the summer, headline performances at Haydock Park will come from one of the UK's biggest male solo artists Olly Murs and Motown Legends The Jacksons celebrating their 50th Anniversary.

Also in a UK exclusive, The Jockey Club Live will be presenting Culture Club for a trio of shows, visiting Haydock Park on the July 22.

Culture Club were one of the biggest pop bands of the 80s, racking up seven straight Top 10 hits in the UK and nine Top 10 singles in the US. Led by flamboyant front man Boy George, the band won multiple awards including the 1984 Brit Award for 'Best British Group', and the Grammy Award for 'Best New Artist' and 'Best British Single' for bona fide worldwide smash hit 'Karma Chameleon'.

Andrew Wilkinson, CEO - The Jockey Club Live said: 'The Jockey Club Live has gone from strength to strength. This year we are showcasing the best in contemporary pop music with headline performances from Olly Murs and Jess Glynne. At the same time our 2017 events include concerts from iconic acts such as Culture Club and Motown Legends The Jacksons. We are currently the 6th largest promoter of live music in the UK, and 2018 will see us continue to build upon this success.'

JUNE 16th – Jess Glynne, Aintree Racecourse

JULY 7th – The Jacksons 50th Anniversary Tour, Haydock Park Racecourse
22nd – Culture Club, Haydock Park Racecourse

AUGUST 11th - Olly Murs, Haydock Park Racecourse

Tickets for all events are available now via <http://www.thejockeyclublive.co.uk>

Money Column

By Margaret Black

Loss of dividends as a tax efficient way to pay owner-managers of a limited company. Could there be an alternative?

April 2016 saw changes to the tax treatment on dividends paid out of the excess after-tax profits made by a company.

Before, owner-managers in order to remunerate themselves tax efficiently, they were able to take the excess profits in the form of dividends (tax free) this because the company had already paid corporation tax on the profit, therefore, deemed tax paid in the hands of the recipients (provided the amount did not mean that the 20% tax band had been exceeded).



David Watkinson and Margaret Black

The new rules means that from April 2016 owner-managers are now only able to pay themselves £5,000 (tax free, deemed tax paid) and anything over that, provided the amount still falls into the basic rate tax band (BR), there is a 7.5% tax liability to be paid by the recipient. If the total dividends paid means that the tax payer exceeds the 20% BR tax band, the tax payable on the amount above this is 32.5%. Please note that the £5,000 is to be reduced to £2,000 in 2018.

One of the possible options instead, is for the employer i.e. owner-manager to make pension contributions on behalf of the employee out of the excess profits. Any contributions made would be deductible for corporation tax purposes and of course would be tax free to the beneficiaries (employees), providing a pension for them to draw on when they retired.

Please note the above is only advisable if the excess profits are not required for the use of working capital/cashflow or as a financial buffer in the event of the unknown. There are other circumstances where savings can be achieved as follows.

You may already be aware that it is not possible for pension schemes to purchase residential properties, however, there is nothing to stop the pension fund from purchasing a commercial property, such as a warehouse or an office.

If a commercial property is held in the company pension fund, rents can be charged to the company for the continued use of the premises. There is no income tax payable by the fund on this income stream, and the company receives a deduction of corporation tax on the amounts paid in rent. The overall position is that the pension fund will continue to grow each year and the company enjoys a constant corporation tax saving.

WatkinsonBlack have considerable experience in all areas of taxation and business services, including providing a very cost-effective payroll bureau service. If you want to arrange a no-obligation initial meeting on any taxation or accounting matter then please contact us.

Please note that these ideas are intended to inform, however, you should always obtain professional advice before taking any action.

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What's on in the villages

June 13
STOCKTON HEATH PARISH COUNCIL
Sandy Lane Centre, Stockton Heath. 7.30pm

June 15
GRAPPENHALL & THELWALL PARISH COUNCIL
Council Offices, Bellhouse Lane. 7.30pm

June 20
APPLETON PARISH COUNCIL
Appleton Parish Hall, Dudlow Green Road 7.30pm

June 22
LIVE AT ST WILFRID'S
Leyland Band – one of the most sought-after brass ensembles in the country.
St Wilfrid's Church, Grappenhall. 7.30pm.

Every Saturday & Sunday
GRAPPENHALL HEYS WALLED GARDEN
Witherwin Avenue, Grappenhall Heys, WA4 3DS.
Café open from 10am-5pm serving teas, coffee, home-made cakes and savouries.

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
Appleton Parish Hall, Dudlow Green Road 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
01925 623632



Youth cyclists race in the Isle of Man

FOUR young riders from local cycling club North Cheshire Clarion travelled across the Irish Sea to take part in Round 2 of the British Cycling National Youth Circuit Series - the Isle of Man Youth Tour.

The event gave the youngsters, aged 9 to 13 years old, a real taste of professional level cycling, racing against some of the best youth riders in the UK, on closed roads led out by official vehicles and supported by neutral support vehicles.

