



Making savings simple

I cannot help but feel that Mr Osborne missed a trick with his budget on 16th March. True, there were positives with the introduction of the new Lifetime ISA, and the overall increase in the ISA rate up to £20000 from next April. But, he has started to meddle with a financial services product that has been hugely popular over the last decade. And of course, there are now rules if you are using it for house purchase or retirement and rules about being under the age of 40.



Don Wernham, Financial Planner

In 2006 Gordon Brown introduced Pensions Simplification. After which pensions strangely began to get more complicated. My fear is that in 5 years ISAs could go the same way. We could be seeing with the ISA what we have previously seen with pensions. The former pensions minister Steve Webb said recently of pensions 'as soon as you go into a tier of detail below the headline, you've lost everybody.' Saving for retirement (or anything else for that matter) should be simple or uncomplicated. First you have to simplify savings, then you have to incentivise people for making the savings. If you don't then they will simply not do it.

Mr Osborne we are led to believe was thinking of altering the top levels of tax relief on pension contributions. Actually, he needed to. A fairer way of incentivising people for saving for retirement would have been a flat rate of tax relief. Apparently a 20% flat rate of tax relief would have saved £10bn for the treasury and this could have left them more room to incentivise people in other areas of savings. Why not increase the ISA allowance up to £25000 for example? Why not give people choice over what they do with their savings and ultimately their lives, like he did with pension freedoms in 2014.

As long as there is complexity in savings, then the 'savings gap' will grow wider.

Disclaimer - Please note views are my own and do not constitute advice

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Editor's comment

THE parish council is the lowest tier of local government and Stretton Parish Council is one of the smaller ones in this area.

So it is pleasing to be able to report that its members have won an important, if small, victory over the future of a pub which has been part of the local landscape for more than 170 years. They have successfully applied for the Ring O'Bells, in Northwich Road, Stretton, to be listed as an asset of community value.

This effectively means that should the owners – pub company Red Oak Taverns – wish to sell the building they must inform the local authority so that local groups can have six months in which to raise the money to buy it themselves.

Red Oak Taverns bought the Ring O' Bells only last August and it would be nice to think they intended to restore it to its former glory. But given that little has been done to promote the pub and that the company has been buying up pubs all over the place, there must be a suspicion that there is some other intention.

Why otherwise would they formally object to the parish council's application – and even challenge its eligibility to make the application in

the first place? Particularly as they assert it is unsustainable as a pub anyway.

However, we said at the beginning that the parish's victory was a small one and this may well turn out to be the case. The company quite rightly suggest that usage of the pub in recent times does not suggest it is much of a community asset.

If it is to remain as a pub it will be up to the local community to use it. If, notice is given that it is to be sold for some other purpose, the community will have a chance to show how much they value it.

IT is certainly good news that 1,700 tablet computers are being issued to police officers in Cheshire to enable them to spend more time on the beat.

The majority of officers will be provided with these mobile devices and police chiefs believe it will mean them spending an extra 340,000 hours on the streets.

Chief constable Simon Byrne says: "It's a real opportunity to improve the productivity of our officers. By having mobile computing power in their pockets, connected to force systems,



there will be no need for officers to return several times per shift to a station to complete routine reports.

"As importantly, they will be able to access force systems and share intelligence in real-time – which means that information about a suspect or missing person can be shared across the county in seconds, rather than hours as it is currently."

Well, forgive us if we are wrong, but this sounds pretty much in line with what we were saying a few months ago when a furore broke at various town and parish councils across the county about police officers and PCSOs having to travel twice daily to attend briefing sessions at police stations, often miles away from their beats.

So yes, it sounds like good news
- if it means and end to those twice
daily trips.

Zoo hit for six with pygmy goat baby boom

SPRING is most certainly in the air at Walton Hall & Garden's childrens zoo following the birth of six African Pygmy goats - on Mother's Day.

Fidget and Violet who are now

mums for the second time both gave birth to twins while Brandy and Jenny who are both first time mums had single kids.

All the kids are either brown and white or black and white with three boys and three girls.

Proud dad is Mr Bumble who was used for breeding for the first time after arriving from York last autumn.

The baby goats are now all out and about enjoying the Spring weather.



Zoo Ranger Peter Cookson - Dean and Walton Hall office staff left, Hannah Bromley and Bethany Johnson.

Holly beats the odds to get an offer from Oxford

SIXTH former from Appleton has received an offer from Oxford University – despite having dyslexia.

