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# Village Life Magazine

ISSUE 226 | JANUARY 2020  
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## Dream comes true

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# Editor's comment

CONGRATULATIONS to Warrington South's new MP Andy Carter on his success in the recent General Election.

It was nip and tuck throughout the night in a closely fought election where the Brexit issue, which has divided our country - and town, played a key part.

I look forward to working with Andy promoting everything good about our great town while working hard for our local communities.

There has been too much division in national and local politics for far too long and everyone needs to start working together for the good of our town and the people who live here.

Just prior to the election Andy welcomed Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government Robert Jenrick to the town where he pledged support for Warrington's Peace Centre and to help protect the green belt, saying it was clearly stated in the government's manifesto to protect our green belt.

So one of Andy's first big challenges is to ensure our precious green belt is protected and hopefully we can put a stop to any impending huge logistic centres on local green belt.

The surrounding area has already become blighted by a new Wheel Washing facility which is often causing traffic chaos in the area.



Our local infrastructure simply can't take any more development which will increase HGV traffic movements on our roads.

Finally I would like to take the opportunity of wishing all our readers and advertisers a happy new year.

Let's hope we can look forward to more certainty in 2020.



Andy Carter (right) with Robert Jenrick and Colin and Wendy Parry.

## Olivia reaches final in national singing contest

A FOURTEEN-year-old girl from Appleton Thorn has reached the finals of the national Open Mic UK singing competition.

Olivia Mae Booth has already won through the regional and area finals - the North West and the Midlands - and will now sing at the national finals at the O2 in London on February 1.

About 10-12,000 singers enter the competition for unsigned artists every year and Olivia will have a chance in both the Under 16 age group and the open age category meaning she could be the grand winner.

The former Bridgewater High School pupil's talent for singing first showed when, as a young child, she started singing along to pop songs.

Singing lessons confirmed she had a natural talent and, after two years at Bridgewater High she moved to a specialist performing arts school in Chester.

Here, she got a chance to sing to audiences of more than 300 but it was only when she entered the preliminary rounds of Open Mic UK that she found herself in front of really big audiences.

Proud Mum Gaynor said: "We don't know where she got it from - nobody

else in the family has been much of a singer. But right from the start her singing teachers have recognised she had a natural ability.

"Now we are all excited about her appearing in the finals. We have been

told it is one of the toughest singing competitions in the country but Olivia is very determined and we are obviously hopeful."

Part of the winner's prize is a recording contract.





# Dream comes true as Adam meets his dream dinner guest

A DREAM came true for former Bridgewater High School pupil Adam White, the youngest ever Fellow and current President of the Landscape Institute, when he recently presented Sir David Attenborough with a lifetime achievement award.

As president of the professional body representing all landscape architects in the UK Adam got the chance to have dinner with Sir David and present him with his award.

It topped a busy year for Adam who has also co designed four RHS gardens with HRH the Duchess of Cambridge, met former US Vice President Al Gore and now considers Sir David a friend.

Adam is famous for designing and managing the creation of flagship nature play spaces with his business partner, fellow landscape architect, Andree Davies.

They have won two prestigious RHS Gold Medals, popular two BBC People's Choice Awards and an elusive RHS Best in Show for their work. During 2019 the design duo famously co-designed four nature inspired gardens with HRH the Duchess of Cambridge at RHS Chelsea, RHS Hampton, RHS Wisley and an NHS Trust in Devon. The gardens gained global attention and the duo appeared in the worldwide press including TV in the UK, Australia, America, South Africa and Canada.

Adam has always been really keen to promote landscape architecture as career choice and in July 2018 he launched a career campaign called #ChooseLandscape. The initiative has now gone global and has been adopted in 22 countries around the world. His message is simple 'you could be the next landscape superhero of tomorrow'.

As President of the Landscape Institute, Adam was the first industry leader to announce a Climate Crisis and Biodiversity Emergency Declaration in June. This led to being invited to speak at the IFLA World Congress in Oslo, Norway and the World Urban Parks Summit in Kazan, Russia. The declaration and associated actions have now been adopted by 77 different countries who make up the International Federation of Landscape Architects.

