# VILLAGE Your Community Magazine Issue 198 September 2017 FREE life



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Stockton Heath . Appleton . Grappenhall . Thelwall . Stretton and surrounding areas





## Investing in Venture Capital Trusts: what you need to know

Venture Capital Trusts (VCTs) are publicly listed closed-end funds. They are crafted to provide individual investors access to venture capital investments through regular capital markets. This is achieved through VCT fund managers working to generate above-average returns for investors by identifying potentially profitable investments in small unlisted firms. As any investment is always spread across several different companies, VCTs inherently provide diversification. However, the potential risk is a lot higher than investing elsewhere, such as in the FTSE 100.

VCTs also offer a number of tax benefits, as neither income tax nor capital gains tax is due on money generated through them, making them similar to investing in an ISA. However, the tax relief for VCTs is much higher: an annual maximum of £200,000, compared to just £20,000 for an ISA.

The greatest benefit, however, is that investors are granted "income tax relief" on their income tax liability, wherever this income may arise from. This means that any income tax liability up to 30% of the amount invested in the VCT during a tax year can be written off by the investor as long as they keep the VCT for five years. After this time, the money can be reinvested into a VCT to benefit

from the tax relief again without incurring additional fees.

It's a relatively straightforward process to invest in a VCT. Shares in VCTs are bought through a trading platform in the same manner as regular shares, ETFs and other investments. Discounts on initial registration fees are offered by the majority of brokers, which are usually more significant earlier on. This is because there is a limited amount of investment available in a VCT, so the discount decreases as the fund gets closer to capacity.

So, are VCTs the right type of investment for you? If you've reached your ISA limit, then they could be a viable option for further investment and the 30% income tax relief can also make them an attractive option to add to your portfolio. However, the high risk nature of VCTs should not be ignored — if you're looking for a safe investment, then they might not be the right option. As with any form of investment, consider your individual position and seek financial advice to determine whether VCTs are right for you. If you think a VCT is something you would like to consider in your investment portfolio or would like further information please feel free to contact myself or any member of the Simple Solutions team.

Disclaimer: None of the above article constitutes advice.



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## Editor's comment

THE emergency repairs required to Thelwall Viaduct proved to be a timely reminder on just how fragile the local highway network is - as if we needed a reminder!

Over the next 20 years Warrington rough Council is currently consulting on proposals to build an extra 20,000 homes in the borough as part of the Local Plan. Based on most homes having at least two cars, if not more, this could bring at least an extra 40,000 cars on to our roads, which are already at breaking point.

Yes there are new bridges coming, which we are told will be the cavalry over the hill but I fear the new toll bridge, which has no free concessions local users, will add to our problems, not resolve them – and we will not fully understand the benefits of the new crossing off Chester Road,

until it is actually up and running.
Highway "improvements" which

Deadline for the October issue of Village Life is September 12

have been carried out over recent years have hardly helped

situation.
With the motorways getting busier and busier, problems are only get worse and I dread to think what the roads of Warrington will be like by

One thing I know for sure is if we have many more incidents like the one created by Thelwall Viaduct recently, any business looking to invest in Warrington will be having serious second thoughts.

In all my years living and working in Warrington, the gridlock created by the emergency repairs, is amongst the worst I have ever encountered in the town - and must have had a major impact on the local economy through lost business.

Many people could not make appointments and some businesses could not even open as no one could get to work to open up!

Warrington is often championed as a great place to live and work because of our location – but as the recent gridlock showed— it can also be one of the most frustrating places to be located.

I don't know what the answers are - but building thousands of new



homes BEFORE we have the necessary infrastructure to cope, is not one of

Here in the South of the borough many of these new homes are earmarked for some of our most beautiful green spaces.

While some of them have been earmarked for development for many years, dating back to the days of the Warrington New Town, I can't help but think the South is being earmarked for more than its fair share of new homes on green belt land.

I am pleased to see our local MP Faisal Rashid and local councillors raising these concerns and we must all work together to ensure we get a fair deal here in the South.

## Green Flag award for Millennium Green

APPLETON'S Lumb Brook Millennium Green is flying the flag as one of the UK's very best green spaces.
The Lumb Brook Millennium Green

is among a record-breaking 1,797 UK parks and green spaces that has received a prestigious Green Flag Community Award – the mark of a quality park or green space.

