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# Village Life Magazine

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## Walking Day 'Big Welcome!'

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# Editor's comment

**A lot of people were left angry and upset when Eddie Stobart won planning permission for a new National Distributor Centre on Green Belt land at Appleton Thorn, opposite their existing HQ.**

They were not just angry because of the decision, but the way the whole process was followed.

Firstly little had changed since the first application was thrown out against officer advice.

Then the council withdrew opposition to the reasons for refusal when the application went to appeal. Then the make up of the planning committee who rejected it last time was changed and two members sent "substitutes" to the meeting.

The final slap in the face for all those who had spent time and energy writing letters of objection came when one member of the committee discussing the application appeared to not know the site in question, asking if it was the old Greenall's site?!!!

I have to say in all my years of covering planning applications I

haven't seen anything quite like this before, particularly on such a major application, which if it goes ahead will destroy our Green Belt.

I still say "If" because there have been numerous calls for the application to be called in by the Secretary of State due to the significant impact on the Green Belt and fear of precedent, with another application looming for the nearby Six56 application.

I gave Cllr Brian Maher, the member of the committee who appeared to not know the site in question, the opportunity to comment on his question but as yet have had no response. I also asked council leader Russ Bowden if he would like to comment regarding a member of his group's apparent lack of knowledge on such an important planning issue. He declined.

As we went to press we were still awaiting to hear the outcome of the call-in.

If it doesn't get called in, a lot of local people will be questioning democracy.



**Deadline for the October issue of Village Life is September 10**

## Jools Holland & His Rhythm & Blues Orchestra – Walton Gardens

**I don't profess to being a big Jools Holland fan but was keen to see Walton Hall & Gardens used as an outdoor concert venue as Warrington continues its bid to climb the cultural rankings as a destination.**

I suspect the vast majority in the near 2,000 crowd were Jools Holland fans and musically they were not disappointed as the Rhythm & Blues legend strutted his stuff on his beloved piano, of which he confessed his long love affair.

Along with special guests Pauline Black and Arthur "Gaps" Hendrickson from The Selecter, together with guest vocalists Ruby Turner, Louise Marshall and Mabel Ray, there was also plenty of variety with ska and reggae thrown into the mix.

Did I enjoy the concert? Yes. Could it have been better? Yes.

Having to queue for the best part of 45 minutes to get a drink at the

start of the show didn't go down well with the vast majority in the crowd.

Paying £2 for a small bottle of water on top of £5 a pint, also didn't go down well, especially when you discovered free bottles of water were being handed out in another part of the venue.

Hopefully joint organisers Walton Hall & Gardens and Culture Warrington, will have learned some lessons from staging this event and with a little bit better organisation logistically with serving food and drinks, those in the audience can enjoy all aspects of a venue which has great potential for further musical extravaganzas – although speaking to Jools Holland fans after the concert – they would much prefer to see him back on stage at the Parr Hall.

I guess you can't please all of the people, all of the time, especially when word got round that some people got half price tickets in the lead up to the event!





# Stretton Walking Day launches 'The Big Welcome!'



**THE annual Stretton Walking Day helped launch a new fund raising appeal for St Matthew's Church called "The Big Welcome."**

The church already has planning permission from Warrington Borough Council for a new level access and a faculty (Church of England approval) for the rest of the works which have been costed at around £140,000.

The appeal was launched during the annual Walk of Witness Church Service, which then followed a walk through the village following the crowning of new Rose Queen Emily Blackwell, aged 10. She took over from retiring queen Amelia Coxon, aged 11.

Despite early morning showers, the weather stayed dry for the walk and the church fete on the local school playing fields.

Vicar of St Matthew's Church, Revd. Alan Jewell launched "The Big Welcome" appeal to ensure families and people with access needs and the wider community are better welcomed, that friendship and fellowship can flourish over a cuppa, community

and church groups can gather for activities and meetings, local people and visitors can come together in an uplifting and comfortable space for Sunday and special services (baptisms, weddings and funerals), schools have an improved experience during services and visits, while the plans will enhance the church building for the present and future generations.

The level access will ensure the church is welcoming to all and needs to improve the access for people of reduced mobility including those using wheelchairs, those with walking impairments, pushchairs, as well as pall bearers. The existing tarmacadam paths to the south side of the church will be regraded to rise gently to a sandstone platform which will enhance, denote and celebrate the point of entrance to the church.

