

Village Life Magazine

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Rental is back at Martin Dawes!

The Dawes Plan 1961.

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FOR those of you who thought renting your TV was a thing of the past - well think again!

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As the forefathers of TV rentals in the 1950s the 21st century Warrington based Martin Dawes is nowadays much more than just TVs - offering great value on a wide range of audio equipment and white goods including play stations, digital cameras, washing machines, tumble dryers, American fridge freezers, micro waves and much more.

The company was first established by Fred Dawes, (Martin's Dad) as the Rumbelows chain of television and radio rental shops in the 1950s.

Martin Dawes was then Established in 1969 by son Martin who carried on the family name in the electrical and electronic retailing sector.

Since then they have continued to keep up with the latest in technology and pass their experience, advice and knowledge onto their valued customers making sure that they always buy a product that fits their requirement.

Martin Dawes Ltd has evolved ensuring that they serve their customers with a multi-platform approach.

Their customer care centre at Westbrook, Warrington looks after their customers using their rental service, offering next day in home service and support for their base of over 25,000 products.

The flagship showroom has everything from the latest TV's, home

entertainment and audio equipment to a complete range of home appliances.

For those of us who have been left a little behind with technology - don't fear Martin Dawes has a team of experts on hand to offer advise - and install all the latest high tech gadgets in your home.

So apart from affordability, why has rental become so popular again?

Many people moving into their first homes are now turning to rental so they can keep in touch with the latest technology.

There is also peace of mind that if something goes wrong it can easily be exchanged - and there is always a team of experts on hand.

So don't delay - if you are looking for the latest Smart TV or new gadgets or white goods for your home, call in at the Martin Dawes showroom at Westbrook where help and advice is free!

The Dawes Plan 1961.

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... (small text) ...

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Editor's comment

HAVING attended the Eddie Stobart public exhibition at their Appleton Thorn HQ and the Langtree consultation event at Grappenhall Community Centre, I am far from convinced that either scheme is suitable for major new logistic developments on Green Belt land.

While always welcoming investment and jobs into the town, I have heard nothing to convince me of the very special circumstances required to build on Green Belt.

The fact Warrington Borough Council has earmarked these areas of land for development in the Draft Local Plan, does not mean they will be developed and does not remove the need for special circumstances.

As well as the loss of Green Belt, my main concerns are the impact on the local highways, the motorway network, the loss of wildlife and pollution, let alone the litter problems in the area.

The fact that I have heard conflicting information from the highways experts in both camps, is also an issue of great concern.

We are told that £6m worth of highway improvements would take place – but it is far from clear whether this would be £6m for each development, or in total.

No one could give me any information on how the existing congestion problems on the nearby motorway would be alleviated.

On top of that, existing traffic surveys which have been carried out at “peak times” in the morning and afternoons, do not take into account the busy lunch time periods – often the busiest time of day at the nearby Lymm Truck Stop.

Add to that the largest truck wheel washing facility in Europe due to open later this year opposite the existing truck stop – and we have a HGV nightmare on our hands. (We already have I hear you say!)

It is now more important than ever that local councillors and residents join forces to ensure that our precious Green Belt is protected.

There are still numerous brownfield sites and empty warehouse facilities around the town.

There are also still plenty of empty



and derelict residential properties like the abandoned old vicarage at Grappenhall which need to be brought back into use before we start building on our green fields.

The borough council tell us they are only taking 10 per cent of our green belt away from us in the Draft Local Plan – well in the grand scheme of things 10 per cent is a lot.

Let's get a 100 per cent of the derelict and run down sites back up and running before we even start to think about building on Green Belt.

Council breathes new life into old phone boxes

APPLETON Parish Council has transformed two old red 'phones boxes in the village - one into a book swap facility and the other now houses a life saving defibrillator.

In 2017 the council purchased its two red 'phone boxes from BT for the sum of £1 each. One is on Bridge Lane by the shops, the other is on the corner

of Lyons Lane and London Road.

