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Issue 192 March 2017 FREE

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There are all types of risk that anybody who wishes to save money should consider. And there is now another risk to consider which is political risk.

Two monumental results in 2016 have changed the political landscape. In June 2016, we had the UK referendum, and at the end of 2016 Donald Trump's victory in the US presidential election. Both results have the potential to cause a lot of uncertainty for obvious reasons. And going forward 2017 will see further elections, first in France and later in Germany. In France, this Spring I have no doubt that Marine le Penn is relishing the prospect of her big chance.

One thing is for certain is that it would be a brave person to place a bet on the outcome, especially given what we have seen in 2016. It is the fact of the unknown which can cause investors to run for cover. Other people could say it represents a good buying opportunity

because everything in the end may be alright. Either way politics is starting to play a part in the riskiness of portfolios and this is difficult to avoid.

Inflation – I saw a headline in the press last month stating that inflation was ready to rocket up to 4%. I recall at the end of 2011 when it was just over 5%. So, is this a problem or is it just high drama headlines from the press? It is certainly the latter. There are many economists who would argue that we need a good bout of inflation anyway. But the issues here are how inflation is measured.

Just over 12 months ago the same people were telling us it was all doom and gloom as we headed for deflation (negative inflation). This was largely brought about by the falling price of oil.

Now that the low oil prices have filtered through the system and starting to drop off the inflation measuring scale, we are now seeing the reverse.

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Editor's comment

IN all that has been said and written about the plight of libraries in recent months, little time seems to have been devoted to working out why the number of people using them has plummeted.

Yes, we have heard all about the influence of the internet, e-books, smart 'phones, etc. But surely this influence is felt universally, not just in places like Stockton Heath, Grappenhall, Lymm and Warrington Lymm?

It is true that many libraries have been losing readers all over the country. But while there has been a 32 per cent decline in visits to libraries in Warrington, near neighbours Cheshire East came top in a survey of library use in the country's 55 unitary authorities.

Nearly 5,300 books were borrowed per 1,000 members, making Cheshire East the lead unitary authority for library services. Their biggest library, at Macclesfield, was the busiest in the North West.

So why are people on one side of the common boundary between Cheshire East and Warrington

using their libraries more than the other? Is it that people in places like Knutsford, Congleton, Crewe and Macclesfield have resisted the advance of technology more than those in Warrington?

Or are people on the Warrington side of the boundary less literate?

We can't pretend to answer the question, but it does occur to us that while everyone has been quick enough to heap blame on the borough council and library operators LiveWire, the real culprits could be the public. Let's face it, if Warrington could claim to be top of the league for library use, there is unlikely to have been any talk, or even thoughts, of saving money through closing libraries.

"The only thing that you absolutely have to know, is the location of the library."
Albert Einstein

WARRINGTON Borough Council says it is "comfortable" about the legality of the recent changes to car park charges in Stockton Heath and Lymm.



A curious choice of word, we think. Why did they not simply say everything is legal and above board?

Well, comfortable they may be, but from what we hear, a good number of people in Stockton Heath are far from comfortable. They include shopkeepers who have experienced a decline in business, and householders who have experienced an increase in the number of cars blocking the roads outside their homes.

The council has promised a review of the situation later this year and we accept it is far too soon for such a review to be carried out yet. But when it comes, we hope it will look at traffic, congestion, and footfall in the village and not just whether the changes have resulted in a bigger profit for the council.

All set for 10th anniversary of Stockton Heath Festival

ALL the main entertainment events for the 10th anniversary Stockton Heath Festival have now been booked and an exciting range of activities are being lined up for the Festival Field - with the addition of a special Children's marquee.

The event will run from Thursday, June 29 until the grand finale on Sunday, July 2nd,

Events manager Andrew Renshaw said: "We have now completed bookings for all our main events both for the musical and drama events, not forgetting the Comedy Night at the Slug and Lettuce on Thursday 29th June (put in your diary)."

In addition to this, Jenny Smith and Alison Broadbent, have been working hard to complete bookings for the many traders stalls and catering that make the Stockton Heath Festival a great event. Amongst the many craft stalls in the markets marquee they have other organisations providing competitions, tombola and lots of different varied catering stalls offering hot food and drinks - including cakes.

Everyone is invited to get involved, this year especially being the 10th Anniversary. On the field are lots of activities for all ages as well as photographic competitions, the Art Exhibition at St Thomas' Church and

for the traders in Stockton Heath, the ever popular Scarecrow competition to be judged by all on the field.

Full details of what, when and where can be found on the website: stocktonheathfestival.co.uk.

Meanwhile organisers are always looking for volunteers and its good fun meeting the crowds on the festival field or assisting at one of the events backstage (and you get to wear a high viz jacket!). If you would like to get involved or help plan and organise the Festival, please contact: volunteers@stocktonheathfestival.co.uk





Walton Lea Partnership going back to their roots

THE Walton Lea Partnership are going back to their roots focusing on growing traditional and heritage plants and produce.

Based at the former Victorian walled garden next to Walton Hall and gardens off Chester Road, the charity is also looking for experienced gardeners who are willing to give up their time to talks on gardening styles and horticulture.

Head of Horticulture and Fundraising and Community Outreach Julie Groom said: "We are looking at growing a variety of traditional herbs, beans, sweet peas and roses so people can come along and learn about plants and produce which were popular during Victorian times."