Whilst conforming with current legislation, the level access more importantly demonstrates that the church is for all, as part of the church's concern for all members of its parish and congregation.

A foyer will also be created under

the tower, by moving the existing screen doors by the west door forward to the east side of the tower. This will provide a foyer for greeting people as they enter the church and can also serve as a space for other activities during services, perhaps children's activities or as a "cry space". The glazed doors will allow people in the foyer to follow the service.

A new screen door will be provided just inside the west door, glazed top and bottom, so that the west door can be left open during services – allowing people outside to see into the church.

Either side will be cupboards, one of which will be used to store chairs. A ceiling will be provided over this area, with an access hatch should bells require lowering.

The parish tapestry beside the pulpit will be relocated into the foyer on the north wall, which will give it more prominence, and acknowledge the church as being at the heart of the community. The cabinet for the Mothers' Union banner will be relocated to the nave, being placed on the north wall between two windows.

The pews at the back of the church will be removed, and a new floor of oak boards created level with the surrounding tiles. Chairs will provide seating in services, or for other activities (e.g. refreshments, small group activities, etc.).

The pew timbers will be reused to form cupboards, and to create a table which can be used for signing the register during weddings.

A low level kitchen facility will be provided in the south west corner of the nave, with all the units below counter level. The kitchen units will enclose the space and will be fronted in the panelling from the front of the pews at the cross aisle, to blend in with the church furnishings.

Repairs will also be carried out to windows in the clergy vestry and choir vestry.

Full details of the project can be viewed here [www.stmatthewschurchstretton.org.uk/proposed.html](http://www.stmatthewschurchstretton.org.uk/proposed.html)

Anyone who would like to support the project please e-mail [fundraising@stmatthewschurchstretton.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@stmatthewschurchstretton.org.uk)





Advertiser's announcement

# Enchanting Oman

Oman is an enchanting destination of adventure, culture, and relaxation. Known as the hidden jewel of the Middle East, this refreshingly low-rise country has avoided over-development and retains an authentic Arabic vibe making it perfect for family holidays and romantic retreats. A new daily service from Manchester with Oman Air offers a non-stop flight taking seven and a half hours.

Home to ancient tombs, stately forts, mountain passes, and year-round sunshine, Oman is the ultimate holiday destination for those dreaming of both adventure and relaxation in equal measures.

Embrace the captivating culture in the charming capital Muscat, where you can admire the hand loomed Persian carpet and Swarovski crystal chandeliers at the Sultan Qaboos Grand Mosque. Or wander through the narrow streets of



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Murtah Souq, meeting friendly locals and sampling traditional Omani Halwa.

Those who are feeling adventurous, will love the adrenaline-fuelled activities that await in the Wahiba Sands, master the art of sandboarding or try desert dune bashing by 4x4. While the Jebel Akhdar mountain region offers a serene environment, where you can try a mix of activities from sunrise yoga sessions to rock climbing and zip lining right in the heart of the grand canyons.

After all that adventure, you'll find plenty of places in Oman to unwind. Two of our favourite areas are the lush green region of Salalah and the luxurious resorts in Muscat. Stay in Salalah and admire the beautiful coastline where natural blowholes and archaeological attractions are plentiful. Or head back to Muscat to relax on the private beaches



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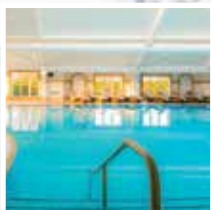


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# MP secures timetable of works for eyesore swing bridges

**WORK looks set to at long last start on painting and maintaining Warrington's three eyesore swing bridges – with the first one timetabled for next summer, says Warrington South MP Faisal Rashid.**

But Peel have confirmed the works will require the bridges to be fully closed, although they will work with the borough council to mitigate the impact of the closures.

Faisal recently met with Peel Ports Chief Executive Officer Mark Whitworth and Strategic Projects Director Gary Hodgson to discuss how soon work on the town's three swing bridges would begin.

Faisal has been repeatedly pressing Peel Ports and Warrington Borough Council for action, most recently calling on them to work cooperatively to ensure work could begin as quickly as possible.

