VILLAGE

Your Community Magazine

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A round up of the 2017 party conference season

Whilst September and October mean most of us are thinking about the weather getting colder, the nights getting longer and all things Christmassy appearing in the shops far too soon, in UK politics this time of year means just one thing: party conferences. The three main parties have all now held their annual conventions, setting out their stalls for the next twelve months and beyond. But what did each of the parties have to say from an economic point of view? Let's have a look at the key points to take away.

Liberal Democrats – Perhaps Brexit unsurprisingly, featured strongly as a topic in all three party conferences. Whilst leader, Sir Vince Cable, certainly didn't shy away from his party's pro-European position, he also pledged that the party would not become "UKIP in reverse". Keen to ensure his party isn't defined by its Brexit stance, Sir Vince also called for greater taxes on wealth in order to tackle inequality in Britain and backed 'fierce' taxation of foreign investors purchasing property in the UK. He pledged the promotion of a 'new generation of garden cities and garden villages' as well as assisting councils in building new homes through borrowing. He also set out initial plans for changes to university funding and corporate governance.

Labour – Whilst there has been no change to Labour's official policy on Brexit, Jeremy Corbyn's

announcement of his plans to "guarantee unimpeded access to the single market", should his party come to power, felt more forceful than previous language used by Labour. Elsewhere, the party leader promised further action to close the gender pay gap by bringing in compulsory equal pay auditing for large companies with fines for those who do not comply. Mr. Corbyn also promised further plans for rent controls in large cities in the UK to fix what the party describes as the "dysfunctional and lopsided" property market.

Conservatives – Even though Theresa May spent little time speaking about Brexit after her speech in Florence in September, the speeches from other members of the party showed that the party is still divided over what form the country's exit from the EU should take. Elsewhere, Chancellor Philip Hammond made no new economic announcements, but he did confirm that the Help to Buy housing scheme would receive a further £10 billion and that Britain's railways would receive £300 million in new investments.

On a further note we would like to congratulate Village Life on their 200th edition this month. Well done to Gary and the team and thank you for all your support over the last four years.



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Editor's comment

FEW issues in recent years have caused as much controversy as the proposals for more than 700 houses at Grappenhall Heys and Appleton

Hundreds of people have attended planning meetings and made their views known. Angry councillors from the south of the borough have backed them to the hilt. The Warrington South MP has added his voice to the chorus - meaning that representatives of all three main political parties have

opposed the proposals.

To no avail, of course. After two deferrals, members of the development management committee voted the proposals through, a not unexpected decision, although it did beg the question of why the second deferral had been necessary. At the

Deadline for the **December** issue of Village Life is **November 21**

time, it was stated that it was to allow a review of the borough's local plan to be completed. But, although the consultation period had ended, the review had certainly not been completed.

Of course, the arrival of the Homes and Community Agency application at the same time as the Local Plan review did not help matters. Much confusion was caused, with many people unsure of what was being proposed in the local plan and what was in the HCA application. Perish the thought that both could have been timed to arrive while many people were on holiday!

A number of councillors are determined to fight on and we applaud them for that. We know the HCA homes were, in effect, going to build on the land years ago, but much has changed since the days of the Warrington New Town, not least the amount of traffic using local roads.

The outline plan may have been given the green light, but detailed proposals have yet to surface and there will be opportunities to have further input at that stage.



THIS is the 200th issue of Village Life and we would like to thank all readers, advertisers and sponsors who have supported the magazine since the first issue was published in April 2001.

Village Life was the third magazine to be published by Orbit News Ltd, having been preceded by Lym Life and Warrington Worldwide. Since then it has been followed by Culcheth Life, Frodsham Life and Lifestyle Magazine to make up a group of six magazines and websites.

Our aim now is as it was in the beginning – to provide a vehicle for local news and cost-effective advertising.

Cheshire Wildlife Trust responds to Nature Reserve threat

CHESHIRE Wildlife Trust expressed alarm over a threat to Moore Nature Reserve arising from Warrington's Local Plan Preferred Development Option.

Part of the reserve has been suggested as a potential site for future development as part of the proposals for Port Warrington – and inland port on the Manchester Ship

The Trust's evidence and planning manager, Rachel Giles, said: "We believe developing this site would be highly damaging to local biodiversity, the local community and would be environmentally unsustainable.

"We have submitted a response which outlines the harm a development on the nature reserve would cause to species such as dragonflies, bees, butterflies, breeding and wintering birds.

"We believe that the nature reserve should be protected from development.

Moore Nature Reserve has areas of woodland, meadows, five large lakes and wetlands and is home to a diverse range of plants, animals, birds and mammals

Situated between the Ship Canal and the River Mersey, the site has been managed as a nature reserve since 1991, following a period as a sand quarry. The site is managed by wardens employed by FCC Environment who operate the nearby landfill site. With its networks of pathways, bird hides and benches, the reserve has become a popular community location.

'Moore Nature Reserve is not only a haven for species but a great asset to the community. There is a bank of

evidence of how visiting green spaces and getting outside helps people deal with stress and improve mental health."