Adam was then invited to meet former US Vice President and 2007 Nobel Peace prize winner Al Gore.



Al Gore got the world talking about climate change with his Academy Award-winning Film An Inconvenient Truth in 2006. He founded what would become The Climate Reality Project to move the conversation forward and turn awareness into action. Since their meeting Adam has been helping raise awareness of the project and encouraging more landscape architects to be adapt their working practice and projects to be more sustainable.

For five years Adam was host of the Landscape Institute's annual awards, however when he became President he stepped down from this role. This year they were hosted by Adam's friend, BBC Gardeners World presenter Arit Anderson.

They celebrated 90 years of the Landscape Institute, founded at RHS Chelsea in 1929. However, the real highlight for the guests and those tuning in online was the attendance of Sir David Attenborough.

Adam presented Sir David with the LI Medal for Lifetime Achievement at the Awards, he also made him an Honorary Fellow of the landscape Institute. Sir David spoke about the importance of reconnecting communities with nature, and the part this can play in ensuring the natural world's protection. 'You have a great responsibility to bring the realities of the natural world to the understanding and the love of human beings worldwide', Sir David told the 700 in attendance at the Troxy theatre

in east London and the thousands tuning in to watch online.

Following the awards Adam said "He silenced the room and reminded us all of our responsibility to make a difference no matter how small or large. It was a career highlight to spend the day with him."

"During the awards meal I asked him who his dream dinner guest would be, he couldn't think of any one that he hadn't already met, however he said he would have loved to have met Charles Darwin. He then asked me who my perfect dinner was? I replied 'I am sat having dinner with him!' he smiled and patted me on my wrist."

"Having written to each other several times since March the challenge for both of us was finding a suitable event and time to meet and make the announcement. We both agreed the 90th anniversary awards would be the perfect occasion."

"He is such a kind, gentle and patient man. We talked about our own childhoods and how we both enjoyed finding fossils and exploring nature, even talked about rugby league!"

Whilst Director of BBC2 Sir David, was instrumental in the creation of the BBC2 Floodlit Trophy. A rugby league competition held between 1965 and 1980, designed specifically for television. When the competition was first mooted not many clubs were equipped with floodlights, but the tournament caused no fewer than twenty-one clubs to install them.

Adam awarded the What's Growing

on the Greenway, by the Paul Hogarth Company's Anthony McGuigan and Darren McKinstry, the prestigious LI President's Award. The Connswater Community Greenway brilliantly connects people to the green space and biodiversity around them through a 9km linear park in East Belfast. Following the course of the Connswater, Knock and Loop Rivers, the Greenway creates a vibrant, attractive, and accessible parkland for leisure, recreation, and community events.

Adam closed the awards with a message about the Climate Crisis telling the audience "Where there is action, there is hope, every single person in this room can make a difference both at home and at work. Landscape architects and landscape professionals are perfectly positioned to take the lead and make a difference. Time to act is now! He then introduced a pre-recorded message from Greta Thunberg who was travelling across the Atlantic Ocean in a boat to the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Spain.

Adam followed up the event with a key note talk in Lyon in France at the Paysalia Landscape Conference before returning back to the UK for a well-earned rest over the festive break with his patient partner Sarah and supportive Mum, Susan.

Sir David's acceptance speech can be watched here: <https://youtu.be/gCDhkaKHVU4>

## Day nursery raises £550 for children's charity

A DAY nursery at Stretton has raised £550 for the children's charity, Just 4 Children.

Several fundraising events were held at Kids Planet Day Nursery resulting in a cheque for £550 being presented to the charity, which provide support for families to help their children with disabilities and sickness.

The money raised is helping Elsa Sherlock who attends the Tarporley Road nursery and who was born suddenly at 35 weeks after contracting Listeria Sepsis.

As Elsa grew, she failed to meet her milestones and at age three, after an MRI scan, was diagnosed with PVL (damage to the brain) which led to her having Cerebral Palsy.

