

VILLAGE

Your Community Magazine

Issue 190 January 2017 FREE

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Why financial planning is good for you

It is that time of year again, dreary January. However, as well as making commitments of going to the gym, and to lose a few pounds, it is also a good time to have a look at your financial affairs also. So here are a few points to consider:

Make a financial plan

It may seem obvious but it is the starting point to getting your finances in order and establishing some control over your life. The main areas to consider are budget, retirement planning, savings and investments, attitude to investment risk and emergency funds.

Set a goal

Equally important is knowing what you want to achieve from your financial plan. What are you saving for, how long do you want to save? For example if you are saving for retirement, how much income do you want into retirement? Once you know this figure you can then work back to see how much that you need to be saving, and when you are wanting to take it.

Lifestyle Financial Planning

Lifestyle financial planning is all about enjoying your money. Some people are surprised when I talk about this, because they expect me to talk about saving and investing. But once you have your financial planning in place, you can literally enjoy the fruits that your hard work has achieved. And believe me enjoying your money is just as important as saving it over the years.

And once you have done this, well you can then relax and let it unfold. True it will have to be reviewed just like all plans. But it is like having a clear desk when you come into work in the morning. If you remove clutter it is amazing how productive you actually are. It should stop you waking up at 4am worrying about finances. Give it a try.

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



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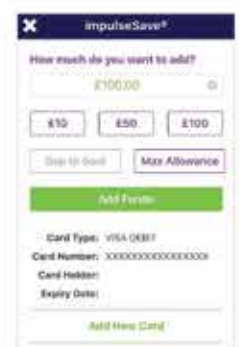
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Editor's comment

THE jury is still out on whether or not Stockton Heath Library, Lymm Library and a number of others across the borough should close or be radically changed in some way to enable them to continue serving their local communities.

By jury, we mean Warrington Borough Council, who have pledged to consider all representations received during the consultation carried out by library operators LiveWire, including those attached to a 10,000 strong "save our libraries" petition.

We must, certainly at this stage, take the council's word for it that the matter will receive proper consideration and that the consultation was not just an exercise in preparing the public for bad news. We are sure people do not become councillors to close down libraries.

But there are worrying features

about the whole affair. How can it be that the best-used libraries in the borough are the ones apparently most at risk of closure?

How can it be that despite the furore over the proposals, the 10,000 petition and repeated "use them or lose them" calls from campaigners, there has been no increase in the number of people actually using the libraries?

The petition is the largest we can recall ever being raised in the borough, so presumably there is a genuine desire among a significant proportion of the population to keep the library service we enjoy today. But where are they?

Was the petition signed by people who will, when accosted by a campaigner in the street, sign rather than appear some kind of Philistine, but don't have the time to actually



read a book?

Perhaps they signed because, although they personally are far too busy watching television or using their mobiles and computers, they think there are other people out there who do still need books?

One thing is clear. Even if the current campaign results in some kind of temporary reprieve for our libraries, we will still lose them eventually if we do not use them

So if you have read this far, get out there, visit your library, borrow a book, and read it!

Planning underway for 10th Stockton Heath Festival



Scarecrow characters at last year's festival.

PLANNING is well under way for next year's Stockton Heath Festival which will be held from Thursday June 29 to Sunday, July 2 2017.

Festival Director, David Craggs said: "Next year's Festival will be the 10th so we want to make it extra special for the people of Stockton Heath and surrounding areas. There will be lots of events for everyone to enjoy."

Events Organiser, Andrew Renshaw, has released a sneak preview of some of the events planned for the Festival.

He said: "The Festival starts with a concert by the 'Warrington Male Voice Choir' in St Thomas' church on the Thursday evening. Friday sees a concert by 'The Sounds of Simon', (a 5 piece Simon and Garfunkel tribute act) in the Festival Marquee. Popular local band 'The Covertones' will

be playing in the Festival Marquee on Saturday evening and the Illyria Theatre Company will be presenting a performance of Shakespeare's 'Comedy of Errors' at the Grappenhall Heys Walled Garden. The Festival ends with a show from the 8-piece band 'Motown Gold', in the Festival marquee.

"There will be lots of entertainment and activities for all ages on the Festival Field on the Saturday and Sunday. Details of more Festival events will be announced later."

