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Issue 201 December 2017 FREE

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After months of speculation, the Bank of England finally raised interest rates in the UK for the first time in over a decade. The increase from 0.25% to 0.5% might seem small, especially when you consider that the last time the interest rate was increased in July 2007 it was up to 5.75%, but the fact that interest rates are going up at all after more than ten years at rock bottom is significant.

The rates rise will have an impact on the finances of millions of people in the UK, with those on variable rate mortgages likely to lose out the most. 46% of households with a mortgage are on either a standard variable or tracker rate, which are likely to move at the same time as the official bank rate.

These mortgages have an average of £89,000 left to pay off, resulting in a monthly payment increase of around £12. Those with higher variable rate mortgages will of course see their outgoings increase by a higher amount: payments on a £300,000 mortgage will go up by about £39 a month. Homeowners with fixed rate mortgages meanwhile can expect their payments to remain the same for some time following the interest rate lift, as can those with loans and credit cards to pay off.

Savers are likely to benefit from the rates increase having seen little growth on their savings for a number of years. On average, an easy-access savings account currently pays interest at 0.14% annually, meaning that £10,000 worth of savings would generate just £14 every year. If providers choose to pass on the rates rise in full, this will add another £25 to earn £39 annually. A typical ISA meanwhile will see the annual growth of £10,000 increase from £30 to £55.

Pensioners who have purchased an annuity can also expect to benefit from the rates rise. Annuities follow the yields on gilts, or long-dated government bonds. In anticipation of a rates rise, these have also increased, meaning those purchasing an annuity for retirement will receive better value for money on their investment. In November 2016, a joint annuity bought for £100,000 would receive an annual income of £4,086. That figure has risen this month to £4,468 and could continue to go up depending on how likely further base rate increases are – something which the Governor of the Bank of England, Mark Carney, has indicated is likely over the next few years.

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Editor's comment

WE are quite sure that Bridgewater High School is one of the best schools in the area and that Appleton College – its sixth form – is equally good.

So why do we have to publish this month the disappointing news that the college is to close because it cannot attract sufficient numbers of students?

Why do so many of the high school pupils who want to go on to post-16 education choose to go elsewhere?

There are probably a number of reasons – not least the proximity of the highly regarded Priestley College, with which, fortunately, Bridgewater has close links.

But another reason might be the failure, over the years, of Bridgewater to adequately blow its own trumpet.

Modesty in an individual can be a great virtue. But not necessarily so in an institution such as a school.

Bridgewater may have suffered through hiding its light under a bushel.

We don't doubt for one minute that significant efforts have been made in recent years to boost recruitment at the college, although whatever was done was not exactly shouted from the rooftops.

Nor do we blame the present leadership, nor the governing body, for the school's unassuming outlook is not of recent origin. More than 20 years ago, Bridgewater was the only high school in Warrington which steadfastly refused to publish its O Level results – a policy which may have led some to wonder if there was something to hide.

Whatever, Appleton College is, unfortunately, to close. The sad fact is that there are in Appleton and its wider catchment area, those who never even knew it was there.



Deadline for the February issue of Village Life is January 16

Business is booming at Walton Lea Project

BUSINESS is booming at local charity the Walton Lea Project following a heartbreaking break-in at their premises.

News of the cold hearted burglary involving the theft of valuable cutting tools inspired the local community to rally – and now the charity which has premises in the old walled garden next to Walton Gardens and on Long Lane, Warrington, has never been busier.

As well as the generosity of the local community their premises have now been donated CCTV to deter future break-ins.

Meanwhile a new line in special Christmas Eve wooden boxes, created by support worker Graham Bowden, are simply flying out – with around 200 sold prior to December.

Their ever popular log reindeers are also flying out and with supplies of wood proving hard to come by, they are sure to be out of stock by the time the big man arrives on his sleigh on Christmas Eve.

Assistant Manager Julie Groom said: "It has been fantastic how the local community has rallied behind us since the break-in. We have never been busier and we would like to say

a big thank you to everyone who has helped us.

"It is very much appreciated."

The charity provides work experience for adults with learning difficulties and their beneficiaries have been kept very busy helping make the Christmas Eve gift boxes and log reindeers.

Special wreath making workshops have also proved extremely popular.

Now, working in conjunction with Warrington & Vale Royal College, the charity will be focusing on new product design courses in the New Year.



High standard in school photo contest

THERE was a huge increase in the number of entries for the second annual school photographic competition organised by Appleton Parish Council compared with the inaugural contest last year.

