

# Village Life Magazine

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ISSUE 220 | JULY 2019  
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## Brolly good show

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# 28th Disability Awareness Day set to be a cracker at Walton Gardens!

**THE 28th annual Disability Awareness Day at Walton Hall Gardens on Sunday, July 14, is set to be a cracker.**

More than 25,000 visitors are expected to attend this year's DAD, the world's largest not-for-profit, voluntary-led, pan-disability exhibition, which will once again be hosted at Walton Hall Gardens. Organisers Warrington Disability Partnership is proud to announce their new joint principal sponsors, Expanse Learning Group and Harry Fairclough Construction.

A huge tented village will house over 220 exhibitors - including equipment suppliers; transport; holidays; leisure and employment providers; and support groups and services - is set to attract visitors to travel from all over the UK and beyond. Inclusive Arts is just one of the highlights, plus a free fully accessible Sports Zone with have-a-go events, and a main arena and children's rides and entertainment.

Checkout the website for details on the free accessible Park and Ride service, plus a free bus service from Warrington Bus Interchange, British Sign Language (BSL) interpreters, scooter / wheelchair loans.

The big day on Sunday, July 14, from 10am to 5pm - will be a fitting finale to a week comprising a variety of complementary daytime and evening events to savour, including:

## Tuesday 9th July

6.15pm - 9.30pm Frogstastic in the Park - Arts Marquee, Walton Gardens: Featuring fantastic Tribute Artists 'Robbie Williams / UB40 / The 80's & Swing' plus special guests including DJ's from the famous Frogstastic Club Night. Come and enjoy a great evening of Live Music, Dance Floor and Licenced Bar, bring your own food. Advanced Tickets £6.00 call 07875 142233 or online at [www.ldok.net/shop](http://www.ldok.net/shop), £8 on the door.

## Wednesday 10th July

7pm - 10pm - "Ella's Summer Time Special" - Arts Marquee, Walton Gardens: The Ella Performance Group,

one of the UK's leading inclusive drama groups will be performing thrilling and entertaining songs from their recent productions. Adult tickets £8.00 and children's tickets £5.00 from The Ella Team on 01928 713877 or Kate 01925 240064.

## Thursday 11th July

6pm- 9.30pm - Children's Party in the Park - Arts Marquee, Walton Gardens: Warrington Wolves Foundation & Warrington Disability Partnership present a fun filled evening for disabled children/young people, their families and friends. Sports, Arts, Dance, chill out and fun areas. Free admission: Contact Craig

on 01925 248894.

## Friday 12th July

7.30pm - 11.30pm DAD Mega Quiz Night, Charity Auction with Hot Food Arts Marquee, Walton Gardens: Teams of up to 8 people, hundreds of £'s worth of prizes, fun quiz, great food, licensed bar and a charity auction. Tickets £8.00 (includes hot food). Contact Kate on 01925 240064.

For more details on exhibiting or attending #DAD2019 and 'DAD Week' events, please contact Warrington Disability Partnership on 01925 240064 or visit [www.disabilityawarenessday.org.uk](http://www.disabilityawarenessday.org.uk)



# Disability Awareness Day

## SUNDAY 14TH JULY 2019

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### 10am - 5pm

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- Sports Zone, Arts Marquee, Live Bands, Dance & Drama

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Tel: 01925 240064 [www.disabilityawarenessday.org.uk](http://www.disabilityawarenessday.org.uk)

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**Production**  
Paul Walker

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James Balme

**Advertising**  
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**Editorial**  
01925 631592 option 2

**Email**  
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# Editor's comment

**THE deadline to comment on the Local Plan has now passed along with the two planning applications by Eddie Stobart and Langtree to build huge logistics centres on Green Belt land in the south of the borough.**

Hopefully thousands of you have made your voices heard - and even more importantly hopefully those in charge at the town hall will listen - if they don't I have serious fears not just for our green belt but our general health and well being, particularly at a time when we have been told we have just over a decade to save the planet from the impact of green house gases!

During the consultation period I submitted my concerns in a letter to the leader of Warrington Borough Council (prior to knowing about the forthcoming closure of Fiddlers Ferry Power Station next year) which I have reproduced below.

