

Village Life Magazine

STOCKTON HEATH • APPLETON & SOUTH WARRINGTON

ISSUE 223 | OCTOBER 2019
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Editor's comment

AT time of writing thousands of local people are still waiting with bated breath to hear whether the controversial Eddie Stobart planning application for Appleton Thorn is going to be called in by the Secretary of State.

What we do know is that Stobart can not start work until a decision is reached by the secretary of state, due to the fact that the large scale development is earmarked for green belt land.

Since members of the planning committee made their controversial decision, which included a senior councillor, who seconded the proposal not appearing to know where the site was, the senior council officer who advised members has retired and the Chief Executive of Stobart stood down with immediate effect, after the company revealed a £2m error in its 2018 results and suspended trading in its shares.

So two of the key players are no longer part of the proposed development.

I realise in the grand scheme

of things this shouldn't impact on whether a development should go ahead or not because at the end of the day it should be a decision made on planning laws.

But there are those who will argue that members of the committee were badly advised and that this application does clearly breach the green belt policy and "exceptional circumstances" have not been proven.

At the end of the day this is such a big decision which will have a major impact on the surrounding area, not just on green belt but also traffic and pollution, it would be a travesty if it didn't get called in.

Meanwhile on a more positive note I would like to congratulate all those involved in helping organise and provide funding and support for a potentially life-saving defibrillator at Appleton Thorn Village Hall.

This is a great example of positive outcome from various organisations and members of the community working together.

Appleton Thorn Village Hall is a great community asset right at the heart of the community.



Deadline for the November issue of Village Life is October 15

Historic greenhouses set to re-open at Walton Hall & Gardens

by Michael Berry

THE historic Victorian greenhouses at Walton Hall & Gardens are set to re-open following a major refurbishment.

Having been under renovation since last year, the new buildings, which will be an educational training centre in connection with Myerscough College, will once again give pleasure to thousands of visitors.

The greenhouses had remained in a derelict state, for many years until Warrington Borough Council secured a Lottery grant to rebuild them and transform them into an educational facility, working in partnership with

the college and the Walton Lea Project.

Once the official opening ceremony has taken place, students from the college will study at the premises during the week.

For members of the public, they will be open on weekends, while the history section will be open daily to general visitors.

As well as this major work at Walton Hall, the buildings behind the greenhouses have been lovingly restored and refurbished into classrooms.

The historic bike museum, which opens on the weekends has moved to

the back of the gardens alongside the main hall.

These investments at the gardens will be a boost to the attraction and will allow for it to gain a wider scope of visitors due to its connection with Myerscough College.

The gardens provide a wonderful place to relax, have a picnic, and visit the zoo.

Families can relax while their children explore the playground, play crazy golf or have an afternoon lunch and drink in the cafe.

For more information visit www.waltonhallgardens.co.uk



Dementia friendly library reopens following £195,000 redevelopment



STOCKTON Heath Library has reopened following a 12-week, £195,000 redevelopment that sees it become the borough's first dementia friendly stand-alone library.

The library was officially reopened by Cllr Tony Higgins, Warrington Borough Council's Cabinet Member for Leisure and Community at an event also attended by Warrington South MP Faisal Rashid, the Friends of the South Warrington Library in Stockton Heath (SWISH) group, and partner organisations who will be using the library.

Stockton Heath 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, which aimed to transform the library into a more fit for purpose facility for south Warrington, included:

- 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.

Cllr Higgins said: "As part of Warrington Borough Council's £1m library modernisation programme, the changes at Stockton Heath have been driven by a strong partnership between Warrington Borough Council, LiveWire, the SWISH 'Friends of' group and the local Stockton Heath working group.

"The business case for the library established a shared vision for the

library that took on the challenges of a modern society and addressed them through focused improvements including dementia friendly design and accessible community facilities. The vision aims to ensure the library has a sustainable future and we look forward to working with new partners moving forward.

"This redeveloped library is testament to the tireless work and commitment of the working group, as well as library staff. It's a fantastic example of what can be achieved when partners come together for the benefit of the community."

Emma Hutchinson, Managing Director of LiveWire, said: "We know that libraries aren't only about books on shelves - they have an important place in the wider community, combating social isolation and offering important resources and a place for the community to connect. This ethos was key to the vision behind the redevelopment of Stockton Heath Library.

"It has been so rewarding to see how the wider community has come together to support the redevelopment at all stages of the project. And LiveWire's dedicated library staff and our partners have worked tirelessly to help achieve this vision, and to ensure that the library stock at Stockton Heath reflects the needs of the community.