"We are taking on more volunteers and would love to hear from keen gardeners who can give up some time to come and give talks."

A new role has been created at the charity with Andrea Marshall becoming Garden Lead.

"We would love to hear from people who can come along and share their experiences," said Andrea.

"We are aiming to be more traditional and are looking at creating a "Dig for Victory" garden as well as looking at other historical projects."

The aim is to make the walled garden an even better visitor

attraction.

This year there will also be a big push on sun flowers and an increase in plant sales.

"This is going to be a very exciting year for us," added Julie.

Anyone interested in helping out with talks or advice should call 01925 860145 or message the charity through their facebook page.

Borough council "comfortable" over car parking charges

CLAIMS that the borough council's decision to increase parking charges at Stockton Heath and Lymm was illegal have been refuted by the council's transport chief.

Cllr Hans Mundry (pictured right), lead member for transport, said: "We are comfortable that we have followed all the correct procedures in introducing these charges."

"The pricing is appropriate and comparable with neighbouring authorities but we will continue to review the situation."

The claims came from Lymm parish councillor Anna Fradgley after the borough introduced a new charging system on Stockton Heath's Forge car

park and at Lymm.

She raised a number of Freedom of Information questions with the council and claimed that the borough's parking task group had received inadequate information before it reached its decision.

As a result, she argued, the new charges contravened the Traffic Management Act 2004.

She demanded a review of the situation by the borough's legal department and said if she did not receive a satisfactory response she would have no option but to raise the matter with the Local Government Ombudsman.

Cllr Fradgley said: "I certainly don't regard Cllr Mundry's response as

being adequate. I am still awaiting a response from the council's legal department but I do not believe the council have followed correct procedures."

"Nor are the charges comparable with comparable authorities. You can park for 10p in Altrincham and for free in Northwich."

The changes at Stockton Heath and Lymm involved abolishing a free one hour parking period and replacing it with a 15-minute free period and increasing the minimum charge from 50p to £1.

Many local shopkeepers claim the changes have resulted in a loss of trade.



The Golden Triangle

India has a contrast of some of the most ancient and amazing cultures, languages, exotic style of dress and almost every type of scenery. From spectacular landscapes, wildlife, great architecture, warmth and traditional hospitality, to the sun, sand and surf; India has it all.

The three cities of Delhi, Jaipur and Agra make up India's 'Golden Triangle' and provide a perfect introduction to the wonders of north India.

Agra is home to the world's most famous monument to love - the Taj Mahal, and really is a 'must see' for any visitor to northern India. Or you have the impressive Agra Fort, where you can visit the chambers of this

royal residence.

Delhi is India's fascinating capital city and is split into Old and New Delhi. The 'new' part dates from 1920, and as well as wide boulevards and green parks, it offers the imposing India Gate and India's impressive Parliament House. Explore Old and New Delhi by tuk tuk, Metro and rickshaw. Outside the Lahore Gate of the Red Fort is Chandni Chowk (Moonlit Square), a medieval area which now holds the city's largest marketplace - great for souvenirs such as silver jewellery, spices and silk. Other popular sights in Old Delhi include Raj Ghat, the memorial site of Mahatma Gandhi, and one of the largest mosques in India. Festivals are

celebrated in a big way in Delhi and many Indian cultures and traditions can be seen here. Hardly a month goes by without a festival and one of the most interesting and certainly the most colourful is the springtime festival of Holi that falls on the day after the full moon in March. It celebrates good conquering evil. On the eve of Holi, people make bonfires and on the actual day they apply colourful powders and pastes to each other, and celebrate with music, food and dancing.

Jaipur is one of India's most beautiful cities. One of the most photographed buildings in Jaipur is the five-storied Hawa Mahal (Palace of Winds), which is, in fact, just a spectacular facade with overhanging windows with latticed screens, domes and spires. A short distance from Jaipur stands, Amber Fort, a marvellous example of Rajput architecture with its terraces and ramparts reflected in the Maota Lake below.



■ Stockton Heath @ Hays

When to go? Delhi and the Golden Triangle are best visited during February and March, October and November for tolerable temperatures, but you will get the crowds at popular sites. The weather turns to scorching from April to June.

We can tailor-make your trip, or there are numerous tour options, which can be escorted or totally independent (including Rail). Talking of rail; The Shatabdi Express trains are some of the fastest in India and are the pride of the Indian Railways. Fully air-conditioned and of a far superior standard to most Indian trains. Apparently the Shatabdi Express always arrives at the best platform a station has! Call in for a selection of brochures to start planning your Indian adventure.

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From business suits to cycling shorts

A husband-and-wife team are trading the corporate world for a life of free-wheeling and leaving it all behind to launch a luxury cycling retreat in Spain.

Mark and Zoe Lancaster, 43, have quit their high-profile jobs and sold their family home to bankroll Cycle Retreats which begins taking its first guests in October 2017.

It will run from a luxury hillside villa near Alicante, and aims to deliver the ultimate getaway for cycling enthusiasts.

It is something Mark – a technical director of a construction firm – and Zoe, who is managing director of a private healthcare company, have talked about for years.

Zoe said: “Cycle Retreats has been our dream for a long time. We realised there are very few first-class experiences for keen cyclists. So we created one.

“Our daughter is happily settled into university and neither of us relish staying on the corporate treadmill for ever.

“We are both keen cyclists and we took some time to ask ourselves what it is we really wanted to do. So we just decided to go for it.”