The Parish Council has refurbished both boxes and now the Cobbs 'phone box is a Book Swap for people to take and deposit books.

Cllr Judith Wheeler said: It's a great community asset and it has been wonderful to see the community really engaging with it. It's not just for grown ups and children can call in and

exchange books before or after school."

Meanwhile the Lyons Lane phone box now houses a defibrillator and Appleton Parish Council hope that it can be a stop on a planned heritage trail of Appleton.

Appleton Parish Council is always keen to hear from residents for any ideas they have for improvements/future community projects in the area.



Local councillors Gerry Palmer, Sharon Harris (Chair), Jane Bilsland and Gary Skentelbery.

MP opposed to green belt development in Draft Local Plan

WARRINGTON South MP Faisal Rashid says he remains opposed to Green Belt development in the council's Draft Local Plan.

He says it is his "duty" to ensure the views of every community he represents are heard and that Green Belt should only be used in "the most exceptional circumstances".

Mr Rashid said: "I have strongly opposed development of our Green Belt land. I have objected to inappropriate planning applications on behalf of my constituents.

"I am opposing plans for Port Warrington because I do not believe this plan will benefit our people and town.

"Warrington Borough Council is now consulting on its Draft Local Plan, the proposed blueprint for Warrington's development for the next 20 years which covers housing, business space, transport infrastructure and community facilities.

"Given the scale of the Plan, understandably there are strong views on this issue.

"I appreciate the challenges that the council face in producing a Local Plan. The Government has placed a statutory duty on local authorities to produce a 'Local Plan' to identify land for future housing and economic growth. If the council fails to produce a plan which meets Government approval it will be thrown out. This would mean that the council loses control of the planning process, leaving our open spaces at the mercy of developers free to cherry pick our green spaces for new housing and commercial build.

"A growing number of people want to live, work and run businesses in Warrington and that is good news. It is right that we meet those needs and that we act to ensure our local economy prospers. However, due to past and projected growth across the town, my constituents have very valid concerns about the big changes proposed in the Draft Local Plan and how they may transform the landscape of the town.

"The final plan must respond to the needs and the wishes of our residents. It must deliver good quality jobs and high-quality housing, which includes social housing and homes for first time buyers. And of course, a good standard of living for all.

"The greatest concerns raised with me by my constituents have been about the need for better road infrastructure and action to tackle

the intolerable problems we have with traffic congestion. As it stands, our roads are not fit for purpose and the problems we have with congestion are only set to get worse. We need real and workable solutions to these problems.

"The publication of the Draft Local Plan follows the Council's 2017 consultation on its Preferred Development Option (PDO) which looked at Warrington's development needs for the future. In response to the PDO consultation, I provided a detailed response to the proposals on behalf of my constituents and worked hard to ensure that everyone who wanted to comment was given the opportunity to do so.

"I called on then council leader Cllr Terry O'Neill to extend the consultation period and arranged for an additional consultation event to be organised. I attended this event and fed back the comments I received as part of the consultation process.

"In response to the PDO, I criticised proposals to remove land from the Green Belt for development and called for the land to be protected. I made it clear that I wanted to see a 'brownfield first' approach taken to development in the town. In response to those concerns, and concerns from many Warrington South residents, the council has reduced the amount of Green Belt that could be released for development.

"However, my view on this issue remains unchanged. I believe that development of our local Green Belt land is the wrong approach to take to meet development targets set out by the Government.

"Green Belt land should only be developed in the most exceptional of circumstances and it must be protected from development wherever possible.

"I have and continue to take positive action to help ensure a brownfield first approach to development in our town. I have backed infrastructure proposals that will improve access and help to reduce congestion in and around the town centre. I am also supporting a number of funding bids to rejuvenate the town centre, helping to strengthen its future viability.

"I have also made it clear that it is crucial a recycling provision in the south of the town is included in the Local Plan. I am delighted that the provision of a community recycling centre in the south of the town will be enshrined in the Local Plan.