Every primary school in Appleton was invited to submit entries for the competition, which had a theme of "nature".

The judges said the standard of entries was very high.

The winners were: First prize of

£100: Thomas Emery, of Broomfields Junior School; Second prize of £75: Olivia Dobson, of Broomfields Junior School; Third prize of £50: Aaron Birkbeck, of Cobbs Infants School.

The individual prizes were matched with one for the school, which meant Broomfields Junior School received £175 and Cobbs Infants School received £50.

In addition to this all the entries were awarded a "Highly commended" certificate by the parish council.



■ 3rd place: Aaron Birkbeck



■ Winner: Thomas Emery



■ 2nd place: Olivia Dobson

Sixth form college to close



APPLETON College – the sixth form college at Bridgewater High School – is to close.

The decision – forecast in our online editions in September – was confirmed following a four-week consultation.

"Persistently low numbers" of students were blamed for the closure.

Students currently at the college will not be affected, but no new students will be admitted from September next year.

Bridgewater High is part of The

Challenge Academy Trust (TCAT) which also includes Priestley College, where many Bridgewater pupils have chosen to continue with their post-16 education for some years.

Closure of Appleton College is seen as strengthening the existing links with Priestley.

But former students, staff and governors have expressed deep sadness that the difficult decision to close had to be made while at the same time emphasising that it will be in the best interests of the students.

Reunion planned for the Class of 68

A REUNION is being organised for pupils who left Warrington's Bridgewater High School 50 years ago.

The 50th anniversary event is to take place at the Fir Grove Hotel, Grappenhall, on July 4 next year at 7pm.

Organiser John Price said: "It was called Stockton Heath Secondary School then although many people referred to it as Broomfields."

"We already have 18 folk signed up to attend, including some from as far afield as Australia and other parts of the UK."

"If you were from Year 5 of 1968, or know anyone else who was, please let them know and ask them to get in touch."

"You can get in touch through the school, or through Facebook – Broomfields Class of 68."

"Anyone from that year will be welcome."



Advertiser's announcement

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Boasting iconic architecture, the impressive and innovative Family Hotel Amarin provides a wonderful option for families looking for a modern and contemporary hotel in stunning Croatia.

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greet you, allowing the whole family to get creative. The majority of the rooms offer sea views and some are interconnecting. Outside there are playgrounds located at every twist and turn of the paved walkways that wrap around the hotel, all of which are pushchair friendly. You can explore on foot, bicycles or scooters which can be borrowed from the kids club. For the 'bigger kids' (Mums and Dads) bicycles can be hired for as little as 100 kuna at the onsite rental stations. Pedalos, kayaks and jet skis can also be hired. The list of facilities on offer are fantastic!

There are four restaurants to choose from; all catering for lunch or dinner. Then the 'Pool & Chill' bar has refreshments for every occasion. The Welcome bar offers a breathtaking view of Rovinj Old Town.

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■ Stockton Heath @ Hays

picturesque Rovinj; Istria's star attraction! Expect a really 'artsy' vibe as cobble stoned streets play host to art galleries, fresh produce and craft markets and pavement cafes selling lemon sprinkled seafood and local wines, making this place irresistible for foodies. Rovinj can be reached by a short journey on the hotels complimentary shuttle bus. Water taxis operate from the harbour, just a short walk away through the hotel grounds, for a small charge of 50 kuna per person and is free for the under 7's.

Full Board upgrade for £1 and low deposits of just £60 per person. If you would like to know more? Please feel free to call into the office and speak to Sarah, who has recently returned from her own holiday at the Family Amarin Hotel.

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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Village hall receives £125,000 grant boost

A VILLAGE hall is to undergo a major refurbishment thanks to a £125,000 grant from funding bodies WREN and Biffa Award.

They money will be used to remove and replace the existing and deteriorating asbestos roof at Whitley Village Hall and refurbish the main hall and store areas.

Steve Moore, chairman of Whitley Village Hall Committee believes the improvements will make a huge different to the lives of people living in the area.

He said: "This project will provide a real boost to the people of Whitley. It's fantastic that we have been awarded this funding and we're really looking forward to our village hall refurbishment taking shape over the next four months. Numerous community groups meet here every month, which together with many other events and activities reflect the important role the village hall plays both today and we hope in the years to come".

WREN and Biffa Awards are grants funding schemes for community, biodiversity and heritage projects

from funds donated by Biffa Group Ltd and FCC Environment through the Landfill Communities Fund.