"Feedback received from local people throughout the opening week has been positive and encouraging and I would like to thank the community for their continued support throughout the journey and hope they enjoy using this library and continue to do so in the years ahead."

For more information on LiveWire's libraries visit www.livewirewarrington.co.uk



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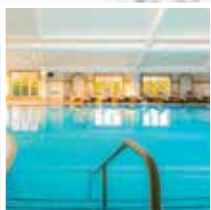
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Best ever A level results at Priestley College

PRIESTLEY College achieved its best ever set of A-Level results as the Class of 2019 secured an overall pass rate of 99.4%.

There was a 100% pass rate in 34 subjects with impressive results across subjects as diverse as Chemistry, Biology, Politics, Architecture, Performing Arts, Art and Design, Music and Computing.

Principal Matthew Grant said both A* to B and A* to C grades were at record levels and praised the hard work of students and staff alike.

"Today marks the end of our second years' time with us and the start of a new chapter in all their lives," he said.

"Given that we have seen a record pass rate, and a fantastic amount of high marks, I am certain this cohort will go on to achieve great things."

More students take A-Levels at Priestley College than any other institution in Warrington where over 500 young people collected their results.

Among Priestley's Oxbridge hopefuls was former college president and Bridgewater High School pupil Sophie Johnson.

She achieved A*s in Art and History but is hoping a review of her Politics paper will give her the necessary A* to reach Cambridge where she hopes

to study Human, Social and Political Sciences.

"I'm really excited for university whether it be Cambridge or Leeds because I liked both of them so I know I am going to have a great time

whatever happens," she said.

For Tom Bramwell, a former pupil at Penketh High, an electrical engineering apprenticeship with Procter and Gamble awaits after he picked up two Cs in Computing and

Physics and a D in Maths.

"I always knew I didn't want to go to university and the careers advisers at college really helped me as I was looking for the right apprenticeship," he said.



New school entrance given planning consent

PLANNING chiefs have given the go-ahead for a new entrance to Bridgewater High School upper school in Broomfields Road, Appleton.

There will be two new access points, with glazed canopies, decking and alterations to the building's façade with the exterior being rendered white.

Officers say the alterations will improve the building aesthetically and harmonise with the existing building and the site as a whole. There will be no detrimental impact on nearby homes or the street scene.

Back to the classroom for adult learners

ADULTS returned to the classroom in September for a number of fascinating classes.

Priestley College will be running courses both during the day and in the evenings, everything from Creative Photography to Psychology.

Other courses include GCSE Maths and English, Russian for Beginners, Getting Started With Video and Biology.

Jude Leng (pictured) has been teaching Psychology to adults and young people for more than 15 years and has a BSc (Hons) in Psychology and Criminology.

"I believe everyone has the ability to learn no matter what their age and I enjoy coming up with innovative and interesting ways to make psychological concepts accessible to everyone," she said.

To find out more about the courses that are available go to www.priestley.ac.uk/adult-courses/



"Teachers ensure students develop the skills and knowledge they need to be successful in their qualifications and in their working life."
Ofsted, June 2019



Open Events

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Life-saving equipment donated for village hall

A life-saving defibrillator has been installed at Appleton Thorn Village Hall thanks to donations by David Wilson Homes, Appleton Parish Council, local villagers and private donors.

A plaque thanking the sponsors has been placed above the Automated External Device (AED) which is located on the outside of the village hall on Stretton Road.

Defibrillators are increasingly being made available in public places as they can significantly increase the chances of survival of someone suffering a cardiac arrest. A locked temperature controlled cabinet has been installed to protect the defibrillator and the code can be accessed from inside the Village Hall, St Cross Church or the Thorn Inn or alternatively by calling 999.

Susan Plass, a Trustee of the Appleton Thorn Village Hall Charity held an unveiling ceremony with the sponsors. She said, "Last year the village hall decided to raise funds for a public defibrillator.

"We have to give thanks to all the donors as this was made possible entirely due to their help."

Training courses also took place at the Appleton Thorn Village Hall, with 30 villagers trained so far in CPR and defibrillator use, although anyone can use the defibrillator as long as the instructions are followed.

David Wilson Homes donated £1,000 to the cause through its Our Space Your Place initiative. The scheme aims to support community projects and local charities throughout the North West.

Lynton Dudgeon, Sales Director at David Wilson Homes, said, "We're really pleased we could get involved with the Appleton Thorn community by contributing towards a publicly accessible defibrillator.