“Cycle Retreats will be the cyclist’s equivalent of a luxury ski lodge, combining spectacular rides with first-class food and luxurious accommodation.”

Mark and Zoe, both aged 43, who sold their Lymm property but downsized to Stockton Heath to retain their local links are now putting the final plans in place before flying out to Spain later this year for Cycle Retreats’ official launch.

Bookings are currently being taken for the first retreat, which takes place in October 2017.



Zoe has the small matter of organising Riding for Change, a charity bike ride that will take 50 riders from London to Paris over four days while raising money for local charities.

To book your cycling getaway, or for further information, call 01925 502870 or visit cycleretreats.com



Disused nursery building can become a home

PLANNING chiefs have given the go-ahead for the conversion of a disused agricultural building to a dwelling despite strong objections from local councillors.

The development is at the former Ramswood Nurseries in Mill Lane, Walton – and the objections from local councillor Sharon Harris and from Walton Parish Council were based on the belief that the building had been erected as a dwelling in the first place as a means of circumventing planning restrictions in the Green Belt.

Walton Parish Council argued that the property should be demolished and the site returned to the Green Belt. They believed that approving the scheme would prevent the site from ever being returned to

agricultural use.

Members of the borough’s development management committee were told a number of alterations would be necessary to the building, including replacing a door and inserting two new windows in the southern elevation, inserting three new windows in the northern elevation and providing two roof lights.

Two roller shutter doors in the eastern elevation would be replaced with patio doors and two windows in the western elevation would be replaced with patio doors and a new window.

Replacement windows would be installed in existing openings.

A new vehicle access would be provided to Mill Lane to the west of

an existing access.

Planning officers said the building had been disused since 2010 and that any agricultural use of the

surrounding land had ceased in 2014.

The applicant had stated that there was no intention to resume agricultural work on the site.



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Two Rachels 'go crazy' for charity

TWO friends both named Rachel are, in their own words, "going crazy" to help a local children's charity.

Actor Rachel Priest, from Appleton and musician Rachel Bourke, from Lymm, aim to go trekking across Peru in November to raise £6,000 for the Children's Adventure Farm Trust (CAFT) at Millington.

But first they need to raise £600 sponsorship – and that's where they hope local businesses and organisations will help out.

They have launched the "24 in 24" campaign – they hope they can persuade 24 local firms and organisations to donate just £24 each.

In addition, the two Rachels are embarking on a programme of events to raise funds, starting on March 10 with a "Cabaret for CAFT" at Cairo Street Unitarian Chapel in Warrington.

Rachel Bourke said: "It is one of the most beautiful venues we have ever come across.

"We will be having an amazing group of artists coming together to put on an amazing show."

The two Rachels are also planning an afternoon tea party, a knitathon, a video blog, etc, etc.

Rachel Bourke added: "CAFT is a local charity that does so much for children with special needs and terminal illnesses, so we are working really hard in order to try and get as much raised as we can!"

Anyone who helps with the "24 in 24" campaign will be baked a special cake and also invited to a special VIP event after the Rachels return from their adventure.

Musician Rachel Bourke has toured all over the UK under the stage name "Little Rach" after starting her musical career at The Venue, in Lymm.

Rachel Priest is shortly to appear in an ITV drama "In the Dark" and also appears in the Four O'Clock Club on CBBC.



Park Royal Hotel wins gold

WARRINGTON'S Park Royal Hotel has started this year on a high by keeping hold of VenueVerdict's Gold Standard Accreditation for conferences, as parent company QHotels was named as the No.1 Large Group, which is the sixth consecutive year it has held onto the top spot.

Awarded by BDRC Continental – the UK's largest independent research agency – the VenueVerdict Awards are given based on the scores given by conference customers across the year and the likelihood of them recommending a venue, which the Park Royal is proud to have retained throughout 2016.

2016 was a record-breaking year for QHotels, which owns 26 hotels across the UK, with the group receiving 38 quarterly Gold Standard Accreditations, the most it has ever achieved, demonstrating the consistently high levels of service and commitment to quality that is at the heart of the group's ethos.

The Park Royal at Stretton, has a wide range of fantastic conference and event options, offering complete flexibility with a focus on providing a personalised service. Their opulent

Royal Suite with 4m ceilings, and sunny Garden Suite offer versatility for a wide range of events from small meetings to large banquets, conferences and weddings for up to 400 people and is currently the largest conference hotel in Warrington. In addition, guests can take advantage of their Reflections leisure Club and Spa, both are superb, catering to the needs of those keen to work up a sweat in our high-tech cardio and resistance gym, alongside those looking to unwind in their 22 metre pool, Jacuzzi and steam room and enjoy a treatment in our Spa.

Annie Brown, General Manager at QHotels, said: "This is an outstanding result for the hotel and the group. It's particularly meaningful because the awards come direct from our conference customers.

"At The Park Royal we strive to deliver consistently excellent levels of service that go beyond client expectations and the fact that we retained the accreditation is a demonstration of that consistency. It's also an indication of the extent to which our teams live and breathe exemplary service, every single day of

the year.

"We never stop listening to our customers, and while we're always delighted to receive these types of accolade, the teams look forward to making the services we deliver in 2017 better than ever."

Researchers at BDRC Continental analysed over 16,000 responses throughout the year across each quarter and 360 participating hotels in the UK and Ireland.