Volunteers are needed to help plan and organise the Festival. Please contact: volunteers@stocktonheathfestival.co.uk

Any local organisation that would like to organise an event for the festival is asked to contact: hello@stocktonheathfestival.co.uk

Search for descendants of World War 1 school children

THE search is on for the descendants of school children who wrote letters to a much-loved teacher after he went away to fight in World War 1.

Sadly, George Arthur Whitfield (pictured right), who lived in Stockton Heath, was killed in battle and never returned to see his pupils or his family again.

But Warrington Museum has a collection of his belongings – including letters sent to him by pupils at a school where he taught in Arpley Street.

Now the Relationships Centre and Life Skills Academy are engaging with young people through a Heritage Lottery Project, “Us and Then and Way Back When” which looks at life for young people in Warrington during the years from 1912 onwards.

As part of their research they are looking at the lives and outcomes for young men who left Warrington to fight in the Great War.

The academy is looking to trace descendants of the pupils who sent the letters to George when he was away fighting in battle. The letters no doubt cheered him up to a great extent as he in return sent letters back to the boys.

William Bibby, who lived at 17 Arpley Street, Jack Isaac who lived at 20 Crosfield Street, and Jack Murray who lived at 23 Wilson Patten Street were three of the boys who George was in contact with.

Jack Isaac and John Bayly Isaac who was born in 1906 may have been one and the same person, with parents named John Bayly Isaac, and Mildred Parry Isaac. The family lived at 20 Crosfield Street according to the 1911 Census.

William Bibby may have been born in 1905, and his parents were John and Emma. It is believed that some of the family went on to live in Sheffield.

Jack Murray and John Barrie Murray, born in 1905 – possibly one and the same person – may have been the son William Murray and Janet McEadin Murray.

Anyone who could be related to any of the above named boys, who sent such charming and insightful letters to George while he was on the battlefield is asked to contact Jackie Cooling, project worker, The Relationships Centre and Life Skills Academy, 19 Museum Street, Warrington. WA1 1JA Email: jacooling00@aol.com or call 01925 576757 or 07920 132669.



Parking petition falls on deaf ears

A PETITION signed by more than 3,000 people opposed to changes to parking charges at Stockton Heath and Lymm appears to have fallen on deaf ears.

The only concession borough council chiefs would make was that the situation would be monitored, following introduction of the changes.

Main change is the replacing of a one hour free parking period on Stockton Heath's Forge car park, and all the car parks at Lymm, with a 15-minute free period intended to assist parents dropping off children at nearby schools.

The petition was presented to the borough council by local parish councillor Anna Fradgley (pictured below) who condemned the changes as “unfair and

discriminatory” because council car parks in other parts of the borough were free.

She argued the changes would lead to more on-street parking, adding to increased congestion, and some people choosing to shop elsewhere, with consequent damage to local traders, some of who were already struggling.

The 15 minute free period would be of little use to shoppers as it left no time for queuing or waiting for prescriptions.

Cllr Fradgley said there had been no proper consultation with traders, councillors or residents, which would have been sensible even if not required by law.





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Cheshire's Top Divorce Lawyers Open in Stockton Heath

Divorce and matrimonial finance experts BPS Family Law, founded almost 70 years ago, with offices in Manchester and Hale, have opened an office in Stockton Heath.

Partner's Caroline Swain and Harry Lipson said the move comes after BPS Family Law has enjoyed a strong period of growth, primarily due to the firm's recognised leadership in this field, having represented on a number of extremely complex and notable cases.



Caroline Swain, Partner

Caroline is widely renowned as one of the most sought after divorce and matrimonial finance lawyers in the UK and has become the 'solicitor of choice' for representing ultra-high net worth and complex disputes both in the North and South of the country.

Caroline's experience in highly complex cases means she has become the 'go to' Solicitor for clients seeking a robust and knowledgeable divorce lawyer. She has in depth knowledge of dealing with multi-national companies, Trusts, inheritance disputes, overseas properties and inter-family financial structures within a separation.

Alluding confidence in the law she has the essential foundations of knowledge which is a must within any strong lawyer. Clients are very quickly reassured on meeting Caroline that they are in the best possible hands.

caroline.swain@bpsFamilyLaw.co.uk

Harry Lipson, Partner

Harry joined BPS in 1973 and became a partner three years later and Senior Partner in 2001.

Harry practises in Matrimonial Finance and has detailed knowledge of complex and high net financial settlements, including matters relating to businesses, pensions, trusts, the hiding and disposition of assets and money held overseas. Harry has represented many high profile clients and brings a commercial approach to achieving settlements.

