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## New Tax Year - Happy New ISA Allowance

As we go into another new financial year it is well worth looking at both your new ISA allowance and the new rules for ISAs. In 2017-18 the ISA allowance has increased to a generous £20000. This means that a couple can save £40000pa in a tax efficient savings vehicle. The increase in the ISA allowance should be a welcome boost for savers, especially with the more recent reduction in the pension allowances. But, you have to make use of them.

The ISA has been a fantastic success story over the last 10 years with billions of pounds being put into them. I am not a great advocate of some of the recent changes, like the addition of the lifetime ISA. I just think that it complicates what is basically a very simple financial product, with petty little rules and regulation. But, we are where we are and we now have the Lifetime ISA. This allows savers up to age 39 to save £4000pa into an ISA and receive tax relief from the government. Should people consider this? Absolutely they should. It will not only allow younger savers to save towards their first property, but will also incentivise people that prefer to save into an ISA for retirement. And for people that just

want to make additional pension savings.

And for the older generations there is good news too. For some clients with an Inheritance Tax (IHT) liability may want to consider an ISA which also benefits from Inheritance tax savings for future ISA contributions. Last year it became possible to save into an AIM ISA. Alternative Investment Market as it is known is for smaller companies on the London Stock Exchange. The AIM ISA is particularly attractive because it allows people to transfer previous years ISA allowances into it. And after a 2 -year qualifying period the proceeds are free from IHT liability.

### Goodbye to Stockton Heath.

On a final note Simple Solutions are moving from Stockton Heath to Warrington town centre next month. It will be sad to leave the village in many ways, having set up there in November 2009. However, we are very excited at the prospect of our new home because the offices are fantastic.... More on this in the coming months.

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



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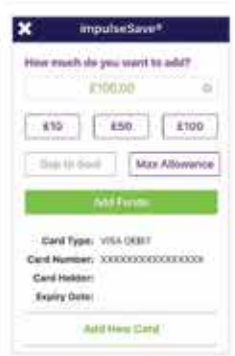
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# Editor's comment

**THERE are people in Stockton Heath who take a dim view of the fact that while neighbouring Lymm was able to persuade borough council chiefs to restore a full, free hour of parking on village car parks, Stockton Heath was not.**

After reviewing the parking situation in both villages, the powers-that-be apparently came to the conclusion that 15-minutes free parking was reasonable in Stockton Heath but was not in Lymm.

Traders in both villages had claimed drastic reductions in business after the full free hour was abolished. Some claimed trade had fallen by as much as 30 per cent. So why the borough should differentiate between the two we do not know.

Stockton Heath Parish Council accepts that the same solution to parking problems might not be appropriate for both villages. Lymm has had to accept a £1 charge for evening parking as a "trade off" for the restoration of the free hour. Stockton Heath did not want that as they do not want to discourage the

thriving evening economy the village enjoys, nor do they want to see residential areas close to the village centre cluttered with parked cars of an evening.

However, they would still like their free hour back – and so would most of the shopkeepers.

Elsewhere in this issue we report disquiet in Stockton Heath at the number of food and drink establishments which are taking over retail areas. There are those who fear the success of the evening economy is being achieved at an unsustainable cost to the day-time trade.

If they are right, car parking charges of any description don't exactly help.

Just what the answer is for Stockton Heath we don't pretend to know. There are those who argue that if someone can afford the high cost of motoring these days, an extra pound or two for parking is something they can also afford to pay. It is a reasonable argument – but a fair proportion of car owners seem to think differently and refuse to pay to park on principle.



One argument we hear frequently is that drivers would not mind paying to park if it gave them some security – as in the "old days" when there was a parking attendant paid to look after parked cars. Today's "parking attendants" are there not to protect cars but to detect erring motorists and stick a penalty ticket on their windscreens.

Is it just possible that a system that offered some protection to motorists rather than seeking to penalise them could actually be made to work?