James Bland, Director – Hotels and Hospitality at BDRC Continental, said: "Once again QHotels has demonstrated their passion for and commitment to high-quality service. The results speak for themselves, retaining the title at a group level by continuing to drive improvements at a hotel level delivers outstanding customer satisfaction and the plaudits that come with that."



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Lorraine Moran, the founder and owner of Preen Hair & Cosmetics has been in the hairdressing industry for over 20 years. Having previously owned and worked in a salon in Warrington Town Centre, Lorraine has set out to bring all her knowledge and expertise to the Stockton Heath area and offer an array of services to the Modern-Day Woman interested in feeling and being their best.

Her amazing People and Business Management Skills, along with her dream of owning a salon in Stockton Heath, makes her the ideal individual to add another fantastic business to the community.

"I have a fantastically skilled team of people working with me and we are all extremely excited to be opening Preen Hair & Cosmetics and bringing you all our combined skills and services to the village."



Leanne Simpkin is a fantastically skilled member of our team with over 5 years experience. She is our Hair Extension Technician and specialises in Hair Up and Hair Extensions. Leanne also offers services in Micro-blading and EVL Lashes. Leanne is looking forward to welcoming old and new clients to Preen.

Claire Herbert is our Senior Stylist. With more than 30 years experience in the hairdressing industry as a Hairdresser, Colour Technician and Teacher in hairdressing and male grooming. Claire offers wedding hair as another service and can also create styles for special occasions and glamour magazine shoots.



Sammy Stockton is joining Preen as a stylist she has over 10 years experience in the hairdressing industry with strong cutting, colouring and barbering skills, and specialises in re-styling. Sammy would like to welcome old and new clients to Preen.

Mikala Sutcliffe is joining us as a Micro-blading Technician. With her warm and friendly personality she has already built a strong clientele in Warrington and welcomes new clients to Preen



Clare Elizabeth Donaldson of FreshMed will be joining us at Preen on Tuesdays and Saturdays offering her services in cosmetic and beauty enhancements.

She will be offering Line Softening treatments (botox), Dermal Fillers and Chemical Milk Peels. Clare has already built up a strong business and clientele locally and we are delighted she can join us and welcome old and new clients to Preen.

Opening offer of a free chemical milk peel with every botox appointment throughout March.

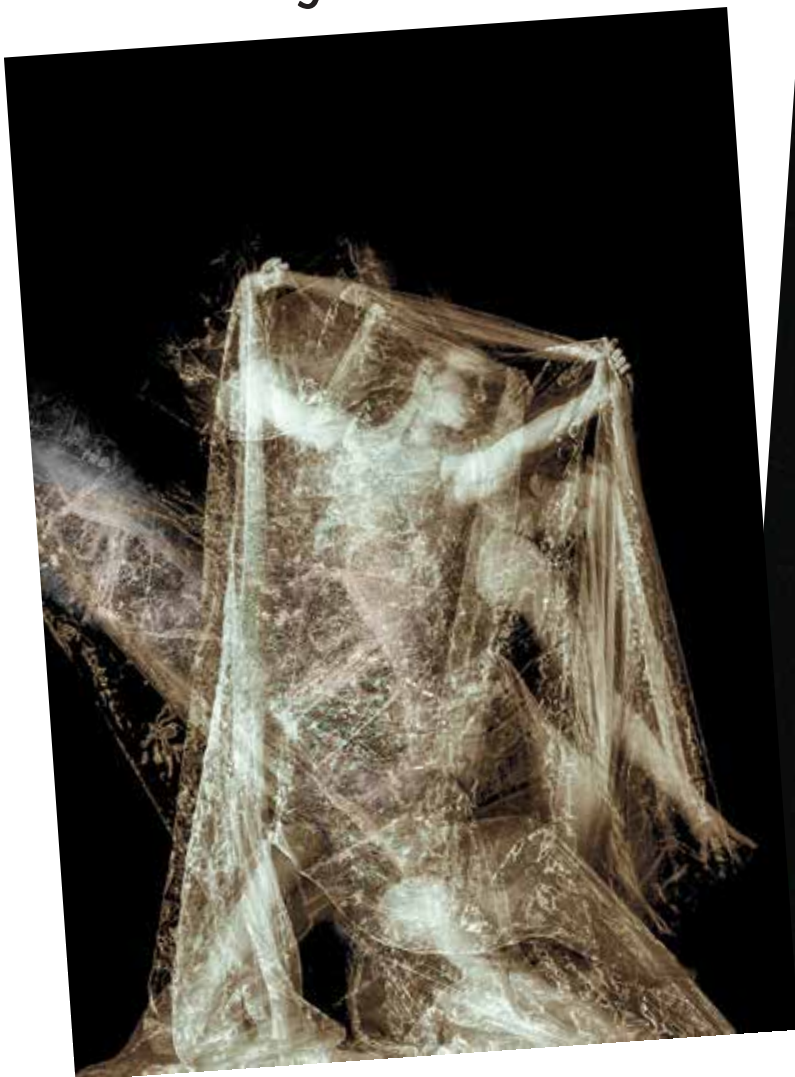
Gemma Jones of The Aesthetics Group will also be joining us at Preen on specific Wednesdays and Tuesdays and offering her amazing skills in Lip enhancement, Anti-wrinkle injections, Nytox Vampire Facials, Semi-permanent make-up and Acid skin peels.