Harry's experience of the law and practical knowledge of business and finance allows him to provide clear and concise advice and develop successful solutions for cases other lawyers would shy away from.



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Linda bids fond farewell after 18 years

AFTER an 18 year career in the village Linda Crowder has bid a fond farewell at Stockton Heath Travel.

Linda said: "I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as a partner in Stockton Heath Travel.

"My career with them began as a mature Saturday girl!! I used to work every Saturday and was even known to go in on a Sunday when the shop was closed to sort out and update the brochure shelves! I never woke up in a morning and did not want to go into work.

"I progressed through to working full time and then promoted to Manager before becoming a senior partner. I have made many friends throughout the years - people were not just clients they soon became friends who would pop in for coffee and a chat. So understandably I am going to miss the every day life in the shop working with Jacqui and the girls but feel I have come to a point where my family including 5 lovely grandchildren and my attempt to play golf needs more of my time.

"So I have officially retired but hope to see everyone for a chat as I pop in the various coffee shops and occasional wine bar in the village!

"Thank you to everyone for all your support and friendship which has enabled our shop to help keep the Stockton Heath Village alive with the rest of the local traders. Wishing you all the very best for 2017."



Mayor helps JD Kitchens celebrate recipe for success

WARRINGTON based JD Kitchens celebrated 15 years in business with a visit from the town's Mayor Cllr Faisal Rashid - who by coincidence has been overseeing their progress for more than a decade.

In his "day job" at the Nat West Bank the mayor has been the relationship manager with JD Kitchen's owner Dave Charlton.

Dave takes great pride in the fact that he has built his kitchen business up from a spare back bedroom at his home in the early days, to a showroom boasting quality kitchens.

The business has blossomed providing mid to high end kitchens, from a showroom on Gorse Lane, Warrington, using the latest design technology, offering a complete service from start to finish.

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.

Congratulating JD Kitchens on their 15th anniversary in business Cllr Rashid said: "I have known Dave for over 10 years and I am really pleased to be here as Mayor of Warrington and also his bank manager as well. It is really good to support local business and see them grow.

"I have seen Dave's progress and this is a great example of a local business which are the life blood of our local economy. They create jobs and wealth which go back into the economy.

"During my year my theme has been to support local businesses which are very important."

Dave added: "Despite all the fears of Brexit and of prices going up people are still buying kitchens and we have a healthy order book.

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



Advertiser's announcement

SEEKING SUN..... Wanting a change from the Canaries?

Are the post Christmas blues setting in, or are you looking for inspiration for this year's holiday? Abu Dhabi experiences high temperatures throughout the year with minimal rainfall. The best time to visit is between October and March when it is cooler. During the summer months temperatures rise considerably. Fifty years ago, Abu Dhabi was little more than a fishing village made up of a fort, a few coral buildings and a scattering of Barasti Huts. Now behind the contemporary vibrancy of cosmopolitan Abu Dhabi lies a rich and colourful heritage set in endless desert terrain. It is the largest of the seven Emirates and takes life a little easier than its neighbour Dubai, although those seeking adrenalin-fuelled adventure will find plenty. Flying time from the UK is approximately seven hours and currency is

UAE Dirham.

Each month, up to 50,000 visitors head to the Corniche, a Blue Flag beach with views of downtown Abu Dhabi's high rise architecture. The Corniche offers many kilometres of walking, cycling, jogging and roller-blading along the seashore. Most visitors arrive via Abu Dhabi International Airport, where the new Midfield Terminal Building is due to open in December this year. However, a significant portion of visitors cruise into the new Abu Dhabi Cruise Terminal in Zayed Port, which opened in December 2015 and is the homeport of MSC Musica and Celebrity Cruises Constellation, which will operate from here during the 2016-17 season. For the thrill seekers, Yas Island's cluster of attractions, include a stylish marina, Ferrari Waterworld boasting 43

rides, slides and attractions including the Middle East's longest suspended rollercoaster. Visitor numbers will increase with the addition of Warner Bros. World Abu Dhabi in 2018.

Radical transformation

A few minutes from the city's downtown attraction, Saadiyat Island is undergoing a radical transformation with the opening of Louvre Abu Dhabi and the largest Guggenheim gallery of modern art ever built.

