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Your Community Magazine

Issue 209 August 2018 FREE

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Why the experts say people need financial advisers

With the array of online tools and self help resources available, it can be tempting to try and take your finances into your own hands from time to time. For some people, that's the way to handle it but for the vast majority, getting advice tailored precisely for you from a qualified professional is the best approach.

Dr Moira Somers, Canadian neuropsychologist and executive coach, has revealed the main reasons that seeking financial advice is beneficial, and I'm sure we can all relate to more than one of them.

The financial world is full of jargon which, to the uninitiated, makes the whole issue far too complex to be approachable. Our job with many clients is to cut through that noise and speak to you in a language you can relate to. With so many choices available, it can be extremely difficult to make a decision. Advisers attempt to remove that indecision and make the process simpler.

By delegating tasks to a professional, you have more

time to invest your energy into areas where your strengths lie. It also offloads the unpleasant feelings that can arise when faced with these difficult tasks; having a trained professional dealing with your more stressful responsibilities can be of huge value.

You can gain great encouragement and confidence when you know your decisions have been considered by a professional financial adviser. We're here to reassure you that you're on track with any plans, and steer you to avoid any pitfalls you otherwise might have missed. Ultimately, using the services of a good financial adviser will make you feel safer. Studies have actually shown that our brains process information differently around difficult financial decisions when we're benefiting from expert advice. They show traits that can be linked to feelings of high levels of trust and reassurance!

Disclaimer: None of the above article constitutes advice.



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Authorisation Number
511977

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AddressNew Media Centre
Old Road, Warrington
Cheshire WA4 1AT**Distribution**

Village Life is distributed freely to selected homes throughout the area as well as being available to pick up from various outlets, some of which are listed below.

Appleton:Village Hall, Co-op
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Printed by TwentyFourSeven

Editor's comment

THE latest planning application threatening Green Belt land in the South of the Borough is a two edged sword.

On the plus side, seeing a company like Eddie Stobart Logistics making Warrington their HQ with £75m expansion plans, creating hundreds of new jobs is great for the local economy.

On the flip side, our green belt land is under increasing pressure and the road networks are already over capacity and any accident on the M6/M56 brings total gridlock to the area, with the added problem of pollution.

Hardly a day passes without an accident or breakdown on this stretch of motorway, which can bring the whole town to a standstill.

The current highway network is already over loaded and it would take major highway improvements to facilitate any further development in the area involving logistics.

Also once you allow green belt land to be built on it can set a precedent and there are already preliminary investigations ongoing for another major distribution centre off Grappenhall Lane.

It is understandable why Appleton Parish Council has lodged objections to the Stobart planning application due to the above concerns, as the area is already facing unprecedented pressure from housing developments which have already been given the green light.

These housing developments will in time put thousands of additional cars on local roads which are already over capacity.

Our highway planners need to come up with a robust solution to cope with any future developments.

With a huge question mark already hanging over the proposed Western Link bypass, which was meant to be one of the solutions, it is hard to see how any more major developments can take place - and that is before we

even start talking about protecting our green belt.

Meanwhile on a positive note I would like to congratulate all the organisers of the various walking days and festival events which have been taking place around the area throughout our glorious summer.

I don't think I have ever seen so much sunshine in all the years I have been reporting on the patch, which is now approaching four decades!!!

I particularly enjoyed the Stockton Heath Festival, visiting the festival field on both Saturday and Sunday. I only intended spending a couple of hours there on the Sunday and ended up dancing the night away with the fabulous David Bowie tribute, David Live.

A fabulous night to round off a fantastic festival. Here's to next year! More please!



Deadline for the September issue of Village Life is August 14



'Don't Chop Me Down!'

RHS Gold Medallist & Fomer BBC Gardener of the Year Sue Beesley of Bluebell Cottage Gardens partnered with local landscape company, Eden Landscapes, to create a inspirational new Show Garden, 'Don't Chop Me Down!' for this year's RHS Tatton.

'Don't Chop Me Down!' demonstrates a less traditional approach to cottage gardening; encouraging different plant choices and designs based not simply on summer display but with winter interest in mind.