## Cycle Museum curator set to recreate history

GLOBETROTTING bicycle collector Paul Adams, who runs the Cycle Museum at Walton Gardens, Warrington, is set to embark on his travels again, this time recreating history.

In June Paul, aged 75 and friends from the Cycle Museum will be travelling to Nancy in France to cycle to Karlsruhe, capital of Baden, Germany, recreating a ride by inventor Baron von Drais, riding a bicycle from his collection made in 1893.

Karl Drais (29 April 1785 – 10

December 1851) was a German inventor, who invented the Laufmaschine ("running machine"), also later called the velocipede, draisine (English) or draisienne (French), also nicknamed the dandy horse. This incorporated the two-wheeler principle that is basic to the bicycle and motorcycle and was the beginning of mechanised personal transport. Drais also invented the earliest typewriter with a keyboard in 1821.

Prior to recreating history, Paul

is heading off to Canada later this month to a bicycle auction where he is hoping to acquire some more rarities for his collection.

Paul, who runs the Cycle Museum on a voluntary basis, freely admits that his obsession for old bicycles has become a "disease."

For further information on the Cycle Museum or to arrange a visit email paulabidder@yahoo.com

To see a video interview with Paul visit the warrington-worldwide.co.uk website and search for cycle museum.





# Residents' fears over massive housing proposals

**CONCERNED** residents distributed more than 1,500 leaflets across a wide area of Appleton and Grappenhall to flag up local worries over the proposed major housing developments planned by the Homes and Community Agency.

They fear many local people were not aware that the deadline for objections or other representations to the 1,000-home developments was April 10 and 11 which has now passed.

Land at Grappenhall Heys, Appleton Cross and Pewterspear Green has been zoned for housing since the days of the Warrington New Town, more than 20 years ago.

The HCA has already been granted permission for 180 houses at Stretton and is now seeking consent for the other areas.

The residents' group wanted to ensure that all residents in the area didn't miss out on making their voices heard and, possibly, influencing the outcome of the planning applications.

Annette Cumbo, a member of the group, said: "Between the three housing developments, around 1,000 houses are proposed which will put pressure on the road infrastructure, traffic congestion, health services, education services, and the environment and will lead to the loss of green spaces.

"Just imagine an additional 2,000

to 3,000 cars going through Stockton Heath!

"We think this is an important issue for all residents of South Warrington, not just the people who live adjacent to the proposed housing developments.

Councillors from the Stockton Heath, Appleton and Grappenhall areas have been warning of the traffic implications of the developments for some time.

There was massive opposition to the Stretton proposals - with three parish councils, more than 70 residents and local borough councillors all opposing it. But planning chiefs gave the scheme the go-ahead.

Warrington South MP David Mowat said: "This land has been reserved for development for about two decades so we always knew it was going to be built on at some point.

Our country desperately needs more housing if future generations are going to be able to afford a home of their own."

"Obviously, adding so many houses in a small area is going to put major strain on the surrounding road network.

"I've made it clear to both the HCA and the Council that upgrades to the local infrastructure need to take place at an early stage to keep the town moving."



## No change to village parking charges

THERE will be no changes made to the controversial car park charges at Stockton Heath - despite objections from Stockton Heath and Appleton parish councils.

But although local councillors are unhappy the "first hour free" policy is not to be re-instated on Stockton Heath's Forge car park as it is at Lymm, they accept that the Lymm-solution would not work at Stockton Heath.

Cllr Peter Walker, chairman of Stockton Heath Parish Council, said: "Of course, we would have liked the one hour free parking back. We don't see a 15-minute free period as being much good in terms of encouraging shoppers to stay in the village.

"But there has been a trade off at

Lymm. They have got their free hour back, but at the cost of a £1 parking charge in the evening. We don't think that would work in Stockton Heath.

"We have a lot of terraced streets where there are more cars than parking spaces and we don't want to see visitors using them for parking in the evening. We want to encourage the village's evening economy but we want to see people using the Forge car park. Introducing a charge there in the evening would simply encourage more drivers to park in the side roads, to inconvenience of residents."