In the famous Empty Quarter of the Liwa Desert, the world's largest uninterrupted sand mass is dominated by the Tel Moreeb dunes which reach heights of over 300 metres. Choose from a dune safari in a 4WD vehicle or a hot air balloon for a bird's eye view. Here the Anantara Qasr Al Sarab Resort & Spa offers unparalleled luxury and comfort amid the rugged landscape. The elegantly designed rooms boast stunning views across the desert and a secluded paradise in which to retreat.

Traditional Arabic cuisine is widely available and the influence of a wide range of other cultures has opened up the restaurant scene. The city is developing a strong reputation for its



■ Jacquie Ahmed – Stockton Heath Travel

diverse gastronomy. Ramadan is a Holy Month, therefore, there are restrictions on alcohol, outdoor dining and entertainment during this period. Ramadan for 2017 is 27 May to 26 June.

The on-going widespread building works taking place throughout Arabia is part of a government strategy to ensure that these Emirates states remain at the forefront of advancement to meet the anticipated future demand of the discerning traveller. Generally it is found that any impact on holidaymakers is minimal in this part of the world. Tour Operators try to negotiate some excellent offers to include free night offers, complimentary up-grade to half board, free child places or complimentary honeymoon packages



Keep the village alive support your local traders!

We are open Monday to Friday 9am to 5.30pm and Saturdays 9am to 5pm. If you cannot make these times we are happy to arrange an appointment at your convenience.

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Youngsters enjoy festive visit to zoo

Pictures: Paul Jackson

A GROUP of 30 children visited the Children's Zoo at Walton Hall and Gardens for a festive tour guided by rangers.

They met Jazz the chicken, Fluffy the rabbit, the donkeys, the goat herd and the turkeys.

The youngsters then went to the zoo visitor centre to make some Christmas decorations to hang on the zoo's Christmas tree assisted by Zoo rangers.

Ranger Peter Cookson Dean who led the event, said: "The zoo rangers always enjoy this annual Christmas event. It's lovely to see so many people out at this time of year and the decorations the children colour in to decorate our zoo tree will look fantastic and really give the tree that personal touch.

"We have held this free event every year, for at least the last 15 years! The children enjoyed meeting the goats, donkeys and turkeys. They were from all over the area, not just Warrington and ranged in age from 1 – 10 years.

The children also met the alpacas - Topaz, Mally and Jim, who are recent additions to the zoo. The zoo will be launching its very own 'Alpaca Experience' where you can spend some more time with these beautiful creatures and take them for a walk around the park. Gift vouchers for the alpaca experience are available and can make a gift with a difference.

The Children's Zoo holds a variety of events throughout the year – more details can be found on their website: www.warrington.gov.uk/waltonhall



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New owners, same team at the Rams Head



NEW owners have moved into the Rams Head pub in old Grappenhall village, where it is business as usual with the same team.

Mujdat Karatas and his wife Joanna have taken over the pub which is next door to the primary school where she used to work.

Born in Stockton Heath and also having worked at St Matthew's Primary School in Stretton and Grappenhall Heys Primary School, Joanna is well known in the local community.

The couple also run pubs in Uttoxeter and Burscough, but have decided to make the Rams Head their family home.

"We have developed a good relationship with the staff and are delighted they have decided to stay on," said Mujdat, who has worked in the industry for 30 years, starting out as a part-time bar man at Statham Lodge in Lymm. He left as an assistant manager and went into the pub trade in 1995, starting his own business in 2001.

"Our motto is to create a friendly atmosphere,

using fresh local produce as much as we can, while keeping good ales and serving fine wines.

"We believe your success is down to your staff as they are the soldiers on the ground.

"It is also a big plus that we are making the Rams Head our family home as we will be part of the local community," added Mujdat.

Regular visitors to the pub will see familiar faces including Mickael Picard, Graham Newton, Dermot Ryan, Stuart Roscoe and Adam Bascom.

"Community conversation" brings people together

RESIDENTS of the Thelwall and High Legh areas joined with those from Lymm for a "Community Conversation" arranged in conjunction with the ROC "Redeeming our Communities" organisation.

The meeting was also attended by High Sherriff of Cheshire Kathy Cowell, Mayor of Warrington Faisal Rashid, borough council officers and members, parish councillors, police, fire and health professionals.

Many community groups were also represented at the meeting.

The evening began by celebrating the 100-plus existing groups and activities, primarily run by local volunteers.