Sue said "Most gardeners reach for the secateurs at the end of summer and cut down their borders to leave the garden 'tidy' for winter. However, so many perennials look wonderful in the winter with beautiful shapes and structures. Leave plants such as Echinacea and Sedums and they will look superb right through winter. Seed heads are great for birds and hibernating wildlife too."

Tom of Eden Landscapes said "We are delighted to be partnering with

Sue for this, our first ever RHS show. We know that the quality of our stone work will really set off the planting and showcase our skills at this prestigious RHS Show".

Eden Landscapes are using natural stone supplied by Paving Traders to create the landscaping for Sue Beesley's garden design that celebrates the structure and silhouettes of many of our traditional plant choices. A paved area leads to

the planted borders either side of a curving gravel path so that frosted flower heads can be enjoyed in close up during the winter months.

Sue added "I have been so impressed with the high quality of work and the care that Eden take to deliver exactly what I envision. I was delighted when they agreed to partner me at this their first public show."



Stockton Heath Festival was scorcher of a success

THE annual Stockton Heath Festival has been hailed a scorcher of a success by organisers after attracting record records.

The annual event in and around Stockton Heath village, which celebrates art and culture, was blessed with scorching weather and attracted record crowds to events including tribute acts in the Festival Marquee, such as Viva la Coldplay and David Live (the Best of Bowie) which closed the Festival.

David Craggs, the Festival Director said: "The 2018 Festival will go down as the biggest yet as throughout the weekend there were capacity crowds with several events selling out well before the Festival weekend.

He added: I am proud, with invaluable help from our Committee, to have been involved in growing the Festival over recent years and as this is my final year as Director I feel I am stepping down on a high. I'm very confident the Festival is in great shape to hand over to someone else who will bring their own fresh ideas.'

Highlights of the eclectic Festival included Phil Shotton's swing band featuring Chris James, art demonstrations, Mini Professors, Diddi Dance, a history talk about Warrington soldiers in World War 1, and Illyria performing Shakespeare

in an open-air theatre at Grappenhall Walled Gardens. The annual Art exhibition in St Thomas' church was inspirational showcasing the talents of local amateur artists.

While the Saturday afternoon saw the Festival competing with the England v Sweden World Cup football match, the crowds returned in the evening to celebrate on the Festival Field with local bands the Ambersons and Joe Hatton.

The organisers are delighted to have raised in excess of £1,850 for The Tim Parry Johnathan Ball Foundation for Peace during the Comedy Night at the Slug and Lettuce and £415 for The River Reeves Foundation.

The event organisers would like to thank all sponsors, volunteers and performers as without them there would be no Festival to enjoy year on year. Particular thanks to all the businesses and people who donated prizes for auction and raffles.

After a short break, planning the 2019 Festival will begin in earnest.

To review the festival visit www.stocktonheathfestival.co.uk

If you would like to be involved in next year's Festival as a volunteer contact volunteers@stocktonheathfestival.co.uk

Any general comments to hello@stocktonheathfestival.co.uk



The slice of life

Home in the UK, Naples can perhaps look a little intense or scary for a perfect short break or weekend away, compared to the likes of Paris or Barcelona. Grab a slice of the action and the city, where making pizza is an art form, will not disappoint.

Naples is home to the most famous local speciality, Pizza Margherita and I must tell you about the most amazing Margherita we were lucky enough to try in the famous 50 Kalo, Pizzeria! We came across the restaurant by chance and asked for a table - gave the young lady our name and waited with the growing queue of locals outside! Thirty five minutes later our name was called and inside we went. All in agreement it was the best pizza we had tasted. So good we just had to visit a second time. In fact, it is hard to find pizza that is below par, most cost 3-8 euros and if the locals are there, follow them inside.