Hopefully common sense will prevail - although the way the political world is revolving at the moment I am not holding my breath!

*Dear Russ Bowden*

*During a run through some of our beautiful countryside in Warrington it gave me the opportunity to clear my head and do some blue sky thinking.*

*As leader of Warrington Borough Council the future of our town and our green belt is within your hands and that of your controlling Labour Group and the senior officers at the town hall.*

*Together you are tasked with ensuring our town provides for those in need of homes and good health together with employment opportunities.*

*As town's go we are already doing better than many on various fronts.*

*Unemployment is relatively low and many of our jobs are filled by those who live outside the borough.*

*So why exactly do we have to surrender our green belt land on which we depend for the very oxygen that fills our lungs?*

*Over 40,000 people each year are dying from pollution related illnesses and Warrington has been identified by the World Health Organisation as one of the worst polluted town's in the country.*

*So why are we even entertaining the thoughts of huge logistics developments on Green Belt land? I say entertaining because your council officers have previously recommended*

*approval for one such distribution centre on prime green belt which was thankfully rejected by members.*

*But more applications are rolling in, fanned by the fact officers believe this is acceptable in a polluted town often gripped by gridlock.*

*Planning law, while often complicated for the common man, is quite straight forward regarding green belt - no development unless "exceptional circumstances".*

*Well creating wealth while sacrificing health is far from exceptional circumstances.*

*Nothing in these planning applications does anything to improve our health and well being.*

*We have far more important issues in our town, with an out dated hospital, lack of recreational facilities and not even enough sport pitches to accommodate our existing teams and clubs.*

*So what is the solution, particularly in times of austerity?*

*Well how about borrowing some money with low cost interest rates like you already have successfully done to invest in business and commercial ventures and invest it in our green belt, buying the land under threat of development and then using it to create health and leisure facilities and parklands.*

*This could be matched by some crowd funding, with those who can afford to, donating money to help fund these projects.*

*Resident and parish council groups have already demonstrated how they can work together and raise funds to challenge these plans to develop our green belt - imagine having access to that money to preserve our green belt and invest in health and well being.*

*It could even be used to invest in solar energy and all weather sports pitches, which help raise additional revenue and make it sustainable.*

*Surely much more acceptable in our countryside than huge logistic centres putting thousands of extra vehicles on our roads and destroying our green belt for ever.*

*I see in the local plan it states it is only 10 per cent of our green belt being given up - but that is 10 per cent too much.*

*Thousands of people in our town are suffering from asthma and other health issues which are made worse by pollution.*

*This is not a NIMBY issue in the south - it is our whole town under threat, from Lymm through Appleton and Grappenhall, across Latchford,*



*across the town centre and right out to Culcheth & Glazebury in the North.*

*The whole town needs our green lungs - and the whole town needs better health and leisure provision. There are some shining beacons at Orford Park and Great Sankey and Woolston Community hubs.*

*Let's see one south of the ship canal instead of lorry parks and warehousing.*

*Come on Russ - you have the opportunity to leave a legacy we can all be proud of - or you can just allow the developers to continue ploughing up our fields.*

*Thousands of new homes have already been earmarked for green field sites, with many more and employment opportunities already planned in the town centre and brown field sites.*

*Let's see how these go BEFORE we even think about building on Green Belt.*

*We have years ahead to meet government guidelines and we have already seen the goal posts moved on these - who is to say they won't be moved again?*

*The birth rate is falling, the ageing population is starting to level off, with the first signs of people dying sooner than expected due to various health issues brought on by obesity and general unhealthy living.*

*Let's put the foot on the brakes a little with all this proposed development, take a deep breath and enjoy our precious countryside so we can keep on running for years to come without breathing in more toxic fumes.*

*I am sure you will get the support of the vast majority of people in our town if you can look at and adopt this common sense policy.*

*Yours sincerely, Gary.*





# Grey skies and rain fail to deter community spirit at Bawming the Thorn

**FOR the second year running grey skies and rain failed to deter the community spirit at Appleton Thorn for the historic Bawming the Thorn event.**

With this year's event in doubt following the retirement of many of the organising committee last year, a call to arms by local resident Susan Plass, ensured it was a case of on with show despite the elements.