Both Stockton Heath and Appleton parish councils have long believed the south of the borough is being used as a "cash cow" to subsidise other car parks in the borough which remain completely free.

## JD Kitchens help put Joe in the fast lane

JD Kitchens are proud to be sponsoring MK Racing for the 2017 season.

Local driver Joe Charlton competed in the first round of the Super 4 National Championship recently.

After winning two out of three heats, Joe was on pole position for the final, but despite a good start, a mechanical issue meant that the win was out of reach on this occasion. A 6th place still gave Joe an excellent point tally for the first race and is now looking forward to the next round of the championship, which takes place at GYG in North Wales.





Advertiser's announcement

## Our own Northern Belle!

IN January this year we were extremely pleased to welcome Diane, who many of you will know from the Village. Diane has 18 years of travel experience and will be a great asset to our team. Diane celebrated her 'big' birthday on the Belmond Northern Belle with her family and we thought you may like to hear about it....

Our journey on the Belmond Northern Belle started in Chester

Railway Station at 11.30 am for a circular tour through the British countryside (including the Lake District) and ending at 6.30 pm. There are various trips and departure points to choose from and the round trip we chose included strolling musicians and a table magician, which was so much fun and thoroughly enjoyed by all!

The train dates back to the 1930s with six carriages, each with a bathroom. Our carriage was named

Alnwick, which was cosy and the dining table arrangement is for two or four people. All the staff are professional but friendly. Large parties can make a group reservation and enjoy exclusive use of the whole train or an entire carriage. This is an ideal way to host parties or corporate events. Disabled passengers are very welcome and despite being unable to board the carriage in wheelchairs; the staff are available to assist passengers to their seats and folding wheelchairs can be stored.

On Sunday morning we arrived on the station dressed in our finery (smart casual attire is recommended on board) and we were welcomed with a glass of Champagne. Lunch was a sumptuous affair of Canapes, Salmon, Soup, Welsh Lamb, Cheese & biscuits, Cheesecake, then Tea and Coffee with hand made chocolates. Our meal was completed with a half bottle of wine. The best local produce is sourced, including meat from remote Welsh farms, apple juice from Cheshire



■ Stockton Heath @ Hays

orchards. When booking a trip special dietary requirements can be noted at the time.

The shop on board is definitely worth a visit, selling memorabilia. Surprises can be arranged for travelling companions, or you can treat yourself, with a gift or memento. The staff can arrange for any gifts to be presented on board with a card containing a personal message.

We know how important it is to take time out from our day-to-day lives to spend with those closest to us, so why not bring all the generations of the family together, which is what we did and it was one of the best days of my life and I would urge you to try it?

If my blog has inspired you, please call in to see us, where a warm welcome awaits....

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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## Historic riding school to be brought back to life

THE long-abandoned riding school building at Walton Hall and Gardens is to be brought back to life.

Unknown to many people, the building is tucked away behind the heritage court yard at Walton Hall, beside the Bridgewater Canal.

It was built in the latter part of the 19th century and is shown completed on the 1899 Ordnance Survey map.

The riding school was built as part of a massive investment by the first Lord Daresbury. It consisted of stables and equestrian training facilities and was used to train and exercise Lord Daresbury's extensive stable of

hunting and riding horses.

Even in the heyday of equestrianism, an indoor riding arena was seen as an extreme luxury, that only those most committed to the sport could afford.

After the sale of the Walton Estate to Warrington Borough Council in 1938, the building was used during the Second World War to house ancillary fire engines, while troops were billeted in the stables.

After the war, it was used for storage until the past few years.

Trees along the canal have grown and damaged the roof, making the building unsafe.

The plan is to return the building to full use as a multi-purpose events space allowing the public to use and enjoy it for the first time.

Cllr Peter Carey, chairman of the Walton Liaison Group, said: "We have been wanting to restore the old riding school building and open it up for public use for a long time. It is a wonderful structure that will add a much-needed, covered space to the Walton Estate, enabling us to hold events there, whatever the weather."