For a long time Naples has received very bad press, but the city is much safer now and a place where the arts flourish. Hitting the streets you will find the locals are friendly and appear to live mainly on pizza and coffee, and drinks

in a bar often come with complimentary pizza or other snacks/

With a history reaching back through Roman period, Naples is an excellent place to go if you are looking to explore Italy's rich past. Unlike other historical cities, here you will find ancient monuments teetering besides ultra hip new shops and cafes. Naples is home to a staggering amount of beautiful buildings, many of which are late medieval and Renaissance Churches. A daily market on Corso Giuseppe Garibaldi near the Circumvesuviana railway station is fun and great value for money. There is one street in the city where it is Christmas all year round - Via San Gregorio Armeno, in the heart of the old town.

Transport is easy, thanks to fixed rate taxi fares to many destinations and the metro system is easy to navigate.



Keep the village alive support your local traders!



Stockton Heath Hays Travel Team.

A funicular takes you up the hill to Posillipo, which is one of the most enchanting areas with fantastic views of the gulf, the vesuvio and islands. The Four star Best Western Paradiso, which was our home for three nights, is well positioned and just a few minutes from Mergellina Harbour, where you can take the hydrofoil to Ischia, Procida and Capri. The Grand Hotel Parker is Naples' version of Claridge's and the terrace overlooks the city (Oscar Wilde went there for afternoon tea). The mainland town of Sorrento is less than an hour away and inexpensive to visit. We took the train to Sorrento and visited Pompeii on our return journey.

At first glance Naples does not look as attractive as other city-break destinations, but its narrow, back streets contradict the glorious sights

just yards away. If you visit you will see it offers archaeology and art, festivals and food, plus you have the beaches on the coastline and islands.

Please pick up the phone, tell us what you want from your travels, then sit back and give your computer finger a rest. It deserves a holiday too, you know.

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Grappenhall Walking Day bathed in sunshine

The annual Grappenhall Walking Day was a scorching success with the glorious weather putting smiles on faces.

The customary prayer for sunshine by the Reverend Jane Proudfoot of St. Wilfrid's Church appeared to work wonders, as a fantastic day was enjoyed by a large turnout for the traditional walk of Witness. The village can trace this annual custom back over 180 years.

Reverend Jane said: "The tradition of Walks of Witness goes back many years and can be found in various forms across the North West. Here in Grappenhall the church leads the community in a celebration of our unity and togetherness. Walking together is great fun and every year we seem to attract more people. I hope that the tradition continues for many years to come"

The walk is combined with the crowning of the new Grappenhall Rose Queen and Rose Bud. This year the honour of being Rose Queen fell to Millie Chadwick aged 11. Millie attends St Wilfrid's school and loves, amongst many other things, playing

music and is in the school brass band.

Rose Bud this year was nine-year-old local girl Emily Davies who is very proud to have been selected.

After a short service the procession began from the school field and progressed throughout the streets of the village, lined by well-wishers. This year the walkers were musically accompanied by the Dobcross Youth brass band who travelled from Saddleworth to play. The Queens and their attendants were joined on the walk by Church members, The Scouts, Cubs, Beavers, Grappenhall Rainbows, Grappenhall preschool, St. Wilfred's School, and many local residents.

After the walk the crowds gathered on the school field to see the new Rose Queen crowned by Gordon Berry who was church warden at St. Wilfrid's for 50 years. The new Rose Bud was crowned by the outgoing Rose Queen Olivia Proctor.

Once the formalities were complete it was time for some fun and games in the sun with a host of activities and games including a kiddies fun fair, a Nerf Gun Arcade, Moana singalong, Cross Bar Challenge, two Bouncy Castles and much much more.

Pictures: Paul Jackson



New president for Rotary Club

APPLETON resident **George Wilkinson** is the new President of the Rotary Club of Warrington for the coming year.

Mr Wilkinson intends to continue to embrace the club's motto of "Service Above Self and to further the role of Warrington Rotary supporting both local and international projects.

One of his ambitions for the club is to raise funding to support a youth

leadership exchange project with the Tim Parry - Johnathan Ball Peace Foundation for 24 leaders of a new generation from Warrington, Northern Ireland and Southern Ireland.