Youngsters from Appleton Thorn Primary School braved heavy showers to carry out the traditional bawming dance around the Thorn tree in the heart of the village.

Legend has it that the thorn tree, which stands beside the local church, is believed to be an offshoot from the Glastonbury thorn which grew from the staff of Joseph.

Adam de Dutton, a knight of the crusades and local landowner brought it to Appleton Thorn in 1178, although the current tree is a relative newcomer.

Bawming the Thorn involves decorating the tree with flowers and ribbons, with local school children from Appleton Thorn Primary School performing the bawming dance.

Pupils from Appleton Thorn Primary School re-enacted the bawming dance with youngsters William Griffiths taking the role of Knight and Chloe Bentham as Page.





# Destination Expédition

The Hays Family are very passionate about fundraising and each year all shops in the regions set time aside to raise money for a charity of their choice. As you may, or may not know, our small team of ladies are all local so when choosing a charity for our annual fundraising efforts, keeping it local is key.

For the last two years we have taken part in the Starlight Ladies Walk in aid of St Rocco's Hospice.

This year we have decided to support two different local charities; The Walton Lea Partnership and Warrington Disability Partnership.

The Walton Lea Partnership is a registered charity providing supported learning, development and support work activities for adults and young people with learning disabilities. They have a number of social enterprises including retail, horticulture, woodwork, floristry,

recycling donated furniture and bikes. Their Walton Lea Tea Room grows or up-cycles everything they sell to support the charity. In Spring 2019 as a result of a successful collaboration in a bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund, The Walton Lea Partnership will join Warrington Borough Council and Myerscough College in a unique venture to deliver learning in the repaired and transformed Conservatory and Shippon areas of the Walton Estate.

Warrington Disability Partnership (WDP) is an internationally acclaimed user led charity with over 28 years'

experience of developing and delivering mobility and independent living services. Their aim is to support disabled people and those living with long term health conditions in Warrington. They are supported by a team of nearly 50 staff and 200 volunteers.

## Fortunate

We are very fortunate to work closely with lots of fantastic Tour Operators, two of which, have kindly come on board to support our fundraising event this August.

The Charity Evening will be held at Expedition (very apt partnership). Those attending will meet destination experts from First Class Holidays and Holland & America Line for presentations on travel to Canada.

Tickets will be £5 per person with all



■ Stockton Heath Hays Travel Team.

profits going to our chosen charities. Welcome drink and canapés will be provided and tickets will be on sale in advance.

Secondly, we will undertake a ten mile sponsored walk through Stockton Heath, Grappenhall, Appleton Thorn and Hatton in September 2019. A very busy and exciting couple of months ahead.

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.

80 London Road, Stockton Heath  
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# Has government thrown a spanner in the works of the Local Plan?

**HAVE** new government proposals to cut greenhouse gases to zero by 2050 "thrown a spanner in the works" of Warrington's controversial Local Plan?

Campaigners fighting the proposals – which involve thousands of new homes and employment areas in Grappenhall, Lymm and Appleton and Stretton – believe they may well have done so and are suggesting the Local

Plan is now out of date and needs to be re-thought.

They already thought council planners had drawn up their proposals based on out-dated thinking and now believe the new government commitment means the Local Plan has again been overtaken by events.

Outgoing prime minister Theresa May announced the 2050 target in what was widely seen as a legacy statement.

But in fact, the government's advisory committee on climate change recommended the "net zero" target in May.

Britain is the first major nation to propose this target – and it has been widely praised by green groups. The UK already has a 2050 target – to reduce emissions by 80 per cent under the 2008 Climate Change Act. But that will now be amended to the new, much tougher, goal. It will mean emissions from homes, transport, farming and industry will have to be avoided completely or – where that is not possible – offset by planting trees or sucking CO2 out of the atmosphere.

Colin Daniels, chief executive of Warrington Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said: "How does that fit with

the borough council's Local Plan?

"They are going to destroy large parts of our Green Belt so where are they going to plant trees? Only a very limited number could be planted in urban areas.

"What about air quality? It will suffer from the increased number of vehicles, houses and logistics centres.