Holly Roach, who studies A-Levels at Priestley College, now has the chance Hosticy course in Biochemistry (Molecular and Cellular).

She said: "I've always been really motivated so when I was told I had

dyslexia I was determined to try and overcome it.

"My parents found a course called the Dore Programme which involved doing physical exercises every day for two years. All the extra hours I've put in and the support I've had from my parents and tutors has been worth it.

Originally teachers thought Holly was on course for Cs and Ds in her GCSEs, but she developed a way of learning that worked for her and left Bridgewater High School with eight A* and three As at GCSE.

This was despite being told at the age of 12 that the muscles in her eyes were the equivalent to those of a 40-year-old. Holly visited a specialist and had to do specific eye exercises every day for a year.

Holly read a beginners' guide to genetics when she was just 14, and went on to develop an interest in epigenetics – the study of changes in organisms caused by modification of gene expression rather than alteration of the genetic code itself.

As well as studying A-Levels in Biology, Chemistry and Maths, Holly

also took the Graduate programme at Priestley, which is designed to help the most able students secure places at Russell Group universities.

Last year Holly was named one of the UK's outstanding students in recognition of her academic achievements as well as the contribution she makes to the local community including as a young leader with the Brownies, involvement with

the Scouts and as a Kumon Maths and

English teaching assistant.

As well as her studies Holly also has to fit in 30 minutes of exercises every day to help her cope with scoliosis, a condition that causes her spine to bend to the side.

"I think all the setbacks have just made me more focused and more determined. I just hope I now get the grades I need at A-Level in order to

pursue my dreams and go to Oxford University," she said. Priestley principal Matthew Grant said: "Holly is a real inspiration, not just to people with dyslexia, but to everyone.

"She has worked hard to achieve her offer from Oxford at the same time as making a massive contribution to both the college and Warrington community as a whole.



Firefighters 'Clean for The Queen'

A campaign to get a million people out and about cleaning up their communities saw Stockton Heath firefighters joining in and picking litter in the village.

Alpha Watch picked litter around the Bellhouse Community Centre with other community groups and they managed between them to fill a number of bags with rubbish, giving the area a much needed clean up.

Clean for The Queen aims to give the country a tidy-up ahead of The

Queen's 90th birthday in April, to be widely celebrated in June 2016.

The campaign was backed by organisations including the Women's Institute, the National Trust and the RSPB, as well as businesses including McDonald's, Costa, Greggs, KFC and Wrigley and anti-litter charities such as Keep Britain Tidy and the Campaign to Protect Rural England, and was said to be the biggest community-led clean-up the country had ever seen and it certainly lived up to that in Cheshire.

Supported by the Government, Clean for The Queen centred on a weekend of activity from March 4-6 when Firefighters from across Cheshire went out and about to "do their bit" and help clear up the litter that blights streets, parks, hedgerows and grass verges in their area. Watch Manager David Rutter said:

"We were only too happy to support this initiative and help pick litter in the village. This area was chosen because of the high volumes of rubbish, and we worked with other community groups to pick litter. When we left we could certainly tell the difference this worthwhile campaign had made to the area.



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Parish council moves to protect historic pub

STRETTON Parish Council has taken an important step towards protecting a tiny village pub which has become the first in Warrington to be registered as an asset of community value.

They have successfully applied for the historic Ring O Bells pub at Lower Stretton to be listed as an asset of community value – despite an objection from owners Red Oak Taverns.

While the listing does not prevent the building from being sold, or redeveloped for another purpose, it means the owner must inform the local authority if it intends to sell the property and that any local group can hold up the proposed sale for six months while they attempt to raise the

money to buy it

The parish council argued that the Ring 0 Bells was the only community asset in Lower Stretton, relying on its value as a local meeting place and its reputation as a real ale pub using small, independent and usually local suppliers.

They claimed the pub had served

They claimed the pub had served the village for more than 170 years and was used by the local community for numerous activities including firework displays, Jubilee party, Mad Hatter's tea party, Christmas Fayre, community daffodil planting project, etc. Borough councillor Paul Kennedy

Borough councillor Paul Kennedy supported the parish council's application

application.

He said: "I think it is fair to stay that the Ring O Bells is a community asset

that would only be missed after it had

Stretton Parish Councillor Jill Higgins (pictured right with Cllr Kennedy), who led on the application said "We are thrilled that the application has been successful and that the local community will now have a say in the future of their local pub. It is so important that villagers have a place to come together and the Ring O' Bells provides that for Lower Stretton.

