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Village Life Magazine

ISSUE 229 | APRIL 2020
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Residents tackle litter blackspot

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Walton Gardens

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Editor's comment

WE are certainly living in uncertain times with the current Coronavirus pandemic which is impacting on all our lives.

Many local businesses have had to close, with more closing with each passing day and none of us know when any kind of normality is likely to return.

As a result events like Stockton Heath Festival and neighbouring events like Lymm Festival and Lymm Transport Day have all been cancelled

So this is likely to be the last hard copy of Village Life you see for a while.

But we will be continuing to provide local news updates on line at www.warrington-worldwide.co.uk as well as helping those businesses which are still open, to promote their services.

We hope to be back in print soon!



Vintage cars transport Walton Hall and Gardens back in time

WALTON Hall & Gardens was transported back in time when more than 40 vintage cars attended a special rally.

Members of Chester Vintage Car Club, the Ford Model A Car Club and the Cheshire Classic Car Club and other vintage car enthusiasts attended a rally at the hall.

Extra special cars in the collection included a 1907 Napier Open Tourer and a 1933 Humber 16-6 and a 1928 Model A Ford which has featured in Bonnie & Clyde and Peaky Blinders, owned by Dave Phoenix from Chester.

The event was co-ordinated by Paul Adams from Warrington's cycle museum who is also the proud owner of the 1933 Humber.

"The event was a great success and attracted well over 100 enthusiasts to view the vintage cars."



Plans for 172 houses given the go-ahead

CONTROVERSIAL proposals for 172 new homes at Grappenhall Heys have been approved by planning chiefs at Warrington – despite opposition from nearly 150 people, two parish councils and the Woodland Trust.

The development will be made up of two phases – 58 houses to the south of Astor Drive and the east of Witherwin Avenue and 114 houses to the north of Lichfield Avenue and also east of Witherwin Avenue.

Both are close to the popular visitor attraction, Grappenhall Heys Walled Garden.

They will effectively fill-in much of the existing green space between the walled garden and Grappenhall Village.

But members of the borough's development management committee had little option but to approve the scheme as outline planning consent for both schemes – and a third one bringing the total number of houses

up to around 400, but not yet before planning chiefs – had already been granted.

Earlier versions of the two schemes were turned down last year but the principle of housing on the land dating from the days of the Warrington New Town Development Corporation in the late sixties was already established.

Most objections were based on grounds such as inadequate infrastructure, no provision for schools

or health facilities, poor design, over-development, air pollution and the fact that the new properties would be car dependant.

Planning officers said the development would not have a harmful impact on adjacent properties and that ecological mitigation was in excess of the required level. They believed the local highway network would be adequate for the increased traffic the development would cause.





Residents and council team up to tackle litter blackspot

LOCAL residents teamed up with Warrington Borough Council to carry out a community litter pick around the Barleycastle Industrial Estate at Appleton Thorn.

An estimated 50 residents, many from the Appleton Thorn area, joined forces with the council's refuse collection team to tackle a litter blackspot which has become an eyesore.

In the space of just three hours they collected an estimated four tonnes of rubbish, much which has ended up in grass verges and hedges rows after being thrown from the windows of passing vehicles.

Warrington Borough Cllr Sharon Harris said: "Well this morning was inspirational.

"The community, local councillors and the Borough Council working together.

"Thank you to the 50 fabulous volunteers who gave up 3hrs of their Saturday morning and collected 2 tons of waste dumped mostly by lorry drivers as they enter the estate.

"The two day litter pick has cost thousands of pounds so we can't have repeat performances every year.

"We need businesses on the trading estate to change their future behaviour. I am hoping that we can now form a working group of business reps., WBC, Parish Council and residents to ensure that this happens.

"Appleton Thorn is a place to be proud of – such great community spirit. Well done one and all."

Warrington South MP Andy Carter, who also joined in with the litter picking added: "This morning I joined around 50 volunteer residents and Councillors in Appleton Thorn who were clearing the verges around the Barleycastle Lane Industrial Estate.

"When you drive past you see the litter on the verge but having walked and looked closely I'm quite shocked at the amount of rubbish being thrown from vehicles who use this route to and from the motorway.