"Few people even knew the building existed, so it will be absolutely fantastic to get it up and running and open to our many visitors for the first

time in more than 100 years."

Cllr Tony Higgins, the borough council's lead member for culture, leisure and community, said: "Warrington is more than just a great place to do business – it's also a great place to live. We are working very hard to try to boost the borough's cultural and leisure offering which is perfectly demonstrated by our bid to be City of Culture 2021."

The aim is to get the building restored over the summer and autumn this year, subject to planning and executive board approval.

## All set for Arley Hall Garden Festival

THERE is something for everyone to enjoy at this year's Arley Hall Garden Festival which takes place on the weekend of June 24-25 from 10am - 5pm.

As well as spectacular floral displays in the magnificent Floral Marquee and specialist plant nurseries and garden accessories, there are Gardener's Question Time sessions on both days and guided tours of the gardens with Lord Ashbrook and Head Gardener Gordon Baillie – all included in your ticket!

There is a delicious Food Fair in the cruck barn and down to the hall as well as students in Olympia giving demonstrations and offering mouth watering cakes and pastries. There is a Creative Crafts marquee with over 50 traders, live jazz music in the morning and concert band in the afternoon.

Local schools take part in a Flowerbed Challenge by creating outstanding 8ft x 4ft flowerbeds using plants, the majority of which, they have grown in school since Easter and each one has a different imaginative theme decided on by the children, these flowerbeds are part of a public vote so while you

are deliberating on which is your favourite there are childrens rides, face painting and Stockley Farm Park will be bringing some of their petting animals on Sunday.

With an audience of over 5000, there is plenty to enjoy, classic cars are on display in front of the Hall and the countryside marquee hosts The Cheshire Wildlife Trust, stick making and coppice fencing demonstrations as well as the dry stone wall association.

And dont forget that entry to the Hall & Gardens is included in your ticket price, so if you want time away from the crowds and entertainment you can stroll in the peace of the gardens. Tickets booked online can be used on either day.

Parking is FREE and there is FREE a buggy service running throughout the day and a plant creche.

For Group bookings (15+) contact Margaret Rowland-Jones on 01565 777 353 Ext 30, £9 pp.

Book your pre-booked discount by visiting <http://www.arleyhallandgardens.com/event/arley-garden-festival/> or call Sue on 01565 777 353 Ext 20.







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# Stockton Heath Festival set to start with a bang!

ALL events for the 2017 Stockton Heath Festival are now fully booked and organisers are delighted this year to kick off the 10th Anniversary Festival with a bang on Thursday, June 29 with a Comedy Night at The Slug & Lettuce.

The event will involve Three Star Comedy Acts including Newcastle's Dave Johns and TV's Jo Caulfield.

Mike Cotterill, manager of Slug & Lettuce commented: "The stars of small and silver screen are performing for Stockton Heath Festival. Newcastle's Dave Johns has been an accomplished stand up for nearly thirty years, alongside him is Jo Caulfield who makes regular appearances on TV and Radio 4, plus one more act still to be confirmed. Compere for the evening is Manchester's ever effervescent Jonathan Mayor. As in previous years, there is a Charity Auction and this year's proceeds will be donated to John Holt Cancer Support Foundation, Warrington".

This year's 10th anniversary Festival will take place from Thursday, June 29 to Sunday, July 2nd

This year organisers want even more photographers to get involved - Richard Bell, photography organiser explained: "This year we have decided on two categories for the Photography Competition - Juniors 15 & under and adults 16 & over. As its our 10th Year, we have chosen the theme of 'Happy Birthday' for the '15's & under' and 'Stockton Heath History' for 16 and over."

The Ever Popular 'Scarecrows' will be around the Village. The theme for this year this will be 'Harry Potter'. There will be an additional prize for the 'Best Dressed Window Display' which will be decided by a panel of judges, and then the Scarecrows will be taken to the field for judging by the public over the Festival weekend.