During their meeting, both Mark Whitworth and Gary Hodgson made it clear to Faisal that Peel Ports remained committed to carrying out the work on the three swing bridges and said that the delays had been caused by concerns on the possible disruption of the new Centre Park Link.

Mr Whitworth confirmed at the meeting that Peel Ports would be putting the work on the first bridge out to tender in September of this year. Work on the first bridge will then begin in summer 2020 (exact timings will be agreed with Warrington Borough Council). Work on the subsequent bridges will follow but timing will be dependent on other road schemes that need to be completed in the area, again timings will be agreed with the Council's transport team, but the objective is to complete one bridge each year.

At the meeting, Peel Ports confirmed that during each period of works the bridge being painted and maintained would need to be fully closed. However, they also said that they would be working with the Council to mitigate the impact of the closures.

Faisal said: "I am pleased to hear that we finally now have a start date for the works. This issue has been going on for several years and the work is long overdue.

"The painting and maintenance of each of the swing bridges will make a big difference to these gateways into our town.

"Given the length of time we have had to wait for action, I appreciate that some people will remain sceptical until the work begins. But I want to reassure residents that I will be working hard to ensure that Peel Ports deliver on their commitment to Warrington South.

"I will also be working to ensure that Peel Ports and Warrington Borough Council work together to find suitable solutions to any disruption that could be caused by the bridge closures – mitigating any impact and ensuring that the work is carried out as quickly as possible.

"I will continue to pursue this issue until the work is completed. However, I am encouraged that both parties remain committed to delivering on these works and that there is an end in sight."

Council leader Russ Bowden added: "We welcome this decision by Peel Ports as we have been working with Peel for the past two years on the clear timescales. We will work closely

with Peel and other partners to ensure that the bridge enhancement project is completed efficiently and with minimum disruption."

As well as being an eyesore the

bridges have been causing consistent traffic chaos across the town in recent years, by jamming in the open position, especially during periods of warm weather.



## Festival raises almost £1.5K for good causes

THIS year's Stockton Heath Festival raised nearly £1,500 for good causes in the Warrington area.

One of those to benefit was Sue Blythe from the Warrington charity Room at the Inn who was delighted to receive a cheque from Stockton Heath Festival coordinator, Helen Curwen.

The fundraising amount of £1,455 was collected during a raffle and auction at the Festival Comedy night, held at the Expédition lounge bar owned by Rob (also pictured), who helped to make it all happen.

Helen said: "We're delighted with this amount raised for the charity and it is fantastic to know that because of the kind generosity of local people, this money will be well spent helping people in the Warrington area. The Festival is all about bringing the community together and what better way than to present this cheque to Susan today."

Room at the Inn and the Y Project was set up after the closure of the local YMCA and now is able to help homeless and vulnerable people to access the services they need.



Photo by Andy Gilbert, Stockton Heath Festival photographer: L - R: Rob Harwood, Susan Blythe, Helen Curwen.

## Brothers trek the coast-to-coast walk for cancer charity



**BROTHERS** Matt and Greg Harding did the 92-mile coast-to-coast walk alongside Hadrian's Wall in three days – and then found it should have taken six!

The pair, from Appleton, raised more than £1,100 for cancer charity Secondary1st – and the money is still coming in.

Anyone who wants to keep it coming can do so through their Justgiving page <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/HardingsC2C>

Matt, 28, a product designer and Greg, 26, a landscape architect, decided to tackle the walk after their Mum, Louise, from Appleton Thorn, was diagnosed with breast cancer.

They planned the route from Wallsend, Newcastle to Bowness-on-Solway one evening over a pint in the Thorn Inn.

Secondary1st is a charity which raises funds for research into secondary breast cancer, its

treatment, diagnosis and causes.

Although their Mum has been successfully treated there is a chance of a secondary over the next five years.

Greg said: "Our Mum has been a radiographer since 1985, where she's been an active participant in research for patient centred care.

"It's this dedication to helping others that led to her choosing Secondary1st as the charity for us to support."

Matt and Greg trained for four months, walking with heavy backpacks, sometimes in the Appleton area, sometimes elsewhere.

The Hadrian's Wall route goes through urban areas as well as through bleak, wild and uninhabited areas.

The brothers completed it in three days, running part of the time – and only learned later that it more usually takes six, or even seven days.