The funds will help cover the costs of various therapies and for equipment to allow Elsa to carry out a physio programme at home to help her master climbing stairs, running, jumping and walking longer distances.

Nursery manager Sarah Foster said: "We're so grateful to our families who have helped us raised such an amazing amount of money to help Elsa with the various therapies and equipment she requires".

For more details visit <https://www.kidsplanetdaynurseries.co.uk/our-nurseries/stretton>. For details about Just4Children, visit <https://just4children.org/>.



# New Beginnings

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# New MP says priorities are delivering Brexit and protecting Green Belt



WARRINGTON South has a new MP - Lymm based Andy Carter.

The Conservative candidate defeated Labour's Faisal Rashid, who had been MP for the past two years, by a majority of 2010.

Speaking after his victory Andy said: "It has been a whirlwind six weeks campaigning across the whole of Warrington South speaking to thousands of people and I am delighted they have put their trust in me.

"We have now got to get on and deliver Brexit."

He added that one of his priorities following feedback on the doorstep was protecting the green belt in Warrington South.

#### Warrington South Result:

Aspinall, Clare (Brexit Party)	1,635
Bate, Ryan (Liberal Democrats)	5,732
Carter, Andy (Conservative)	28,187
Hickson, Kevin (SDP)	168
Rashid, Faisal (Labour)	26,177

#### Turn out

Warrington South	72.1%
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## Santa Dash success for disability charity

THE first ever Santa Dash organised by Warrington Disability Partnership proved to be a great success with plans for it to be repeated "bigger and better" at Walton Hall and Gardens next year.

Dozens of supporters of the charity, including Mayor of Warrington Cllr Wendy Johnson, donned 5 piece Santa outfits kindly donated by Birchwood Shopping Centre, to take part in a 3k dash around Walton Hall and gardens.

Every one who took part made donations to the charity which has also, for the first time been running the Santa's Grotto in the heritage yard.

Guest of honour at the event was Latchford runner Sarah Matthews, who has run an incredible 52 marathons in 52 weeks to raise funds for the charity despite suffering from a debilitating illness.

She was one of a number of inspirational people taking part, over coming disabilities.

WDP Chief Executive Dave Thompson, (pictured right with Sarah) said plans were already in place for a "bigger and better" Santa Dash next year.





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# Cricket legend wins praise – 17 years after retiring from the game

GRAPPENHALL cricket legend Neil Fairbrother won praise at the BBC Sports Personality of the Year prize night - 17 years after he retired from the game.

Fairbrother, the former Lancashire and England batsman, who started his career at Grappenhall Cricket Club and is still a regular visitor to the Broad Lane ground, was singled out for praise by the winner – superstar Ben Stokes.

Stokes, whose performances for England in the World Cup final and the third Ashes Test at Headingley, thanked all who had helped him through what he admitted had been a difficult two years.

But he singled out Fairbrother – his agent - for special praise.

He said: "Two years ago was a tough time in my life. I've had so many people help me through that.

"My fantastic manager and friend, Neil Fairbrother is here tonight. You are more than an agent, as you get called these days. You're an incredible human being and an incredible man.

"I literally don't know how you've put up with Andrew Flintoff to start with and then me!"

Neil Fairbrother was educated at Lymm Grammar School – now Lymm High School – and started his cricketing career at Grappenhall.

He was a long serving player at Lancashire, where he was captain in 1992-93 and played until 2002. He

played in 10 Test matches and 75 One Day Internationals between 1987 and 1999. His top score was 366 for Lancashire against Surrey – scored in a single day.

Last summer, Ben Stokes showed an earlier sign of his regard for his manager when he took time off from the Old Trafford Test to visit Grappenhall, along with other England players, including captain Joe Root, to present a commemorative bench in memory of Fairbrother's father, Les, a stalwart of the Broad Lane club who had sadly died in July.



Our picture shows Fairbrother, front, right, with Stokes and the other England players.

## Ombudsman Services appoints new director

DARESBURY-based Ombudsman Services, a not-for-profit organisation that investigates unresolved energy and telecoms complaints, has appointed its first director of regulatory affairs.