Meanwhile the annual Art

Stockton Heath  
**FESTIVAL**

**COMEDY NIGHT**

Jo Caulfield

Dave Johns

Jonathan Mayor

Exhibition, organised by Helen Dutton, will start a day early, on Wednesday June 28 in St. Thomas' Church and artists of all ages are welcome to enter. There are two prizes awarded for best exhibits and the Honorary President's trophy awarded to the exhibit voted the best by the public.

The Scout Hall this year will be dedicated to workshops and demonstrations. On Saturday activities for all keen floral arrangers and on Sunday for all budding Artists. Also lots of artistic events in the Arts Marquee, field events and this year a new Kids Zone marquee.

More details of all the other

exciting events planned will be announced next month, but meanwhile all details are on the website : [stocktonheathfestival.co.uk](http://stocktonheathfestival.co.uk).

Organisers are also still on the look out for volunteers to get involved. For more details email [volunteers@stocktonheathfestival.co.uk](mailto:volunteers@stocktonheathfestival.co.uk)

## Beavering away to beat a Spanish invader



BEAVER Scouts and Cubs joined forces with councillors to plant 500 native English bluebells bulbs in a wood "invaded" by Spanish bluebells.

Members the 1st Knutsford Beavers and 2nd Knutsford Beavers and Cubs turned out to help plant the bluebells around the edge of Wallwood - a small wood near the "rear entrance" to Tatton Park.

Cllr Andrew Malloy and Cllr Hayley Wells-Bradshaw joined the Beavers and Cubs to plant the bulbs together with Red Campion and wild garlic to provide a colourful edge to the woodland.

They were advised by local environmental expert David Hackett and the Town Council are now removing the invasive Spanish bluebells which threaten the traditional, English variety.

Town clerk Adam Keppel-Garner said: "Bluebells are an iconic part of a woodland and once established will provide a fantastic flash of colour to Wallwood as well as supporting bees and butterflies.

"This is part of a few environmental improvements we are looking at in Wallwood to promote wildlife and improve the little woodland for the community."



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# Young boy smashes fundraising target to help food bank

A YOUNG boy from Grappenhall Heys has smashed his fundraising target to help Warrington Food Bank families.

Brodie Carr, aged 8 has been volunteering with the food bank. His target was to raise £200 but has managed to raise over £500 to "bring a smile to the families faces and let them know other people care".

He has managed to get almost 750 eggs with the donations which he personally delivered to the children's ward at Warrington Hospital.

Brodie's selfless act has been greatly appreciated by the food bank which is currently struggling.



## Friends welcome £2m lottery boost for Walton Gardens

THE Friends of Walton Estate are delighted with the news that the Heritage Lottery Fund has finally released almost £2m which will enable Warrington Council to start work renovating the old Conservatory at Walton Gardens.

Malcolm Eldridge Chairman, Friends of Walton Estate said: "The Friends group started in 2001 with several objectives but its main ambition was

the restoration of the Conservatory. Throughout this time, we have been very aware of the public sadness at the loss of such an outstanding feature.

"We have campaigned for its restoration and have spent many hours in and around the conservatory, clearing it so that the public could appreciate its potential.

"We predict there will be plenty of public support for various schemes

that we will announce shortly which will provide an opportunity for people to contribute to the rebuild.

"We appreciate that it will take some time to complete the project. Meanwhile, Warrington Borough Council will continue to invest in the Estate, for example in the renovation of the Old Riding School and the old Laundry building. With all the investment over the present period, Walton Gardens will continue to provide recreational opportunities for all sections of the community.

Malcolm added: "Walton Gardens has been Warrington's favourite open space for almost 70 years and many people have happy memories. One of our projects is to capture stories from the past. We have other projects and need volunteers to help us make progress."

Warrington Borough Council worked with partners Myerscough College, Walton Lea Partnership and the Friends of Walton Estate on the winning bid which includes plans to restore the historic conservatory and stable buildings and transform the old buildings into a dedicated learning centre.