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# Red Squirrel kittens born at Walton Zoo

**SIX red squirrel kittens have been born at Walton Hall and Gardens Children's Zoo.**

The new arrivals are now out of their nest boxes and can be viewed by members of the public.

Red squirrels thrived in this country until the 20th century when grey squirrels were brought over from North America and became the founders of today's huge grey squirrel population.

Once grey squirrels start to breed in a certain area, red squirrels will normally disappear within 20 years. Grey squirrels are now so successful that red squirrels are nearly extinct in England and Wales, with some colonies remaining in the Lake District and Northumberland.

Red squirrels still exist in special nature reserves such as Formby in Southport and Anglesey in Wales and captive breeding projects such as Walton's allow numbers to grow.

To date more than 40 kittens have been born at the zoo, five of these have been released into the wild on the Isle of Anglesey and the remainder have moved to start their own families at Knowsley Safari Park, British Wildlife Centre and the Welsh Mountain Zoo.

Peter Cookson-Dean, Walton zoo ranger, said: "It's fantastic that six kittens have been born at Walton this year as a result of our successful breeding programme. Squirrels can produce up to two litters each year, usually consisting of three or four kittens so to have six arrive is a little out of the ordinary.

"The young are looked after by the mother and are born helpless, blind and deaf. Their eyes and ears open after three to four weeks, and they develop all their teeth by 42 days.

At Walton there are five specially built cages linked by tunnels, with

the squirrels mainly sleeping in bird nest boxes, although they have also been known to use hay nets, Hessian sacks and to build their own nests in their tunnels. They will not come out in bad weather during the winter months.

For more information, visit [waltonhallgardens.co.uk](http://waltonhallgardens.co.uk). The children's zoo opens daily at 10.30am and closes at 5pm. Animal feeding takes place at 2pm each day and entry is free of charge.



Picture: Darren Moston.



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# Rugby League and solicitors – What’s the Connection?

WHAT’S the connection between Rugby League and solicitors?

Well, at FDR they have a solicitor – Michelle Davis – who plays for Warrington Wolves’ women’s team, is part of the England Women’s National Performance Squad and hopes one day to represent her country.

Away from the rugby pitch, she specialises in preparing Wills, Lasting Powers of Attorney (LPAs) and Probate work – and believes her experience has brought home the importance of Lasting Powers of Attorney.

LPAs let you appoint people you trust to manage your affairs if you are unable to do so. There are two types – one dealing with financial affairs and the other with health and care.

The financial affairs LPA lets your attorneys make decisions on your behalf about money matters, your property and also your business. For example, they can make decisions on running your bank accounts, dealing with your bills, buying or selling your property and investing your money.

The Health and Welfare LPA lets your attorneys to make decisions about your care, where you live, what you eat, what you wear and medical decisions.

So how does this relate to sport?

Anybody who plays any sport risks suffering a severe injury – so most competitive athletes have accident/injury insurance.

Michelle said “Every athlete



evaluates the risk of injury before they step onto their chosen field of play, so to speak, and therefore every athlete should consider putting LPAs in place as an additional insurance policy in case the worst outcome does happen.”

LPAs ensure your loved ones are able to deal with your affairs without any additional stress. Even joint accounts can be frozen if a bank becomes aware that one party has lost mental capacity.

On a happier note, an LPA can be useful for managing your personal or business affairs if you are lucky

enough to tour abroad with a sports team.

As a keen Rugby League player Michelle is passionate about educating all athletes from all sports about LPAs and other ways to plan and protect their assets for the future.

Anyone who wants to find out more can speak to Michelle or one of our Private Client Team for more advice.

Alternatively, Michelle can visit clubs to explain the benefits of future planning for both professional and amateur sports people.

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# Money Column

By Margaret Black

## Orbit News celebrate 20 years for the Warrington Worldwide publication

We at WatkinsonBlack have written monthly advisory columns for the Orbit News Group for the last 20 years covering Warrington Worldwide and Village Life.



David Watkinson and Margaret Black

Over the 20 years there have been lots of changes to report to our readers, mainly for those people in business whether self-employed sole traders, self-employed partnerships, Limited companies or simply those who have to submit a self-assessment tax return.