"I've written to businesses on the Estate to ask them to play a bigger part in keeping this area clean.

"I'm really grateful for the community who've taken action to sort this problem. I'll also be asking WBC for bins to be placed in lay-bys in this area."





ANDY CARTER
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR WARRINGTON SOUTH

To contact me or to make an appointment at a forthcoming advice surgery

- 01925 231 267
- Andy.Carter.MP@parliament.uk
- fb.com/AndyCarterWarringtonSouth
- andycarter.org.uk
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Students in fine voice to help teacher tie the knot



WHEN Ste Allcock & performing arts teacher Sara Whittaker tied the knot they provided guests with a musical extravaganza courtesy of the bride's students.

The wedding ceremony for the Stockton Heath couple was held at Pyramid Centre in front of family and friends, which was officiated by Warrington Registry Office. After the ceremony, the events moved onto San Lorenzo Gin & Cigar Terrace, followed

by a night of celebration with over 250 guests at Parr Hall.

Whilst the bride and groom signed their wedding certificate during the ceremony, students from Sixpence Stage School, Sixpence Voice Studio and Sara's Priestley College students (Sara teaches Performing Arts at Priestley) performed an a cappella rendition of Fleetwood Macs 'Everywhere' with just vocals and Take That's 'Greatest Day' with backing track.

Sara, who is a well known voice,

music and performing arts tutor in Warrington, as well as founder of Sixpence wanted to litter her wedding with songs and talented musicians from her schools.

As well as the performance from Students, both Sixpence piano teachers, Gemma James and Ashley Walsh, performed songs prior to the service and everyone joined in a sing-along to Frank Sinatras 'New York, New York' at the end of the ceremony.

Sara said: "The children of Sixpence and my students from Priestley had given up their time to perform on our special day and it truly meant the world to have such talented children involved. I looked up once the register was signed and saw children that I've seen weekly for almost ten years. For some it was their first wedding. They were beaming and singing their hearts out. It was incredibly emotional and felt so magical. We were also blessed to have ex students who are away at University return to Warrington (Cesca Davies and Amy Woodall) to perform at the drinks

reception at San Lorenzo. We also had Sixpence teachers Dave Edgar, Anna Probert and Kim Russell perform live at the Parr Hall accompanied by a live sax for our first days, accompanied by confetti cannons. It was just magical.

Ste, who runs a digital consultancy business said: "I can't thank all the organisers, singers and musicians enough for last weekend. It's been months of planning and hard work from everyone.

"It was a day we will never forget and thanks to them all, I was an emotional wreck throughout the day! They should all be very proud of themselves as we are of them.

The happy couple were on their honeymoon in western and southern America and loved seeing the Facebook post grow to over 4,000 collective views in just 4 days.

The children, Students and Teachers truly deserve the recognition for their stunning performances.



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"Business as usual" at Arley Hall and Gardens

IT'S business as usual at Arley Hall and Gardens – and it will remain so until they are advised differently.

That's the message from the hall as the impact of COVID-19 continues to spread.

In a statement, the hall management said: "We continuation to monitor the situation extremely closely and take our lead from official government and publication health communications and updates. We want to share with you, as our visitors, all of the measures we are taking at Arley to remain open and to keep offering you a fabulous day out in an environment where you and your family will feel safe.

"We've increased the frequency of our cleaning routines and will be focusing on all touch points like door handles, counters and payment areas with anti-bacterial wipes and disinfectant sprays.

"We will ensure all our toilet areas have plenty of soap, hot water and disposable hand towels, to encourage everyone to follow government advice around hand washing when visiting us.

"Testers within the Gift Shop (e.g. lip balms) have been removed and sampling of edibles (chocolate / fudge pieces) has been discontinued.

"We will be encouraging the use of debit / credit card transactions so customers and employees are not handling cash as frequently and we will have hand wipes at all payment areas so that staff and customers can keep clean after contact.

"We are open and until advised differently will continue to be. With the efforts of everyone at Arley, including our visitors, we will work together to keep ourselves safe and healthy.