Richard Smith, WREN's grant manager for Cheshire, said: "It's always nice to see something we have funded start to take shape. We're delighted to be supporting Whitley Village Hall in the essential project to replace the roof and look forward to it benefitting community groups for years to come".

Gillian French, head of grants at Biffa Award added: "Biffa Award is really pleased to be able to support this project to replace an old and outdated roof to this popular community centre. We previously funded an extension to the village hall and it is fantastic to see the centre being used by the whole community. It is vital that the hall is a safe and welcoming environment, and with Landfill Communities funding we have been able to provide vital support that will ensure this place is well-loved and well-used for many years to come".

It is hoped the hall will be ready to use by February.



Keen readers win the chance to be zoo keepers for the day

A number of children who finished an animal themed Summer Reading Challenge were given the chance to spend a morning as a zoo keeper at Walton Gardens in Warrington.

Peter Cookson-Dean, the resident zoo keeper, showed the children the ropes at the zoo. They were given the chance to clear out the goats stable, feed the goats and look after the ferrets.

A total of 1628 children, aged 5 to

12, across Warrington took part in the challenge. A separate challenge was also put on for under 5s, with 185 youngsters taking part.

Both challenges encouraged them to read six books over the course of the summer holidays, with all those that accomplished the challenge receiving a certificate and medal for their efforts.

The free challenge is a major literacy campaign, which encourages primary school children to keep

reading throughout the summer holidays. It's run by libraries across the country in partnership with the Reading Agency.

Chris Everett, senior LiveWire advisor for reading, said: "We had a fantastic response to this year's Summer Reading Challenge with more children completing the challenge than in previous years.

"We have also seen the long-lasting effects of the challenge, as more than 100 children who signed up have now joined the library and kept on reading."

LiveWire hosted a range of animal themed activities during the summer holidays to coincide with the theme.

Chester Zoo visited a number of libraries to run a series of workshops to support children to learn more about nocturnal creatures or African animals.

Express Arts also brought their popular Day of Discoveries workshop to various libraries during the challenge, giving children a chance to participate in craft and drama activities.



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Students leave positive lasting impression

IT was supposed to be a trip to inspire their creativity, but in the end it was the students who inspired others.

More than 30 Art Foundation students from Warrington's Priestley College stayed at the Boggle Hole Youth Hostel in North Yorkshire and left a lasting impression on hostel managers Andy and Peta Nugent.

They wrote to Youth Hostel Association chiefs and to Priestley principal Matthew Grant to praise their visitors' character and achievements.

In his letter, Andy wrote: "We get so many young people staying with us, but these were incredible. Not only were they very talented but had so much passion and were just so nice."

"We get so tied up in our job sometimes we forget why we do it. It was a real pleasure to be reminded of this by your students and colleagues."

Andy said it was only the third time in 20 years he had felt compelled to write after a visit.

As a thank you for the hostel's hospitality, students Jessica Morris and Olivia Kubiak gave Andy and Peta pieces of artwork they had created during the stay.

It wasn't just the hostel managers who were inspired by the young people from Warrington.

Primary school children also

benefitted from time spent with the teenagers who volunteered to help them with a project.

"They really inspired the small primary school we had in, so much so they plan to return at the same time next year and do an activity together.. a very rare and beautiful

thing," wrote Andy.

The Art Foundation residential had been organised by Priestley College as an affordable trip to give students the chance to draw inspiration from the landscapes around Whitby.

They produced some great art including some pieces using materials

collected from the beach.

"I didn't want to leave," said student Alex Mooney.

"At times it was raining and our paper was getting wet, but that just added to what we were doing and became part of the overall effect."



New Restaurant Manager at The Park Royal

THE Park Royal Hotel at Stretton has a new restaurant manager.

Before Dan Tipping started working in catering he had his first taste of the hotel life whilst working overseas 10 years ago.

Dan said: "I started off in the smaller hotels in Marmaris Turkey and my final season in Hersonissos Crete. After a very successful first season I got my dream destination of Sharm El Shiekh in Egypt and the much grander 4/5 star properties."

"When returning home I started working for Whitbread as a bar team member and remembered those experiences I gained whilst living abroad. I progressed quickly, becoming waiter, then host, supervisor, chef, assistant manager and finally holding general manager in the 5 years I worked for the company."

"Whilst working for Whitbread I was also able to volunteer as a special constable for Merseyside Police in my spare time and enjoyed the face to face interaction with the general public. Just as I do in catering, I experienced a real joy from making peoples day, listening to their day to day queries and generally being able to go above expectations to assist."