Charlotte Harris, chief executive officer at the Trust, said: "This site has become a go-to place for people in the community appreciating this

"Owners of the land, Peel Holdings have it licenced as a landfill site, meaning that the nature reserve has to stay in existence until 2021, but then its future becomes vulnerable. We are urging Warrington Council to take heed our advice and the voice of the community on this issue.

Peel Holdings have submitted part of the 200 acre reserve as part of the plans for Port Warrington.

The nature reserve is an important education resource for every age group from toddlers through to university students. More than 650 children have taken part in Cheshire Wildlife Trust's education work at Moore Nature Reserve this year.

Another area of concern is the potential allocation of land in south Warrington as part of the "Garden City Suburb".

The area includes three designated Local Wildlife Sites and a number of important wildlife habitats including one of the highest densities of farm ponds in the Cheshire region.

The Trust is urging people to write to their MP expressing their concerns, even though the public consultation period has closed.



■ Hunting for mini-beasts at Moore Nature Reserve.

MP opposes any Green Belt development as part of Local Plan

WARRINGTON South MP Faisal Rashid is backing his constituents and objecting to any development on Green Belt land as part of the council's Local Plan Preferred Development Option.

He has also called for a re-think on the amount of housing development that has been identified by the council which is suggesting more than 20,000 new homes need to be built, including many on Green Belt land, over the next 20 years, if Warrington is going to meet its development needs and aspirations.

In a letter to Warrington Borough Council Chief Executive Steven Broomhead Faisal said: "Like many of my constituents who have contacted me about the Local Plan, I object to plans to develop on the Green Belt. I have serious concerns about proposals that would see our town lose muchloved green open spaces and I call for a rethink on the amount of housing development that has been identified.

While agreeing that local residents should have access to good quality jobs, high quality housing, including social housing and homes for first time buyers, and a good standard of living Faisal says "Green Belt and where possible green open spaces, should be protected from development. He also wants to see real workable solutions to Warrington's transport problems, in particular solutions that will tackle the real and inherent problems of congestion and poor air quality.

Faisal added: "Since the launch of

Faisal added: "Since the launch of the consultation in July, I have met many constituents and listened to their views on the Preferred Option. There is a great deal of uncertainty, anxiety and anger over the proposals. There is particular anger over proposals that could see significant parts of the existing Green Belt designated for development. I share my constituent's concerns on this

my constituent's concerns on this.

The challenge for Warrington
Borough Council is to develop
proposals that will:

- 1) encourage the efficient use of land;
- protect our Green Belt/green open spaces;
- open spaces;
 3) promote the regeneration of brownfield sites.

He added: "These three principles should form the building blocks upon which the Local Plan is constructed. The Council has to get the balance between these three principles right. If it does not, the adverse impact of an unbalanced Local Plan will be felt for years to come."

for years to come."

Faisal said he had also received a number of complaints from constituents about the way the consultation process was delivered.

He added: I was contacted by concerned residents who told me that due to the timing of the consultation, over the summer holidays, they were unable to attend the consultation events. Others contacted me to say that they had not received any information about the events or indeed any information about the Local Plan until late in the consultation process.

"Concerns have also been raised about the fact that information was not sent to residents in all local areas likely to be affected in some way by the proposals. Other constituents tell me that they were reliant on social media for the information about the consultation process.

"If this part of the consultation

process on the Local Plan is to be seen to have any merit, all residents and interested parties must have been given every opportunity to view the proposals, question council officers about the proposals and then have the opportunity to make informed submissions for consideration."

He went on to stress the major concern about the Local Plan raised by constituents was its adverse impact on the Green Belt and the proposal to build 9,345 of the designated 24,774 new homes on Green Belt land.

Of these 8,155 new dwellings are proposed on the Green Belt south of the Manchester Ship Canal, with 240 new dwelling in North Warrington Green Belt and 450 new dwellings in the East Warrington Green Belt.

He concluded that the development of local Green Belt land was the wrong approach to take to meet the housing needs set out by Government.

"It is a short-sighted approach which ignores the wishes of local people."

"I welcome proposals that will help my constituents to access good quality jobs. However, alongside economic benefits we must ensure that residents maintain access to quality green open spaces and have improved local transport provision."



■ Faisal Rashid with his letter.

Lib Dems back residents' opposition to Local Plan

WARRINGTON Liberal Democrats are backing residents' opposition to housing developments on Green Belt land outlined in the borough council's Preferred Development Option Local Plan.

While the Lib Dems say they remain ambitious for Warrington, their ambition is not just about economic success because they want to ensure that the town's historic character is retained and the environment conserved. They say enhancing the quality of life must respect the wishes and identities of existing communities.

Council Group Leader, Cllr Bob Barr said, "We believe the failure to engage with the community adequately over the Local Plan has been a serious error by the Borough Council. It is a missed opportunity. The passion shown by residents during the holiday season in response to the Preferred Development Option shows the high level of interest in the future of our town.

town.