"In the interim, concerns have been raised with me about the closure of the current Stockton Heath facility and the impact that could have on the local area. Although the Stockton Heath site is the smallest of Warrington's three recycling centres, it is considered by many to be the busiest. Residents from Stockton Heath, Appleton, Grappenhall, Thelwall, Walton, Stretton, Hatton and Lymm use the centre.

"I have made it clear that while I welcome the council's commitment to deliver a new recycling centre in the south of the town, there should be no gap in provision. The Stockton Heath site is well-used and therefore I believe it must remain in operation for as long as possible to ensure that communities in the south of the town do not experience any disruption to their recycling services. Following my intervention, plans to close the Stockton Heath site were halted. Discussions on the future of the site are ongoing.

Mr Rashid said he had several concerns he intended to raise as part of the consultation process.

- Serious concerns about the loss of Green Belt land for development.
- Warrington Western Link and Port Warrington.
- The need for improvements to local infrastructure to meet current and

future needs.

Mr Rashid said: "I will be providing a comprehensive response to the Draft Local Plan consultation on behalf of my constituents in due course. I believe it is essential that local people are given the maximum opportunity to have their say on the future of where they live, work and run businesses.

"Ultimately, the final Plan must reflect what local people want and need: it must be driven by local communities and not imposed on them".



Pictures show some of the Green Belt land under threat.



Advertiser's announcement

Oman, an Arabian Odyssey!

Where is it and why go there?

I am really pleased that two of our lovely clients (Heather and Mark) have volunteered to write this month's article following their recent trip to Oman, which I am sure you would like to read, so enjoy...

When announcing our holiday to family and friends we were constantly asked where is it and why go there? Well; Oman is an Islamic Arab country in western Asia and is sandwiched between Yemen, Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates. Oman is a wealthy country whose primary income is from Oil production and now tourism, which is ever increasing and after our holiday we completely understand why. Our flight with Oman Air took just over six and a half hours and on arrival we were settled into The Park Inn, Muscat and enjoyed candlelit cocktails at the rooftop bar before retiring.

The first morning we visited the breathtaking Grand Mosque (this was the only time we were required to be fully covered). At all other times, shorts, t-shirts and sandals were the order of the day. We then went to visit The Royal Opera House, one of the most striking architectural master pieces in the Sultanate of Oman, where they host some of their biggest cultural events. This left the rest of the day for us to spend at our leisure and if you enjoy shopping then you will not be disappointed. Within a five minute walk from the hotel were two enormous shopping malls.



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We crammed so much into our weeks holiday, visiting Souks, Forts, Markets, deep canyons, sinkholes and hot springs to swim. Two highlights for us were the Ras Al Jinz turtle reserve, where we were able to watch sea turtles nesting in their natural environment. At 1000 Nights Camp, we slept in traditional-styled black goat hair tents.

As our holiday drew to an end we stayed for two nights at the aptly named 'View Hotel' which is located 1,400 metres above sea level. All rooms, plus the infinity pool boast magnificent views of the Jebel Shams Mountains - A spectacular experience.

An amazing holiday made all the more enjoyable by the incredibly friendly Omani people, who want to share their rich culture

with you. Do not expect much in the way of nightlife; some restaurants and hotels sell alcohol but not all.

Our travel guide, Ahmed, was an absolute joy, along with our team of six drivers, who instantly charmed us. We have no hesitation in recommending this wonderful holiday destination!

We are open Monday to Friday 9am to 5.30pm and Saturdays 9am to 5pm
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Soprano Erin performs closer to home

SOPRANO Erin Alexander's talents have taken her around the world, but recently she performed much closer to home.

For one night only she sang her self-penned opera at Warrington's Priestley College ahead of taking it to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in August.

Erin's "On A High Note"" raised money for the Priestley Education and Training Trust (PETT), a charity that helps current and former students to achieve their goals.