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Priestley dancers showcase their talent



YOUNG dancers and production artists from Priestley College showcased their considerable talent.

Students took part in their annual performance, which this year was called 'Kinesis' – the Greek word for movement.

Student Jess Hilton said: "It's just been amazing to be a part of it."

Jess – and Priestley's other second year Production Arts students – took on different roles including stage management, lighting and marketing.

They've also designed and built the sets and

sorted out the projections.

Priestley's dance students extensively practised their group work, solos and duets.

They also choreographed the performance pieces, discussed the music, lighting, costume, makeup and props.

Both A-Level and BTEC students took part and the work goes towards their final marks.

18-year-old Meg Perks added: "The dance show is a big moment for the second years because it's one of the major shows we work on before heading off to university. We work closely together and communicate

well as a class. Our main focus was making this show the best that Priestley has ever seen."

Every year many of Priestley's Performing Arts and Production Arts students secure places at the UK's leading theatre schools.

Many have revisited to pass on their knowledge to the current cohorts who have already received offers from those top establishments.

Priestley Tutor Mark Edgington said: "We attract the best of local young talent and they go on to great things after studying here."

"Our current cohort is no exception."

Samia's an ambassador

CORONATION Street actress Samia Longchambon is to be a Cheshire musical theatre company's first-ever ambassador.

Knutsford Musical Theatre Company say they are thrilled to have Samia – who is perhaps better known as Maria in the long-running soap – associated with the company.

Samia said: "I'm delighted to have been invited to act as an ambassador for Knutsford Musical Theatre Company for many reasons and especially because musical theatre is where I began my journey into acting."

"From what I have seen in recent times, amateur theatre productions have totally evolved and are now providing audiences with near professional quality shows."

"KMTC is our local musical theatre group, which operates as a charity and depends on fund raising and volunteers to entertain us and also provide great opportunities for everyone – of all ages and backgrounds – who would like to be involved, whether as a brilliant hobby or even with aspirations for stardom."

Meanwhile, KMTC have won the National Operatic and Dramatic Association "Best Musical" title in District Eight – which includes Knutsford, Warrington, Northwich, Frodsham, etc – for their production "Our House."

They will now go on to compete for the North West title at a special awards night in Manchester on April 30.





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Money Column

By Margaret Black

Tax returns on time

As we start to relax after the January tax return mayhem, our elation at getting everyone's ("almost") return submitted by the deadline is mixed with regret that the clients who left getting their information to us until the last minute may not have received the same quality of advice as those who gave us their information earlier. Therefore, before we start the next cycle we would like to emphasise that the DUE date is not 31st January. That is in fact the FINAL DATE.



David Watkinson and Margaret Black

The actual submission date for a tax return is any time between 6th April to 31st January. This is a period of TEN MONTHS in which to collate the necessary information and deliver it to your agent. It is with frustration that we receive the information we need to prepare an accurate tax return on behalf of our clients in the final few days of that ten months, especially if there is a need to complete an annual set of accounts.

At the start of December there were nearly 300 clients who were still to deliver their information to us. Whilst a large number of these clients delivered their information just before or shortly after Christmas some waited right through to the end of January. The last two sets of accounts were delivered to us at 2.30pm and 4.30 pm on 31st January, resulting in the "almost" at the top of this article.

Please put this in your diary the due date for submission of tax returns is from April 6th and it is to your advantage, as well as our's, to prepare and submit the returns as soon as possible.

Early submission means that:

- We have more time to liaise with you to ensure that all allowable expenses are claimed and your tax liability is minimised
- We can liaise with you to ensure that errors are eliminated
- We can advise you earlier of any tax payable, enabling you to make a provision for it
- We can reclaim on your behalf any tax overpaid at the earliest, and
- We can elect for underpayments of tax to be collected through your PAYE code up to 2 years later. If you leave it too late then you can miss the ability to do this

It is worth repeating. Preparing your return earlier means that your agent can ensure that it is prepared in the most tax advantageous manner, rather than it being a rush to avoid you being charged penalties and being considered an increased risk by the tax authorities.

And remember, in a little over 12 months we will all be facing quarterly rather than annual returns!

Finally, getting your information to us earlier means that our staff will be able to enjoy the Christmas break with their friends and family without having to look forward to six-day weeks and long daily hours throughout January!

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.

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or email: info@warringtonaccountants.co.uk

www.watkinsonblack.co.uk

1,000 can vote in village referendum

JUST over 1,000 people at Appleton Thorn will be able to vote in a referendum on March 2 – the first of its kind to be held in the borough.

They will be asked: "Do you want Warrington Borough Council to use the neighbourhood plan for Appleton Parish Thorn ward to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?"

If residents vote "Yes" the neighbourhood plan – drawn up by local people with input from the parish council – will have to be taken into account in determining local planning applications.

It will not mean local people have the power to block planning applications, but it will give them a bigger say for the next 20 years.

The plan has already been subject to independent examination to ensure it meets with legal requirements.

Pipeline peril for country lanes

WATER company chiefs have pledged to avoid major events at Tatton Park when they install a controversial 4.4km waste water pipeline along country lanes in the Mere and Rostherne area over the next few months.

The route for the pipeline has already been amended to meet protests that it would impact on a Site of Special Scientific Interest at Rostherne Mere.

But local residents, who have been fighting the proposals for several years, still say the pipeline should not be installed at all.

United Utilities says the work is essential to prevent waste water overflows at a nearby pumping station and treatment centre.