Red Oak Taverns, who acquired the pub only last August, opposed the application. They argued that the lack of use of the pub by local people showed it was not a community asset and estimated that it sold only 70 barrels of beer a year, which was not sustainable.





Disability campaigner nominated for Diversity Award

AN Appleton man has been nominated for the Positive Role Model for Disability category at the 2016 National Diversity Awards.

The ceremony celebrates some of the excellent and inspiring achievements of positive role models and community organisations from across the UK. The awards aim to recognise nominees in their respective fields of diversity including age, disability, gender, race, faith, religion and sexual orientation.

faith, religion and sexual orientation.
Jonathan Levy, 25, has dyspraxia, a neurological condition which can make even the simplest tasks a struggle. Jonathan has always been slower than most in reaching milestones such as learning to ride a bike, and upon reaching school age he avoided games, lacked confidence and stood out with his 'chicken scratch' handwriting.
Jonathan's transition to the

Jonathan's transition to the workplace wasn't easy and in November 2011, he felt compelled to write a newspaper feature about how his condition affects him. This feature received a response far greater than he had ever anticipated and led to him receiving a Dyspraxia Foundation award in June the following year, before becoming a Dyspraxia Foundation panel adviser and then a trustee in July 2013.

In 2014, Jonathan raised awareness of dyspraxia through appearing in an award-winning short film on Channel 4 series, Embarrassing Bodies: Live from the Clinic. Today Jonathan regularly advises others and gives talks on his

experiences growing up with dyspraxia. He was also recently filmed as part of the BBC's 'Think Beyond the Box' neurodiversity project

or the Busynta the

Outside of Jonathan's activities raising awareness of dyspraxia, he works as fundraiser for the Foundation for Peace and serves as a Stockton Heath parish councillor. To vote for Jonathan to win the Positive Role Model for Disability award, please visit https://nominate.nationaldiversityawards.co.uk/Nominate/Endorse/29670



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Zermatt, the village at the foot of the

Matterhorn, the most photographed mountain in the world is still today unsurpassed in the beauty of its setting and location. Dominated by the unmistakable peak of the Matterhorn standing alone at the head of the valley, Zermatt is encircled by a ring of four-thousand metre peaks. Visit in August to see the Grand Folklore Pageant in the village centre.

Excursions

The Matterhorn Paradise is the highest vantage point in Europe, 3,883m above sea level and located right next to the Matterhorn. A series of gondolas and cable cars take you to the summit where you will witness a fantastic panorama of Italian, French and Swiss alpine giants.

A tunnel through the rocks and ice of the Klein Matterhorn takes you to the Glacier Paradise. From a panorama window cut into the rock in the middle of the mountain you can watch mountaineers climbing the 4,164m high Breithorn, and the precipices of the Theodul glacier. The Glacier Palace is a mystical world of ice and snow almost 15m under the surface. You will learn about the creation of glaciers, see impressive sculptures

made of ice and if you dare, walk through a real glacier crevasse. Excursion from £40pp Gornergrat

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Kickbikes - can be hired at the Sunnegga Rothorn valley station (helmet included). From there it is a thrill a minute as you speed downhill to Tufteren and on to Zermatt. There are various restaurants along the way where you can stop for a breather before continuing back to the valley station to return your kickbikes. Excursion From 13 pp (Daily from

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Golf club and neighbours 'bunkered' over a fence

A GOLF club and its neighbours are "bunkered" over a plan to erect safety netting to prevent stray balls going into nearby gardens.

The Appleton-based Warrington Golf Club has submitted a part-retrospective planning application for a six metre high fence between the first green and the houses.

There is also a public footpath between the houses and the golf

An existing five metre high fence has deteriorated over the years, has holes in it and is no longer considered fit for purpose by the club.

They say 99 golf balls have been hit into the gardens or the public footpath since August 2007.

footpath since August 2007.

Three nearby residents – backed by Appleton Parish Council - have objected.

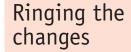
They say the posts and netting will overshadow their rear gardens, that the fence will be out of character with the area – and the risk from stray golf balls in "minimal."

The borough council's development management committee have looked

at the issues – but deferred a decision to allow time for talks between the golf club and its neighbours.

Planning officers are recommending the proposal be approved. They say although there may be some loss of afternoon sunlight in the gardens, this would be limited to the profile of the posts and would not be significant because the netting would allow light through.

The parish council considered the six metre height to be excessive.