"This could make all the difference in saving someone's life in the village and we're happy we could help such an important cause."

Cllr Sharon Harris, Chair of Appleton Parish Council, said that she was delighted that the Parish Council had been able to assist in such a worthwhile and positive community project. "It is a fundamental ethos of the Parish Council to work together with Community Groups such as Appleton Thorn Village Hall. Whilst, we hope that there will never be a need to use the defibrillator, with the addition of more houses in the village and surrounding areas, it is always 'best to be prepared' as the Scouts say. Many congratulations to the Appleton Village Hall Committee on this excellent initiative."

David Wilson Homes has been selected as a developer at the upcoming development on Appleton Cross to deliver much-needed two to five bedroom homes.



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Applying to the Court of Protection to appoint a Deputy can be complex.

As part of the process interested people such as close friends and family must be notified of the application so that they have a right to respond. Medical evidence is required to prove to the Court that the person has lost capacity. If the application is successful the Court will make an order outlining the Deputy's rights and responsibilities.

Once appointed, the Deputy must submit an annual report to the Court detailing all income and expenditure such as paying bills, investment decisions, purchases etc. The Deputy will be supervised by the Office of the Public Guardian and may also be

visited by a representative from the Court of Protection from time to time to ensure that they are carrying out their role and duties properly.

Applying to the Court of Protection can be a complicated and daunting. We can support you through the process and make it as easy as possible. We can also make the application on your behalf and act as Deputy if required. We have two Solicitors at FDR Law who are currently appointed as Deputies and who manage clients' property and financial affairs.

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Farmer fined for unauthorised development

A FARMER has been fined for carrying out works on his property without planning permission following action taken by Warrington Borough Council's enforcement team.

Peter Dutton, 56, of Antrobus, created a new residential access from his land, which was previously agricultural land, onto Arley Road, along with gates, fencing, and a large area of hardstanding across the field.

He was required to seek planning permission to carry out these works, but failed to do so.

An enforcement notice was served, requiring that the unauthorised development be removed and the land reinstated to its former condition. After failure to comply with the notice, the council sought to prosecute Mr Dutton and he pleaded guilty at Warrington's Combined Court to the offence of non-compliance with an enforcement notice.

In court, Mr Dutton said that he had carried out the work himself, at

a cost of around £5,500, and that he is in the process of making a retrospective planning application. The Judge said that given Mr Dutton's profession (a farmer), she found it surprising that he wasn't aware that he would require planning permission for the work.

Mr Dutton was told he must pay a £1,500 fine, a £150 victim surcharge and £1,100 costs

Warrington Borough Council's cabinet member for environment and public protection, Cllr Judith Guthrie, said: "This sends out a clear message that carrying out development on your property without obtaining the necessary planning permission will not be tolerated by the council.

"Our planning enforcement team will take firm action against those who flout the rules and choose to carry out unauthorised works. Notice will be served for the work to be removed and, where necessary, we will prosecute."

Morris dancers seek new members

THE Earl of Stamford Morris – formed nearly 40 years ago – are on the lookout for new members.

Beginners and more experienced dancers will be welcome at the group's Tuesday evening meetings which are held every week between September and the end of May at the Milner Institute, in Moore.

Originally formed at Wilmslow in 1982, the mixed, adult group perform mainly traditional Cotswold Morris Dances.

More information can be obtained from Mary on 01925 604360 or from the website www.earlofstamford.org.uk

Money Column

By Margaret Black

Tax penalties

Once every 3 months, HM Revenue & Customs ("HMRC") publish a list of the tax, and penalties, recovered from "defaulters" in the previous quarter. The list for the quarter to 30th June 2019 has just been published, showing that there were about 120 cases settled. The total tax recovered was £16,501,499.24 and associated penalties of £10,052,697.65. Therefore, penalties are just over 60% of the tax.



David Watkinson and Margaret Black

There are a number of interesting things to note:

1. These published cases are the more serious ones. Therefore, they do not represent the full picture.
2. These figures are for a 3 month period. If they were repeated each quarter then this would be a total of just over £66m in a full year.
3. The industries represented in the list are very varied. Restaurants and Convenience Stores featured several times, as did the Construction Industry in various guises including Decorators. A sample of the other industries includes Employment Agencies, Accountants (not us!), Letting Agents, Public Houses and off-Licences, and Travel Agents.
4. One of the largest amounts listed was tax of £826,246.00 with penalties of £495,747.00. The industry was listed as "Fork Lift Driver". This was followed by £638,447.88 with penalties of £424,567.84 charged to an "Online Trader".
5. The list contains taxpayers from all locations, including Wilmslow, Preston, Queensferry and Childs Ercoll. There were no local businesses listed in the current quarter. However, a takeaway in Penketh was charged tax of £31,896.00 with penalties of £27,909.00 in the March 2019 quarter's listing.