"The calculations for the housing targets have not been properly explained. When the Local Plan is presented for consultation, residents need to know the extent to which the targets are driven by local ambition as opposed to government and how

numbers relate to the land required for different dwelling sizes.

"We have serious misgivings about the prominence given in the plan to early green belt release. The town centre and brown field first policy must be prioritised. Warrington's role as the green lung that separates the Merseyside and Greater Manchester conurbations is essential and must be preserved. Developers must not be encouraged to believe that early easy pickings are available in Warrington's green belt. The Plan has not made the case for green-belt release particularly as additional brownfield sites such as Fiddlers Ferry and the Hospital may become available. We question the need to adopt a twenty year plan period when fifteen years is acceptable for a Local Plan. The fallout from Brexit will have an impact

"We strongly support the principle of 'town centre first' development. We support the principle of 'infrastructure first' too but have serious concerns about how this will be financed to ensure prompt delivery. We doubt that the amount of additional infrastructure proposed in the Preferred Development Option will reduce congestion and provide adequate hospital facilities. There is a lack of consideration for major

investment in public transport, such as a light rail / mass transit system."

Grappenhall Councillor Ryan Bate added, "We are gravely concerned by the suggestion of using the former railway embankment through Thelwall, Grappenhall and Latchford for a strategic transport route. While supporting the need for a further high-level crossing of the Ship Canal, we ask that more thought goes into the planning of any route with properly informed discussions with the communities affected.

"We question the densities assumed throughout the plan for housing. There is a clear need for a mix of smaller homes aimed at younger households looking to establish themselves and older households looking to downsize. In providing a more appropriate mix of housing styles, we also hope the Borough Council will address the current disconnect between the location of jobs. A closer alignment of the two will help reduce car dependency and traffic congestion.

"We consider that the problems

"We consider that the problems raised by the current PDO affect the whole of Warrington and not just those wards we represent. Failures to deal with traffic congestion, medical provision and affordable housing will not be restricted in impact to

a specific part of the town. It is essential that the eventual Local Plan benefits the whole of Warrington reducing inequalities in access to affordable high quality housing, improves the Town Centre, preserves our green spaces and creates a sustainable environment for all."

Some of the consultation resulted

Some of the consultation resulted in chaotic scenes, especially at the Park Royal Hotel in Stretton, where residents had to queue to gain access, with many saying they had no opportunity to contribute to the consultation.



■ Cllr. Bob Barr.

Welcome to Venice

Venice is an unfathomable experience and one of the world's most romantic locations. Comprised of 118 islands connected by bridges, the city is unlike any other.

My family and I visited Venice in September and had a wonderful time, which began as soon as we arrived at Marco Polo Airport. We had not arranged a private 'Meet & Greet', but had made the decision to take a private water taxi from the Airport, which is located some distance from the terminal on the edge of the Venetian Lagoon (definitely worth the walk!). After a twenty minute or so walk (plenty of signs to direct you); the water appears in front of you and the rows of numbered water-taxi piers. Liaise with the staff at the desks, who will ask for the name of your hotel and direct you to your driver (busier times may result in a longer wait). Currently the price is set at 120 Euros per taxi and once at your pier the driver will take your luggage from you, stow it in the water taxi and help you board. Shared taxis



can also be booked (we can assist with this). The most cost-effective mode of transfer is the Alilaguna 'ferry' or water bus and tickets can be purchased at the counter in the arrivals terminal or booth near the pier. Sitting relaxed in the comfortable water taxi we took in the stunning views on the journey to our hotel, catching glimpses of islands in the Venetian Lagoon.

If you've ever been to Venice, you'll know that one of the best ways to explore this wonderful city is by getting on to the water and navigating around the myriad of waterways that criss cross the city. Or lose yourself in a bygone era as you explore by foot. St Mark's Square is also a great place to begin because so many attractions are right here and this is where we paddled in our wellington boots on our first afternoon! I would also add that it is worth taking in St Mark's Square at night (when all the day trippers & cruise passengers have left!). Small duelling orchestras play at the Cafes on both sides of the square providing a very different atmosphere, which you are able to watch for free!

A walking tour, which is a 'must do' for any city break, can be booked in advance (and we have an abundance to choose and book for you!). On our first evening we booked the 'Venice Ghost & Legends' walking tour. We met our guide, Christina (great fun), at eight o'clock on the Rialto Bridge where our 'chilling' evening walking tour (approximately 90 minutes) began. We passed through the hidden back streets of Venice which

provide the perfect stage for an array of ghost stories and legends from the city's past and present. We were lucky to have a great group of people and a fun evening was enjoyed by all.