Time was then spent assessing the issues, needs and gaps in provision for various elements of the community,

and finally, everybody turned their minds to potential solutions, which generated a wealth of creative and practical ideas, together with offers of support to enable them to happen.

The "Conversation" was of course just the start of the ROC initiative which aims to bring people together to make safer, kinder communities.

Several projects have already commenced, including the collection of elderly people in a minibus for a weekly coffee morning in High Legh, and a dementia café and PCSO surgery, both at the Sanctuary Café in Lymm.

A team, including the police and local youth workers is also making plans to establish provision for young people who routinely congregate in and around the village or parks on Friday evenings.

The admin team at Lymm Baptist



Church offered to support the ongoing initiative.

To obtain a copy of the report from the evening, find out more, or explore

ways in which you can get involved in supporting the local community, contact admin@lymmbaptistchurch.com or call 01925 752805



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Residents fail to block nursing home expansion



NEARBY residents failed in a bid to block expansion proposals at a Stockton Heath nursing home.

Warrington's development management committee approved the proposals despite objections from 10 neighbours and Stockton Heath Parish Council.

The decision means the Arlington House nursing home in Ackers Road

will be able to add five extra additional bedrooms, bathroom facilities, and a kitchen store. In addition, an existing coach house can be converted to provide offices, a hair salon, storage and training rooms.

The neighbours objected on the grounds of inadequate parking in a road already an accident blackspot. They also claimed the scheme would

have a detrimental effect on a conservation area and result in cars parking in Ackers Road and Hill Top Road. The parish council complained the development would have an "overbearing nature" which would result in a building out of character with the locally listed property and the street scene.

Changing the use of the coach

house would be likely to lead to an increased noise nuisance for a neighbouring property, to which it was attached.

They believed there would be a loss of privacy for neighbours and an increase in parking and traffic problems on nearby roads. But planning officers recommended the scheme be approved.

Celebrating an engineering genius

HE was the engineering genius behind the most iconic name in motoring history and numerous parts of the country claim him as one of their sons.

But Cheshire has as good a claim as most to Henry Royce, co-founder of Rolls-Royce cars and councillors at Knutsford have decided that claim should be recognised.

They have erected a commemorative blue plaque at Brae Cottage, in Legh Road, where the largely self-taught engineer lived from 1898 to 1908.

He had married his wife, Minnie, at Chorlton-cum-Hardy in 1893, moving to the then newly-built Brae Cottage five years later. In 1912 the couple divorced and Royce never re-married and had no children. He died in 1933.

Royce, a perfectionist and workaholic, was the engineering brain behind Rolls-Royce. Charles Stuart Rolls provided the finance and business acumen for the business founded in Manchester in 1906.

Four other blue plaques have been erected in Knutsford – one for Edward Penny, who was born on Silk Mill Street in 1714 and was the first professor of painting at the Royal Academy of Arts, and three to highlight historic buildings, the iconic Gaskell Tower and the Royal George in King Street, and the Sessions House on Toft Road.

Town Clerk Adam Keppel-Garner said the council had installed the new plaques to add to the sense of heritage enjoyed by the town and wider area.

Right: Mayor of Knutsford Jan Nicholson with the plaque outside Henry Royce's former home.





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Money Column

By Margaret Black

Some quick reminders for the New Year

We hope that you have all had an enjoyable time over Xmas and New Year. However, after the pleasures of the festive season it is now back to reality, especially for people facing a tax liability at the end of January.

A quick reminder that if you owe any tax and it is not paid by 31st January then interest will accrue on a daily basis. Any tax remaining unpaid on 28th February will incur an additional penalty of 5%.

Also a quick reminder that if you have to complete a tax return for 2016 and have not already done so then you must do so electronically by 31st January or face a penalty of £100.

Nobody enjoys paying tax. We always strive to assist clients to organise their affairs in a tax efficient way. Yet another quick reminder. If you are married and your spouse earns below £11,000, ensure that they elect to transfer 10% of their allowance to you. That will reduce your tax liability by £220 and possibly your payment at the end of this month by £330.

Benjamin Franklin once said "...in this world nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes." Tax is an inevitable consequence of earning money but some people tried to avoid this by taking part in complex schemes involving loans and investments in the film industry. It may be too strong to say that "If it is too good to be true it is probably a fraud" (Ron Weber), but these schemes have recently been successfully challenged by the tax office. It is expected that the participants will soon receive tax demands far in excess of their original stake which may, in some cases, result in their bankruptcy. In fact, by the time you read this it is possible that these assessments may already have been issued.