THE late David Bowie sung about ch ch ch changes......Well, since 1970 this has also been the underlying mantra at Ring O' Bells Garage at Lower Stretton.

From simple beginnings as just the local village garage (pre M56 construction days) to becoming a very busy 24hour breakdown, recovery and accident repair service during the late 70's into the mid nineties and beyond, diversification has always been their main survival tool.

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Money Column

Tax free childcare

Whilst it has been a long time coming it finally looks as if tax free childcare may be on its way. It was originally proposed to be introduced last year, but the scheme was delayed until 2017 following a legal challenge.

The scheme will provide a 20p tax credit to every 80p that you pay towards qualifying childcare costs. This can include, for instance, the cost of a registered nursery or the



David Watkinson and Margaret Black

cost of a registered nursery of the cost of out-of-term care for your child. It will apply to fees of up to £2,000 per year per child, and will be available for up to 5 children. The maximum tax free amount will, therefore, be £10,000 per year. In order to qualify parents must have earnings of at least £50 per week, or £2,600 per annum. The scheme will be available to all parents, including the selfemployed.

There have been a couple of changes to the scheme during its delayed introduction. Firstly, there is an income limit above which tax free childcare cannot be claimed. This was originally set at £150,000 per annum for each parent. In his Autumn Statement the Chancellor reduced that income limit to £100,000 per annum for each parent. Secondly, it was originally proposed that each parent must work at least 8 hours per week to claim the tax free childcare. This requirement has now been increased

to each parent needing to work at least 16 hours per week.

If you are fortunate enough to work for a company that operates a free or subsidised crèche or nursery then you will not be affected by any of these changes. You will continue to receive this benefit entirely free of any tax or national insurance. However, for this to apply then the facility must be wholly or partly financed and administered by your employer, ie it must be "in-house", although it can be shared between a number of

employers. employers.

If your employer operates the childcare voucher scheme, which provides tax free childcare of up to £5.5 per week to each parent, then you can continue to receive this benefit for as long as you choose to do so provided, of course, both that your child continues to qualify and also that your employer continues to operate the scheme. You may choose to leave the scheme in order to claim the tax free childcare, and in this case you will then be unable to re-join it. You will also not be able to join any other scheme, for instance if you change employers. One very important point to bear in mind is that the current childcare vouchers can be used to pay for children up to the age of 15, compared to the age limit of 11 under the new scheme.

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Dave celebrates 15 years of creating quality kitchens

DAVE Charlton takes great pride in the fact that he has built his kitchen business up starting off from a spare back bedroom at his house, to a showroom boasting quality kitchens.

What started off as a project from his back bedroom selling relatively basic kitchens and work tops has now blossomed into mid to high end kitchens, from a showroom on Gorsey Lane, Warrington.

He aims to celebrate the 15th anniversary with a couple of special events, including an open day on Saturday April 30 from 12 noon, showcasing his showroom which has recently been refurbished with the latest Next125 line of kitchens from

Germany.

Special guest at the event will be the Deputy Mayor of Warrington and it will also include cooking demonstrations.

Dave, who is also as a director on the Kitchen, Bedroom Specialist Association (KBSA), which helps regulate the industry, is the only outlet in the local area to supply modern and contemporary style German manufactured kitchens, whilst also offering a more traditional style kitchen from UK manufacturer, Mackintosh. He is also the local Neff

Master Partner.
As well as supplying quality kitchens across, Warrington and the North west and further afield one of his biggest jobs which gives him great pride was fitting a bespoke kitchen in St Tropez for £80,000, a job that came about having been recommended by a happy customer from Lymm.

Closer to home the average spend is £15-£20,000 for a top quality bespoke kitchen.

To find out more about JD Kitchens why not visit their showrooms at 4 Gorsey Lane and see first hand the quality of their workmanship or visit www.jdkitchens.co.uk



Saved – the building which 'struck terror into the beholder'

of Cheshire's most iconic buildings, which has stood empty for years, looks set to start a new life.

If planning approval is granted, a building where murder trials were once held will re-open – as a hotel and restaurant.

Flat Cap Hotels, which owns the Vicarage Hotel at Holmes Chapel, plans to convert the Grade 2* Listed Sessions House, in Toft Road, Knutsford, as the Court House Hotel.

The Sessions House was built around 1815 and was designed by leading prison designer George Moneypenny as part of a longdemolished prison on land at the rear, now occupied by a bus station and supermarket.