There are a number of lessons that can be learnt from the above.

1. We have never had a client's details published, but over the years have had quite a number of client's selected by HMRC for review.
2. The published list are the most serious defaulters. Our selected clients may have had a smaller settlement due to small errors made in their record keeping, or small disagreements in estimates made. In some cases, no adjustments have been required.
3. Once selected, there can be a substantial amount of work required in gathering evidence to prove to HMRC's satisfaction that the returns are accurate. If that work is not done then HMRC will raise a determination of the tax and penalties due, and those figures will be payable unless evidence is provided to prove that they are excessive.
4. It is the responsibility of the taxpayer to meet the cost of gathering and presenting that evidence. It is because of this that we offer a fee protection service to all clients.

We consider that everyone in business should carry that protection. We had a taxi-driver client, fortunately covered by insurance, who was faced with a fee in excess of £1,000 to fight a determination in excess of £5,000. His final additional tax bill was about £200. Without that protection, which would currently cost him about £60 per annum including VAT, he would have had difficulty paying either the determination or the costs of fighting it.

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Council to monitor village air quality

STOCKTON Heath Parish Council has taken delivery of an air quality monitor to enable it to measure air pollution in the village.

In about a month's time it will be installed in London Road – thought to be the area which suffers most from pollution created by road traffic.

But for the time being it is being tested at Great Sankey – next to the official DEFRA air quality monitor for the Warrington area.

Cllr Peter Walker explained: "By comparing the readings with the official DEFRA readings we will be able to check if it is giving accurate readings. Once we are assured about that we will be using the device in Stockton Heath."

"It is a mobile device so we will be able to move it around the village to monitor the air in various places. But

London Road is the obvious place to start."

Road traffic causes various types of air pollution harmful to health, including carbon monoxides, hydrocarbons, nitrogen oxide and particulate matter. Once the machine is operational, residents will be able to check the level of pollution at any given time, either via the parish council's website or via a direct link.

Cllr Walker said: "We are particularly concerned about any increase in pollution that might arise following the construction of thousands of new houses to the south of Stockton Heath. It could lead to up to 4,000 additional vehicles coming through the village."

"Even if they are electric cars they still cause pollution from tyres, brakes, etc., so we are keen to be able to check particulate matter."

Detailed plans approved for 370 homes

DETAILED planning consent has been given for 370 houses on a 20 hectare site at Appleton – despite opposition from Appleton Parish Council and local borough councillor Sharon Harris.

The site is bounded by Green Lane and Dipping Brook Avenue and currently comprises open fields with ponds, hedgerows and trees.

But outline permission for the houses was granted in 2017 and the land was originally acquired by the Commission for New Towns with consent under the New Town Act 1981.

It is abutted by Green Belt on three sides.

Cllr Harris objected to the scheme because of the inadequacy of the Cat and Lion Junction, car parking provision and pavement and driveway dimension.

Appleton Parish Council opposed the proposals on the grounds of lack of clarification on the proposed "garden suburb" link – proposed in the draft Warrington Local Plan – which appears to run through the residential area.

Eleven nearby residents also objected on various grounds, including lack of infrastructure, traffic concerns, impact on wildlife and pollution and air quality issues.

But officers said the principle of development is acceptable, the design of the houses appropriate and the development would provide a high standard of accommodation for future occupiers.

They claim there will be no unacceptable impact on the local highway network.

The development will consist of two, three and four bedroomed properties and will include 111 affordable homes.

Part of the site will be used for children's play areas.

A neighbourhood centre, including retail store, health centre and place of worship is included in outline plans for Appleton Cross and will be the subject of a further detailed planning application later.



Planners put off decision on warehouse scheme

PLANNING chiefs have put off a decision on proposals for a warehouse on the Appleton Thorn trading estate because of concerns over its impact on nearby homes.

The 1.8 hectare site, off Lyncastle Road, Appleton, is currently hardstanding, except for a pond in its northern corner and is entirely within the trading estate.