The subjects we have covered have varied from, correct record-keeping, VAT issues, personal tax issues which have included the changes for rental property income, accounting updates, corporation tax updates, changes in the laws for the reporting of PAYE, the need for Real – Time Information reports to the Inland Revenue in respect of employers paying wages, the need for employers to set up the new pension regime which has been imposed upon us by the Government known as Auto-Enrolment. Our list of activities is boundless, so we suggest to find out more that you may wish to contact ourselves.

We too have had a number of changes over the last 20 years. If any of you who are reading this are existing clients you will be well acquainted with both of the partners David Watkinson and Margaret Black together with our team of today. Some of you may even remember some of the valued staff who are now no longer with us for whatever reason, Sarah Morris from reception, Jim Barlow from payroll, twins Chris & Fergus Ryan and Nicola Walsh, all three trainee accountants, to name just a few. The major change for the practice happened when we moved from Orford Lane, where we operated from for over 17 years, to a new location in July 2010, where we remain at 264 Manchester road

A future change you may wish to be aware of, and which we are really excited about, is that we are about to release our 'new look image' via our website and our stationery, please watch out for this on google 'warringtonaccountants.co.uk

We would like to take this opportunity to say congratulations to Gary Skentelbery and his team for their accomplishment over the last 20 years and to wish them every success for the future and long live the relationship between them and WatkinsonBlack.

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# Open garden weekend raised £6,000 for charity



**MORE than 600 people attended Laskey Farm, Thelwall when owners Howard and Wendy Platt opened their magnificent garden for the weekend as part of the National Gardens scheme.**

It was the eighth time the couple have taken part in the scheme, which raises money for nursing and health charities. Rain affected the attendance on the Saturday but numbers recovered well on the Sunday enabling the weekend to raise £6,000.

In addition to the garden, visitors were able to see an exhibition by the Lymm Artists, enjoy live music and relax with tea and cake.

Howard and Wendy have held a number of events over the summer, raising more than £10,000 in total, including £2,360 for the NSPCC and £1,30 for All Saints' Church, Thelwall.

Bookings are being taken now for next year when the garden and other facilities will be provided free to local charities to enable them to hold fund raising events.





# Speed awareness group aims to make roads safer

A NEW group has been launched in Grappenhall and Thelwall to tackle the problem of speeding traffic in the twin villages.

Volunteers from the Grappenhall and Thelwall Speed Awareness group are monitoring speeds on main roads and "rat runs" using a speed camera.

The information they gather is passed to the police and to Grappenhall and Thelwall Parish Council.

A spokesperson for the group said: "There were 603 casualties on Warrington's roads in 2017. Nationally it is estimated that 37 per cent of all accidents have speeding as a contributory factor and that a pedestrian struck by a vehicle travelling at 40 mph is 4.5 times more likely to be killed or seriously injured than by a vehicle travelling at 30 mph.

"Speeding traffic causes excessive noise. Reducing road speed from 30 mph to 20 mph is equivalent to moving from trying to make yourself heard in a busy restaurant to having a quite conversation with a friend.

"Speeding vehicles also significantly increase pollution. Driving at 20 mph rather than 30 mph reduces the levels of dangerous Nitrous Oxide by 8.2 per cent and particulates by 8.3 per cent.

"We have a real problem of speeding traffic in Grappenhall and Thelwall. Our group often records traffic traveling at 45 and even 50 mph in a 30 mph zone

and there is a particular problem of speeding near our schools putting the lives of our children and grandchildren at risk.

"Our group has been established to try and make our streets safer, quieter and less polluting. Our volunteers spend one or two hours a month monitoring road speeds on the main roads and "rat runs" through our villages, using a speed camera.

"The make and registration of vehicles exceeding the speed limit are noted and schedules provided to both the police and parish councils. The police obtain the driver's name and address and they are sent a reminder of the importance of abiding by the speed limits. More importantly the information proved enables the parish council and Warrington Borough Council to identify roads, which have particular speeding problem and bring forward traffic calming measures."

The group is in need of more volunteers, who would be trained in the use of the speed camera.

Volunteers always work in pairs and the group says they are getting a very positive reaction from local residents, pedestrians and cyclists.

"They even get friendly waves from the drivers - along with a few 'Anglo Saxon Gestures!'"