There are, however, ways of reducing your tax liability that are acceptable to the tax office, and so a final quick reminder about two of these which must be actioned before 5th April if they are to affect your current year's liability:

- Donate to charity using "gift-aid". The charity will then reclaim 20p of your tax for every 80p that you donate. OK, so this may not feel like getting your tax back but, believe us, you are. And if you are a higher rate taxpayer then you will get a further 20p back in your own pocket as well!
- Contribute into a pension scheme. Once again you may not feel as if you are paying less tax but you are by getting an investment worth £1 for only 80p. Once again, your actual tax payment will be reduced if you pay higher rate tax.

And if you are lucky enough to be a parent earning just over £50,000 then these will also reduce your liability to repay some or all of your child benefit.

WatkinsonBlack are pleased to advise on these and other matters. They have considerable experience in all areas of taxation and business services, including providing a very cost-effective payroll bureau service. If you want to arrange a no-obligation initial meeting on any taxation or accounting matter then please contact us. Please note that these ideas are intended to inform rather than advise and you should always obtain professional advice before taking any action.



David Watkinson and Margaret Black

Withington's winning ways



WITHINGTON Girls' School have been celebrating a series of wins in a wide range of pursuits across the whole age range of the school community from Junior pupils, through Sixth Form to teaching staff.

Year 6 girls took part in the Manchester Schools Pop Lacrosse tournament in which twelve teams participated. The Withington girls won all five of their matches, scoring a total of 40 goals in the process. Pop Lacrosse is a mixed game of five-a-side, with up to 3 boys allowed in a team. WGS was the only all-girls team and will now proceed to the North West Final in March 2017 where they will represent Manchester.

A team of Year 12 students won the annual Sir Rhys Davies Mock Trial competition, contested between twelve local independent and state schools, at Manchester Crown Court on 26th November. Playing the roles of defence and prosecution lawyers, defendants, witnesses, clerks and ushers, they won in the final v Bury

Grammar Boys. In addition, the Withington 'court reporters' won the Manchester Evening News Law Reporting Award.

In the same week, Head of PE Mrs Mhairi Ferrol and the Leigh Women's Team won the Mail on Sunday National Golf Club Classic competition at the El Rompido course in Spain. They claimed a 4-1 win over Bude & North Cornwall, having won against Scottish champions, Burntisland in the semi-final.

Former Scotland hockey international Mrs Ferrol, who captained the team, said she hopes to get more girls interested in golf, inspire them to 'go for it' in their own chosen sport and see that 'success at national level is far from impossible if you are sufficiently dedicated and believe in yourself'.

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Council rejects residents' bid for broadband grant

APPLETON Parish Council has rejected an application from a residents' group for a grant towards the cost of a new fibre cabinet for superfast broadband access.

The Hillside Fibre Broadband group represents of Hillside Road, Acton Avenue and London Road, Appleton – an area which suffers from slow broadband speeds.

Residents were seeking a £2,000 grant from the parish council and had also applied for a £2,000 grant from South Warrington Neighbourhood Board.

BT Openreach would fund £2,500 and the residents would fund the remaining £3,225.

In addition, the group were asking that the parish council sign the contract with BT to be the responsible legal entity for the work.

But the council pointed out that there were other areas of Appleton with slow broadband speeds.

The council did not have funds available to pay for upgrades throughout the parish – and there were many roads with similar or slower broadband speeds.

“A good friend is a connection to life,
a tie to the past and a road to the future”

Lois Wyse



2017 ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS

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Monday 9th January 2017
For Years 3-6 entry:
Saturday 14th January 2017

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Scent of success for Priestley alumni

THEY were alert, eager to please and responded well to instruction.

But it wasn't the students at Priestley College who were put to the test – it was the visiting prison dogs, along with a former student who were demonstrating their skills.

Team members from HM Prison Manchester visited the college to speak to Public Service students about possible careers in the service, including former student Natalie Eagan, who now works at the prison.

They were joined by three dogs including George, a springer spaniel who demonstrated how he can sniff out drugs and even mobile phones.

"A lot of our Public Services students will be keen to join the police or prison service so an experience like this opens their eyes to the opportunities that are out there," said Tutor Paul Mackinnon.

Around 40 students heard from prison staff as they described their job and how they achieved their positions in the prison service.

Priestley alumni Natalie was among the students watching a very similar demonstration two years ago.