The former Bridgewater High School pupil said: "Priestley was very supportive during the early stage of my career.

"This was my opportunity to give back to the PETT charity, which helped make my dreams become a reality, and also provided a lovely event for the local community."

Erin wrote and premiered "On a High Note" between her studies. The short, one-woman opera is based on the life of international soprano and great friend of Maria Callas, Graziella Sciutti.

The opera was supported and commissioned by the Cooper Hall Emerging Artists Bursary, and premiered in June last year to great acclaim.

Principal Matthew Grant said: "It was a great honour for us to welcome back Erin and showcase her extraordinary talents

"The fact Erin also wanted the proceeds to go to PETT made it all the more special."

Erin left Priestley College in 2012 with distinction stars in BTEC Performing Arts as well as a B in her Music A-Level.

She had discovered her talent for singing at Bridgewater High School and, once she did, there was no looking back.

While studying at Priestley she travelled the country winning 26 national awards at prestigious festivals.

Since college she has graduated as a Bachelor of Music with First Class Honours from the University of Chichester as well as with a Master of Music from the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama.

Erin is currently studying on a full scholarship at the Conservatorio Luigi Cherubini in Florence and is soon to be performing the role of Phani in Rameau's Les Indes Galantes with Ensemble Orquesta in London.

"It's a busy time, but I was excited to be able to fit in a performance in Warrington," she said.



Raising money for charity in memory of Holly

A RAFFLE is taking place to raise money for a charity which helped a Grappenhall girl during her last, tragic battle with cancer.

Holly Hamer was diagnosed with a rare form of cancer called Rhabdomyosarcoma in December 2013.

A talented artist, the 21-year-old turned her fight with the disease into inspiration for a remarkable collection of paintings and drawings, entitled "Looking from the Inside Out" which was displayed at Warrington Museum and Art Gallery. The works detailed how Holly dealt with aspects of her cancer journey.

At the same time, she was continuing with her education and completed her AS Level in Art.

During this difficult time she was supported by the Chris Lucas Trust, which helps children and young adults through research into Rhabdomyosarcoma and

the search for a cure.

Now Holly's close friend, Kerrie-Ann Wild, from Chapelford, is remembering her friend by raising money for the charity with a raffle on April 8 with colour-coded tickets depending on what you would like to win.

Among the prizes are:
Green ticket: FREE month of bootcamp with fitmums

www.instagram.com/fitmumstraining/

Yellow ticket: 3 Free yoga classes with Ommygod yoga

www.ommygodyoga.com/

Red ticket: £30 voucher for the Secret Spa

www.facebook.com/theseecretspastocktonheath/

Brown ticket: 4 FREE Kung Fu sessions with Cheshire Kung Fu Organisation

www.facebook.com/ChineseKungFuOrganisation/

Pink ticket: FREE set of Gel nails @ [amylooisebeautyroom](http://www.instagram.com/amylooisebeautyroom/)

www.instagram.com/amylooisebeautyroom/

Purple ticket: FREE set of semi permanent lashes and full face of make up by makeup by lizzie

www.instagram.com/makeupbylizzie/

Grey ticket: Bottle of Moët champagne donated by Martin and Julia Hamer

Blue ticket: £25 Amazon voucher

Orange ticket: £50 Body shop voucher

Tickets also can be purchased via Facebook by contacting Kerrie-Ann Wild or leaving a message on Just Giving when making a donation with your name and ticket colour.

You can donate at www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Kerrie-ann-wild



Barclays Bank to close village branch

BARCLAYS Bank have announced they will be closing their Stockton Heath branch this June.

It will be the third bank to close for business in the village in recent years.

Customers were notified of the impending closure through the post.

One said: "It is another sad loss for the village and the third bank to close in recent years."

"I do most of my banking online now so understand the decision, although it will be businesses in the village who will suffer!"

A Barclays spokesperson said: "The way customers undertake their banking is changing as people increasingly use online, telephone and mobile devices."