Anyone who would like to join the group can email them at [communityspeedwatch@yahoo.com](mailto:communityspeedwatch@yahoo.com)

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# Question mark over Sandy Lane day centre

A QUESTION mark hangs over the future of the day service operated at the Sandy Lane Centre, Stockton Heath after users received a letter informing them the service was to be relocated to Woolston.

Angry users complained there had been no consultation, that Woolston was too far away and that the decision would mean there was no day service for people with learning or physical disabilities in South Warrington.

The service is run by Catalyst Choices on behalf of the borough. Users were sent a letter by Catalyst Choices, who run the service on behalf of the borough council, informing them that the service was to be relocated because only four or five people were attending and it had become unviable.

But users claimed that around 30 people used the service every week. A formal complaint has been made to the borough council.

The proposed relocation also worried Stockton Heath Parish Council.

Cllr Peter Walker said: "There is no other service available in South Warrington and it would be difficult for most of the present users to get to Woolston. I would be very unhappy to see this service, which is so valuable to many vulnerable people, relocated."

Catalyst Choice have now agreed to review the situation.

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Liberal Democrat Parliamentary Candidate for Warrington South

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# Stockton Heath Library to reopen after £195k redevelopment

**Stockton Heath Library will reopen on Monday, September 2 following a 12-week, £195,000 redevelopment – that includes dementia friendly design throughout and more flexible activity and events spaces.**

The library, on Alexandra Road, is the first of the town's libraries to benefit from Warrington Borough Council's £1m library investment programme.

Other improvements made during the redevelopment, aims to transform the library into a more fit for purpose

facility for the south Warrington community, include:

- Full lighting replacement.
  - Redecoration throughout.
  - New kitchenette for community group use.
  - Reconfigured internal space to improve access for the community outside of library opening hours.
  - Redeveloped space that will enable co-location for third party organisations such as Stockton Heath Parish Council.
- During the closure period, LiveWire

offered a reduced library service from Broomfields Leisure Centre in Appleton, which has now ceased.

Cllr Tony Higgins, Warrington Borough Council's Cabinet Member for Leisure and Community, said: "The re-opening of Stockton Heath Library is absolutely fantastic news for the community, who can look forward to a first-class, dementia friendly facility, which is well-equipped to meet the needs of a wide range of people."

"We have made a commitment to build a sustainable future for our libraries, and I'm delighted that this is now coming to fruition. Our investment in Stockton Heath Library is part of our wider libraries modernisation programme, which will see us continuing to work with LiveWire, communities and partners to deliver a 21st century library

service across the borough."

Emma Hutchinson, Managing Director of LiveWire, said: "We'd like to thank library users for their patience over the summer, while these hugely important and exciting redevelopment works have taken place."

"We can't wait to open the doors to the redeveloped library, which will offer the people of Stockton Heath and surrounding areas a revitalised library service in a more fit-for-purpose building."

"Please come and check out the improvements made, support your local library, and learn more about what your library can do for you!"

For more information on LiveWire's libraries, please visit [www.livewirewarrington.co.uk](http://www.livewirewarrington.co.uk)

## Local pet food store 1st in UK offering a zero waste Pet Food Refill Station

STOCKTON Heath based Pets Pantry is excited to be going zero waste for pets.

Their newest product is a zero-waste pet food refill station in a quest to reduce their single use plastic.

As the family run business based on London Road prepares to celebrate 40 years this October Karen Hodgkins explained: "In the 1980's we had large seed bins in the shop, that customers could scoop their own pet foods into paper bags."

"Then along came plastic options and like all shopkeepers we were told this was the way forward. So, our packing room grew busier and we cleared out the seed bins and put in more shelves to display our own pre-weighed pet and wildlife foods. Sadly, we all know now, this was not the solution and too many single use plastics are clogging up our oceans and damaging fish and birdlife; along with our planet."

"We are excited, that this month we have introduced our zero-waste pet food refill station, where customers can come in with their own containers and fill up their favourite pet and wildlife foods from our dispensers."

"It is wonderful that there are lots of zero waste human food shops popping up throughout the UK, but we believe we are the first UK pet store to introduce a zero-waste refill option for pet food."

"Even though we have always recycled and reused our waste we want to go that step further and ultimately try to reduce all our single use plastic. This is now available in

store and our official launch is Tuesday 27th August, giving customers an opportunity to sample the dispensers and come and celebrate with us on what we see as a unique opportunity within a pet store. The response from our customers so far, has been very positive, they, like us, want to include their pets purchase in helping to protect the planet for the future."