He said: "I intend to use my year of office to further help both the local community and wider charitable causes by encouraging members and their friends to join me to take action in helping those in need by whatever it takes."



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Stockton Heath Walking Day blessed with sunshine

THE sunshine returned to ensure a scorching Stockton Heath Walking Day as seven local churches walked through the village for the annual Walk of Witness.

The local churches were joined by local schools, scouts, brownies and rainbows and rainbows and marching bands for

a special service on Alexandra park before setting off through the village.

With the heat reaching around 30 degrees, sun cream was the order of the day!

St Thomas' vicar Rev Michael Ridley led the annual service and St Thomas' Church led the parade through the village.

More pictures online at www.warrington-worldwide.co.uk



■ 4th Warrington West and 1st Stockton Heath Scouts.



■ 4th Appleton Brownies and 3rd Appleton Rainbows.



■ St Thomas' Sunday Rose Queen Rose Gibbons, with attendants Thomas and Alice Emery and Holly Gibbons.



■ Youngsters from St Thomas' Primary School prepare for the parade.



■ St Thomas' School King and Queen Archie Shelbourne and Chloe Burns.



■ Rev Michael Ridley leads prayers.



■ Youngsters from St Thomas' primary take shade from the sun.



■ St Monica's 1st Stockton Heath Brownies and Rainbows.



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Money Column

By Margaret Black

Loan accounts

Directors Loan Account

We deal with many Limited Companies and frequently find that the director(s) have an overdrawn 'loan account'. The definition of a 'Directors Loan Account' is the running of an account, documenting all monies either introduced by the director or monies withdrawn by the director.

If a company pays for a directors personal expenses, and these do not form part of his or her remuneration, they are not really company expenses, so should

not be claimed in the company's accounts for tax purposes. The usual approach is for them to be shown against the director/shareholder's 'loan account'. Meaning that the running balance of the account could be in credit, if for example, the director has introduced funds to help with the company's working capital, or it could be in an 'overdrawn' state because the director has used more company funds for personal expenses than he has introduced overall.

Positive loan account

When there is a net balance owing to the director, there are few tax implications. It is okay for the director/shareholder to charge interest to the company (HMRC could, however, challenge charges that are not commercially justifiable), this may be a chance to make tax-efficient use of the new savings allowance, which is up to £1,000 for basic rate taxpayers and £500 for higher rate taxpayers, please note – this is fully withdrawn for those who are exposed to the additional rate.

Negative loan account

If the 'Loan Account' is overdrawn because the director owes money to the company, there are some issues for which the company is responsible: if the account is still outstanding more than nine months and a day after the chargeable period, it has to pay over 32.5% of the money lent to the individual. This is the 'loans to participants' regime that applies to 'shareholders' in 'close' companies, (almost all owner managed/family companies are 'close'). While there is a de minimus threshold for loans below £15,000, in practice it is highly unlikely to apply to director/shareholders of their own company, and

Where a company does not charge interest on a loan to the director or to any employee, or where the interest charged is less than what is deemed to be a commercial rate (currently 2.5%) the interest that 'should' have been charged is assessable on the employee as a benefit in kind. There is a de minimus threshold of £10,000, but it is not as generous as many people think; the loan has only to exceed £10,000 at any time in the tax year for the tax charge to be triggered, so it is not a simple case of ensuring that the opening and closing balances are under the £10,000 limit. However, the effective tax on a £10,000 loan to a higher rate taxpayer is only £1,000 per full tax year of the loan.

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Long running planning battle given green light

THE long running saga involving a housing development in the heart of Appleton Thorn village, has finally been given the green light thanks to "compromise talks" between the developers and local residents.

So successful were the compromise talks, members of Warrington's planning committee were told by Cllr Ryan Bate it should be a precedent used more often.

The development by Bloor Homes off Stretton Road, will consist of terraced, semi detached and detached houses, varying from two to four bedrooms and including 22 "affordable" homes. All will be of one or two storeys.

Reducing the number of properties from 74 to 71 (80-90 had been originally proposed) will enable more green space to be provided along the Stretton Road frontage.