The stable yard, once occupied by Lady Daresbury's prized Kerry cattle, will become classrooms and offices, with the historic conservatory and vineyard used as teaching, growing and display space. The subjects taught at the new learning centre will include horticulture and animal care, with students carrying out project work on the Walton Estate and in the

Children's Zoo as part of their course.

Walton Lea Partnership's work will be carried out side by side with the College, allowing people of all ages and abilities to learn and thrive together.

An important part of the National Lottery-funded project will be to reopen the conservatory area to visitors to Walton. Part of the main conservatory will be a public space where visitors can learn about the horticultural heritage of the site and see development and training work being undertaken.

Cllr Tony Higgins, executive board member for culture, leisure and community, said: "I'm delighted that this integral part of our borough's cultural heritage is receiving this massive cash injection. We have worked very hard with our partners to bring in this funding which will benefit the whole Walton Estate.

"Thanks to National Lottery players we will now be able to restore the grand conservatories and beautiful buildings to their former glory and setting within the gardens."

As part of the project, a programme of events and activities will be planned that will aim to connect visitors to the popular gardens to the heritage and history of the site.

Meanwhile anyone with time to help or a story to tell, can get in touch via the group's facebook page [friendsofwaltonestate](https://www.facebook.com/friendsofwaltonestate) or contact them by email [friendsofwaltonestate@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofwaltonestate@gmail.com)





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# Young carers tell their story through photography

A group of young carers have taken part in a new photography project to help give people an insight into their caring roles.

The project taught them how to take high quality pictures on their mobile phones to show what life is like for a young carer.

Young carer, Rebecca, who's 15, said: "My photos show what I do for myself, and what distractions are important to me to take my mind off being a young carer."

Twelve-year-old, Keely, added: "It's hard being a young carer and these photos show what it's like being a young carer."

The budding photographers - from Wired Young Carers - worked with professional photographer, Nina Agnew at Culture Warrington's Pyramid centre.

She taught the group how to use the features in a phone to take more considered photographs, and how to visually tell a story through a series of captured images.

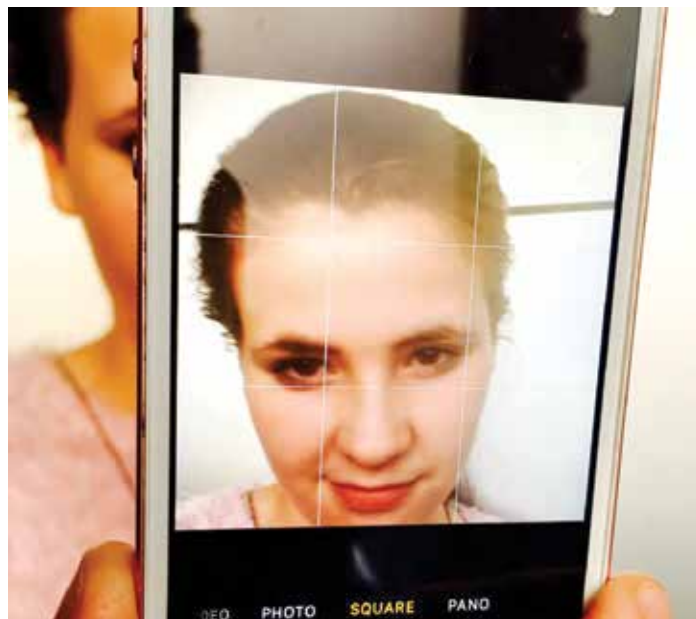
The project has taken the young carers on an intimate journey with their mobile phones, from basic settings like focusing and contrast, through to using filters and effects to enhance and modify images to achieve a specific style.

This project followed on from Wired Young Carers' involvement in the Hidden portrait exhibition, which showed at Pyramid and toured



the country last year, conveying the hidden lives and hardships - as well as hopes and resilience - faced by hundreds of thousands of young carers as young as seven, up and down the country.