"We have made a considerable investment in this new concept, with a specialist zero waste weighing system and state of the art food dispensers. This process will integrate with our epos till providing a self-service system that will be seamless, slick and quick and allow customers to move through the till with their zero waste containers, with just the click of barcode."

"Generally, the idea of remembering to bring a container with you shopping will take some forethought, but like bags for life we can adapt when we need to. We have also introduced a deposit jar scheme to start customers off if they would prefer. It is £1 deposit per container that can be reused over and over. The transition will be a sensitive one but from the feedback we are getting from customers they are on board already. This is the start of our role out to reduce our single use plastic in store and we will be looking at all areas, section by section to see what other alterations can be made."

"We hope all our customers will be as excited as we are about this new concept of the zero-waste refill station."

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# St Rocco's Colour Bubble Fun Run will be family affair

**It will be a real family affair when June Bursill and her relatives get together to take part in this year's Colour Bubble Fun Run at Walton Hall on September 29.**

June and her children, Nicola, Sarah, Diane and David, along with her grandchildren will be there to honour the memory of her husband, and their Dad and Grandad, Alan, who was cared for by St. Rocco's earlier this year.

"Dad deteriorated quite quickly and was in pain and agitated at home. It was such a relief to all of us that he could come in to St. Rocco's," said Nicola. "The help we had had

up to that point had been brilliant but going through this experience, and not knowing what to expect or what to do, it was great to have the support from St. Rocco's."

Alan wasn't one for hospitals but the family say that he became much calmer as a result of being cared for at St. Rocco's.

"It's such a lovely environment and not at all like being in hospital. We could visit whenever we wanted and mum was able to be with my dad the whole time. There was space in the lounge for us to take time out. During the beautiful weather at Easter we were even able to take Dad out into the courtyard in the sunshine.

He really enjoyed that, chatting and looking at the planes."

On June and Alan's 36th wedding anniversary staff made sure there was a celebratory cake and the family brought in flowers and bubbly to celebrate, wanting to make the most of every moment they could. In the evening the St. Rocco's choir came to sing for patients.

"It was such a special moment," said Sarah, "The choir started singing. I was sitting with Dad. I saw him open his eyes. He looked straight at Mum and it was as if he knew and then he passed peacefully away. If any moment could be described as perfect in our circumstances, it was then. We had a recording of the choir singing the same piece of music at

Dad's funeral."

The family have already raised over £1700 through donations and fundraising but are determined to raise as much as possible through taking part in the Colour Bubble Fun Run.

June said: "We can't believe that places like the hospice can only survive on donations from the public. They are such important places. All hospices should be funded properly to ensure they are there when needed. We want to do our bit to help."

St. Rocco's Colour Bubble Fun Run takes place at 3pm on Sunday 29th September and is fun event for all the family. You can sign up now at [www.stroccos.org.uk/events/colour-bubble-fun-run/](http://www.stroccos.org.uk/events/colour-bubble-fun-run/)

## Andy Carter

Parliamentary Candidate Warrington South

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## What's on *in the villages*

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St Wilfrid's Church, Grappenhall  
Opera singer and recording artist Kathryn Rudge – described as "one of Britain's brightest young mezzo's." Accompanied by Duncan Glenday.  
7.30pm

**September 10**  
STOCKTON HEATH PARISH COUNCIL  
Sandy Lane Centre, Stockton Heath  
7.30pm

**September 17**  
APPLETON PARISH COUNCIL  
Appleton Parish Hall, Dudlow Green Road  
7.30pm

**September 19**  
GRAPPENHALL & THELWALL PARISH COUNCIL  
Council Offices, Bellhouse Lane. 7.30pm

**Every day except Monday**  
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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

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

COFFEE MORNING  
Appleton Independent Methodist Church  
Appleton Parish Hall, 10am-12 noon  
**Ever first Tuesday**

STOCKTON HEATH FLOWER CLUB  
Appleton Parish Hall, 7.15pm  
Except September and January  
Details: 01925 602016

**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  
Sept to Easter at Hall Drive, Appleton.  
7.45-9.45pm.  
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

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



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