During his life time his designs were described as "terrific – striking sublime terror into the beholder."

However, inside, the imposing

building has two large court rooms with beautifully detailed ceilings and many other attractive features.

Flat Cap Hotels believe they will provide space for a conference centre, restaurant, private dining, coffee lounge, bar and spa.

There could also be banqueting and exhibition facilities for local artists.



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Redundancy pays dividends

When redundancy knocked on his door Paul Hazeldine took a giant leap of faith setting up Hazeldine Home & Garden last year which is now paying dividends as a family

"I've worked in Marketing for 30 years so to make the leap into gardening, which I enjoy, was both daunting and yet exciting.

It was great to see the branding and advertising all come together; once that was done it was down to me to make it work.

"We have amazing support and customer feedback. Our customers include Nursery Schools, Property Consultants, Churches, the Local Parish Council and many residents. We've done big garden clear-ups to light landscaping; you never know what the next enquiry is going to

Paul's right hand man is his son

"It's a good combination' said Paul, "I've got the knowledge and the looks and Mike's got the physical strength which is needed for this kind of work.'

Lindsay, Paul's wife, takes care of

the paperwork behind the scenes.
"My worst trait is paperwork, I find it really tedious. Luckily Lindsay likes paperwork so she keeps us in order!" he added.

Hazeldine Home & Garden provides all garden services from weeding, mowing, hedge trimming, conifer folly-popping, fence treatment and repair and patio/decking jet washing.

Paul has been "delighted" with the response to his advertising in Village Life - with over 63 per cent of his new business coming directly from the magazine.

To see more of what they do visit www.hazeldinehomeandgarden.co.uk or call 07899066204.





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What's on

in the villages

April 12 STOCKTON HEATH PARISH COUNCIL Sandy Lane Centre, Stockton Heath. 7.30pm

April 19 APPLETON PARISH COUNCIL

Appleton Parish Hall, Dudlow Green Road. 7.30pm

April 21 GRAPPENHALL & THELWALL PARISH COUNCIL

April 21
LIVE AT ST WILFRID'S
Scott Brothers Duo. Jonathan and Tom Scott play
music for piano duet and for piano and organ.
Mozart, Liszt, etc and the ever popular Warsaw
Concerto. St Wilfrid's Church, Grappenhall, 7.30pm.

Every Sunday GRAPPENHALL HEYS WALLED GARDEN Witherwin Avenue, Grappenhall Heys, WA4 3DS. Café open from 12 noon-4pm serving teas, coffee, home-made cakes and savouries.

Every Monday COFFEE TIME, St Mary Magdalene's Church, Appleton, 9-11am.

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

CADIES' FRIENDSHIP CLUB
The Quays Community Centre, Thelwall New Road,
Thelwall. 8pm. Details: 01925 264099

HIGH LEGH RUBBER BRIDGE CLUB Village Hall, 7-10pm. Details: Audrey Greaves 0161 904 0120

Every second Monday PARK (APPLETON) WI Appleton Parish Hall, Dudlow Green Road. 7.30pm

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.

Grappenhall Community Library, Albert Road, Grappenhall . 7.30pm

Every Tuesday COFFEE MORNING St Cross Church, Appleton Thorn. All welcome. 10am-12 noon

PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY Quays Community Centre, Thelwall New Road, Thelwall. 7.30pm. Contact: 01925 757582.

COFFEE MORNING Appleton Independent Methodist Church Appleton Parish Hall, 10am-12 noon

Every second Tuesday STOCKTON HEATH LIONS CLUB London Bridge Inn, 8pm Contact: Grahamclisse58@outlook.com. Tel 01925 262669

Every Wednesday APPLETON HALL BADMINTON CLUB September - April at Hall Drive, Appleton. 7.30-10pm. Details: 01925 262356

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

HIGHER WALTON WI, St John's Community Hall, 7.45pm. Details 01925 262001.

Every fourth Wednesday ALZHEIMER'S SOCIETY

Support Group, Brampton Lodge Day Centre, Bridge Lane, Appleton. 6.30-8.30pm

Every Thursday THE SILVER QUAYS Senior Citizen's Club The Quays Community Centre, Thelwall New Road, Thelwall. Details: 01925 753474.

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

Every second Thursday STRETTON WI Appleton Parish Hall, Dudlow Green Road. 2.30pm. GRAPPENHALL PROBUS CLUB Grappenhall Community Centre, Bellhouse Lane, 10am. Details: 01925 264427.