Clare Mead, support worker at Wired Young Carers, said: "The photography project was fun and engaging in a way that gave young carers respite from their extensive duties at home, and also allowed them to take a creative look at their role and their lives.



"They were able to gain new skills in creating interesting photos with thought and value."

The photos will now go on show on an online blog, which focuses on the lives of young carers in Warrington.

James Goodison, outreach development officer at Culture Warrington, said: "It was great to be involved in such a rewarding project. Aside from being a distraction, this project has enabled the young carers to learn new skills and to look at life

differently through a lens.

"We hope people will visit the webpage to see what the young carers have produced, but also to give an insight into the world of being a young carer and how it is seen from a very personal point of view."

To view the photos and see what life is like for a young carer, please visit <https://youngcarersprojectblog.wordpress.com/2017/04/05/p3/>



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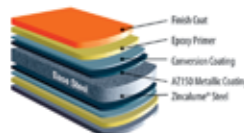
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# Warrington 2021 City of Culture



WARRINGTON - CANDIDATE CITY

## Going for it!

Warrington has thrown its hat into the ring to become the UK's City of Culture 2021 - and needs your help to win!

The town is one of eleven areas bidding for the title and already hundreds of people have signed up to show their support on Facebook and Twitter.

New heritage hub planned

The competition, which happens every four years, was started after Liverpool's successful European Capital of Culture and is designed to build on the successful regeneration that

Liverpool achieved. Despite the title, you don't have to be a city to enter.

Warrington-based, award-winning TV Producer, Ken Horn said: "Whatever you think of culture in Warrington right now, this is a great opportunity to accelerate existing cultural plans and to put Warrington on the map for the right reasons.

Town centre investment of more than £100m by 2021

Win or lose, there will be a benefit to Warrington by just being part of the process. I'm proud to be backing the bid and the support so far has been brilliant."

Hull is the UK City of Culture for 2017 and has already brought in more than £32m of additional investment as a result, with an overall economic impact of more than £60m being projected by the end of the year. If Warrington was to be successful it could expect to see similar benefits.

## Back the bid!



@Warrington2021



Warrington2021



# New improved David Lloyd Club receives major investment

A Total of £845,000 has recently been invested in Warrington's David Lloyd Club - with more investment set to come.

The club has recently benefited from a new family changing room, new equipment, new upgraded studios and more, including a business hub area complete with wi-fi. The childrens' soft play area has also been redone.

Other investment is taking place with a new spa area, new gym equipment and more seating in the club room, taking total spend to nearly £1 million.

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# Money Column

By Margaret Black

## Tax rates and allowances for 2017

You may already be aware of some of the changes that have been made to the tax rates and allowances which came into effect from 6th April 2016. The overall outcome of the announcements in the Autumn Statement are as follows:



David Watkinson and Margaret Black

- The personal tax free allowance is now £11,500
- The basic rate of tax, i.e. taxed at 20% has risen from £32,000 to £33,500, this has the knock on effect in that the 40% higher rate tax band will now stand at £45,000
- The threshold to which the 45% higher tax rate payable remains at £150,000

### Transfer of 'personal allowances'

It has been possible since 6th April 2015 for an individual, who is not liable to pay any tax or who is not earning above the basic rate, to transfer part of their personal allowance to their spouse, or civil partner on condition that the beneficiary is not liable to income tax above the basic rate. The transferor's personal allowance will be reduced accordingly

The maximum amount that can be transferred for 2017-2018 is £1,150. This means that the recipient of the transferred allowance will benefit by a reduced tax liability of £230

### 'Married couples' allowance'

Please note that 'married couples allowance' can only be claimed if at least one of the people associated with either the marriage or the civil partnership was born before 6th April 1935.