Evening is a great time to go shopping

Evening is a great time to go snopping as again the streets are not quite so bustling and the most famous streets for shopping are in the Le Mercerie area of the San Marco District. Almost every canal-side street has a restaurant so you will be spoilt for choice. Another great tip is to book your Gondolier from the side street rather than the main stations. Prices are set (80 Euros for the day and 100 Euros for evening) for a 30 minute ride and you can opt to have a serenade or not! We chose the evening option because the daytimes were busy with traffic jams! Our Gondolier was fun and informative pointing out hidden locations as we glided by. If you would like to keep the cost to a minimum then you are able to book a 'shared' Gondola ride. A 'must-do' evening stop is Harry's Bar, a favourite of Charlie Chaplin, where the Bellini was a gorgeous mix of Prosecco and peach (the best I have



■ Stockton Heath @ Hays

tasted) with complimentary canapes and a fantastic laid-back atmosphere.

A great inexpensive way to see Venice and the Islands is to purchase a travel pass, which will enable you to hop on and off the waterbus as you like. The Islands tend to be less busy so nice to stroll and maybe have lunch with a glass of Prosecco or Aperol! On our last day the weather was beautiful and we walked away from the crowds to discover Venice with the locals (fantastic). Whatever the season, Venice always enchants and for the true romantics the Venice Simplon-Orient-Express train is surely the most stylish way to travel - that's another story...

'Finally, may we congratulate Gary

Finally, may we congratulate Gary and the team on the 200th issue of Village Life, which we are proud to be associated with. Hope you like the picture of Venice Carnival Celebrations 200 years ago!

We are open Monday to Friday 9am to 5.30pm and Saturdays 9am to 5pm If you cannot make these times we are happy to arrange an appointment at your convenience.

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'Call in' challenge for controversial homes plans

THE controversial decision to approve plans for 770 new homes on land at Grappenhall Heys and Appleton Cross is being challenged by five borough councillors – supported by Grappenhall and Thelwall Parish Council.

Liberal Democrat councillors Mike Biggin and Ryan Bate have initiated a "call in" of the decision by the borough council's development management committee.

This could mean the decision would be referred to the council's scrutiny committee, which, while it does committee, which, while it does not have the power to overturn the decision, can refer the matter back for further consideration.

But as Village Life went to press, there were doubts about the legality of such a move with differences of opinion between some lawyers and planners.

Cllr Biggin and Cllr Bate decided to call in the decision on the grounds of injustice and a lack of consideration of the infrastructure issues - in particular the inadequacies of the local highway network.

They say there is no evidence that the applicant – the Homes and Community Agency (HCA) – has given adequate consideration to the highways and infrastructure issues.

There were numerous objections to the proposals on these grounds when they were considered by the development management committee. But the committee voted 6-3 to allow the development to go ahead.

Ironically the meeting had to be delayed 15 minutes because many objectors could not get there on time because of traffic delays caused by Stockton Heath Swing Bridge breaking

The outline planning application was for 400 properties at Grappenhall Heys and 370 at Appleton Cross and was recommended for approval by

But the proposals were opposed by Appleton Parish Council, Grappenhall and Thelwall Parish Council, Stockton Heath Parish Council and Lymm Parish Council, as well as by Warrington South MP Faisal Rashid.

After the meeting, the MP said: "I have real concerns about the impact these developments could have on south Warrington. I do not believe that the council or the HCA have shown these applications to be 'sustainable'. The opposite is true; these two

developments are not sustainable.
"My main concern about the applications concerned the additional pressure that building this number of homes will have on roads in south Council leader Warrington. O'Neill has publicly said that large scale developments will not be brought forward unless the infrastructure is in place to cope with the added traffic demands. But there are no plans to tackle the additional road

infrastructure pressures that these applications will add to our roads in south Warrington.

"At peak times, local roads can barely cope with existing pressure, and as we have seen it only takes an incident such as that with the swing bridge to bring the town's road

network to a standstill.
"I will be meeting Cllr O'Neill to press for action and calling on the Government to ensure that the HCA responds to these concerns. I will also be meeting representatives from Peel Ports to discuss the action they can take to help tackle these issues.





Protestors at a previous planning committee meeting.

George Formby fans move to have grave renovated

THE George Formby Society are raising £2500 in donations to restore the Warrington grave of their hero and his father to its former glory.

local George When Formby enthusiast Andy Bibby saw the decline in condition of the entertainer's gravestone on a recent visit to pay his respects, he was moved to contact the George Formby Society and suggest they consider funding the remedial

Andy said " As I visit the cemetery often, being local, I was in the best position to pass on my observations of the graves current state prior to restoration and recommended we act sooner than later."

"The George Formby Society committee agreed. As a society we understand what a national great he was and we know his grave has attracted many visitors. Comedian Frank Skinner was recently one such visit to while he made a documentary about his icon.'

The graves last restoration was years ago, and since then it has deteriorated to the point that the Society members have stepped up again to restore it. An appeal to members was launched in order to raise the required sum, with around £1000 already raised and

with the blessing of the stars family, the renovations are now nearing completion.

Formby moved to Warrington when he was young to live in Stockton Heath with his family. His father, George Formby senior was a well known and successful music hall performer. Despite his fathers attempts to dissuade his son, George followed in his footsteps onto the stage after a short career as a jockey.