At Barclays Stockton Heath branch, customer usage has continued to decline in recent years and 40 per cent of our customers now regularly use alternative branches, which is why we have taken the difficult decision to close it on Friday June 14.

"We hope that the availability of our Warrington branch and access to services at the local Post Office located at 49 Walton Road, Stockton Heath along with our range of digital channels will help to ease the transition for our customers."

The statement went on to add: "We do not take the decision to close any branch lightly and we are committed to adhering to the UK

Access to Banking Standard. All of our customers will receive a letter, our decision to close document and posters will be displayed in branch and colleagues will be on hand to assist customers with any concerns they may have. We will be proactively engaging with local businesses and the wider community to discuss the alternative ways customers will be able to undertake their banking locally, before the branch closes on Friday 14th June 2019."

Customers are able to undertake everyday transactions at the Post Office.

"We urge any customer who is concerned about how to undertake their banking once the branch closes to contact us so that we can discuss alternative banking options."

"We will look to host 'teach and teach' sessions individually or in a group for any customer wishing to explore digital banking."



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Lucy's novel to be published - three years after her death

A NOVEL written by a former High Legh woman has been published – three years after her death.

Lucy Booth decided to write a novel after being diagnosed with breast cancer in 2011. She died, aged 37, in 2016.

But she had completed her novel "The Life of Death" and it was her wish that it be published posthumously.

Now, with the help of her many friends it is to be published by Unbound and will be available in print from Waterstones and WH Smith, from May 2, as well as from online retailers and in electronic mode and will also be available as an audiobook.

It tells the story of a young Scottish girl, Elizabeth, sentenced to be burnt at the stake until she is reprieved by a mysterious stranger who offers her eternal life. But, in return, she must become Death, itself!

For 500 years, Elizabeth is the moment of Death, taking young and old from this life to the next, until, one day, she falls in love.

She makes a deal with the Devil to recover her life and the story tells of the traumatic tasks she must accomplish to achieve her ultimate goal - to live and to love.

Lucy lived at High Legh with her parents, Alan and Jackie and her sister Analie, before moving to London to follow her career as a producer of music videos and adverts.

After her diagnosis, surgery and chemotherapy Lucy wrote a blog about her cancer experience, "lucifersboob.blogspot.com", in a typically positive, forthright and, unbelievably, amusing way.

She also appeared on the TV game show "Pointless" with her Mum.

Although she died before the show was broadcast, the BBC made arrangements for her to see it on video and she and her Mum watched it together in a hospice.



Mayor helps Care at Home launch new business name and recruitment drive

THE Mayor of Warrington Cllr Karen Mundry was on hand to help a local care company unveil their new name and launch a recruitment drive in the town.

The company, who are under new ownership and with new investment, have recently changed their name and rebranded as Care at Home.

They welcomed the Mayor to the official opening at their Padgate office, where she met with some of the Company's staff and clients.

The Group has recently recruited over 30 new staff as part of their expansion plans, said Care Manager Lisa Collins, who added: "We want to show people that being a Carer in the community is a rewarding role and can also be a fulfilling career for those who are looking for one. We believe that the more people we can bring into the care industry, the more people we can care for. Our moto is Our Care, Your Independence."

The Mayor commented: "How we care for our elderly and those in need is a measure of any society and is crucial to the success of our community. It is therefore pleasing to meet a company that is so committed to its employees and its community and in its drive to bring new people to an industry that is so desperate to have them and to what can be an extremely rewarding and satisfying career."

As part of its growth plans, the company has recruited a new Private

Business Manager – Jane Stanton, who commented: "We are looking to take our 25 years' experience working in social care and expand into the Private sector. We already have in excess of 25 private clients and are looking to grow this to 100 by the end of the year. We are also growing our business outside of just Warrington and into the surrounding areas. We put our clients at the heart of everything we do, and believe they benefit immensely from our flexible and responsive approach which allows them to remain living as independently as

possible in their own homes".