"This government announcement just cannot be ignored by the planners."

Cllr Cliff Taylor, chairman of the South Warrington Parish Councils Local Plan Working Group, said: "The planners are years out-of-date. They have come up with a Local Plan for the late 20th century, not the early 21st century.

"They are going in absolutely the wrong direction but the borough council has still got time to change the plan."

Liberal Democrat councillor Ian Marks said: "This government announcement really throws a spanner in the works. The Local Plan proposals involve loss of Green Belt, building thousands of new homes and huge logistics centres which never produce the number of jobs they promise.

"They will result in more traffic

congestion, a decline in air quality and a danger to health.

"It's time to scrap the Local Plan and go back to the drawing board."

The borough council says the draft Local Plan aims to deliver 18,900 new homes (945 per year) by 2037 and make 362 hectares of employment land available – while protecting and preserving the Green Belt as much as possible.

Meanwhile the Local Transport Plan (LTP4) aims to transform how people travel around Warrington and make the borough a well-connected place with high quality walking, cycling, and public transport networks.

The final decision on the Local Plan and the development it proposes will be made by the independent planning inspector, following an examination, likely to be held early next year.

Following feedback on the Draft LTP4, a revised final LTP4 will be put before the council for approval either later this year, or early next year.

The deadline for members of the public to make representations on the Local Plan has now passed – but there is still time for the council to make amendments.

## Local Plan unsound and will lead to severe environmental damage

WARRINGTON Borough Council's proposed Local Plan is unsound and will result in severe environmental damage.

That is the view of The South Warrington Parish Councils' Local Plan Working Group.

The Working Group represents Lymm, Grappenhall and Thelwall, Appleton, Stretton, Hatton and Walton Parish Councils.

Chairman of the Group, Cllr Cliff Taylor said: "The consultation period is now over. We believe that what we have said in our submission is the overwhelming view of the people in South Warrington and we now await the Council's response.

"The Plan proposes to create growth by accepting vast new logistics facilities and allowing new housing on a very large scale. It proposes to take away Green Belt irreversibly to accommodate them. This is supposed to regenerate the town centre but how this will happen is not explained.

"There are no credible plans for improving the road network or changing the way people travel. The environmental damage will be severe.

"We do not think that the Local Plan will achieve the Council's own objectives and instead it will keep the town in the grip of lorries and cars indefinitely. We cannot follow the reasoning in it. In short, the Local Plan is fundamentally unsound. It should be withdrawn and overhauled from top to bottom to give the town a vision of the future fit for the challenges of the 21st century."

Thousands of people have raised concerns about the Local Plan, with many also objecting to two huge logistics centres seeking planning permission on Green Belt land in the South.

Local politicians from all three main parties, Labour's Warrington South MP Faisal Rashid, Conservative Parliamentary candidate Andy Carter and Lib Dem candidate Ryan Bate, have all voiced opposition.



Green Belt under threat.

## Adam branches out at Primrose Hill Nurseries

TWELVE years ago Adam Halford was embarking on a new career after starting his own business as a landscape gardener aged just 18.

Now he has transformed the business and employs a team of more than 30 people after taking over the Primrose Hill Nurseries near Lymm, providing a wide variety of plants, shrubs and trees, many of which are home grown.

Six months on from taking over the nursery Adam, who launched Beechwood Industries 12 years ago, has exciting plans for the future as he branches out with his two businesses, providing a one stop shop for gardening needs, whether for the home or business.

Beechwood supply turf and top soil, undertake grounds maintenance, landscaping and tree surgery at domestic & commercial properties, schools and sports facilities.

During his spare time Adam plays rugby at Lymm Rugby Union Club and is also a regular in the "world famous" Lymm Panto and Vaudeville Show!







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# Brolly good show at Thelwall Rose Queen

**RAIN failed to dampen spirits at the annual Thelwall Rose Queen event as villagers entered into the spirit of the occasion.**

It was a real family affair as 12-year-old Robin Broadhurst was crowned Thelwall Rose Queen with six-year-old sister Olivia as one of her attendants.

They both followed something of a family tradition as their elder sister, Erin, 14, was Rose Queen in 2016.