They claim the new pipeline – which will be of a wider diameter than the existing installation – will reduce incidents of overspill to a once-in-30 years level. They say they have been consulting with residents since 2014.

The new pipeline will run along Mereside Road, Cicely Mill Lane, Marsh Lane and Birkenheath Lane. The country lanes – which can all attract traffic when there are events at Tatton Park – will have to be closed for periods of three to four weeks between March and June.

United Utilities say they are working with Tatton Park to ensure the works will not coincide with any major events.

Events at the park during the period include the "Landscapes and Gardens of Tatton Park" exhibition from March 25 to July 30, Lambing Week at the Home Farm from April 8 to April 17 and the Tatton Park Country Show on May 13-14.

It is thought the work will have been completed by the time of Tatton's biggest event of the year, the RHS Flower Show, from July 19-23.

Exceptional year for Sandymoor



LAST year proved to be an exceptional year for Sandymoor School as their Business Students/Community Engagement groups staged a Christmas Fair with over 40 stallholders and 2000 visitors helping raise more than £1600.

Head of Business Studies and Community Engagement Miss Wilkinson was delighted with the students' achievement and all the hard work they put into making the event such a success.

Following on from the success of the Christmas Fair, the spring term will see the students producing a Fashion Show in conjunction with Cheshire-based fashion company White Ribbons, due to take place in March.

Sandymoor has also gained sponsorship from Morris Homes seeing them support the Music Department in January 2017 by donating 16 electronic keyboards and an amplifier.

Rachel MacCutchan, Sales Director at Morris said: "Sandymoor is a fantastic school in the local area and we're delighted to be partnering with them in order to sponsor the education of its pupils.

"Our Sandymoor development, The Meadows, is home to many families whose young children may one day attend the school and it's important to us to be able to contribute to the local community in this way."

Hotel announces new package of fun family friendly offerings

QHOTELS The Park Royal at Stretton has announced its new package of fun family friendly offerings.

These include a FREE stay for children under 16 years sharing a bedroom with adults, FREE meals for those aged four years and under and, if parents prefer to book a separate room for the kids, 50% off the second room booked. What's more, families won't be charged a premium for travelling in peak holiday times, instead, they will be offered rates of 40% off if they book by 28th February on two night breaks until 30th April 2017.

The Park Royal is one of eight of the 26 strong hotel group that will play host to specific family activities,

whilst the entire QHotels group also introduced a new children's menu during February half term, guaranteeing smiles for the whole family!

The family friendly package comprises a fun children's check-in with FREE activity pack plus a whole host of activities including Craft & Hobby Workshops; Games Rooms, Pizza & Movie Night-in; and family splash times in the swimming pool. The hotel is also supplying guests with a map of local children's attractions for both indoors and outdoors entertainment.

The new children's menu launched during February half term and is FREE to those aged four and under. This features a choice of two and

three course meals starting from £8 per child. Children can choose from popular favourites such as burger & fries, pizza and macaroni cheese to healthy options including vegetables & fruit 'bits & pieces' with houmous dip and grilled fish of the day.

With a wide choice of family friendly attractions to enjoy in each area, QHotels The Park Royal guests can look forward to a whole host of fun: Situated within easy distance of Gullivers World and Legoland, families cannot fail to like QHotels, The Park Royal. For animal lovers take them to visit Chester Zoo, the Blue Planet Aquarium or Sea Life and older ones will not fail to be impressed by labels at the Cheshire Oaks Designer Outlet Village.

Prices start from £125 per stay for a bed & breakfast, two-night break or from £173 per stay for bed and breakfast & dinner on the first night of the break, visit www.QHotels.co.uk/family-friendly-hotels/

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Library's future back in the melting pot

THE future of Stockton Heath Library is back in the melting pot following the decision by the borough council's executive board to set up a working group to develop a sustainable library service.

But Cllr Tony Higgins, the borough's lead member for culture and leisure, said: "We have never closed a library and we don't intend to."

It had been expected that a decision might be made in March but it now seems likely to be November before recommendations are put forward.

The working group will be chaired by the borough council's chief executive, Professor Steven Broomhead and is to consist of two council officers, three officers from library operator LiveWire and two independent advisors.

But Stockton Heath Parish Council – which has already indicated a willingness to contribute to the cost of their local library – has written to the borough asking that the working group should include someone from south of the Manchester Ship Canal.

Chairman Cllr Peter Walker said: "We want to make sure the working group acknowledges that Stockton Heath Library is, in fact, the library for most of the south of the borough, not just Stockton Heath."

"We have already asked other parishes in the south of the borough if they are prepared to contribute to funding the library."

The working group was set up after a consultation exercise carried out by LiveWire resulted in a public outcry. More than 10,000 people signed a petition opposing any library



closures.

There was particular anger over any threat to Stockton Heath Library, which is the best used in the borough.

The council's lead member for culture, leisure and community, Cllr Tony Higgins, said: "The significant public feedback we received during our consultation has shown us how passionate people are about the future

of library services in Warrington. That's why it's vital that we examine all of the options very carefully, to make sure we get it right. The working group will help us achieve this.

"There are real challenges ahead. While it's crucial that we modernise our libraries service in order to make it sustainable for generations to come, we are faced with huge government

cuts which are impacting on all of our services."

The group will, initially, meet every three weeks. Meetings will be held in public – except for when discussing information considered confidential under Access to Information Rules.