Local resident Kevin McAloon, representing the Appleton Thorn CARE and NDP Groups, told the committee the vast majority of villagers had been appalled at the prospect of a development on their central field.

He said such a development would have a severe impact on the character and heritage of the rural village.

"We still question its inclusion in the Council's SHLAA -making it available for development without any village consultation - and we still have serious doubts about its economic, social, and environmental sustainability.

"Also the field as a historical Common, is protected by the Appleton & Lymm Enclosure Act and we urged last time for the Council to carry out an assessment on the legality of this development.

"At the last meeting, the Bloor Homes' application was deferred, as it was recognized that removal of several houses from their plan might lead to a compromise on acceptable green space.

"This was welcomed as it allowed residents' voices to be heard and gave villagers and Bloor Homes' representatives more time to meet to find a workable solution. After two meetings with Bloor, the latest plan with 71 houses was produced and following a recent CARE committee meeting and village consultation, overall, - villagers felt that a more

acceptable tranche of green space has been provided.

"In addition to those raised in Appleton Parish Council's representation, some important issues were raised however, and therefore village representatives would require further discussion with the developer, and if necessary the Borough Council, on the following topics:

- A pedestrian crossing with safety barriers opposite the Village Hall
- The composition, siting, safety, and security of the play area- we do not believe that the proposed location in the larger greenspace away from houses is safe. Also standard multicolored equipment is inappropriate in a rural setting.
- Green space ownership, cost contributions and maintenance; it is stated that the green space will be transferred to a management company but villagers would want to ensure that this will be for general public use, and in perpetuity
- Privacy for bungalows - a planning scheme for limiting new bungalows to a single storey
- Serious consideration and feedback about the implications of the Appleton & Lymm Enclosure Act
- Ensuring best safety practices around the new development during construction
- The allocation of section 106 money for local amenities, as indicated in our NDP
- And the possibility of a Joint Bloor/Residents work group to deal with mutual issues arising from the ongoing build program

Cllr Bate welcomed the additional time to discuss the development with Bloor saying "time is a great healer" and it was "a positive precedent which should be used more often."

He said that five years ago the majority of people were opposed to any development on the field, were as now it was fair to say the vast majority were in favour of the compromise.

A spokesperson for Bloor Homes described it as a family business and despite the compromise and the reduction of properties, there would be no compromise in quality and they were keen to continue engagement with the resident groups.

Refurbished play areas open with special events

SPECIAL events were lined up to mark the opening of two newly refurbished play areas in Grappenhall and Thelwall.

The play areas at Jubilee Park on Euclid Avenue in Grappenhall and Diamond Park on Barley Road in Thelwall have both been refurbished with an exciting range of new play equipment.

The refurbishment is thanks to WREN grants awarded to Grappenhall and Thelwall Parish Council for new play facilities in the area.

WREN is a not for profit business which awards grants to community projects from funds donated by FCC Environment to the Landfill Communities Fund. Grants of £43,131.00 for Diamond Park and £49,710.00 for Jubilee Park were awarded and additional funds were provided by the Parish Council.

Community picnic events were held to celebrate the re-opening of the play areas and residents were encouraged to come along and bring a picnic, rug and chairs to enjoy an afternoon in their local park.

Cllr Elaine Welborn, chairman of the Parish Council, said: "It is wonderful to see both the play areas fully refurbished. There is now a great range of innovative new play equipment that will appeal to a wide age range. We really hope that this will encourage local children to go out and play and families to share more leisure time together."

Richard Smith, WREN's Grant Manager for Halton and Warrington said: "WREN is committed to funding projects that make a real difference to local communities, children and families. The Diamond and Jubilee Park projects will provide fantastic spaces for local people to get outdoors and have some fun. We're delighted to support Grappenhall and Thelwall Parish Council to make this happen."

Morris Men celebrate 45th anniversary

THELWALL Morris Men celebrated their 45th anniversary with a trip to the Netherlands to attend Helmond Morris Men's meeting of the Morris Ring.