Ed Dodman joins the outfit from BT where he oversaw commercial and regulatory strategy for BT's consumer business.

Prior to this, he held operational and regulatory roles at the UK's largest water supplier, Thames Water.

At Ombudsman Services, Ed will be responsible for regulatory strategy at a significant time of change within the energy and telecoms sectors.

He said: "Ombudsman Services possesses meaningful cross-sector experience, data and insight which can add real value to discussions surrounding consumer redress within the energy and telecoms sectors at a critical time.

"My job will be to continue to strengthen our voice in conversations around regulation and to ensure that our internal operations inform and adapt to the changing regulatory landscape."

Matthew Vickers, chief executive at Ombudsman Services, said: "Ed brings with him a wealth of experience from two of the largest regulated companies in the essential services space.

"His appointment forms part of the wider transformation of our business and strengthening of our senior leadership team. "We are delighted to welcome Ed to Ombudsman Services, where he will play a defining role in shaping and leading our regulatory strategy."

Ombudsman Services was founded in 2002 and employs more than 400 people at its offices in Daresbury.

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The Tuesday morning session is held at Appleton Thorn Primary School where the children have a gym session with a gym instructor on soft play equipment. As well as encouraging the children to exercise it also familiarises them with the building before going to school.

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# Money Column

By Margaret Black

## January once again

Well here we are again in January. Everyone at WatkinsonBlack hope that you all had a really enjoyable Christmas with your friends and family, and that you are now looking forward to a successful 2020. Like all accountants we are buckling down to a busy month ensuring that, wherever possible, clients do not suffer any fines or penalties for not getting their tax return in on time. Because of this we are writing this column very early. In fact, we have still to vote in the General Election so as we write we do not know the result. Whoever wins, there must be a very early budget to prepare the country for the next fiscal year which starts on 5th April. Therefore, whatever you read may have been overtaken by events, so watch out for any changes in the next few issues.



Margaret Black and David Watkinson

One major change that has been in the making for a considerable time is the change to the IR35 legislation. This was originally proposed in 1999 and introduced into law in April 2000. It was designed to counter perceived tax avoidance by people working through a Limited Company. However, it proved singularly unsuccessful and has been amended several times since. The last major amendment was in 2017 when the responsibility for determining the status of a "worker" in the public sector was moved from the "worker" to the "engager". The current proposal is to extend this to the majority of the private sector from April 2020.

As part of the IR35 introduction the tax office introduced a "Check Employment Status for Tax ("CEST")" tool. Designed by HMRC to help taxpayers decide whether they were caught by the IR35 or not, this has proved completely unreliable due to it being biased in favour of HMRC. Because of this, HMRC has suffered a defeat in the majority of the cases taken before the Tax Tribunals, and many of those cases took years to conclude and caused a large amount of distress to the taxpayer. Whilst there have been some amendments to the CEST over the years it has never been successfully amended to take proper account of the recognised "badges of trade".

HMRC has recently suffered a significant defeat in an important case concerning entertainers at the BBC. In view of these defeats, and the inevitable conclusion that even the people who designed the rules do not understand them, all of the main parties in the recent election promised to review the proposed extension of the legislation. Let us hope that this is one election promise that is kept.

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# Running group to take on the London Marathon



A RUNNING group made up of police officers, PCSOs and retired police officers is to run next year's London Marathon in aid of two charities.

Five-0 Runners was set up in 2016 to help with people's physical fitness, well-being and mental fitness and has raised money for a number of charities over the last few years.

Now two members, Grappenhall and Thelwall PCSO Sharon Perrie and retired PC Tony Davidson are to run the marathon to support Jessie May, a children's hospice-at-home service and two others, PC Chris Davis and PC Gary Geoghegan will run for the Lupus UK charity, which supports people suffering from an incurable illness affecting the immune system.

A spokesperson for Five-0 Runners said: "Our group was set up to encourage people to get out and enjoy running and the company of others.