He was to become one of the most celebrated Warrington residents and can count the Queen amongst his

George Formby became the highest paid entertainer in the country with his trademark toothy grin, ukulele and his downtrodden underdog characters bringing him both fame and fortune. He starred in 20 movies and was earning the equivalent of £1.5 million per film, a lot of which can be credited to his formidable wife Beryl who was a hard nosed negotiator.

When George Formby died in 1961, aged 56, more than 150,000 fans lined the route of his funeral procession from Liverpool to the cemetery on Manchester Road.

With the repair work now almost complete to coin Georges unforgettable words "it turned out





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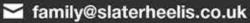
Our family team all live in the South Manchester and Cheshire area. Living within the same community provides us with unique insight into what affects your daily lives. You are just a ride facilities in Warrington.



"Having moved away for university, I always felt a natural desire to return to the area where I grew up. With its variety of local restaurants, shops and events, Lymm has a vibrant and strong community atmosphere which gives me everything I need on my doorstep."

Camilla Burton-Baddeley | Family Solicitor

Get in touch with our family team



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Mary celebrates a happy long life with family and friends

A happy life could be the secret to a long life as Mary Miller celebrated her 100th birthday with a cream tea for family and friends at Stockton Heath Methodist Church Hall.

Mary, of Hawthorne Road, Stockton Heath, who was joined by her two sons John and Stephen, has been a regular at the church for most of her life.

She married her late husband Norman at the church, which she started visiting as a 17-year-old local

Reflecting on her life Mary, who has been a widow for 23 years, said: "Sadly my husband died too soon - but I have had a happy life."

She used to work as a telephonist at the Post office until son John was born in 1949.

She was joined by her sons and family and friends to celebrate her birthday with a special cream tea in the church hall.





Dot stands down after 32 years on council

 $\label{lem:appleTON} \mbox{ APPLETON Parish Council's longest-serving member has retired - after 32 years of continuous service. \\$

Dot Edwards, of Appleton Thorn, has been chairman of the council on six occasions since joining in December, 1985.

Earlier this year she and her husband, Syd, were awarded the Freedom of the Parish in recognition of their unstinting and valued service to the parish, and in particular in the Appleton Thorn ward.

They were then presented with framed, decorative scrolls.

Known throughout the area as "Dot and Syd", the couple have been a tower of strength to the council, Dot as a member and Syd as a sort of "unofficial" member - he was always carrying out odd jobs on behalf of the council, including looking after the war memorial at Appleton Thorn.





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Public rally to show support for charity targeted by burglars

MEMBERS of the public rallied when staff and volunteers at a local charity which helps adults with learning disabilities were left heart broken following an overnight burglary and the theft of valuable tools used for making Christmas gifts.

Raiders broke into the furniture and woodwork departments at the Walton Lea Project, stealing wood cutting tools worth an estimated £1,000.

Without the tools volunteers and service users would not have been able to make specialised Christmas gifts as they approach the busiest time of the year.

The workshops had been targeted previosuly when damage was committed but nothing was stolen.

Trustee Viv Lacey placed a notice

Trustee Viv Lacey placed a notice on the door explaining the distress which had been caused but this did not deter burglars returning and



stealing two bench saws.

These are used to help create handmade gift boxes and other items including their ever popular log reindeers, which are sold from the charity's premises.

charity's premises.

Viv added: "There was a mix of anger, frustration and upset at our Walton Lea site, when our furniture and woodwork departments were been broken into.

"Not only has damaged been caused to both buildings but those involved in this crime stole much needed tools that cost approx £1000, thus causing distress to beneficiaries and staff and robbing us of the ability to make and sell much wanted items!"

But after the break-in was highlighted online via warrington-worldwide.co.uk the charity attracted a huge amount of support from the general public.

Assistant operations manager Julie Groom said: "We cannot express our gratitude and thanks for all the messages of support, offers of tools and donations to help us to replace our equipment following the theft. It has been truly heart warming!

The charity is now gearing up for their busy time of the year and is set to have a a special Christmas weekend on December 2/3, including wreath making workshops.

Anyone who can help the charity can call 01925 860143 or contact them via their facebook page www. facebook.com/waltonleapartnership/



Winter Wonderland is back!

MANCHESTER'S biggest Indoor Christmas attraction, the awardwinning Winter Wonderland Manchester is back for 2017!

The magic of Christmas will take over EventCity next to the Intu Trafford Centre from Saturday 9th December 2017 to Monday 1st January 2018.

January 2018.

Legendary children's TV show,
Rainbow will be the star attraction
of this year's Christmas extravaganza,
plus over 50 family rides and
attractions all under one roof including new rides for 2017, and all
included in one ticket price.

As well as the rides and the bright

lights, there will be a dazzling array of colourful shows which this year includes Zippy and George from Rainbow who will no doubt bring lots of magic, mayhem and comedy capers!

The spectacular Christmas Circus also makes a welcome return delivering the finest collection of circus acts that will leave everyone marvelled and amazed with daily performances

performances.
Of course, Christmas wouldn't be Christmas without a visit from Santa Claus complete with real reindeers, who will be taking time out of his busy schedule for meet and greets with all the children, every day up to

and including Christmas Eve. Fairies and Elves will also fly around to play and chat and have 's-elfies' with the children.