"My love of food eventually led me to become the Restaurant Manager of a 3 AA Rosette restaurant, lounge and private dinning rooms with in Cheshire. My team and I were proud to be achieving 'Outstanding service' delivery, as a Michelin inspector commented on earlier this year. Something I am extremely proud of."

When the opportunity arose at The Park Royal, already known for quality food and service, it represented a great opportunity for Dan to further his career and join Andrew Richards, Executive Chef.

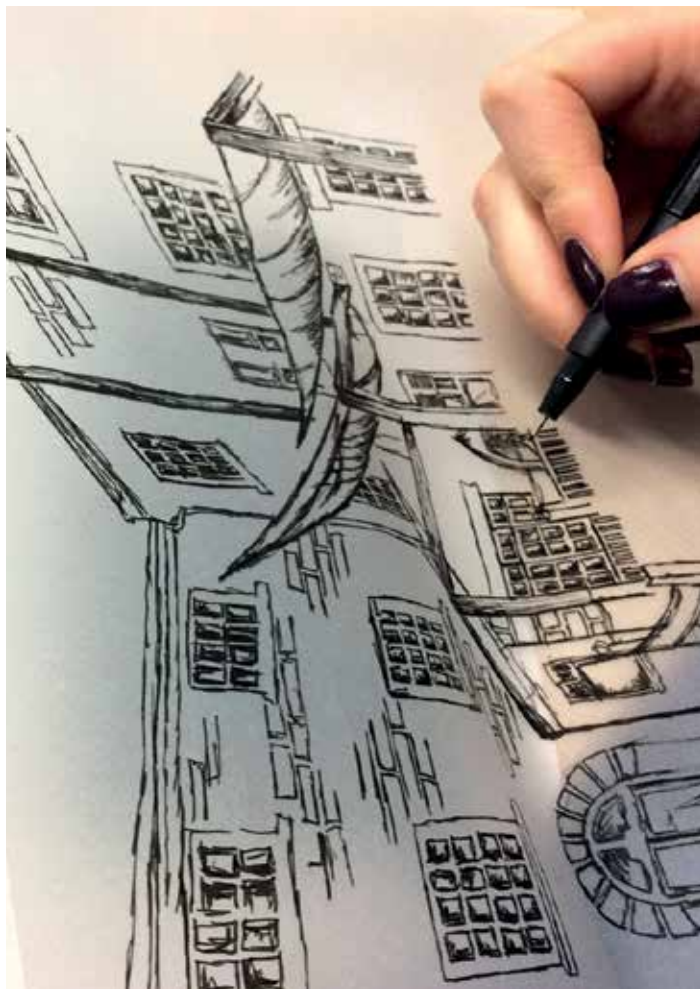
Dan added: "We both share a passion for food and service excellence. My desire is to ensure a fantastic experience is had by everyone who visits The Park Royal. I know our

guests will not be disappointed by their experience."

Annie Brown, General Manager, said: "We are delighted to have a Restaurant Manager with Dan's depth

of experience join our team. We share Dan's passion for excellence at Park Royal and look forward to his personal touches following the launch of our new Autumn menu."





■ Some of the Priestley artwork.

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Residents angered by act of vandalism of bridleway

ANGRY residents have been left horrified by an "act of vandalism" on a bridleway at Appleton, Warrington.

What was an attractive countryside walkway has now been resurfaced with more than 100 tonnes of tarmac.

Local resident Bill Roberts said: "Local walkers, dog walkers were horrified at the outcome and we need answers as to why a local farmer has been allowed to do this by Warrington Borough Council?"

"It can only be described as a permitted act of vandalism," added Mr Roberts.

The public bridleway is between

Red Lane and Hillfoot farm on the Appleton/Walton border.

Mr Roberts added: "Instead of repairing the odd rut / pothole sensitively and in keeping with the rural surroundings the farmer has smashed circa 100 tonnes of tarmac road planings all over about 150 meters of the lane."

"When questioned he insisted he needed to do this for access to his fields!"

But a spokesperson for Warrington Council said: "The bridleway off Red Lane serves as a farm access road to fields."

The owner of the fields, which are farmed, has a right of access and

needs to keep the road maintained to a level suitable for farm vehicles. The Council has a duty to maintain for horse riding and walking but not vehicular use so would not maintain for the farmer's needs.

"On the last inspection by the Council rubble was found to be protruding from the surface and works were being planned to safeguard the public users. The farmer was informed and he noted that the rubble was the

base course of the road which had eroded down to this layer through use. He advised that it needed re-surfacing and he was intending to do that.