But Appleton Parish Council lodged an objection to the scheme on the grounds of residential amenity, noise, impact on protected species, and its speculative nature, with no details of the eventual end user available.

There were also two objections from nearby residents, on the grounds of loss of outlook, light pollution and a noise nuisance.

They also claimed the impact of the proposed development on local wildlife could be an issue.

Officers recommended the scheme for approval, claiming there would be no significant impact on local residents.

But the borough council's development management committee decided to defer a decision for more information about the likely impact of the building's height on nearby homes due to its height.

Takeover bid looming for Eddie Stobart

AN approach has been made for a potential takeover of Eddie Stobart Logistics – the company behind the controversial £75 million plan for a national distribution centre on Green Belt land at Appleton Thorn.

The “preliminary expression of interest” comes from the third-biggest shareholder in the company – Isle of Man based DBay Advisors.

It follows the shock announcement in August that Stobart had suspended trading in its shares, was delaying publication of its first-half accounts and was parting company, with

immediate effect, with its chief executive, Alex Laffey.

The company revealed a £2 million error in its 2018 results, issued a profits warning and said a review of past accounts was being carried out.

DBay has until October 7 to make a firm offer.

The developments have fueled speculation locally that there could be implications for the firm’s ambitions to expand on Green Belt land at Appleton Thorn, adjoining its existing headquarters.

Warrington Borough Council has approved the company’s planning

application, despite strenuous local opposition, but the final decision will be made by the Secretary of State.

The council bought Stobart’s existing headquarters for £26.1 million last year in a deal which is expected to see the company pay the council around £1.2 million a year in rent. Town Hall chiefs say they have “no concerns” about Stobart’s future commitments as a result of the suspension of share trading.

But objectors to the Green Belt scheme see the developments as offering hope that the project may not go ahead.

A consortium of parish councils – the South Warrington Parish Councils Local Plan Working Group – is

considering seeking a judicial review of the borough council’s decision and has written to the Secretary of State, calling for a “call in” of the application.

Hundreds of people submitted objections to the Eddie Stobart proposals for Appleton Thorn which were also opposed by Warrington South MP Faisal Rashid.

There was fury when a member of the committee which approved the proposals appeared not to even know where the site was.

Stobart operates 2,700 vehicles and 5,000 trailers and employs about 6,600 staff. The business had a market value of £270 million when trading in its shares was halted.



Art group’s exhibition

GRAPPENHALL Art Group is to stage an exhibition of members’ work at Stockton Heath Library.

The exhibition will open on October 8 and continue until November 1 during library opening hours.

It follows on the success of a similar exhibition last year.

The group comprises local artists who meet each week at Grappenhall Cricket Club to share ideas, support and friendship.

Further details from Christine Conreen at cconreen@icloud.com

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Pets Pantry Zero Waste Pet Food Refill Station success

STOCKTON Heath based Pets Pantry has successfully launched a zero-waste pet food refill station, where customers can come in with their own containers and fill up their favourite pet and wildlife foods.

As the family run business prepares to celebrate 40 years of trading Karen Hodgkins decided to launch the new refill station after being inspired by lots of zero waste human food shops popping up throughout the UK.

She believes Pets Pantry based on London Road in the village are the first pet store to introduce a zero-waste refill option for pet food.

She said: "Even though we have for many years recycled and reused our waste plastic, we now want to go that step further and ultimately try to reduce all our single use plastic."

"Our refill station is now available in store and the response from customers has been amazing. We have even had people pop in that don't have pets congratulating us on such a good concept and thanking us for introducing it."

"As a small family business, it has been quite an investment to install these dispensers along with the zero waste scales, however it is an expense, well worth it for the damage that plastic does to our oceans and wildlife."

"So, if we can be part of reducing single use plastic, we would be delighted. Originally, we chose 18 starter food dispensers with a food for every pet, but we have had so many requests for other foods that we currently stock in packaging, that we can see that we will be increasing

our range in the dispensers; as more people come along to use them.

"Already customers are bringing in their own containers, or using our £1 container deposit scheme, for those people who haven't got as suitable container, and these are already being brought back for refilling."

"Customers of all ages are using the refill station, little ones are coming in quite excited to refilling their containers with swan and duck food to feed the local ducks. Every, single use plastic bag we save is Fantastic!!

"As someone who has been trying for many years to reduce plastic packaging and waste in my own household; it seems a natural progression to spread this into the business. I realise Pets Pantry isn't going to save the world on its own, but it is these little steps, that we all make, that change the world. For me and our team watching and listening to customers engage with the refill station, is so heartening."