There will also be a whole host of games stalls and a vast array of food and drinks stalls to purchase refreshments including hot snacks and sweet treats.

Winter Wonderland operates on a session basis to ensure visitors can enjoy the experience without overcrowding offering families four hours of non-stop fun and entertainment.

Group, family and individual tickets are on sale now for the magical festive family adventure which is guaranteed to create that enchanting Christmas spirit.

Book your tickets now at www. winterwonderlandmanchester.com or by calling 0843 208 1842, for Group Booking please call 0843 208 6003.







Model engineering society celebrate 50 years at Daresbury site

WARRINGTON and District Model **Engineering Society have celebrated** their 50th anniversary of being established on the Daresbury track

To mark the occasion an estimated 70 members, their guests and members of the public enjoyed rides around the newly extended track in the beautiful woodland setting.

Before enjoying the ride they all tucked into a buffet and then chairman, Roger Hall, gave a very entertaining speech before making a special presentation to club President Henry Woods, their longest serving member. Henry treated them all to a potted history of all the club's ups and downs over the last 50years. WDMES moved to the Spastic

Society's site in the grounds of the Daresbury Hall in 1967 from their original site in Newton le Willows.

The society was formed originally to promote engineering in miniature,

based around live steam locomotives. They still aim to do the same but with engineering disappearing from the school curriculum it's hard to attract younger members.

So in steps, the internet and the modern way of getting access to the hobby is to purchase ready machined kits to just assemble instead of scratch building a model that can take up to 20 years to build.

Members meet on a Wednesday for track maintenance and loco testing and also meet most Sundays through the summer for track running days.

Regular evening talks are held on Thursday evenings at the cricket club house, Stretton where guest speakers entertain members on subjects.

One such talk by the STEM project, the people responsible for designing the vehicle for the land speed record, resulted in club Secretary Brian Renton involving all the pupils from Daresbury Primary school visiting

the site over a three week period to learn about the workings of the steam locomotive which turned out to be a fabulous success.

The track is now half a mile long, running through the woodland around two ponds over bridges and through tunnel with embankments

deep cuttings making it one of the most beautiful tracks in the country. If people are interested in their activities they have their own web site WDMES or visit their Facebook site, Warrington and District Model Engineering Society.







Parishes pledge £10,000-a-year to keep library open

FOUR parish councils have joined together to pledge £10,000-a-year until 2022 to keep Stockton Heath Library open.

The councils at Stockton Heath, Appleton, Hatton and Walton will contribute to the fund although it is hoped that as other means of making the library building pay-its-way, their contributions will reduce.

Three organisations are considering relocating to the library to increase the building's earning potential – including Stockton Heath Parish Council itself.

Chairman Cllr Peter Walker said: "We think the library will be an excellent location for the council.

"We have been at the Sandy Lane Centre for some time but it is not ideal and some people have difficulty finding it. If we move out, if will also make it available for other interested groups.

Cllr Walker stressed that whatever changes were made to the library building they would not diminish its

role as a library."

Cllr Sharon Harris, chairman of the working group set up to draw up proposals for the future use of the library said: : "We have sent our final report to the borough council's Libraries Working Group, which is working to sustain, promote and

develop library services across the

borough. "I am quietly confident our proposals will find favour. Things are looking positive."

She said one of the proposals was to establish a small cafe in the library, opening out into Alexandra Park.

A separate Friends group had been established to consider other options for future use of the library building and attract more community use.

"But whatever is proposed, it will not impact on the library. The building will remain, first and foremost, a library with the same

number of books. Hopefully there will be room for growth," she added. Stockton Heath is the best-used

library in the borough and serves most of the South Warrington area. In fact, it has been established that only a quarter of its users come from Stockton Heath.





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Historic pub outbuilding to make way for new house

A PLAN to demolish an outbuilding to a historic pub – itself demolished two years ago – has been given the goahead by planning chiefs.

The building, adjoining the site of the former Ship Inn in Chester Road, Walton, will be replaced by a new house.

Nearby residents, Walton Parish Council and borough councillor Peter Walker all opposed the scheme.

council's But the borough development management committee

decided the scheme could go ahead.

The committee was told the scheme, submitted by owner Mike Dunn, involved demolishing the property but retaining existing boundary walls.

A new, two-storey building would be erected on the footprint of the existing building, but away from the boundary walls. There would be a twostorey extension at the rear.

Walton Parish Council argued that the scheme undermined the planning process and would not have been allowed had it been submitted at the time the former pub was being demolished.

Neighbours said the building's footprint should not be increased.

Planning officers recommended the scheme be approved. They pointed out that the building was not locally

listed, nor listed because of its association with the former Ship Inn. It had been substantially altered and had little or no historic merit.

The replacement building would be similar to the existing one and would also be similar to properties on



Tribute to former village bobby and councillor

MEMBERS of Stockton Heath Parish Council stood in silence in tribute to former councillor Graham Roughsedge who sadly died on September 12.