To achieve this goal the company has just launched their second recruitment campaign of the year and are looking to recruit a further 30 new Carers.

HR & Recruitment Manager Jenny Hughes explained: "We are focusing our recruitment on both experienced carers and also those who are new to care and are looking for a rewarding career. We offer a highly competitive rate and pay travel time and mileage. We also offer a comprehensive training program which includes both classroom training and

on the job training, shadowing with existing experienced staff in the field until the new Carers are competent and confident enough to start on their own. We also offer all staff the ability to gain an NVQ qualification in Care."

If you are interested in joining the team as a Carer or Co-ordinator or if you are looking for care for yourself or a loved one then why not call 01925 652 800 or email care@careatgroup.com or why not drop in and have a coffee and a chat at 181, Padgate Lane, WA1 3SW.






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Money Column

By Margaret Black

Student loans

We have recently spent a considerable amount of time looking at the changes that affect people in business, such as "Making Tax Digital". This month we are looking at a change that will affect many people in all walks of life. Namely, student loans.

The repayment threshold for student loans taken out after 2012 will increase to £25,000 per annum in April, and will then increase annually in line with changes to average earnings. This change in the student loan regulations will affect many people, especially younger adults.



David Watkinson and Margaret Black

Student loans fall into two categories. If you started university in or after 2012 then your loan will be a "Mortgage Style" loan under Plan 2. Those who started between 1998 when they were first introduced and 2012 will have "Contingent Earnings" loans under Plan 1.

Currently, repayments under Plan 1 are made if annual earnings exceed £17,775 with the equivalent figure for Plan 2 loans being £21,000. In April, those figures increase to £18,330 and £25,000 respectively.

Repayments are at 9% of annual earnings above these thresholds. Therefore, someone earning £26,000 will see their repayments will fall by £360 from £450 to £90 per annum if on Plan 2. Someone earning £18,443 will see their repayments fall by £49.95 from £58.95 to £9 per annum if on Plan 1. These reductions will similarly apply at higher income levels.

Repayment thresholds will change each year in accordance with changes in average earnings. This means that the thresholds could increase or decrease in future years.

The thresholds for calculating the rate of interest on Plan 2 loans are also increasing. Interest is currently charged at Retail Price Index (RPI) if you earn below the lower threshold, at RPI plus 3% if you earn above the higher threshold, and at a gradually increasing rate between the two thresholds. The lower threshold will be increasing from £21,000 to £25,000 whilst the upper threshold increases from £41,000 to £45,000.

Interest on Plan 1 loans is currently 1.5% and will be increasing to 1.75% in September.

Some people have loans under both plans. These people will make repayments against their Plan 1 loans from all earnings between the two lower thresholds of £18,443 and £25,000, with repayments from earnings above that level being offset against their Plan 2 loans. As the interest on Plan 1 loans is lower than on Plan 2 this does mean that some people could end up paying more overall than previously. However, this is not particularly relevant as most people will never actually repay their loans in full.

They could not have made the system more complex if they tried!

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Melanie blazes a trail for women in leadership



AN Appleton woman's inspirational story was used to promote National Apprenticeship Week last month.

"Blaze a Trail" was the theme of the week and its aim was to encourage people of all ages and backgrounds to choose an apprenticeship as a pathway to a great career.

Melanie Nicholson, from Appleton started her career as a dental nursing apprentice at 18, by 25 she was a senior manager and now, at 31, she is a director.

She said: "I absolutely loved my apprenticeship from day one. My friends who had gone to college had the same knowledge and qualifications at the end of three years' study, but they did not have the same hands-on experience of working in a surgical or theatre environment."

"In addition to all of this experience I was gaining, I was also being paid a salary."

Melanie progressed from tutoring and assessing dental nurse apprentices to quality-assurance roles and then onto national management roles with large training providers. She was then promoted to director roles, heading up training and apprenticeships divisions within large corporate employers, most of which were in quite male-dominated sectors.