"This event comes round every few years and the work involves scraping off the earth that has been carried onto the road by farm vehicles and the vegetation growing on it and surfacing to a suitable depth with a compactible crushed stone layer."



Should council increase precept to pay for PCSO?

STOCKTON Heath Parish Council is facing the decision of whether or not to increase the parish precept – the local element of the council tax – to keep a Police Community Support Officer in the village.

The council has been told by Cheshire Police that if they are to have a PCSO specifically allocated to the village next year they will have to meet the full £33,000 cost.

Currently, the parish pays one third of the cost of having their own PCSO and they have budgeted for meeting half the cost next year.

Chairman Cllr Peter Walker said: "We will have to make the decision of whether or not to increase the

parish precept.

"We do value having our own PCSO, but we also have to consider other items in our budget."

"If we decide to contribute only half the cost, we will presumably receive only half a PCSO. We are not sure how this will be done, but presumably we would share the officer with an adjoining area."

On the plus side, however, the council has been told they will not have to share their PCSO with the neighbouring parishes of Hatton and Walton.

The police have decided one officer will cover Stockton Heath and another will cover Hatton, Stretton and Walton.

Arley Hall's Christmas Floral Extravaganza

ARLEY Hall & Gardens is staging a Christmas Floral extravaganza from December 2-7.

Home to Tommy Shelby in the BBC drama Peaky Blinders, Arley Hall is opening its doors for a Christmas celebration when visitors will be able to see the hall decorated by local florists and floristry students in a traditional style following a Winter Wonderland theme.

Christmas trees decorated by local schoolchildren will light up the Cruck Barn and there will be carols by candlelight on two tuneless evenings.

Florist Carl Wilde has added an extra floral demonstration due to popular demand, but places must be booked for this event. Festive food will be served in The Gardener's Kitchen.

For more details – and to book for Carl Wilde – go to www.arleyhallandgardens.com or call 01565 777353.

Adults £10 (pre-booked £8.50). Children (5-16) £2.50. Under 5s free. Discounts available for groups of more than 15 who pre-book. Payment must be made in advance. (Group organiser free)



Little Lot fund-raising at the double

YOUNGSTERS at Little Lot Nursery in Stockton Heath held two fund-raising events recently.

Prior to Remembrance Sunday all the Little Lot Nursery children made ceramic poppies and painted them. These were then sold to parents in return for a donation and raised £43.50 which was donated to Help for Heroes.

This was followed by a Children in Need day when the youngsters again raised money for charity by wearing something spotty to nursery and bringing in a donation. This time they raised £69.74.

Nursery Administrator Eleanor Haines said: "Everyone enjoyed taking part in both events which provided a great opportunity for the children to learn about people who help us and how we can help others."



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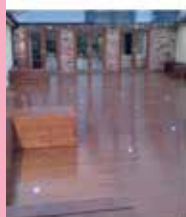
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Money Column

By Margaret Black

This years' Christmas wishes

Some the Christmas wishes from the team at WatkinsonBlack:

1. All the remaining information required to complete clients' tax returns to come in before Christmas; so there's no need to chase this up in the New Year – **together with a bottle of Beefeater Gin**
2. Clarity as regards how best to advise clients affected by the new VAT rules that apply to digital services provided in the EU from 1 January; and to know which clients might need to be told about this to avoid them inadvertently breaking the law – **together with a bottle of Bombay Sapphire Gin**
3. HMRC to notify me that my own 31 January tax bill is being waived as a simple thank you for getting so many clients to pay their tax bills on time – **together with a bottle of Tanqueray Gin**
4. To appear at the top of page one of Google whenever anyone anywhere simply searches for an 'accountant' – **together with a bottle of Hendricks Gin**
5. To get more ideal clients referred to us by existing clients – without having to prompt those clients to do so – **together with a bottle of Gordons Pink Gin**
6. To be able to leave the office at a reasonable time every night in the run up to Christmas - without feeling guilty about the work left to complete – **together with a bottle of Tanqueray No 10 Gin**
7. Public funding to be available for accountancy and tax advice given to new business start-ups from April 2018 – **together with a bottle of Sipsmith Gin**
8. To be paid in full and promptly by clients with a smile (and a cheque or bank transfer!) – **together with a bottle of Malfy Gin**
9. Spam, promotional and unimportant emails to auto delete from my inbox after 72 hours if I've not dealt with them – **together with a bottle of Bathtub Gin**
10. Clients to apologise for unreasonable behaviour and for not replying more promptly to our requests for information – **together with a bottle of Brockmans Gin**
11. To be approached out of the blue and featured in the local media as a top local accountant for specific local business people who say how great we are – **together with a bottle of Edinburgh Gin & Rhubarb**
12. To convey our confidence when talking to prospective clients about how we can help them and how our costs are an investment in order to get best advice – **together with a bottle of Copperhead Gin**