This international award, now into its third decade, is a sign to the public that the space boasts the highest possible environmental standards, is beautifully maintained and has excellent visitor facilities.

Overall, Warrington has done very well this year and can boast 12 Green Flag Awards for parks managed by the borough council. In addition there were two Community Green Flag Award winners, the Grappenhall Heys Walled Garden managed by Grappenhall and Thellwall Parish Councils and the Lumb Brook Millennium Green which is the only award winner in the borough managed solely by volunteers from the local community.

The directors of the Millennium

Green, Nick Antrobus, Valerie Davies and Julie Kueres were delighted to hear the news.

Valerie Davies said: "I was very pleased to hear that Lumb Brook Millennium Green had been awarded the Community Green Flag again for this year. The directors work hard to maintain the green as a natural, green area for the benefit of the local population and it is great to be

Julie Kueres said: "When English Partnerships handed over the land to us it was without any bursary for long term maintenance and it's hard work raising funds to pay for the upkeep of the green. So we are especially proud that we, as a volunteer managed green, have managed to achieve the high standards required and have

once again been recognised by this mark of excellence".

Equally pleased, Nick Antrobus said: "It's a great place for people of all ages to enjoy!"

For more information on Lumb Brook Millennium Green, view the website www.millenniumgreen. moonfruit.com



## Dingle Farm opens gardens for charity



FAMILY run Dingle Farm at Appleton opened up their gardens as part of the NGS Open Gardens scheme helping raise money for various

The stunning gardens at the rear of the Dingle Farm Tea Rooms, opens three wekends a year as part of the project which last year nationally raised £2.7m for various charities including Macmillan cancer Support, MS Society, The Queen's Nursing Institute, Marie Curie, Carers Trust, Hospice UK and Parkinson's UK. The garden has been transformed from a disused farm field to its

present state. It described as a "young garden" – a "garden in progress."

The central feature of the garden is a pond which has been dug out to a natural clay level, filled by water running from land drains

It is now home to wildlife including frogs and newts.

The natural slope of the land has been used to given an open field, with views of the trees of Fords Rough as the back drop.

Swathes of grass have been left to grow naturally with wild flowers and grasses to encourage wildlife and insects.

Planting has been planned to provide colour from Spring onwards.

For more details dinglefarmonline.co.uk



The gardens at Dingle Farm

### Open garden attracted hundreds

WENDY and Howard Platt once again threw open their magnificent garden at Laskey Farm, Thelwall – the sixth time they have taken part in the National Gardens Scheme annual celebration of all that's best about British gardens.

Hundreds of people turned up for what many thought the best show the couple have yet staged.
In addition to the colourful gardens,

there were water gardens, including a turtle pond and wildlife pond and a wide range of refreshments. Live music was provided by singer Lucy Barlow and there was an exhibition by the Lymm Artists Group.

Wendy, a former head of art and design at a Warrington School, is the main driver behind the gardens, with help from her friend and business partner Christine

Purslow.
She is also assisted in the garden by Duncan Mason. Altogether, the Laskey Farm

open days have raised more than £20,000 for charities supported by the NGS



## The finest cuisine at sea

The perfect cruise for 'Foodies'.

Sarah recently had the opportunity to Visit Marina one of Oceania's intimate and luxurious ships. Marina blends sophistication with a contemporary flair to create a casually elegant ambiance. From the sparkling Lalique grand staircase to the stunning owner's suites furnished in Ralph Lauren

Home. Designer touches are everywhere, highlighting the finest designs and furnishings. More than anything Marina personifies the Oceania cruises experience. With a Country Club Casual ambiance and personalized service, for every three guests there are two members of staff.

Designed for epicureans and travel connoisseurs. Marina offers



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guests multiple dining venues, of which six are open seating gourmet restaurants with no surcharge. La Reserve by Wine Spectator offers enlightening seminars, tastings and gourmet food parings. With five star menus inspired by Executive Culinary Director Jacques Pepin. The culinary centre is the only hands on cooking school at sea, featuring a range of enriching cooking classes by Master Chefs. Similarly talented artists-in-residence offers step-bystep instruction in arts and crafts in the Artist Loft Enrichment Centre.