Every third Thursday NORTH EAST CHESHIRE FLOWER CLUB Warrington Golf Club, London Road, Appleton. WA4 5HR 2pm. Details: 01925 740419

GRAPPENHALL WI Grappenhall Community Centre, Bellhouse Lane 2.15pm

Every Friday
APPLETOTS TODDLER GROUP
Appleton Parish Hall, Dudlow Green Road.
9.45-11.30am. Details: 01925 268153.
To list your event call Village Life on

01925 623632







Dental practice celebrates 10th anniversary

AS Grappenhall Dental Practice celebrates their 10th anniversary they are proud to say that they provide quality dental treatment at affordable prices.

The practice was established in April 2006 by Dr Andrew Brown as an independent dental practice providing very high quality dental treatment at very reasonable prices. They receive no funding from the NHS but still provide NHS type treatments at similar prices. They are the only private/independent dentists in the area to provide treatment at NHS prices.

Unfortunately government support for NHS dentistry has declined rapidly over the past decade with publicised difficulties in patients being able to access NHS dental practices and not being able to afford expensive private clinics. Grappenhall Dental Practice still believes in the public's right to access high quality care at reasonable prices. provide a full range of treatments both NHS quality and private treatments not available on the NHS such as white fillings, cosmetic dentistry, tooth whitening, endodontics (root treatments).

Andrew is the owner and principal



High quality care at reasonable prices

Grappenhall Dental Practice

Independent private practice

Private dentistry at NHS prices (conditions apply)

Now taking new clients due to expansion after 9 successful years

Easy parking/groundfloor easy access including wheelchair

State of the art equipment / highest standards of cleanliness / cross infection control

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Dr Andrew Brown and associates welcome new patients

Tel: 01925 210977 or 01925 481341 148 Knutsford Road, Grappenhall, Warrington WA4 2PW grappenhalldentalpractice@virginmedia.com www.dentistswarrington.co.uk

Meet your MP David Mowat

David Mowat, MP for Warrington South, holds regular surgeries throughout the constituency. If you would like to arrange an appointment to discuss an issue of concern to you please

e-mail him at david.mowat.mp@parliament.uk or telephone 01925 231267.

David Mowat

Member of Parliament for Warrington South www.davidmowat.org

Produced by David Mowat MP, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

dentist at the practice. Since qualifying in Manchester in 1996 he has worked in Warrington for an NHS practice gaining a very good depth of knowledge and experience in treating every kind of dental problem from children to the elderly and uses this experience to put all his patients at

Due to very rapid growth he was joined by Dr Andrew Booth, a local lad who studied for his dental degree in Dundee where he worked for several years gaining his experience in NHS dentistry. He then came back to the north west of England working in NHS practices and a private practice for several years before joining the practice in 2007.

In recent years the practice has expanded again due to demand and the need for affordable dentistry in the area and has more recently been joined by Dr Tessa Madden.

Tessa joined the team in 2014. She graduated from Newcastle University in 2011 and gained Membership of the Royal college of Surgeons of England in 2012. Following this, she has furthered her experience providing both NHS and private treatments. Tessa is also a registered provider of Quick Straight, an alternative to conventional braces.

Dr Elgan Rees was born and raised

in Lymm and joined the team in 2015. He graduated from Liverpool University in 2009 with a degree in Biochemistry. He then went on to study dentistry, also at Liverpool, and qualified in 2014.

Elgan was the winner of the RCS Ed Dental Clinical Skills competition (Liverpool Region) and has since gone on to further study for a Membership of the Faculty of Dental Surgery.

In the 10 years that they have been open Grappenhall Dental Practice have received no funding from the NHS but continue to offer a comparable if not better service.

They have carried out a random audit of patients who attended the practice since 2006, when they opened, until the present day.

The audit revealed that when they compared like for like comparisons against NHS prices for the last ten years, results showed that 85% of their patients were treated at equivalent or lower prices.

The remaining 15% of patients seen received treatment that would not usually be covered by the NHS system.

For families that come to the practice, they treat children under the age of 16 free of charge, even though they receive no funding from the NHS and will continue to do so if their parents are regular attenders at the practice.

Andrew said:" We are committed to continuing dental education and keep abreast of the changes in modern dentistry. All of our team participate continuing professional development programme which keeps our knowledge and skills up to date. We are a modern practice with state of the art facilities and equipment, utilising the very best materials and techniques allowing us to provide our patients with the very best possible care. We pride ourselves on this service and will endeavour to always

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