Robin, a pupil at Lymm High School, loves Morris dancing and is also a member of Ambitions Dance School in Lymm and is currently training towards taking her Grade 2 Ballet exam.

Guests at the event included Town Crier Peter Powell and Mayor of Warrington CLr Wendy Johnson.

The rain, sometimes heavy, failed to dampen spirits as it was a case of on with the show with a Disney theme parade.

Pictures: John Hopkins





Advertiser's announcement

# Who pays inheritance tax?

**Heather Lally, Associate Solicitor, Estate and Trust Practitioner and Associate member of Solicitors for the Elderly at FDR Law looks at the question, who pays inheritance tax?**

Most people are aware that if you leave substantial assets to your beneficiaries on your death, that there may be inheritance tax to pay. However, with recent changes regarding owning a residence on your death and who it is left to, the inheritance tax position may not be clear to all.

The basics – Individuals with assets valued at less than £325,000, generally there is no inheritance tax

to pay.

If you leave all your assets to your Spouse / Civil Partner, generally there is no inheritance tax to pay.

If you have survived your Spouse / Civil Partner and they left all of their assets to you and had not gifted assets / set up trusts which used up their entire inheritance tax (Nil Rate Band) allowance, a claim can be made to use their allowance also, so up to £650,000 can be claimed.

Now, if your assets comprise your residence and that residence is left to your direct descendants (including adopted, fostered and step-children), providing the property is valued at the Residence Nil Rate Band (currently £125,000 for tax year 2018/2019) or

above, this additional allowance can be claimed against inheritance tax.

If your residence was passed to you by your late Spouse / Civil Partner, a claim of up to £250,000 can currently be made (using both persons' allowances). The Residence Nil Rate Band allowance is due to increase to £175,000 by 6 April 2020. At that time, up to £350,000 additional allowances can potentially be claimed by the estate of the surviving Spouse / Civil Partner, if the property is valued at that amount or more at that time.

Inheritance tax is normally charged at 40% over the Nil Rate Band and Residence Nil Rate Band allowances. Further reductions can be claimed for legacies and gifts to charity, if certain business assets or agricultural assets are held at death, along with gifts made from 3 years up to 7 years prior to death. However, estates valued at over £2 million, lose £1 of the Residence Nil Rate Band allowance for every £2 over £2 million.

Inheritance tax can be complex and each person's circumstances are different. If you are unsure as to whether your estate will pay inheritance tax, take advice and let us clarify matters for you and assist in inheritance tax planning options.

For more information on Inheritance tax, Estates, Wills, Trusts, Powers of Attorney or Court of Protection matters, contact Heather Lally on 01928 739300 or email Heather.Lally@fdrlaw.co.uk



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# Money Column

By Margaret Black

## Something for nothing!

It's not often that you can get something for nothing, especially from the taxman. However, there is one exemption to income tax that may be useful. It is not huge, but applies to everyone who is employed and can be worth a tax saving of at least £60 per year for someone paying basic rate tax, and that exemption is for "Trivial Benefits".

Usually, if you receive a "Benefit-In-Kind" from your employer then he will need to report this at the end of the year on a form P11d and you will pay income tax on it, usually by having your tax code restricted in the following year. However, this does not apply to any benefits which cost less than £50 provided that it is not part of a salary sacrifice scheme and that it meets the following three conditions:

- It is not cash, or a voucher that can be converted to cash, or
- It is not in your contract of employment that you will receive it, or
- It is not in recognition for "particular services performed by the employee as part of their employment duties"

If you are a director then there is an additional condition in that the total of the benefits must not exceed £300 in any tax year. This would apply, for instance, if you were the director/shareholder of your own company. However, for non-directors there is no overall annual limit.

The £50 limit is for each instance of the benefit. An example that was given recently was that of a bacon roll given regularly to employees, the total cost of which exceeded the £50 limit during the tax year. Despite this, as each bacon roll was less than the limit the benefits would still be exempt under the trivial benefits exemption.