When in one management role early in her career, Melanie admits she did encounter sexism.

"I had a male colleague who was in a similar role once say to me: 'You shouldn't be on the same salary as me because you're a woman.'"

"I calmly pointed out to him that my performance and my team's performance were continually higher

than his, which meant that maybe I was better at the job than he was and I should probably be paid more regardless of whether I was a woman or not."

The challenge she faced when she became a director for a large corporate with a national remit was compounded by the fact she was also a single mum, relying on her family and support network when her job frequently involved travel and overnight stays away from home.

"I asked myself why I can't have it all. It was very difficult at times, trying to juggle being the best mum I could be while balancing my career and the expectations from both my team and my employer," Melanie recalls. "I was the only woman in the senior team and regularly the only woman in directors' meetings. My male colleagues would regularly go to the pub after work to bond and talk shop and I would head off home to be with my son and relieve the childminder."

"Although at home with my son was where I wanted to be after work, it did make me feel slightly alienated from my peers. I was fortunate to have an extremely supportive managing director who taught me that success is earned and there is no such thing as shortcuts, leadership is not a person or position, it's a relationship built on trust and respect that leads to a shared vision."

Her message now, to people just starting out, is: "Don't get up every morning just to do a job, get up to do something you really enjoy. Be yourself, believe in yourself and aspire to be the best you can be."

Annual parish meetings – a chance to have a say

THE annual parish meeting at Stockton Heath will be held on Tuesday April 9, beginning at 7.00pm at The Sandy Lane Centre, Stockton Heath.

All voters in the parish are invited to attend the meeting, which is held immediately before the monthly meeting of the parish council and is an opportunity for residents to discuss what is important to them.

The agenda for this meeting is issued seven clear days before the meeting takes place and will be posted on the Parish Council's website (www.stocktonheath.org.uk) and on parish noticeboards on the corner of the Forge Shopping Centre and at Ackers Pit from Friday March 29 2019.

Anyone with items they wish to place on the agenda for discussion should contact the clerk on 01925 210558 or email clerk@stocktonheathpc.org.uk.

Grappenhall and Thelwall's annual parish meeting is on May 16 while Appleton's parish meeting is on April 16.

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By McTimoney Chiropractor, Jane Byrne (BA, BSc Chiro MMCA, AMC, MSc) GCC, MCA reg.

THE McTimoney method of chiropractic was developed over 50 years ago by John McTimoney, and is a natural, gentle, treatment suitable for all ages ranging from pregnant ladies and athletes in their prime, to people in their 90s.

The McTimoney style of chiropractic is a whole-body treatment, working from the top of your head to your toes, using precise, comfortable adjustments to correctly re-align and mobilize your spine and joints. Working in such a way can not only help relieve pain, discomfort and aches, but can increase your mobility by helping your joints, bones, muscles and nervous system work more effectively.

Conditions it can help include back pain, mechanical neck pain, joint pain, muscle spasm, headache arising from the neck (cervicogenic), sciatica, general aches and pains, joint pains

including hip and knee pain from osteoarthritis, as a supplement to core osteoarthritis treatments and exercise, lumbago, migraine prevention, minor sports injuries and tensions, plantar fasciitis (short term management) and shoulder complaints (dysfunction, disorders, rotator cuff injuries and pain)

During your first treatment a case history is taken followed by physical examination before treatment, after which self-help advice is nearly always given in the form of exercises/postural changes.

Jane, who started to work from Cheshire Natural Health last month, qualified from the McTimoney college of Chiropractic in 2004, the only place in the world where it is possible to learn this technique.

To book an appointment please phone Cheshire Natural Health On 01925 730123.



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Curtain up on cricket



THE local cricket season gets under way on April 20 – with top club Grappenhall hosting Cheadle in the Vivio Cheshire County League at Broad Lane.

Grappers survived in the CCL premier division last year – but only just. They finished third from bottom – just 10 points clear of relegation.