She is now in operational support at the prison.

"I was fascinated by the job and I knew it was what I wanted to do," she said.



Turning passion into a career!

SITTING behind a desk, working as a financial controller in London, wasn't quite the satisfying, long term career Christina Tidmarsh yearned for.

So almost five years ago she decided to turn her passion for pilates into a career.

Christina said: "I wanted to do something that gave me flexibility and control with my job and most importantly I wanted to look forward to my job every day."

In that time she has got married, had a baby and relocated back to the North West. "I'm originally a Lancashire lass and moved to Stockton Heath in 2016," said Christina.

"I trained with Body Control Pilates in London which is renowned as a world leading education provider for Pilates. Pilates has so many benefits and my favourite thing about it is it is for all ages, sexes and abilities.

"Pilates focuses on building core strength and improving the movement of your spine and other joints. If your joints are well positioned the muscles around them fire up efficiently and help to prevent wear and tear. This is why so many sportspeople practice Pilates alongside their daily training and it is recommended by Physiotherapists and Osteopaths. Pilates is also great for improving posture and relaxing areas of tension in the body," said Christina.

She prefers to teach small group classes or private sessions at home. Christina said: "This allows me to get a good understanding of a clients body and work with them to challenge themselves during each session. A client can invite up to 3 friends to a private session. As well as beginner and improver sessions I offer specific sessions for antenatal, post-natal, mum and baby, Pilates for golfers and Pilates for the older person."

Group classes are currently based in Stockton Heath and private sessions in Stockton Heath and all surrounding areas.



Parish precept to rise by 33 per cent

STOCKTON Heath Parish Council has approved an increased precept for the coming year – to cover the cost of increased environmental work in the coming year.

The 33 per cent rise will increase the local council tax on the average Band D house from £30 to £40.

Council chairman Cllr Peter Walker said: "A 33 per cent increase might seem a lot, but in fact it works out at about 20p a week for a Band D house.

Clean and Tidy

"We want to ensure that Stockton Heath remains a clean and tidy village and will have to consider taking over some work which the borough council has done in the past but which will not be doing in the future."

The council also wants to make provision for a possible "take over" of Stockton Heath Library if the borough council should decide to close it.

Partnership

Stockton Heath has already resolved that if the borough should close the library, contact should be made with other local parish councils – Appleton, Grappenhall and Thelwall and Walton – whose residents use the library to see if there would be some form of partnership to retain the library in its present format.

Cllr Walker said: "There is no way we could take on the library in its present form on our own, but we have agreed to talk to the other parishes to see if a partnership of some kind would be feasible.

What's on in the villages

January 10
STOCKTON HEATH PARISH COUNCIL
Sandy Lane Centre, Stockton Heath. 7.30pm

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

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

Every Saturday & Sunday
GRAPPENHALL HEYS WALLED GARDEN
Witherwin Avenue, Grappenhall Heys, WA4 3DS.
Café open from 10am-5pm 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

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

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

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

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

BOOK CLUB
Bizzie Beans Coffee House, Bridge Lane, Appleton
11am-12 noon

Every Wednesday
APPLETON HALL BADMINTON CLUB
October - July 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

Every third Wednesday
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 committed to providing excellent service

AS part of their 10th anniversary celebrations Grappenhall Dental Practice has become members of the British Dental Association Good Practice scheme.

During the past 10 years the practice has grown from nothing to three surgeries with four dentists, looking after in excess of 15,000 patients.

Dr Andrew Brown, who set up the surgery, said: "To mark our anniversary we decided to show how committed we are to providing an excellent service by becoming members of the British Dental Association Good Practice scheme. This scheme recognises practices who deliver a quality service for their patients.

Membership of this scheme shows: Working to a nationally agreed standard of good practice to develop and maintain a consistent quality of service for patients.

Being assessed by the BDA to ensure they meet the good practice requirements.

They carry out their own internal checks on the way they work.

They allow BDA assessors to visit the practice whenever they want to.

Every member of the practice team has made a personal commitment to deliver a quality service for their patients.

New parish clerk appointed

A NEW clerk has been appointed by Stockton Heath Parish Council.

Lara Jacob, married with a son, Benjamin, at Bridgewater High School, has taken over the role.

A former school librarian, she has lived locally for 14 years and knows the area well. She is keen on gardening - she has an allotment in Victoria Park - and also enjoys walking, cycling and reading.