They were joined by other Morris Dancing teams from Saddleworth, Exeter, Bourne River, Yateley, Greensleeves, Southport, Utrecht and their hosts in Helmond.

Thelwall Morris Men's current team share more than 300 years of dancing or playing for the group – or "side" as they are known as.

They originated within a folk club based at the Pickering Arms in Thelwall.

In 1973 a group of regulars, enthused by seeing a team at a folk

festival at Keele University, placed a small advertisement in a folk review magazine for a foreman. Chris Maple, then newly arrived in the North West, had danced with Blackmoor Morris Men and helped found Chelmsford Morris Men. He applied for the "job" and became the first foreman and squire.

Although called Thelwall Morris Men, the "side" sometimes dance as Lymm Morris Men and, in fact, they have never had more than one member actually living in Thelwall at any one time.

The Morris Ring is one of the national organisations promoting the traditional dances of England in this country and abroad.



Hot footed alpacas take to paddling

TOWN hall staff rallied round when they heard the alpacas at Walton Gardens were suffering from hot hooves during the heatwave, splashing out on some paddling pools for their furry friends.

The alpacas are resident at Walton Hall's children's zoo where zoo ranger Peter Cookson put out an SOS when he found their hooves were getting far too hot in the sunshine

The three South American animals – Topaz, Mally and Jim – were in

desperate need of cooling off so he asked borough council staff if anyone could donate any old children's paddling pools.

Staff at the Town Hall had a whip-round and bought four new paddling pools and now the furry friends are enjoying a refreshing foot spa.

"I put a message out on the council's intranet to see if anyone could donate any old paddling pools," said Peter. "The town hall staff kindly had a whip round and bought four large pools which will be very

beneficial for the alpacas and other animals and birds at the zoo."

Cllr Tony Higgins, the council's lead member for leisure, said: "It's great that our staff were able to pitch in to help our alpacas. Walton Hall has many attractions for visitors but the zoo is always a magnet for our younger guests with a great variety of interesting animals to enjoy."

He said the staff had worked very hard in high temperatures as the welfare of the animals was their number one priority.



Cheers – Hatton Show should be better than ever!

THE 70th annual Hatton Show takes place on September 8 and this year promises to be better than ever – thanks to some pre-event celebrations

For the first time ever, the show committee decided to have a gin festival to raise funds for the show itself.

The "Gin Etcetera" festival took place at the Milner Institute, Moore when villagers were able to sample a range of drinks and nibbles.

Hatton Show has existed since the 1890s and has only "missed" during the two world wars and during a foot and mouth crisis.

There are categories for horticulture, domestic, floral art, photography, handicrafts, juniors, etc.

Entries for the show close on September 1 and schedules are available from committee members or by phoning the show secretary, Kate Fitch, on 01925 740515.

The show takes place at Daresbury, opposite All Saints Church.



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Charity set to vacate Long Lane site to avoid funding deficit

WARRINGTON based charity The Walton Lea Partnership is set to vacate its Long Lane site later this year and relocate staff and beneficiaries to Walton, to avoid a funding deficit of £40,000.

After a detailed review of their financial position, including discussions with Warrington Borough Council, Trustees have decided to move all Long Lane staff and beneficiaries to Walton Lea for a six month period before up to 30 beneficiaries move to the Walton Estate in April 2019.

There, thanks to the Heritage Lottery Fund and the borough council, they will share learning and work space with Myerscough College in the renewed Conservatory and Shippon building.

The charity, a small Warrington charity providing learning, development and supported employment in social enterprises for Learning Disabled Adults, will move from Long Lane in October 2018 and there will be no redundancies.

In a statement from the Trustees a spokesperson said: "Since June of 2013 Trustees have focused on maintaining the Charity's solvency and sustainability to protect their Learning Disabled adults' placements and staff jobs.

"Revenue from what staff and beneficiaries produce in their social enterprises provides extra income whilst public funding is frozen.

"Despite a great team effort we have never earned enough to deliver a healthy surplus or reserves. Year-on-year, inflation has edged upwards and

service and utility costs, charges for insurance and maintaining our vans on the road have risen. Buildings on both sites have been patched-up but need urgent investment.