It is expected to make recommendations for consideration by the executive board in November.

Warrington Hospital could move to south of borough

WARRINGTON Hospital could move to the south of the borough as part of modernisation plans.

The possible move was discussed during a recent meeting of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee at Warrington Borough Council. Warrington and Halton Hospitals CEO Mel Pickup was invited to attend and share her vision of the future.

She says some of the hospital estate is now over 100 years old and now is the time to consider planning for a new state of the art modern hospital – although no specific new locations have been considered at this time.

Ms Pickup said: "Warrington Borough Council has just completed consultation on its Local Plan where intentions to build more than 5,000 new homes and add nearly 300Ha of employment land have been approved. It is therefore essential to consider the impact on the town's existing health infrastructure which includes a growing elderly population and is already struggling to cope with demand."

"Some of Warrington Hospital's Estate is now more than 100 years old which does not provide a good patient experience and essential maintenance costs are spiralling. Anyone who uses the hospital will recognise that the site is completely gridlocked."

"Now the time to consider planning for a new state-of-the-art modern hospital for the people of Warrington and Halton. No specific new locations have been considered at this time."

But a possible move to the south has sparked outrage from Warrington North MP Helen Jones who described any plan to move the hospital to the south of the borough as "outrageous" and unacceptable.

She said: "This plan is outrageous and would massively disadvantage my constituents in Warrington North. This would create a Warrington Hospital which would be inaccessible for most of Warrington."

"I will do everything in my power to oppose these plans. Whilst a new hospital building would be welcome, it would need to be at a site which is accessible to the majority of the town. This proposal would benefit rural Cheshire much more than Warrington."

"I will be seeking an urgent meeting with the Chief Executive of Warrington and Halton NHS Hospital Trust to discuss these plans."



Village roads to go on priority list

MEMBERS of Stockton Heath Parish Council have drawn up a list of areas in the village they would like to see receive attention from the borough council's environment services team.

The list is to be considered by the parish council's Village Committee, which will place the areas in priority order before forwarding it to the borough.

Parish council chairman Cllr Peter Walker said: "It is an extensive list and has been drawn up by members after very careful and detailed consideration."

The borough's environment services department

has an eight member team deployed to look after landscape and street cleansing services in Stockton Heath, Appleton, Grappenhall and Thelwall, Lymm, Walton and Latchford.

Priority is to be given to maintaining the main access areas to the borough in order to create a good first impression.

Grass verge cutting will take place every 6-8 weeks, compared to every 2-3 weeks in 2015. But new machinery has been purchased to efficiently manage the growth to enable longer intervals between cuts. Grass cuttings will be left on the ground.

A number of pilot schemes are to be trialled to use refuse collectors to improve efficiency. A partnership with the Friends of Alexandra Park will enable refuse collectors to empty bins near the park entrances as part of their route.

Another trial will involve the refuse team emptying litter bins on London Road fortnightly at the same time as collecting commercial waste in the area.

The borough council believes initiatives like these will enable the borough to maintain acceptable standards of cleansing and landscaping.



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600 to run in 10th High Legh 10k

SIX hundred runners have booked to take part in the 10th annual Robert Moffat High Legh 10k run – and there is no room for any more!

The run takes place on March 6 – and at least two runners who have taken part in all 10 races will be taking part.

They are Jono Guildford, from Manchester Front Runners and Nicola Gerrard, from Lymm Runners.

Race founder Nick Cavenagh will be returning for the special 10th anniversary. His idea was to produce a run people would want to go back to and it has proved to be just that. Sixty runners took part in the first and this has now grown to 600 – with a waiting list.

Known among runners as “the friendly race”, the event is dedicated to the memory of Robert Moffat, former head gardener for the High Legh Estate, who died in 1878. The race is now organised by Lymm Runners and High Legh Community Association.

More information is available at www.high-leg10k.org.uk





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What's on in the villages

March 11
LIVE AT ST WILFRID'S
Australian-born guitarist Craig Ogden makes a return visit to St Wilfrid's after playing with all the main UK orchestras and abroad.
St Wilfrid's Church, Grappenhall. 7.30pm.

March 14
STOCKTON HEATH PARISH COUNCIL
Sandy Lane Centre, Stockton Heath. 7.30pm
March 16
GRAPPENHALL & THELWALL PARISH COUNCIL
Council Offices, Bellhouse Lane. 7.30pm

March 21
APPLETON PARISH COUNCIL
Appleton Parish Hall, Dudlow Green Road 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 LEIGH 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: GrahamCisse58@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
Appleton Parish Hall, Dudlow Green Road 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



Amateur radio club set to celebrate 70th anniversary



THE Grappenhall based Warrington Amateur Radio Club is celebrating its 70th Anniversary this year.

To mark the occasion, they are having an open day on Saturday April 1st at their headquarters at Grappenhall Community Centre from 10am till 4pm.

The club has been going strong since 1947 and has a current membership of over 50 people. They have a well-equipped 'Radio Shack' and meeting room based within the Grappenhall Community Centre.

During the open day they will be welcoming interested members of the public to see Amateur Radio in operation.

The Mayor of Warrington, Councillor Faisal Rashid, has agreed to attend at 1pm to help celebrate this landmark in the Club's long history.

Members of the public will be able to see the latest Amateur Radio equipment being operated and talk to club members about their fascinating hobby.