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## Fire rekindles anger over disused rectory

– which broke out at the old, disused rectory in the centre of Grappenhall village has rekindled local anger over the condition of the building.

Two years ago, hundreds of local people signed a petition calling for urgent action to restore the crumbling building just across the road from the historic St Wilfrid's Church.

The petitioners pointed out that the attractive cobbled village had been ruined by the eyesore building for more than a decade.

They said: "Enough is enough."

But no progress has been made and the Grade 2 Listed building has deteriorated still further

The recent fire, which according to the fire brigade involved a log burner in

a rear room, has heightened local fears. A number of youths were reported to have been seen running away from the

Members of Grappenhall and Thelwall Parish Council are concerned about the situation - particularly as it is not the only disused building in the village currently at risk.

The council has recently raised concerns with the police and fire service about the security of the former Grappenhall Hall School Building, which

is also standing empty.

Gangs of youths have been seen around the building and councillors fear it is a fire risk.

They have asked Warrington Borough Council to improve security measures at the school and have urged police to increase patrols in the area.



Picture: Alison Collins

#### Charity announces date for luxurious 'Ladies Lunch' event

Caudwell Children, the national charity that provides practical and emotional support to disabled children and their families, has announced the date for its annual 'Ladies Lunch' event at Mere Gold Resort and Spa.

The charity will once again be hosting its unique brand of luxury on

Friday, November 17.

The 'Ladies Lunch' is an exclusive afternoon of fashion, food, beauty and entertainment where guests enjoy champagne whilst browsing stalls featuring local and national retailers of luxury goods; including handbags, independent clothing boutiques and beauty products.

Tickets also include a two course gournet lunch, luxury goody bag and top class entertainment. As Sam Walker, Events Manager at Caudwell Children explained: "This will be our third year at Mere. In previous years Tom Lister, who played arch villain Carl King in Emmerdale, and who recently starred in the West End musical 42nd Street, has hosted and performed at our Ladies Lunch.

"We've also been lucky enough to have had Dean Andrews, who starred in Life on Mars, Waterloo Road and Last Tango in Halifax, entertain our guests with singing and informal chat."

Sam says that the 'Ladies Lunch' offers a unique shopping and networking experience whilst raising vital funds for disabled children.

"Although it's undoubtedly a high class afternoon the event is delivered in a wonderfully relaxed manner by our host, which makes for a thoroughly

enjoyable experience.

"Amid the shopping, dining and entertainment there will be plenty of laughs. We'll be announcing the names of our celebrity hosts and performers shortly, and with limited availability I would advise interested parties to buy their tickets now to avoid disappointment." The 'Ladies Lunch' events also involve

a raffle, auction and silent auction, and with the opulent nature of the event there will be some 'must-have' goodies

Standard tickets for the Cheshire 'Ladies Lunch' are £75 per person or £700 per table of 10. This includes a glass of bubbles on arrival and a two course lunch. VIP tickets are £110 per person or £1,000 per table of 10 and includes premium seating, a glass of bubbles on arrival, an allocation of Champagne and wine and a two course lunch.

Since 2000 Caudwell Children has helped over 20,000 children with services worth over £37 million.

The charity is unique in that a single benefactor covers all the administration and management costs so that 100% of all donations go directly to the children it supports.

you would like to discuss pportunities, or are securing a stall or sponsorship opportunities, interested in securing a tickets, purchasing please contact the Caudwell Children Events Team on 01782 600112 or email: events@ caudwellchildren.com



Dawn Ward star of The Real Housewives of Cheshire



Tom Lister and Dean Andrews

## Park Royal Hotel awarded TripAdvisor's Certificate of Excellence

THE Park Royal Hotel in Warrington has been awarded TripAdvisor's Certificate of Excellence for the second year running after guests posting reviews on the travel website gave it a huge thumbs up.

The prestigious certificate helps guests to identify hotels that deliver a high standard of customer service, and is only awarded to those that consistently receive positive customer reviews and maintain at least four stars on TripAdvisor.

It's one of 18 hotels in the QHotels group to receive the accolade – a record number for the group, which owns 26 hotels across the UK.

The Park Royal Hotel, leisure and spa based in Stretton, features 146 bedrooms, a state-of-the-art spa and on-site leisure facilities, making it a popular choice for

guests looking for short breaks or special getaways.