"Thank you for supporting us during this time of uncertainty."

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Tennis Club open day postponed?



STOCKTON Heath Tennis Club look set to cancel an open day that was due to be held on Saturday May 16 in line with guidance from the Lawn Tennis Association.

The LTA has advised that all competitions, coaching and training should be suspended until April 20, after which the situation will be reviewed.

The open day was to have been free, with food available

at the end of the afternoon

It was particularly aimed at youngsters who want to play tennis, but there would also have been opportunities for anyone who wanted to take part.

Potential new members can still contact the club through its website, www.shlhc.co.uk or by calling head coach Anthony McCarthy on 07970 530705.

Farmer under pressure after bank closes account

FARMER Joe Fryer says his business has been put under a huge strain after the Nat West Bank closed his account on the back of a number of alleged banking errors.

Mr Fryer, who runs Apple Jacks and Spooky World at his Stretton Farm, claims the bank made a number of errors, including losing a cheque for £12,000 and cashing a supplier's cheque twice.

He also claims that on another occasion the bank agreed an additional £20,000 over draft facility but then forgot to implement it, meaning he was unable to pay his staff wages.

Last December the bank wrote to Mr Fryer stating they were closing his banking facility as a result of "threatening and abusive behaviour" during phone calls to the bank - something Mr Fryer disputes.

"Phone calls are recorded to banks and I have asked for evidence of threatening and abusive behaviour and they haven't provided any."

Mr Fryer admits there were some heated conversations

with his branch manager following the banking errors, but not "threatening and abusive behaviour."

He said he had since secured a substantial business loan from the Agricultural Mortgage Corporation but it was "crucial" to have a current account so the loan could be processed and funds released into the account.

He has raised the issue with his local MP Andy Carter who said he is keen to ensure that SME's are supported by the Government and that the banks act in such a way that small businesses are enabled and supported.

Mr Carter said: "Being an owner of a business myself I am only too acutely aware of how difficult it can be from time to time and will always work in Parliament to support small business."

A NatWest spokesman said: "Owing to confidentiality, we do not comment on circumstances related to individual customer cases, however we would not close an account without good reason."



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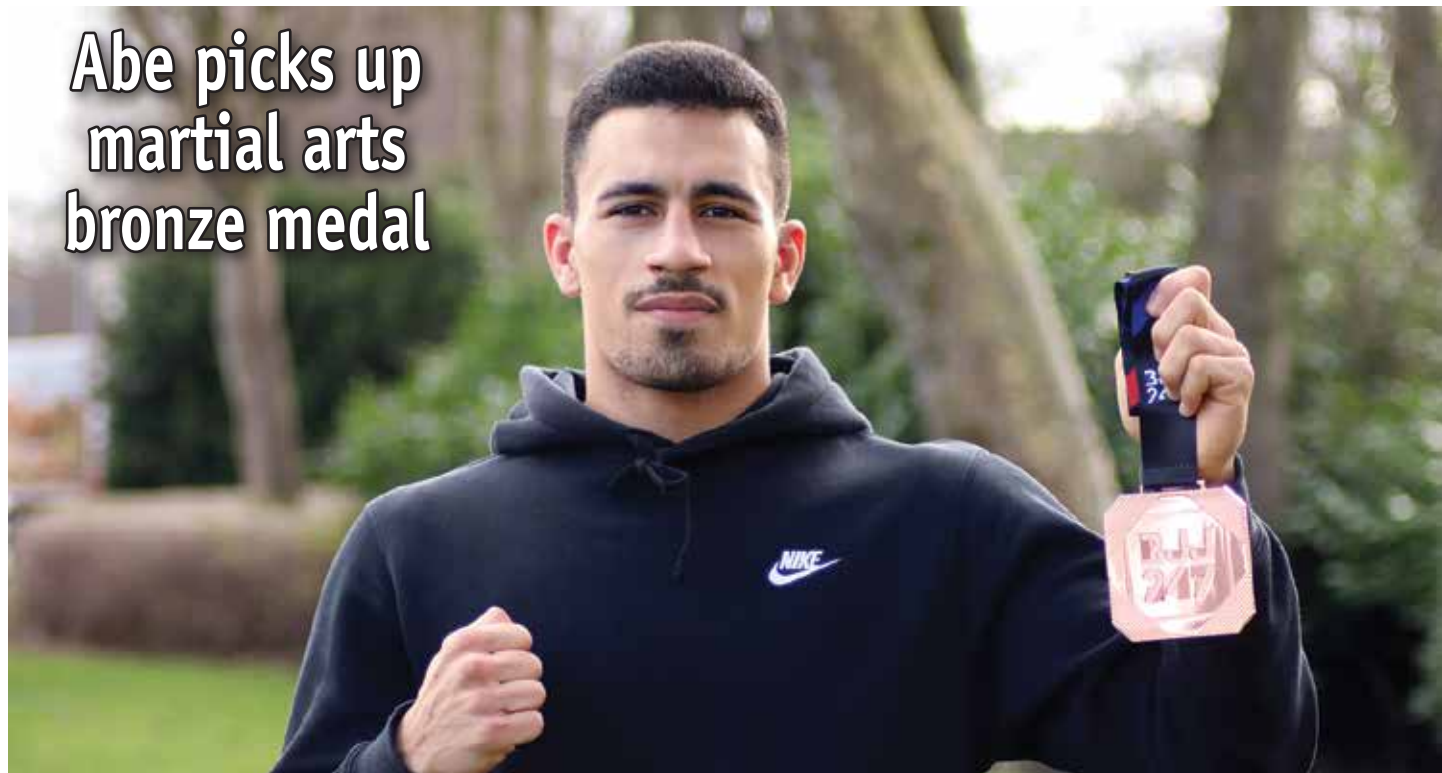
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Abe picks up martial arts bronze medal