"At the beginning of this year I volunteered to join a coastal conservation programme in Thailand and along with beach cleans, micro plastic data collection and educating young people on protecting their wildlife, I was also involved in turtle conservation."

"Some of the older turtles had been so damaged and deformed by plastic waste in our seas, that they would never recover. Such a sad thing to see and I hope in some way we are helping by doing our bit to help prevent such scenes."

For more information visit www.petspantry.uk




Cricketers relegated after disappointing season

IT became apparent well before the end of the cricket season that Grappenhall was likely to be relegated from the ECB Premier Division of the Vivio Cheshire County League.

But it still came as a shock when not just the 1st XI but also the 2nd XI ended up firmly rooted at the bottom of their respective leagues.

The season had started full of promise with the Broad Lane club's three teams all in their respective premier divisions and the arrival of a number of highly regarded new players, including Aussie all-rounder Olly Knight.

At 6ft 4 inches tall, the 24-year-old fast bowler had been playing Grade cricket in Australia – probably the highest level of amateur cricket

in the world – alongside Test batsman Steve Smith, who has since almost single-handedly destroyed England's Ashes hopes.

In the event, Knight scored more than 420 runs for Grappenhall at an average of more than 23.00 and took 25 wickets at an average of around 27.00, so it would be unfair to attach any of the blame for a disastrous season to him.

But too many of Grappers' batsmen were out of form for much of the season and, although there were some narrow defeats, the bowlers also failed to make the necessary breakthroughs.

On a brighter note, Grappenhall 3rd XI retained their premier division status, finishing in a respectable mid-table position.

Down the road at Walton Lea, neighbours Warrington just missed

out on the division two title but won promotion to the 1st division as runners-up, so with Grappenhall dropping down one tier, there will again be "derby" matches between the two clubs next year.

Other local cricket clubs struggled in division two of the UKFast Cheshire League.

Stretton ended in a mid-table position but newly-promoted Appleton spent most of the season in the relegation zone, drawing more games than any other club in the division but finding victory elusive. But they just managed to avoid relegation.

England cricket stars visit Grappers

ENGLAND'S Test cricketers may have suffered defeat in the Ashes match at Old Trafford, but it didn't stop some of them from visiting Grappenhall Cricket Club.

Skipper Joe Root, Ben Stokes, Stuart Broad, Jos Buttler and coach and former England player Paul Collingwood, called in at the Broad Lane ground to present former

England, Lancashire and Grappenhall player Neil Fairbrother with a commemorative bench in memory of his Dad, Les, who sadly died at the end of July.

Club secretary Paul Tyerman said: "Les was a true legend of the club, a former junior coach, groundsman and long time spectator. He was a true gent and a real loss to the club!"

Andy Carter

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Telemann Baroque Ensemble. Flute, Oboe,
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music by Pergolesi, JC Bach and others.
7.30pm

October 8
STOCKTON HEATH PARISH COUNCIL
Stockton Heath Library,
7.30pm

October 15
APPLETON PARISH COUNCIL
Appleton Parish Hall, Dudlow Green Road
7.30pm

October 17
GRAPPENHALL & THELWALL PARISH
COUNCIL
Council Offices, Bellhouse Lane. 7.30pm

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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

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

Every first Tuesday
STOCKTON HEATH FLOWER CLUB
Appleton Parish Hall, 7.15pm
Details: 01925 602016

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,
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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

LYMM & THELWALL U3A
Members' meetings 10am
Thelwall Parish Hall

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

The secret nightlife of Stockton Heath

ABOUT 50 people experienced a thriving nightlife at Stockton Heath – and it cost nothing.

The parish council hosted a “Bat Talk and Walk” at Ackers Pit with guest speaker Tony Parker, of Liverpool’s World Museum.

There are 18 species of bat in the UK and four of them can be seen flying around at Ackers Pit.

The evening started with a welcome cuppa and slice of cake at the Alexandra Park Pavilion, provided jointly by the Friends of the Park and the Friends Stockton Heath Library. Then there was an informative talk by Tony Parker and then it was off to the Pit with bat monitors held high.

These translated the bats’ echolocation calls into amazing “sounds” which indicated that bats are about. Then it was easy to focus on the darkening sky and pick them out.

Members of the intergenerational group were able to watch their acrobatics as they swooped and turn, catching insects on the wing.

Appleton Parish Council also organised a bat walk at the top of Appleton Reservoir.



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