Graham was a member of the council for 18 years and was chairman five times. Before becoming a parish councillor, he served in the local police force and for many years was the "village bobby" in Stockton Heath.

He cared about the village, both as a policeman and as a councillor and was responsible for ensuring the safety of the Stockton Heath churches' Walking Day route and, as a councillor, was, for many years, the listican between the churches and the liaison between the churches and the council. Graham enjoyed and took a

great interest in the maintenance of the village land mark of Ackers Pit.

He was born in the village and was awarded the Freedom of the Parish when he retired from the police force.

Parish council chairman Peter Walker said: "I first met Graham when he was policing our village. He taught local children, including mine, how to ride their bikes safely. He advised on home security, telling me my house locks were not good enough. He provided reassurance. I greatly valued his advice when he became a councillor. Graham was passionate about the welfare of Stockton Heath residents and served them well. It was a privilege to know him and he will be sadly missed.'

Orchard memorial for library founder

A SMALL orchard is to be planted at Grappenhall Community Library to commemorate the life of local solicitor John Ashby, a founder member of the community library and former member of Grappenhall and Thelwall Parish Council.

The orchard is being organised and planted by the group Plant for the Planet. Mr Ashby was chairman of the library committee and was closely involved in the campaign to keep the facility going as a community library after the decision

by the borough council to close the original council library.

Members of the committee were saddened at his death but determined the library should continued as he would have wished. They wanted a memorial at the building and decided a small orchard, with a quiet area and bench would be

It was felt an orchard would be good for the building, educational for local

children and provide a quiet area for local people.

There will be a ceremony to mark the planting of the orchard on the afternoon of Saturday, November 18.



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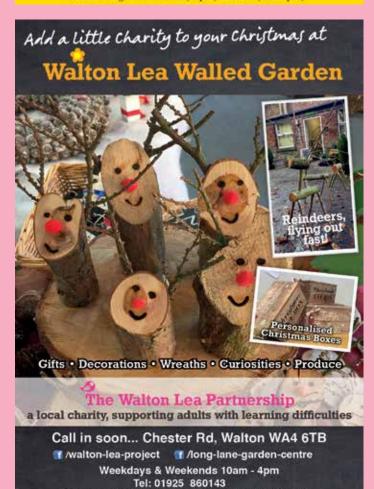
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Money Column

'Improving' your interaction with HMRC

Congratulations to Village Life Magazine – 200th Issue, Well Done from all at WatkinsonBlack Chartered Accountants Warrington.

Last month we looked at Making Tax Digital and how that is supposed to make life easier for HMRC's customers. This month we look at two further ways that they are "improving" your interaction with them.

Firstly, you may have noticed whenever ou logged onto your tax account that they have been threatening for some time to



David Watkinson and Margaret Black

make "two-step verification" compulsory whenever you access your online tax account for PAYE, Corporation Tax other Business Services. Well, from 1st October 2017 they have carried out their threat. This means that once you have entered your username and password, as previously, you will now be sent an access code that you will have to enter to complete the process. The access code will be sent to you either as a text message to your mobile phone, as a voice message over a landline, or through the HMRC "app".

The purpose of this "improvement" is to increase security on your account. However, it is at the expense of increased complexity. The access code that is sent through only lasts for 30 seconds before it is changed. Therefore, you need to enter it quickly or you will need to go through the whole process

again.

It can also cause problems if there is a second person, such as a bookkeeper, who needs to have access. For instance, they may need to submit your VAT Return when you are away from the office. Unless you can somehow get the code that you receive on your mobile to them within that 30 second window then they will not be able to access the account.

There is a solution but it does take time. You could set these people up as additional ways.

additional users. You set up the name, e-mail address and password which will then result in a new User ID. Then, however, the system breaks down as it is the new user that sets the telephone number that will receive the code as well as being able to change the password. This creates a whole new

raft of security issues.

Secondly, from 15th December 2017 HMRC are reducing the number Secondly, from 15th December 2017 HMRC are reducing the number of ways that you can pay any tax or national insurance due. The taxes affected are income tax and national insurance for both self-employed and employed taxpayers, companies paying corporation tax and stamp duty land tax. If you have been naughty and got caught not paying enough tax it also includes any additional tax due on the settlement. Currently, as well as being able to pay electronically or over the counter at your bank, you can pay in person at a Post Office. Except for corporation tax payment can also be made by cheque through the post. However, from 15th December the option to pay at a Post Office is being withdrawn. Currently, all other methods of payment remain available, but we would be surprised if payment by cheque remains an option for much longer.

Yet more ways of HMRC improving their "customers" experience!