She said: "I am already enjoying working at the parish council and am looking forward to meeting local people through my work."

Charity jazz concert

TICKETS have gone on sale for the annual concert in aid of charity given by the Chicago Teddy Bears jazz band at Grappenhall Community Centre.

The show - in aid of the Lymm and Thelwall branch of Contact the Elderly will be on Friday, February 10 at 8pm.

Admission is £13 and includes a two-course supper served at the table and tickets are available from Colin Melrose on 01925 756742.

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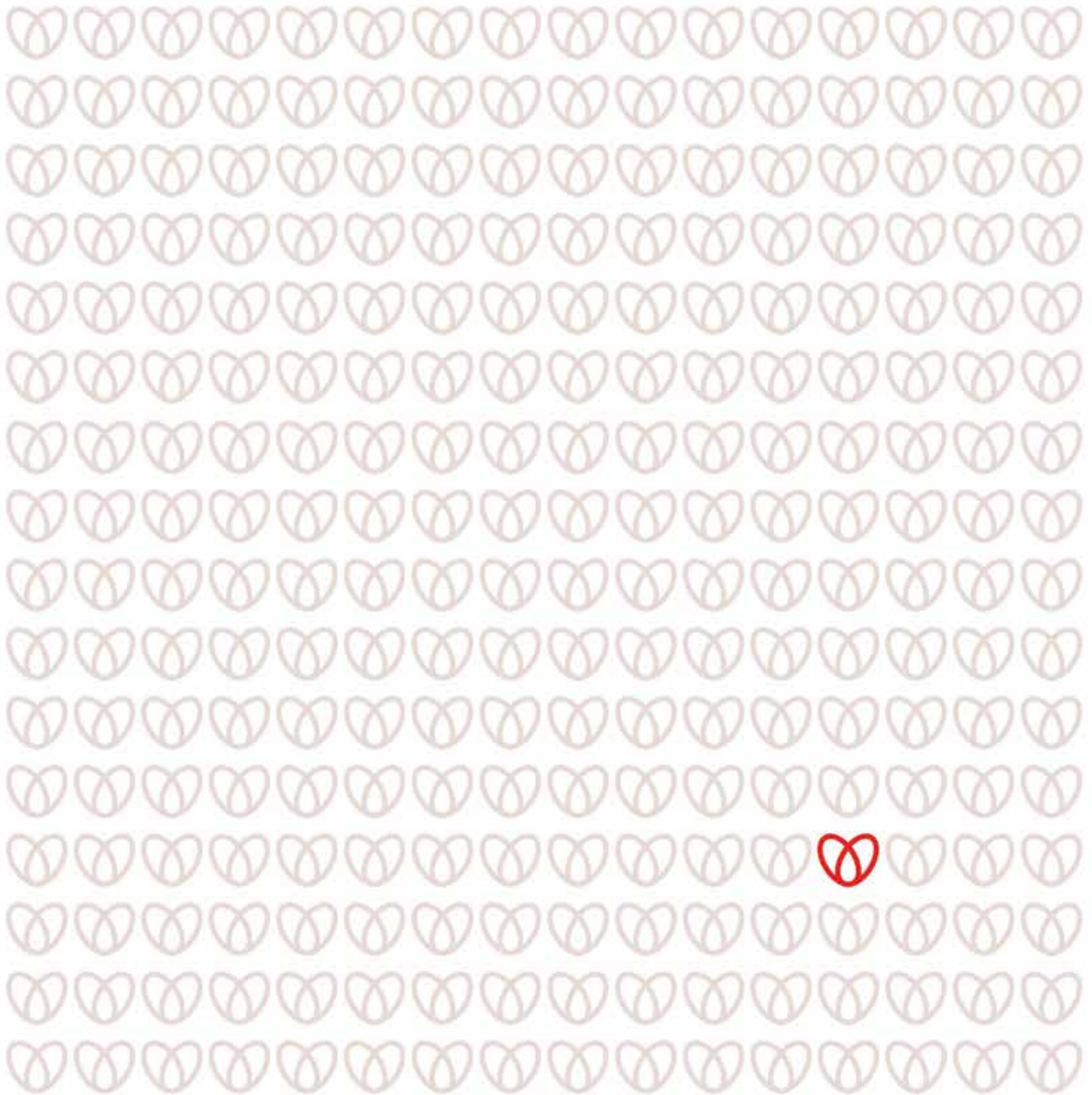
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