Annie Brown General Manager of The Park Royal said: "TripAdvisor's Certificate of Excellence award is based on real feedback from the people that matter most to us, our customers.

"It's wonderful recognition for the team here, who work incredibly hard to exceed our customers' expectations and offer a truly memorable experience each and every time. The fact that the number of hotels across the group receiving Certificates of Excellence rose from 15 last year to 18 this year speaks volumes

about the high standards that underpin everything we do."

The 2017 results demonstrate QHotels' commitment to raising and maintaining high standards at The Park Royal Hotel and at all of its 26 hotels across the UK.





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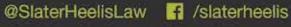
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## Green Belt homes plan is 'madness'

**OUTRAGED** councillors at Appleton say they are horrified at proposals to build more than 9,000 houses Green Belt land in South Warrington.

The plans will mean that all fields in Appleton will be built over, the character of Stretton and Appleton Thorn villages and the landscape of Higher Walton will be destroyed



forever, they say. Cllr Judith Wheeler said: "It is madness to destroy beautiful countryside with some of the highest

landscape value in Warrington.

"If the Green Belt has to go, it should be where the land is unattractive and has no amenity value and that means not all of south Warrington.

"The town would be made poorer by the loss of this countryside. It is not just local people who love their area, many from across the town appreciate the green space on their doorstep.

"Just take a walk, cycle or drive through the area and you realise that putting all our fields under concrete is criminal."

Cllr Wheeler says that with the exception of the Omega development, most of northern and eastern Warrington will be largely untouched by the plans. Yet the area is equally suitable and more sustainable.

"The 2017 Government White Paper on Housing states that 'maintaining existing strong protections for the Green Belt, and clarifying that Green Belt boundaries should be amended only in exceptional circumstances when local authorities can demonstrate that they have fully examined all other reasonable options for meeting their identified housing requirements.

There are dozens of brownfield sites in Warrington that should be developed first before turning to other areas.

"Fiddlers Ferry is a potentially vast area that could contribute to

Warrington's housing needs and this does not appear to have been considered in the council's plans.

"Regenerate the town centre, make it an attractive place to visit - it isn't at the moment.

Build on the brownfield and then. if Warrington is still an employment boom town, needing more housing, move onto the greenfield sites, put the infrastructure in and we will accept our share of housing."

Cllr Wheeler says the council talks of a "garden city" – but says she has yet to meet anyone, anywhere in Warrington, who wants the town to become a city.

"A prosperous and attractive town yes, a city no."



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## Cheshire steam fair success

Large crowds attended the Cheshire Steam Fair recently. Now considered to be one the finest events of it's kind some fine summer weather ensured that the visitors would be treated to an excellent show.

A full programme of top steam fair attractions including: Big Wheel, Wall of Death, Steam Engines, Vintage Tractors, Motorcycles, Commercial Vehicles, Static Engines, Miniature Engines and a woodland Steam Railway.

The event also included dozens of trade stands, auto jumble, fine food marquee, modern funfair and catering and licensed bar.

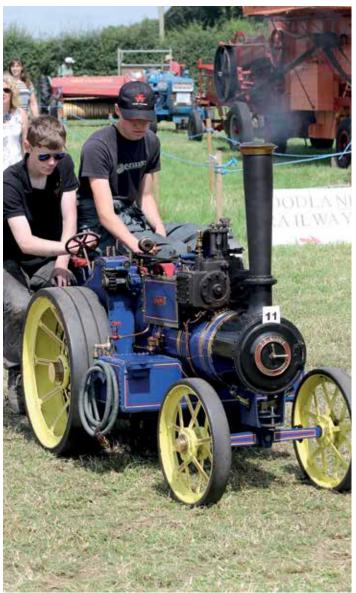
The main arena saw parades of steam and vintage vehicles as well as the motorcycle and quad bike stunt show featuring Jason Smyth of Adrenaline Tour.

The main car park on both days soon began to fill up as the enthusiastic crowds made their way to the show ground to enjoy the attractions and the glorious weather. Whilst fans of the steam era were very much in attendance there were large numbers of families and children too. Judging by the brisk business across the trade stands and fairground it was obvious how popular the show has become.









## Pupils experience undergraduate chemistry

YEAR 10 and 11 pupils from a Cheshire secondary school have been experiencing life as undergraduate chemistry students, during a visit to Thornton Science Park (TSP).