The third condition, however, may easily be breached. For instance, that bacon roll may be given to each employee who arrived early or who worked late. In this case, the benefit would be in recognition for a particular service and the exemption would not, therefore, apply. Compare this to the case where the weather is particularly hot because of which your employer treats you to a drink in the local pub. In this case the benefit is due to a non-work related reason and the benefit would apply, even if that hot spell continued for several months.

One final warning. If the benefit is provided regularly then it may become an expected reward, and this may be sufficient for it to become an implied condition in the contract of employment. If this applies then the second condition would be breached and the benefit would become taxable. However, with care this exemption may be quite valuable.

If you have any queries in respect of this article please do not hesitate to give WatkinsonBlack a ring

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## Rare Lancaster Bomber seen flying over Walton Gardens



**THE UK's only flying Lancaster bomber was seen flying over Walton gardens recently.**

It was pictured flying over Walton Gardens by Latchford based photographer Darren Moston.

The iconic plane was easily identified by its nose art featuring a kangaroo and bagpipes.

It is part of the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight (BBMF), based at RAF Coningsby in Lincolnshire and is currently at the Imperial War Museum in Duxford. It had been taking part in an air display at RAF Cosford in Shropshire earlier in the day.

The Lancaster, one of only two in the world permitted to fly, was previously grounded in 2015 after an engine fire.

But after nine months of restoration by the The Aircraft Restoration Company, it was able to take to the air once again and is now a popular attraction at air displays around the country.

## Wendy Johnson elected as 11th woman Mayor

LIB Dem Cllr Wendy Johnson has been elected as the 136th Mayor of Warrington – and only the 11th woman to hold the office, following in the footsteps of retiring Mayor Cllr Karen Mundry.

But with Labour's Maureen Creaghan elected as her deputy, the balance is gradually being re-addressed at the town hall and when the deputy becomes Mayor next year it will be the first time in Warrington's history that three women have served consecutively as Mayor.

Cllr Johnson, who represents Lymm North & Thelwall, has chosen Warrington Disability Partnership, Walton Lea Project, MacIntyre and Contact the Elderly as her charities for the year.

She will be focusing on two themes in particular, tolerance and

homelessness.

Born in Warrington at Great Sankey, she moved to Thelwall aged one.

She was first elected to the council in 1998 and had been inspired by the late Cllrs Ted Lafferty and Dr Barbara Mawer.

Cllr Johnson said, "I have been a long-serving council member since I first joined in 1998. To now succeed to the role of Mayor of Warrington is an honour.

"I look forward to the year ahead and being able to support the charities under the Mayor's Appeal. I'm excited to get out and meet all the different residents of Warrington and to take on the new responsibilities of the mayoral role."

Her sister, Beverley Hallam, will be the Mayor's consort and support her throughout her mayoral year.





# Fitting send off for 50th container of aid for refugees

**THE Care UK Charity, based in Warrington, Northwich, North Wales and Manchester, which was the brainchild of local business woman Nora Carlin, gave a very fitting send off to their 50th container of practical aid for refugees in Lesbos.**

The truck left the premises led by the piper, the charity's Patron, Faisal Rashid and a huge team of volunteers

who had spent the morning loading the container.

This was a perfect example of the true spirit of communities working together.

Nora Carlin, Care UK Charity Founder said: "We couldn't do any of this without our amazing volunteers and the fabulous people of the North West, who donate their unwanted items to be reused, enabling us to

help those in need, wherever they are."

The charity started in a portacabin at Appleton Thorn after Nora had been moved to tears by photographs of a little Syrian boy found drowned on a Turkish beach.

Nora, owner of lifestyle management firm Arley's Angels, felt she just had to do something to help the refugees pouring out of Syria and trying to reach safety via a perilous voyage across the Mediterranean.

She started simply by setting up a Facebook page appealing for donations to store in her own

portacabin prior to sending them on to the Manchester-based charity Syria Relief.

But within hours the response from the public was overwhelming and she realised much more was needed.

Volunteers came forward to help – and donations began to flood in.

Anyone wishing to get involved by either volunteering or contributing to our work both locally and overseas, can do so by emailing [info@careukcharity.org.uk](mailto:info@careukcharity.org.uk) or by popping into the shops in Northwich or Warrington, or can donate via PayPal at [info@careukcharity.org.uk](mailto:info@careukcharity.org.uk)



## Student gardener wins RHS gold medal

A STUDENT gardener from Stockton Heath was awarded a coveted gold medal by the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) at the Chatsworth Flower Show for a long border design called "Chatsworth Lady".