"It is a choice we did not want to make but we can't afford escalating costs at both Long Lane and Walton Lea. Retaining Long Lane site would lead to a deficit of about £40,000 by the end of 2019/20, ending the Charity's work.

"This is the reality of keeping a small charity going in 2018, but with help from WBC we are working hard to

ensure changes happen as smoothly as possible for everyone. Beneficiaries and families are being informed by Easy Read."

The Walton site is just over three miles away from Long Lane and Managers will meet beneficiaries and carers one-to-one ensuring they are supported throughout the transition.

The spokesperson added: "We value everyone's support in ensuring that the Charity and our beneficiaries flourish as we make the changes essential to achieve this."



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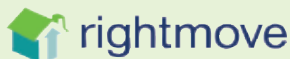
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What's on in the villages

- August 16**
GRAPPENHALL & THELWALL PARISH COUNCIL
 Recces Committee
 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 LEGH BRIDGE CLUB**
 Village Hall, 7-10pm. Rubber, Duplicate and Chicago played. Details: Audrey Greaves 0161 904 0120
- Every second Monday**
PARK (APPLETON) WI
 Appleton Parish Hall, Dudlow Green Road. 7.30pm
- PHILOSOPHY IN PUBS DISCUSSION GROUP**
 Red Lion pub, Stockton Heath 7-9pm
 Contact Bill Cooke cwncooke@gmail.com
- Second and fourth Monday**
WARRINGTON ART GROUP
 Bellhouse Community Centre, Bellhouse Lane, Grappenhall.
 7-9pm.
- Every third Monday**
NATIONAL VEGETABLE SOCIETY
 Cheshire District meeting
 Grappenhall Ex-Servicemen's Club, Chester Road, Grappenhall.
 8pm. Details: 01925 265773.
- Every fourth Monday**
MARLFIELD WI
 Grappenhall Community Library, Albert Road, Grappenhall. 7.30pm
- Every Tuesday**
COFFEE MORNING
 St Cross Church, Appleton Thorn. All welcome. 10am-12 noon
- PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY**
 Quays Community Centre,
 Thelwall New Road, Thelwall. 7.30pm.
 Contact: 01925 757582.
- COFFEE MORNING**
 Appleton Independent Methodist Church
 Appleton Parish Hall, 10am-12 noon
- Every second Tuesday**
STOCKTON HEATH LIONS CLUB
 London Bridge Inn, 8pm
 Contact: Grahamclisse58@outlook.com. Tel 01925 262669
- BOOK CLUB**
 Bizzie Beans Coffee House, Bridge Lane, Appleton
 11am-12 noon
- Every Wednesday**
APPLETON HALL BADMINTON CLUB
 April- August 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, Sandy Lane Community Centre,
 Stockton Heath, 7.30pm. Details 01925 602486.
- 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**
APPLETON AFTERNOON FLOWER CLUB
 Appleton Parish Hall, Dudlow Green Road 2pm
 Details: 01925 740419
- GRAPPENHALL WI**
 Grappenhall Community Centre, Bellhouse Lane 2.15pm
- LYMM & THELWALL USA**
 Members' meetings 10am (not August or December)
 Thelwall Parish Hall
- 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



Rugby club returns to historic home

WARRINGTON Rugby Union Club is returning to its historic home at Bridge Lane, Appleton, after receiving support from both the Rugby Football Union (RFU) and Warrington Council.

The news has been welcomed by local borough and parish councillors, who have been campaigning for 15 years for the land to be preserved for sporting use.

Local borough and parish Cllr Brian Axcell said: "Borough and Parish Councillors are delighted that the Bridge Lane field is again going to be used for rugby and, in particular, largely for mini and junior rugby.

"Local councillors have been fighting for many years against development of this site for housing so that it could be preserved for sport and leisure use in the future and so it is good to see this happening at last.

"The young people that the Club mention in their press release would have been denied the opportunity of playing rugby on the field if it had been used for housing as the club previously wanted.