In the University of Chester's Chemical Engineering labs, the pupils from Sandymoor School in Runcorn were able to use complex equipment that is not practical within a school setting. This was to enable them to complete practical work that is now mandatory in the new GCSE Science syllabus.

Students carried out a simple periment to determine the experiment unknown concentration of an acid solution. The technique used is called 'acid-base titration'. This relies on the neutralisation of the acid by a base of known concentration which can be followed by a sharp colour change of an indicator. All students learnt how to use pipette bulbs, pipettes, burettes and gained a basic understanding of the technique and its associated theory.

The workshops were organised by Phil Sturla, Technical Officer in the University of Chester's Faculty of Science and Engineering at TSP, with support from his colleagues Ian Massey, Zuzana Vobecka and Laboratory Manager, James Nicholson.

Dawn Johnson, Head of Science at Sandymoor School, said: "Many thanks to Phil and members of the technical

Sandymoor

team, who were happy to set up the experiment for us over three weekly sessions. The experience of working in University laboratory facilities was really valuable for our students and very motivational. The students have had a fantastic time in world class, cutting edge facilities and it has been a really valuable experience for them to complete a required GCSE practical.

Phil Sturla added: "The students were excellent ambassadors for the school. We were all amazed by the scientific skill of the Sandymoor students, many of whom showed great promise to become future scientists!"





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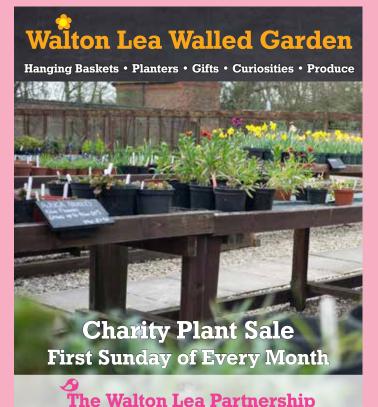












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## **Money Column**

## **Landlords - Possible** overlooked tax deductions on rental income

Landlords Now that Landlords are confronted with the restrictions on tax relief in respect of the interest on loans used for their property investment there is even more drive to utilise any other 'let property' tax breaks.

Please note that although it is widely accepted by both HMRC and agents that any professional costs incurred, i.e. solicitors, surveyors etc. when purchasing Now

solicitors, surveyors etc. when purchasing the property would normally be offset as part of the total purchase cost when a sale of the property is to be made However, the Inland Revenue will allow the legal



David Watkinson and Margaret Black

costs to be offset against the first let provided that the rental period is for no more than one year. However, even where the expenses are not allowed on the first let because it may be longer than a year they will be for the lease renewal cost if that's for less than 50 years and does

ot include a lump sum payment

If the Landlord finds it necessary to visit the rental property, i.e. to deal with an issue with the tenant, make a repair or just to check on its condition an expense claim can be made for mileage covered from the place where the letting of the property is managed to the rental property and head.

the place where the letting of the property is managed to the rental property and back
Landlords can claim 'capital allowances' against equipment used to run the rental business, this extends to tools with an expected life of more than two years and are used to maintain the let property[s], this consideration can be used against a computer if one is used to control and manage the rental business, the use should be apportioned between business and private use if applicable. (Please note that there are capital allowance rules which should be followed)
The cost of tools with a life expectancy of less than 2 years used to run the rental business are treated as a general expense, i.e repairs

run the rental business are treated as a general expense, i.e repairs and renewals and these are tax deductible and do not fall under the capital allowance' rules.

In Summary

Legal etc. costs associated with the first time you let a property can be claimed if the period of the lease doesn't exceed a year The cost of travel to and from the rented property is usually tax

deductible.

Capital Allowances can be claimed on equipment used to run the property business, e.g. tools for repair, a PC etc.

WatkinsonBlack have considerable experience in all areas of taxation and businesss 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.