Bev Williams works together with Toni Slater from Penley, North Wales as "Hortis Amici" and the pair designed and built the display as a tribute to Deborah Cavendish, the late Dowager Duchess of Devonshire.

The display featured a willow and weathered steel sculpture of "Chatsworth Lady" as its focal point. The romantic border had a planting palette full of perennials arranged to show the contrast in their shape, form, scent, texture and colour. The plants chosen were naturally suited to the local area, providing a habitat for native wildlife to flourish in.

Bev said: "We were thrilled that our design was selected for the RHS show and to see the finished result with the spectacular Chatsworth House as a back-drop is such an honour. But to also receive a gold medal has completely blown us away."

Toni and Bev, are both studying RHS Level 3 Practical Horticulture at Reaseheath College, Nantwich and were inspired to enter the RHS show by their tutor David Black. They both paid tribute to their fellow students and Toni said: "We have had so much support from a fantastic team that have helped us to cultivate the plants and flowers used in the display, plant the flower beds and construct the whole design onsite for the past week. We couldn't have done it without them."

Any profits made from the sale of the "Chatsworth Lady" plants and sculptures will be donated to The Christie Charitable Fund. Donations can also be made at: [https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/BevandToni?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=ExactTarget&utm\\_campaign=20190606\\_114279](https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/BevandToni?utm_medium=email&utm_source=ExactTarget&utm_campaign=20190606_114279)



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# Pensioner tackles Parkinson's Disease in the gym

**PENSIONER** Fred Hewitt received a major body blow when he was diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease which left him suffering with mobility problems and in pain.

But undeterred he joined his nearby gym The Park Royal Hotel Health and Leisure Club in Stretton and signed up with one of their personal trainers, Anthony Martin.

Fred, aged 74, has been delighted with the results.

"Following the diagnosis I was struggling with general mobility, standing and sitting positions, upper body strength and lower back pain," said Fred.

"Anthony has worked on building my upper body strength, given me stamina to walk and helped me build up my confidence.

"The exercise bike is my favourite as my legs are my strongest part and I find it easy to cope with. The support I have received has given me the confidence and improved my over all

body strength to enable me to carry out my daily routines and enjoy a more active lifestyle."

Now Fred, who has joined the gym with wife Olwyn, is advising others not to feel embarrassed or afraid when dealing with health issues and progressive illness and to use a personal trainer to build up confidence.

He added: "Don't be afraid to talk to other people and ask them for help. Me and my family have been overwhelmed at the level of support we have received.

"We joined the gym as a couple and in today's society you are often seen as just a number - however this is definitely not the case at the Park Royal Leisure Club as we feel as we have been treated as individuals and our needs met on both a physical, personal and social level by all the team at The Park Royal Health and Leisure Club.

"Nothing is too much trouble for the team and joining has proved to be one of the best decisions we have

made."

STOP PRESS: And there is no better time to join by taking advantage of the special Summer Offer - Six weeks full membership for just £75 which is

available until 31st August 2019. if booked before August 31.

Call 01925 730 000 or email [leisuresales@theparkroyal.co.uk](mailto:leisuresales@theparkroyal.co.uk) for further details.



## Wedding guests invited to donate dog and cat food to happy couple

NEWLY Weds Rod & Heather Scotney had a twist in the tale when compiling their wedding gift list - by inviting guests to donate dog and cat food!

Although it was a traditional wedding in most respects at Walton Hall, it did have an unusual twist to it. Their guests were somewhat taken aback when the idea of a traditional wedding gift list was abandoned in favour of requests for donations of dog and cat food!

Having two dogs of their own guests could have been forgiven for thinking the Higher Walton couple wanted to lavish the gifts on their pets. However, Rod and Heather had other ideas.

Rod said: "When planning our wedding, Heather and I decided to ask our wedding guests to provide dog or cat food so we could donate it to local charities rather than asking for gifts for ourselves.