"It is very easy to feel alone and isolated in the job that we do but with our running group it is a way to help make sure that does not happen. We are a free group that welcomes everyone that wishes to be part of something.

"Over the last few years we have raised money for different charities including stick n' step, children's cancer, Adam foundation (knife crime awareness charity) as well as many mental health awareness charities. Now on the April 26, 2020, four of our runners are doing the London Marathon together.

"We have decided to run for two charities. Jessie May provides vital end-of-life care, emotional support and bereavement support for terminally ill children and their families.

"Lupus is a charity for people suffering with an illness affecting the immune system which may then affect any part of the body. It can be triggered in various ways and 90 per cent of people who are affected are female, although men and young children can also be affected.

"We hope to attract support such as cash donations, vouchers or raffle prizes which we can offer to the running community.

"We will display sponsor details on our running tops and hope to be interviewed by the media to promote any companies that have donated.

"Any support will be highly appreciated by us and our chosen charities."

## Digital display plan rejected

AN application for planning permission to replace an existing advertising hoarding in London Road, Stockton Heath, with a digital display has been thrown out by the borough council on the grounds it would cause harm to heritage assets within the Stockton Heath Conservation Area, not balanced by public benefit.

## Road where 93% of vehicles exceed speed limit

SPEEDWATCH volunteers monitoring traffic in Grappenhall and Thelwall say up to 93 per cent of vehicles exceed the speed limit on one road.

Broad Lane, Grappenhall is the blackspot for speeding traffic according to Speedwatch group member David Skelton in a report to Grappenhall and Thelwall Parish Council.

The percentage of vehicles speeding in the parish was: Knutsford Road, Grappenhall: 75 per cent; Waste Lane, Thelwall: 28 per cent; Broad Lane, Grappenhall: 93 per cent; Hilltop Road: 39 per cent.

Mr Skelton said the group had spoken to the borough council highways department but unfortunately traffic calming could only be installed in areas where there had been a fatality.

As a result, the group was looking into options for alternative funding. They would continue to monitor areas with the speed gun, liaise with police and continue to work with the borough council.

The council was told the clerk would also be seeking grant opportunities.



# FDR Law advise pub chain on £17.9m sale

WARRINGTON based pub group Bravo Inns has been acquired by the Hawthorn Leisure arm of property investment firm NewRiver REIT plc in a deal worth £17.9m, with FDR Law's Corporate team advising on the sale.

Bravo Inns, which includes the local pubs Royal Oak Branch, Chapel House (Burtonwood) and Black Horse in its portfolio, has grown from just 5 pubs when formed in 2007 to 44 outlets across the North West. The group specialise in wet-led, operator managed, community pubs that will be merged into the Hawthorn Leisure brand.

### Revival

Hawthorn Leisure operates over 650 leased, tenanted and managed community pubs across England, Scotland and Wales. Chief Executive of Hawthorn Leisure, Mark Davies commented: "The UK pub sector has experienced a recent revival in transaction activity and, as an early investor into community pubs, we have been tracking the success of Bravo Inns for some time. The transaction will increase our portfolio weighting in community pubs and demonstrates the value of our Hawthorn Leisure platform in identifying acquisitions that can deliver higher yielding sustainable cashflows with scale driven synergies.

### Quality

A further attraction of this acquisition is the quality of the pub estate and the pub partners. We look

forward to welcoming Bravo Inns and its pub partners to Hawthorn Leisure."

FDR Law's Corporate team advised Bravo Inns management on the

transaction with Head of Corporate, Margaret Evans commenting: "We are delighted to have acted on this transaction for the sellers working alongside industry leaders in the pub sector and together with the wider advisory team to achieve a successful conclusion for all parties"



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# Another year of great music from Live at St Wilfrid's

**LIVE at St Wilfrid's, the group that brings a rich variety of music to St Wilfrid's Church, Grappenhall, have announced their programme for next year.**

They open their season on February 6 with a visit by Dinara Klinton, a prize-winning concert pianist who performs at most of the major venues, including the Royal Festival Hall and Wigmore Hall and worked with the Philharmonic Orchestra and St Petersburg Philharmonic Orchestra.