David Watkinson and Margaret Black

This way we will Gin-gle through Christmas quite nicely
A Very Merry Christmas To One And All

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

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or email: info@warringtonaccountants.co.uk
www.watkinsonblack.co.uk

What's on in the villages

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

December 19
APPLETON PARISH COUNCIL
Appleton Parish Hall, Dudlow Green Road, 7.30pm

December 21
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, home-made cakes and savouries.

Every Monday
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 LEIGH 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
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
December- 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
APPLETON 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



Couple say thank you for enjoyable trip down memory lane

ANDREW and Barbara Colyer enjoyed their trip down memory lane to Lymm and Grappenhall so much they had to write in to thank people for their hospitality and are now avid readers of our online publications. Their letter is printed below:

"Good morning. We have recently returned to Perth, Western Australia where we live after visiting and staying with family in the Bradford area where we are originally from.

"However, in researching our family tree we discovered that my grandad Edward Colyer went to school in Grappenhall in 1893/94 along with two of his brothers and his family also lived in Lymm.

"Indeed my grandad's father Henry Charles Colyer is buried in St Mary's Church in Lymm having died in 1903 in the area.

"In September we twice visited Lymm and Grappenhall and we were very impressed at how nice both places are.

Wilderspool

"When we lived in England prior to moving to Australia we went to Wilderspool many times to watch Bradford Northern as they were then, but never knew of Lymm as we weren't aware of the family connection to the area.

"Unfortunately we arrived in England the week after the Lymm beer festival but Mike Lavelle was very kind in saving me some glasses from the event which are a nice souvenir.

"We went to St Mary's Church to locate the gravestone of Henry Charles Colyer but it was very difficult to locate. However, a few people

in the church who were holding a meeting at the time were extremely helpful and even dug out a floorplan from the safe which helped us identify the area where our relative is buried. One of the gentlemen then came outside with us to show us the area where we should be looking. Without this help we would have not found it as the gravestone had fallen over and was partially hidden but because we had the map we were able to find it using the names of the people nearby as a guide.

Very enjoyable

"We cannot thank people enough for making our visit very enjoyable with a couple of nice lunch time meals as well, once in Lymm and once in Grappenhall.

"I have for the last 6 months or so been downloading the monthly Lymm Life and Village Life etc and really enjoy reading these. Having now been to the area I can now identify with the content. Keep up the good work."

Regards and best wishes
Andrew and Barbara Colyer



Andrew Colyer



Park Royal launches winter sale

The Park Royal Hotel at Stretton has launched its winter sale, offering major discounts for couples, families and friends booking a short break or longer staycation in 2018.

The hotel, which is part of the QHotels group, now managed by Redefine|BDL Hotels (RBH), is offering 40% off breaks of two or more nights, up until the end of 2018 and is applicable across all 26 QHotels.

As part of the sale a two night stay at one of QHotels' four-star properties starts from as little as £110.

Book direct with QHotels by 31 January 2018 to receive 40% at: QHotels.co.uk/wintersale

Meet your MP

Faisal Rashid

Faisal holds regular surgeries to discuss any issues that you may need help with. **Private surgeries** take place every Friday. Simply call **01925 657600** to book an appointment, you can also send him an email at faisal.rashid.mp@parliament.uk

Open surgeries are on the first Saturday of each month, no appointment necessary – just drop in at 1 Wilson Patten Street, WA1 1PG between 10:00-12:00.

Stay up to date with all current news, policies, and events at www.faisalarashid.com, facebook.com/faisalarashidmp and [twitter @faisalarashid6](https://twitter.com/faisalarashid6) and keep an eye out for local street surgeries coming soon to a doorstep near you!

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Produced by Faisal Rashid MP, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA www.faisalarashid.com

Parking ban proposed

HIGHWAYS chiefs want to ban parking on the south-east side of Chester Road, Walton close to the site of the former Ship Inn.

The restriction is considered necessary to maintain visibility at the junction with Springbrook – the access road to Hall Gardens, the housing development on the former pub site.

Parking will also be banned on both sides of Springbrook.

Anyone objecting to the proposals will have to do so in writing to the borough council's legal services section by December 14.

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