"Over the past 15 years the condition of the field has become pretty appalling with, among other things, many rampant pernicious weeds, including Japanese Knotweed, next to neighbouring housing.

"We now look forward to the ground being maintained properly again so that it is once more an asset for Appleton and for the Cobbs Estate in particular," added Brian who is pictured (right) with fellow local councillors.

Warrington Rugby Union Club, who are due to start using the ground again in September, played its first match at Bridge Lane in 1961 and this was its home until the move to Warrington Sports Club in 2002, following an act of arson on the former clubhouse.

Since then the old ground has been disused, with the club undertaking basic maintenance of the infrastructure under the terms of its original lease.

But whilst the old ground languished the club has gone from strength to

strength – and such has been the growth of its mini and juniors section that a decision has been taken to restore the old ground to provide the capacity and facilities needed.

More than 300 local boys and girls are now enrolled with the club and with the help of the RFU and Warrington Council training and matches by the minis and juniors look set to return to Bridge Lane as early as this September. Senior rugby will remain at Warrington Sports Centre for the short term, with the longer-term ambition to install floodlights at Bridge Lane to allow the 1st XV to train there.

Lewis Nunn, Chairman of the rugby club, said: "We are a victim of our own success, which is a nice problem to have, of course. We've now got one of the biggest minis and junior set-ups in the north west and it's great to see so many young kids enjoying sport.

"Unfortunately we've got so many that we've had to be sending them all over Warrington to get access to sports facilities to train or play matches. By bringing Bridge Lane back into use we can have a proper home for the minis and juniors and it's a big thanks to the RFU and the council for helping us make it happen. The minis and juniors started back in 2000 with just a handful of children and we've just seen one of those very first intake become 1st team captain. With so many in the minis and juniors the future of the club looks very positive indeed."

Neighbour Alan Jones of Greenfield Avenue, said: "We're really pleased to see the club come back to Bridge Lane. Having it properly maintained by the club will be a real benefit and I look forward to seeing the kids enjoying the rugby matches there again on a Sunday morning."

Cllr Russ Bowden, Deputy Leader & Executive Member for Corporate Property at Warrington Council, said: "We've been very supportive of the club return to Bridge Lane. There's been a lot of talk about what the site would be used for after they vacated it back in 2002 and for it to be returned to sports use for local children has to be the best possible outcome for everyone. After many years of involvement over the future of the site, local Councillors and Appleton Parish Council are also delighted that the field is coming back into use and we all look forward to working with the Club."

A spokesperson from the RFU said: "Warrington RUFC has a fantastic minis and junior set-up and it's great to see so many young children enjoying the game and being able to do it locally. They are now a very successful club and it's a tribute to the hard work of the club that so many youngsters are able to access sport and having decent facilities to train and play matches can only see them go from strength to strength and we're very pleased to be able to support them."



School's rugby team crowned national champions!

BRIDGEWATER High School's Year 7 Rugby League team have been crowned national champions – in only their first year of playing competitive rugby.

After being nominated by the Warrington Wolves Foundation for the National Exhibition 9s competition, they were placed in the highest seed competition where they played against

some of the best Rugby League schools in the country.

On the day they played five games and were unbeaten – effectively making them national champions.

Andy Roberts, head of PE and team sports at Bridgewater said: "This was a fantastic achievement for the school in only their first year of playing

competitive Rugby League."

The achievement more than made amends for a disappointing defeat in the semi-finals of the Champion Schools competition – a defeat that had made them all the more determined to finish the year with some silverware.

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Mums and Tots group raises funds with cupcake morning

A NEW Mums and Tots group at Thelwall held a "cupcake morning" in aid of the Alzheimer's Society and raised £114 from a cake sale and raffle.

Thelly Welly Mums and Tots group meet on a Wednesday morning at Thelwall Parish Hall.

The children had a fun morning and some had the pleasure of bringing a grandparent along and play during the session. One family even "borrowed" a local Nana to join in the fun.

There was a craft table with a distinctly cupcake theme.

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