Cheadle finished mid-table so the Broad Lane outfit must try for a confidence-building win ahead of their second game, the following week, which involves a trip to champions Nantwich.

Grappenhall have signed a young Australian fast bowler for the coming season.

Olly Knight, 24, has been playing in the Sydney Premier League against some top class professional cricketers, including former Australian skipper

Steve Smith and fellow Test batsman David Warner – both who were both banned from the first class game following a ball-tampering scandal.

Knight is a promising fast medium bowler and also a prolific mid-order batsman.

Grappers will also welcome back one of their former junior players, 6ft 6 inches fast bowler Ian Barnes who has been playing the Greater Manchester Cricket League for the last four years.

In the UKFast Cheshire League, ambitious Appleton – who just missed out on promotion to division one last season - open their programme with a game against new club Hawk Green, who have moved from the Derbyshire and Cheshire League.

Stretton are at home to Wirral side Maritime.

Café in the Park needs helpers

THE Friends of Alexandra Park, Stockton Heath are looking for volunteers to help keep the Café in the Park open.

Now in its 10th year, the café always needs new people to help out, baking the occasional cake or serving in the café.

Anyone interested in helping out can email at friendsofalexandrapark@gmail.com or via www.ourpark.org.uk

The café opens on Saturday April 20 until the end of August and is open from 2pm to 4pm.

All profits go towards the upkeep of the park.

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Choir to sing in aid of church building project



THE famous Rhos Orpheus Male Voice Choir is to perform at Grappenhall's St Wilfrid's Church on April 13 – accompanied by singing sensation Elan Catrin Parry.

The choir and the young soprano will be giving a concert to help raise funds for the annexe to be built at rear of the church, parts of which date back to the 12th century.

A kitchen, toilet and meeting room will be accommodated in the new annexe. Tickets for the concert can be obtained by Dorothy Lewis on 01925 268820.

Village gin festival

HATTON Show Society is to present its second Gin Festival to raise funds to support the show itself.

The "Gin Etcetera" festival will be held at the Milner Institute, Moore on Saturday, March 30 from 7.30-10.30pm. The ticket price on £15 includes five sample drinks and nibbles.

There will be a fun prize quiz and raffle.

Mexican guitarist to make return visit



INTERNATIONAL Mexican guitarist Morgan Syzanski is to make a return visit to Stockton Heath to give a concert in aid of PRISMA – an outreach charity taking live music to children in remote parts of Mexico.

In May last year, he gave a concert at Stockton Heath Methodist Church Hall, on Walton Road, where he received much praise from an enthusiastic audience.

The response was such that he has agreed to return this year, on Friday May 24 to play again at the same venue.

This time he will be joined by Irish mezzo soprano Dame Ann Murray.

The concert starts at 7.30 and tickets will cost £10.

What's on *in the villages*

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April 6
LIVE AT ST WILFRID'S
Scott Brothers Duo: Tom Scott (piano)
Jonathan Scott (piano, organ)
St Wilfrid's Church, Grappenhall. 7.30pm

April 09
STOCKTON HEATH PARISH COUNCIL
Sandy Lane Centre, Stockton Heath,
7.30pm

April 16
APPLETON PARISH COUNCIL
Appleton Parish Hall, Dudlow Green Road,
7.30pm

April 18
GRAPPENHALL & THELWALL PARISH
COUNCIL
Council Offices, Bellhouse Lane. 7.30pm

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Wed/Thurs 1pm-4pm. Bank Holidays:
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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- February at Hall Drive, Appleton.
7.30-10pm.
Details: 01925 262356

THELWALL MORRIS MEN
Thelwall Parish Hall, Bell Lane,
8.15pm. Details: 01925 767151

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

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Thelwall Parish Hall

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APPLETOTS TODDLER GROUP
Appleton Parish Hall, Dudlow Green Road.
9.45-11.30am. Details: 01925 268153.

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