LOCAL martial artist Abe Dannan picked up a bronze medal in his first Brazilian Jiu Jitsu tournament.

Former Bridgewater High School pupil Abe, who is now studying English, Psychology and PE A-Levels at Priestley College, competed in the Brazilian Jiu Jitsu 24/7 competition in Manchester.

He had four wins and two losses in

the adults' division of the "submission grappling" event.

Youngest

"I was the youngest in the featherweight division and went up against more experienced, older opponents from all over England, Ireland and Europe," said the 18-year-old.

"My two losses were against athletes from Poland and Scotland who are full-time competitors. The biggest difference between them and me was their experience."

Abe, who trains with Predators MMA & BJJ Academy Warrington and Warjukwai Judo, took up martial arts four years ago.

He aims to one day compete at a higher level in an MMA cage.

For now, though, his focus is on securing his qualifications.

"I take my A-Levels this year so the next move is to do well in them," he said.

"As for the sporting side, I am hoping to have MMA fights and more grappling tournaments in the near future."

What's on in the villages

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

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Please Note: Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, many of these events will have been cancelled. Please check with the organisation before attending.

April 14
STOCKTON HEATH PARISH COUNCIL
Stockton Heath Library
7.30pm

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

April 16
GRAPPENHALL & THELWALL PARISH COUNCIL
Council Offices, Bellhouse Lane. 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 cafe closed.

Every Monday
COUNTRY DANCING CLUB
St Thomas' Primary School, Parkgate Road, Stockton Heath.
8-10pm. Details: 01925 262356

BRIDGE CLUB
Belong Warrington, Loushers Lane 7.20pm.
Details 01925 262534

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

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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.

Homes plan approved

PLANNING chiefs have given the go-ahead for the erection of two dwellings on an infill site in Grappenhall Road, Stockton Heath – despite opposition from a number of nearby residents.

Neighbours had argued that the proposals – which they claimed were the fifth that had been put forward for the proposed development – were overbearing and would impact on adjoining properties through over-shadowing, overlooking and loss of privacy.

Sports pavilion extension

PLANS have been approved for a single-storey extension to the Pewterspear Green Sports Pavilion, off Beamish Close, Stretton.

The extension will provide a larger function room and new indoor exercise room/studio and conversion of redundant existing rooms into a new dance studio and remodelled changing rooms and shower facilities.



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