Chartered Accountants Registered Auditors

Contact David Watkinson or Margaret Black at: 1st Floor, 264 Manchester Road, Warrington

Tel: 01925 413210

or email: info@warrington accountants.co.uk www.watkinsonblack.co.uk

#### in the villages

September 12 STOCKTON HEATH PARISH COUNCIL Sandy Lane Centre, Stockton Heath, 7.30pm

Sandy Lane Lentre, Stockton Heath, 7.30pm September 19 APPLETON PARISH COUNCIL Appleton Parish Hall, Dudlow Green Road, 7.30pm September 21 GRAPPEHHALL & THELWALL PARISH COUNCIL

Recess meeting Council Offices, Bellhouse Lane. 7.30pm

Council Offices, Belinouse Lane. 7.30pm Every Saturday & Sunday GRAPPENHALL HEYS WALLED GARDEN Withenwin 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

8-10pm. Details: 01925 262356 BRIDGE CLUB Belong Warrington, Loushers Lane 7.20pm. Details 01925 262534

U1922 202534 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

played. Details: Addrey 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
Relibrace Community Control Pallbaces

Bellhouse Community Centre, Bellhouse Lane, Grappenhall.7-9pm.

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

MARIFELD WI
Grappenhall Community Library, Albert Road,
Grappenhall Community Community

Ferry Tuesday

VERVI Tuesday

VERVI Tuesday

Ferry Tuesday

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

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

Details: 01925-262396
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

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,

Details: 01925 753474.

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

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 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







## What's on Parish council launches public consultation

APPLETON Parish Council has launched a public consultation to help secure funding to undertake an improvement and refurbishment programme to Appleton Parish Hall.

The council say the views of local residents will help strengthen their application for funding from WREN - the not-for-profit business that awards grants for community, biodiversity and heritage projects from landfill taxes.

The plans include a Disabled Ramp at front entrance, replacement windows (where necessary) improved LED lighting in main hall, external lighting in car park, additional speakers in main hall, a rubber entrance mat, new flooring in toilets, Refurbished toilets, the stage polished and varnished, creation of a library area and Cycle hoops in car

There are also plans to block up shuttered entrance to create more storage area.

Members the public can download a comments card from the website, appletonpc.org.uk, submit comments to clerk@appletonpc.org. uk or complete a comments card available from Appleton Parish Hall.



Chairman of Appleton Parish Council, Cllr Mrs Sandra Benger launching the consultation at Appleton Parish Hall.

#### Nine authors to attend literary festival

NINE well-known authors will be attending the 18th annual Knutsford Literary Festival from October 5-16.

Over the years, the festival has held a variety of events featuring the authors of biography, history, poetry, performance, travel, science, politics and some fiction.

The policy is to choose authors from those who have published usually

non-fiction within the previous year. The format is a talk by the author, questions and answers from the audience and then book signing

The programme this year, held at Knutsford Methodist Church, Princess Street includes the following authors Roy Lancaster, Anne de Courcy, James Hamilton, Kathryn Hughes, Vanessa Nicolson, Chris Bryant, Helen Rappaport and Judith Mackrell.

The literary lunch on October 12 will be attended by Elisabeth Luard.

More details can be found on the festival website www.knutsford litfest.org

#### New walking group set up

A NEW walking group has been set up to get local people to have fun outdoors and help reduce social isolation.

The South Strollers held their first walk on August 16 in Stockton Heath and future walks will take place on the

third Wednesday of the month.

Organised by the borough council's
Neighbourhoods in Warrington team, the walks last about 45 minutes and are described as a leisurely walk through local beauty spots and green spaces.

Dogs on leads are welcome and refreshments will be available at the start and finish of the walk.

The next walk is on September 20 and further details are available from Nicola O'Rourke on 07824 087394.

#### Historic vehicles to go on show

THE annual Festival of Transport at High Legh Garden Centre will take place on Saturday and Sunday, September 23-24 – and as usual will involve a display of historic and classic vehicles.

This year, members of the Potteries and South Cheshire MG Owners Club are assisting in running the show and will be on hand to talk to visitors about the club, their vehicles and activities.

There will be static displays, a barbecue, ice cream parlour and the High Legh miniature railway will be running all weekend.

Admission is free, but any donations made will be passed on to the Staffordshire Air Ambulance Service, the Donna Louise Children's Hospice and Blood Bikers.

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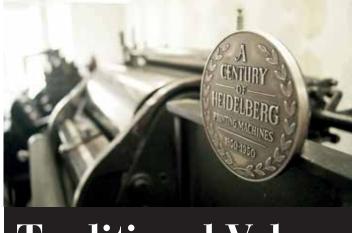
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