The three day three stage event kicked off with a prologue time trial along Douglas promenade on the Friday evening. Saturday's second stage was held on a relatively flat, but technical, closed road circuit on the North West of the Island. But the best was saved until last. The final stage was held among stunning scenery along the Douglas coastline with 40mph wind gusts and incorporated a major climb, which riders had to tackle repeatedly as they raced laps of the circuit.

The riders Lizzy Grindley (9), Seb Grindley (11), who attend Appleton Thorn Primary School and live in Stockton Heath and Euan Hacker (11) and Lachlan Hacker (13), who attend Lymm High School, and live in the village, displayed true grit and determination and represented the club fantastically well.

Seb Grindley raced at an exceptionally high level, positioning well in all stages, culminating in a third place on the toughest final stage, finishing with a perfectly timed and executed sprint to the line. This secured him fourth overall in the final under 12 boys category General Classification.

Under 14 rider Lachlan Hacker was involved in a dramatic crash during the third lap of the 12 lap second stage. Despite lost skin and blooded arms and knee, he picked himself up and fought hard to put himself back in the race. He then left absolutely nothing in the tank racing his heart out again on Stage 3 to finish 18th on the stage, out of the remaining 54 competitors in his category.

Volunteers needed for Lymm Transport Day

VENTURE into Lymm almost any evening of the week these days and somewhere you will find a huddled bunch of people planning some event or another.

It may be a PTA or church group or one of the traditional events like May Queen or Dickensian. But possibly the biggest of all at the moment is the Lymm Historic Transport Day team who, since the inaugural event in 2013, have created a day out that is the talk of the area.

"It's not surprising that there are so many events in Lymm" commented Transport Day chair, Alan Williams. "It is a perfect outdoor venue.. with the canal, the attractive village centre and of course the May Queen Field."

The Transport Day group have surpassed all previous events with the list of attractions this year's event on Sunday June 25, which includes .. a Spitfire flypast as well as a Spitfire on the ground, a narrow gauge railway, a LEGO transport exhibition and .. most exciting of all .. an animatronic dinosaur plus baby triceratops that is destined to be a talking point for years to come.

And just when the team thought they had it all there was a call on the Batphone from the man himself wanting to bring the Batmobile. He will be there to support Prevent Breast Cancer a charity which actually originated in Lymm.

Profits from this year's event will go toward Lymm's new Heritage Centre which is planned to open that weekend.

Alan added: "All these things can only happen with the support of local people who are proud of their community and want to make a difference."

Volunteer for Transport Day ...even for a couple of hours at lymmtransport.org.uk or call Trish on 01925 751646 or visit www.lymmtransport.org.uk

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Chairman and deputy both re-elected

THE chairman and vice chairman of Stockton Heath Parish Council were both re-elected at the council's annual meeting. Cllr Peter Walker – also a member of Appleton Parish Council and a borough councillor since 2000 – was chairman last year and Cllr Helen Dutton was vice chairman. Cllr Walker has represented Stockton Heath and Appleton and the former ward of Hatton, Stretton and Walton during his period as a borough councillor.

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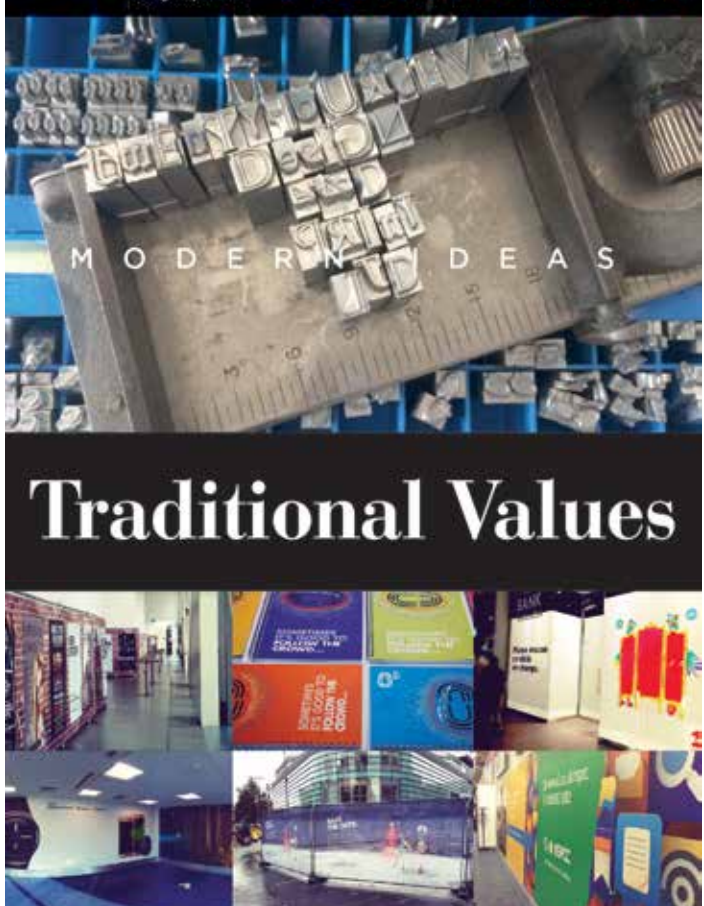
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