On March 14, the Fron Male Voice Choir, one of the finest of its type in the country will be appearing. They have won awards at many festivals and last year came first in a strong field at the Llangollen International Eisteddfod.

April 16 sees the Meraki Duo – flute and guitar – playing a mix of music that extends from chamber music to jazz, Latin American and European folk.

On May 14, 'cellist Indira Grier, winner of a gold medal at this year's Vienna International Music Competition, will be performing.

The Royal Northern College of Music Operatic Singers will present an Opera Gala on June 18 – a chance to see some of the students who will be the stars of the future performing arias and light operetta.

After the summer break, September 10 will see the Coull String Quartet, a group originally formed by RNCM students who now play and broadcast extensively throughout the UK and have toured Europe, the Americas, Australia, China and the Far East.

On October 15, there will be a return visit by the Budapest Café Orchestra, a group of four musicians led by jazz violin superstar Christian Garrick who

ply traditional folk and gypsy flavoured music from across the Balkans and Russian.

Finally, November 12 sees a visit by

the Alexandra Ridout Quintet – a bright young band that have been delighting audiences at jazz festivals, theatres and clubs across the UK for some time.



## What's on *in the villages*

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

Supported by



**January 14**  
STOCKTON HEATH PARISH COUNCIL  
Stockton Heath Library  
7.30pm

**January 16**  
GRAPPENHALL & THELWALL PARISH COUNCIL  
Council Offices, Bellhouse Lane. 7.30pm

**January 21**  
APPLETON PARISH COUNCIL  
Appleton Parish Hall, Dudlow Green Road  
7.30pm

**Every day except Monday**  
GRAPPENHALL HEYS WALLED GARDEN  
Witherwin Avenue, Grappenhall Heys, WA4 3DS.  
Café open Friday 9am-4pm, Saturday and Sunday, 10am-5pm. Garden open Tues/Wed/Thurs 1pm-4pm. Bank Holidays: Garden open but café 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

**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 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, Appleton  
11am-12 noon

**Every second and fourth Tuesday.**  
LYMM PROBUS CLUB  
Lymm Baptist Church. 2.15pm.  
Details: www.lymmprobus.club

**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

**BOARD GAME NIGHT.**  
Stockton Heath Library. 7.30pm  
Tel 07824 499 780

**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.



## Village litter-picking success

EIGHT full bags of litter were collected during a litter-picking event organised by Stockton Heath Parish Council and local Scouts. About 25 people took part, including some Cubs and their parents, councillors and members of the public, including some from Appleton and Lymm. The council publicly thanked the Scouts for hosting the event and all the volunteers for showing their care for the community.

## Cheshire Cats promise a night of laughter

A COMEDY by Cheshire playwright Gail Young is to be staged by the Bridgewater Players at Thelwall Parish Hall next months – and promises plenty of laughs.

“Cheshire Cats” was Ms Young’s first full length play and premiered at the Edinburgh Fringe in 2006 – the year she gave up her full time job to write for the theatre.

It tells the hilarious story of a group of Cheshire women who travel to London to take part in the London Moonwalk to raise money for breast cancer research.

Hilary, Siobhan, Yvonne, Vicky and Maggie are attempting to walk 13 miles across the capital in record time in their decorated bras and posh new trainers, but the sixth member of the team doesn’t quite seem to meet the physical criteria!

Cheshire Cats is a cross between a girls’ night out and a real mission to support a cause close to many hearts, with plenty of laughs and a few tears along the way.

The play will be on at Thelwall Parish Hall at 7.45pm on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, February 20-21 and 22

More details at [www.bwplayers.co.uk](http://www.bwplayers.co.uk)

## Cherry trees cut back

PLANNING chiefs gave the go-ahead for the cutting back of cherry trees growing in the graveyard at St Thomas’ Church, Stockton Heath but overhanging the adjacent Stockton Heath Medical Centre.

The application – necessary because the trees are in a conservation area – was made by the medical centre following a fire risk assessment on the building.

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