The allowance for 2017 - 2018 has been increased from £8,355 to £8,445. Please also note that those who are entitled to the 'married couples allowance' are not entitled to the 'transfer of allowances'

### 'Blind person's allowance'

The allowance has been increased from £2,290 to £2,320 for 2017 - 2018. This relief is given in addition to the personal allowance, thus reducing the individual's taxable income

Please note here that a married blind person, who cannot use all the relief, may transfer the unused part to their spouse or civil partner whether they are blind or not. A married couple or civil partners, if both blind, can claim the relief individually.

This relief can only be claimed by an individual who is registered as blind (but not partially sighted) A person may register as blind even if not totally without sight.

### Savings income

A 'tax-free allowance' of £1,000 for basic rate tax payers and £500 for higher rate tax payers on savings income was introduced in 2016 - 2017, this will remain the same for 2017 - 2018

Remember utilise all your allowances, unused allowances are not available to carry forward

**WatkinsonBlack have considerable experience in all areas of taxation and business services, including providing a very cost-effective payroll bureau service.**

**We 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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# What's on in the villages

- May 9**  
STOCKTON HEATH PARISH COUNCIL  
Sandy Lane Centre, Stockton Heath. 7.30pm
- May 16**  
APPLETON PARISH COUNCIL  
Appleton Parish Hall, Dudlow Green Road 7.30pm
- May 18**  
GRAPPENHALL & THELWALL PARISH COUNCIL  
Council Offices, Bellhouse Lane. 7.30pm
- May 20**  
LIVE AT ST WILFRID'S  
The annual visit by Chetham's School of Music – and a chance to hear the professional musicians of the future.  
St Wilfrid's Church, Grappenhall. 7.30pm.
- Every Saturday & Sunday**  
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- 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  
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  
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## Priestley finish top of the league

PRIESTLEY College's footballers lifted the league title after a nail-biting end to their season.

They finished joint top of the North West Colleges Premier Division edging out Winstanley and Sir John Deane's with a superior goal difference.

Captain Jordan Edge pinpointed a match against Bury as the turning point for Priestley's season, which also saw them reach the final of the John Sleigh Cup.

"It was 2-2 at half time and we needed to win to go top of the league," said Jordan, who is studying PE, Psychology, Citizenship and the Extended Project at Priestley.

"We ended up winning 8-2 and that was when we realised it could be our season."

During the half-time talk in that match, both Jordan and Sports Tutor Dan Jordan told the players to calm their nerves and to stop rushing in pressure moments.

These small improvements to their mental approach in matches made all the difference and Priestley went undefeated for the rest of the league season.

Their improved approach was highlighted in the semifinal of the English Schoolboys FA Cup where they trailed 4-0 at half time, but ended up losing by a narrow 4-3 margin.

"As a team we were there to win every match and not just make up the numbers," said Jordan, a former Beamount Collegiate Academy pupil who also plays international Futsal for England.

"Whenever we were behind in a match we just worked harder for each other and showed a lot of character."

Priestley hopes to build on this season's success when it launches a football academy in September.

Dan Jordan said: "We already attract plenty of top class footballers from the local area so the goal is to build on that over the next year and produce the best student footballers possible."

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## 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](mailto:david.mowat.mp@parliament.uk) or telephone 01925 231267.

**David Mowat**  
Member of Parliament for Warrington South  
[www.davidmowat.org.uk](http://www.davidmowat.org.uk)

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

## School's Romeo and Juliet wins top award

ONE of the smallest independent schools in the country, Cransley School, has won a prestigious national drama competition for their performance of Romeo and Juliet.

Cransley's Year 7 class revived its Junior School production of the famous tragedy to enter the Independent Schools Association Drama Festival, winning the Judge's Award for "the high standard of appreciation and speaking of Shakespeare's verse".

The School, situated in Belmont Hall, near Great Budworth, collect their award next month in London.

The group plan to restage the play at Cransley before the summer and invite local primary schools to watch and chat to the young actors about their learning, with the aim of inspiring more young children to enjoy Shakespeare. Any interested schools should contact [admin@cransleyschool.org.uk](mailto:admin@cransleyschool.org.uk).





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