Warrington Amateur Radio Club has been an active part of the local community for many years, indeed members helped in the construction of the Grappenhall Community Centre.

The Club has trained and supported many individuals and members of local organisations throughout the past 70 years and hopes to continue this tradition into the future.

The open day takes place at Grappenhall Community Centre, Bellhouse Lane, Grappenhall, Warrington, WA4 2SG.

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Crematorium to get extra parking

PLANNING chiefs have approved an extension to the car park at Walton Lea Crematorium.

The enlarged car park will accommodate an extra 34 vehicles, members of the borough's development management committee were told.

Councillors were told the scheme involved part of the crematorium site and a portion of and a portion of the adjacent Walton Hall Gardens site.

The existing crematorium car park, with 41 spaces, could not meet the demands of the crematorium and although about six spaces would be lost on the Walton Hall Gardens site there would still be ample parking.

Footpaths will be provided for safe access to the parking area, which will be partly enclosed by a low fence.

Philosophy in the pub

A NEW pub discussion group has been launched in Stockton Heath – with the object of encouraging free and frank discussion on any topic.

The Philosophy in Pubs group has been set up by Dr Bill Cooke, teacher in philosophy at Priestley College and the first meeting was held at the Red Lion in London Road.

Future meetings will be held monthly from 7pm until 9pm and admission will be free.

Dr Cooke is the author of six books, has written some 70 encyclopaedia entries and is a frequent contributor to magazines.

More details can be obtained by emailing cwncooke@gmail.com

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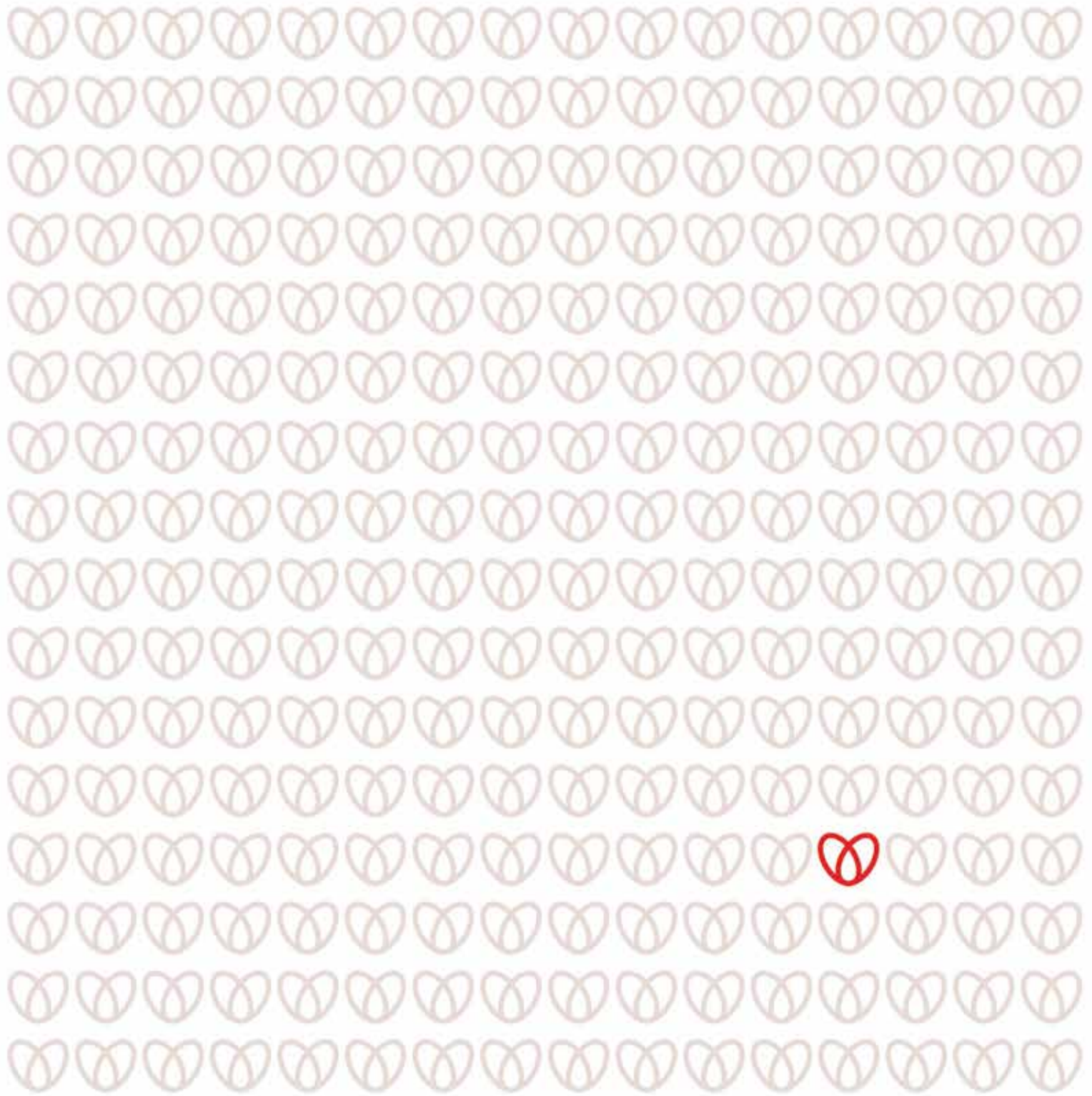
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