"Heather and I both love animals

and especially dogs. I've had dogs from rescue centres before including our current dogs. Cheshire Dogs Home do a fantastic job of caring and rehoming dogs so we provided them with the dog food. The cat food was donated to S.A.F.E Cats.

"Our wedding guests were delighted to provide pet food and support our two charities.

"On behalf of all our wedding guests and my new wife and I, we hope both charities continue their valuable work".

The Cheshire Dogs Home commented that "we are absolutely delighted to have received this very generous and thoughtful donation from the Mr and Mrs Scotney"

Another twist to the tale!: On return from honeymoon the couple plan to adopt two spaniel crosses (brothers) from the dogs home!



Picture: Andrew Gilbert.

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# Stockton Heath Festival Fever is coming!

**THE Stockton Heath Festival is almost here and now in its 12th year the ever-popular community event will take place from Thursday 4th to Sunday 7th July 2019.**

During the day the Festival has something for everyone in various venues in and around Stockton Heath such as fun learning for kids in science (slime, anyone?) or French lessons, an art exhibition, and workshops or sports tasters. Many events are free and others require a ticket.

As day turns to night the Festival comes alive with sights and sounds as diverse as classical music from the Chameleon Wind Quintet, and Shakespeare's Tempest performed in an open-air theatre, through to Motown, choirs, and Noel Gallagher's

High Flying Carpets – the Festival finale.

## What's on Where

Make sure you check out the What's On pages of the website to discover what's on where, so you don't miss your favourite events.

Also, look out for the scarecrows and window displays in Stockton Heath; vote for the one you feel most creatively describes the theme: Festivals!

## How to Get Tickets

Buy tickets from the What's On pages of the website, or the Box Office at the Forge Shopping Centre in Stockton Heath. Book while you can as some events were sold out in the first week of tickets going on sale.

## Stockton Heath Festival information

Discover more – [www.stocktonheathfestival.co.uk](http://www.stocktonheathfestival.co.uk)  
Get involved – [volunteers@stocktonheathfestival.co.uk](mailto:volunteers@stocktonheathfestival.co.uk)

Festival news – Twitter and Facebook

The organisers would like to say thank you to supporters, sponsors and volunteers – you are helping the Festival go from strength to strength!

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## What's on in the villages

To list your event call Village Life on **01925 631592 option 2**

**July 4-7**  
Stockton Heath Festival  
Various venues in and around the village

**July 9**  
STOCKTON HEATH PARISH COUNCIL  
Sandy Lane Centre, Stockton Heath,  
7.30pm

**July 13**  
STOCKTON HEATH WALKING DAY

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

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

**Every day except Monday**  
GRAPPENHALL HEYS WALLED GARDEN  
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Sunday, 10am-5pm. Garden open Tues/  
Wed/Thurs 1pm-4pm. Bank Holidays:  
Garden open but cafe closed.

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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

**LYMM & THELWALL U3A**  
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February)  
Thelwall Parish Hall

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

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# All set for Stockton Heath Walking Day

Stockton Heath Walking Day will take place on Saturday July 13 when local churches and associated schools walk through the village.

The walk follows a short service on Alexandra Park at 2pm followed by the walk which will proceed along Grappenhall Road into the village centre then through the village along London Road before turning left into Ellesmere Road, Francis Road and then back into the village centre along Walton Road.

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“Living in South Manchester gives me and my family all the benefits of a local community with its excellent shops, bars and restaurants yet I am only a short commute to all the attractions in the city.”

**Kim Aucott**  
Consultant Solicitor



## Slater Heelis has provided expert advice to families for over 240 years.

Our team of Resolution family specialists are here to support you with first-class legal advice to provide the direction you need during separation. The team has expertise in divorce, separation, civil partnerships, finances and children arrangements. When it's appropriate for you, we are also able to offer collaborative law and mediation services.

Our family team all live in the South Manchester and Cheshire area. Living within the same community provides us with unique insight into what affects your daily lives. You are just a ride away from one of our offices in Sale, Timperley or Manchester. We have additional meeting facilities in Warrington.

Get in touch with our family team

**family@slaterheelis.co.uk**

**0161 672 1247**

**slaterheelis.co.uk**



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