WatkinsonBlack have considerable experience in all areas of taxation and volkinsonialack have considerable experience in an areas or laxation 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

November 14 STOCKTON HEATH PARISH COUNCIL Sandy Lane Centre, Stockton Heath, 7.30pm

November 16 GRAPPENHALL & THELWALL PARISH COUNCIL

Recess meeting
Council Offices, Bellhouse Lane. 7.30pm

November 16 LIVE AT ST WILFRID'S

The Gildas Quartet. Christopher Jones and Gemma Stephens (violin) Kay Stephen (viola) and Anna Menzies ('cello) – an emerging "must hear" string quartet. St Wilfrid's Church, Grappenhall. 7.30pm

November 21
APPLETON PARISH COUNCIL
Appleton Parish Hall, Dudlow Green Road, 7.30pm

November 16 GRAPPENHALL & THELWALL PARISH COUNCIL Recess meeting Council Offices, Bellhouse Lane. 7.30pm

Every Saturday & Sunday
GRAPPENHALL HEYS WALLED GARDEN
Witherwin Avenue, Grappenhall Heys, WA4 3DS.
Café open from 10am-5pm serving teas, coffee, homemade 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 26234
LADIES' FRIENDSHIP CLUB
The Quays Community Centre. Thelwall New Road.

LAULE'S 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

PARK (APPLETON) WI Appleton Parish Hall, Dudlow Green Road. 7.30pm

WARRINGTON ART GROUP
Bellhouse Community Centre, Bellhouse Lane, Grappenhall, 7-9pm

Every third Monday NATIONAL VEGETABLE SOCIETY

Grappenhall Ex-Servicemen's Club, Chester Road, Grappenhall Spm. 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

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

11am-12 noon

Every Wednesday
APPLETON HALL BADMINTON CLUB
November- 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
Floreway Community Hall,
Floreway Community Hall,
Florey fourth Wednesday

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.

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.

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







Cricketers celebrate survival – and promotion!

celebrations were Grappenhall Cricket Club's Broad Lane ground at the end of the season as the 1st XI clinched survival in the elite Vivio Cheshire County League Premier division and the 2nd XI were promoted to the 2nd XI Premier division.

It means that next summer, both Grappenhall sides will be playing at the very top of their respective leagues.

The 1st XI made hard work of their season after being promoted to the Premier Division the previous year, leaving it to the very last match to secure the place among the top

Things were not made easier for them because of two injuries to key players. Young bowler Albert Pennington ended up in hospital with a hand injury going for a difficult caught-and-bowled chance.

Aussie all-rounder Owen Lynch suffered a shoulder injury going for a catch.

The injuries brought both players' seasons to a premature end.

The 2nd XI looked likely champions of their division for much of the season but were pipped at the post in the final match, earning promotion

as runners-up

As reported last month, the club also won the league's Over 40s Cup after more than 10 years of trying!



■ The newly promoted 2nd XI.

On your marks for the 11th High Legh 10k

ENTRIES have opened for next year's High Legh Robert Moffat Memorial 10k race.

The race - it will be the llth annual competition – will take place on Sunday, March 4, starting at 11am.

This year's 10th race was a huge success, as despite a deluge before the start, the race was won in a record time of just 32.35 by James Wignall. The beauty of the race is that while it regularly attracts elite athletes, many use it to set a personal best or to beat the one hour mark, to raise sponsorship or simply to make it their first ever event. There is plenty of time

to get into shape before next March and in the New Year, Lymm Runners will be running their beginners course which is always popular.

opportunity to enter is available at the website www.highlegh10k.org.uk Last year the race filled up in a

More detailed information and an

record time of seven weeks! The course is the same, starting and finishing at High Legh Primary

School and mostly on quiet, flat country lanes.

A spokesperson for the race said: "We are also keeping the improvements of the recent years including chip timing, the start/finish on the road outside the school, the fabulous finisher's technical running T-shirt in the goody bag, along with lots of other stuff provided by our sponsors together with a medal for all finishers. We are proud that this is so much better value than many other races and we have even held our entry fees once again."

There will be 14 prizes for the various categories as well as the trophies for the overall male and female winners and the team trophy.

Various training events will be arranged in the lead up to the race including "Run the Route" sessions.



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Stay up to date with all current news, policies, and events at www.faisalrashid.com, facebook.com/falsalrashidmp and twitter @falsalrashid6 and keep an eye out for local street surgeries coming soon to a doorstep near you!

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School to host firework spectacular

BROOMFIELDS Junior School, Bridge Lane, Appleton will be hosting a Fireworks Spectacular on Saturday November 4.

In addition to a 20-minute aerial fireworks display, there will be fairground rides, a beer tent, hot food and much more. The event runs from 6pm to 9pm and the gates will close at 7.25pm for the start of the fireworks at 7.30pm.

Advance tickets are available from the school until Friday November 3 and cost £3 in advance or £5 on the gate on the night.

Christmas lights

STOCKTON Heath's Christmas Lights will be switched on in Victoria Square on December 1 at 6pm.

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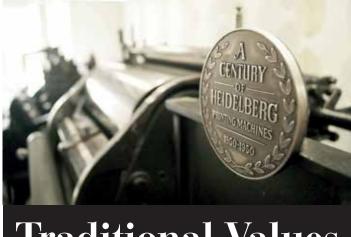
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