



How will your spending habits change in retirement?



Don Wernham,
Financial Planner

The Base
Dallam Lane
Warrington
Cheshire
WA2 7NG

Tel:
01925 266628
Fax:
01925 267043



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It will come as a surprise to nobody that retirement is one of the biggest lifestyle changes you'll ever experience. But as your priorities shift and the free time available to you increases, what you might not be as aware of is the way in which your spending habits are likely to alter too.

Research analysing the spending patterns of households in the first six years retirement has shown that nearly half (45.9%) actually spent more in the first two years than they had before retiring, declining to 33.4% by the sixth retirement year. This wasn't just seen in wealthier households either; the distribution across income levels was roughly the same. So what are pensioners spending their money on, and why are so many spending more than before they retired?

Many spending choices have been given a boost though the introduction of pension freedoms, making big one-off spends that much easier. Holidays are popular, with around a third of those aged between 55 and 75 planning to take a lump sum to enjoy some time travelling, many indicating they were looking to spend

anywhere in the region of £2,000 to £5,000 on a luxury trip away. One of the more conventional forms of expenditure is home improvement, with around 20% of pensioners planning to put their savings towards doing up their home.

The things money is being spent on by retirees offers a few surprises too. Around one in ten people aged 55 and over plan to use their savings to start up a small business or go into consultancy. Others are looking to invest their pensions in property, with the fairly recent boom in the buy-to-let mortgage market accommodating this new desire. And just as the 'Bank of Mum and Dad' has become more and more prolific, the 'Bank of Gran and Grandad' is also on the rise, with around a third of retirees using their savings to help out younger family members with university fees and living costs and house deposits.

If you think this article has given you a light bulb moment and you would like to discuss further please do not hesitate to get in touch with us.

Disclaimer: None of the above article constitutes advice.

Editor
Gary Skentelbery

Production
Paul Walker

Account Executives
James Balme

Advertising
Freephone
0800 955 5247

Editorial
01925 623632

Email
info@warrington-worldwide.co.uk

Websites
www.culchethlife.com
www.frodshamlife.co.uk
www.lymmlife.co.uk
www.village-life.co.uk
www.warrington.tv
www.warrington-worldwide.co.uk

Address
New Media Centre
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Editor's comment

IT is only two months ago that we were, in this column, urging local residents to make their voices heard at a special meeting of the borough council's development management committee to consider the controversial proposals for 770 houses at Grappenhall Heys and Appleton.

We hardly need have bothered, as one meeting had already been adjourned because too many people turned up to be accommodated in the Town Hall.

Since then, the meeting has again been adjourned – for the very good reason that it would have been premature to consider these proposals in advance of the borough council's local plan, which calls for 24,000 new homes in the borough, including 9,000 on Green Belt land.

Whether or not this includes the 770 at Grappenhall Heys and Appleton

is not clear.

But what is clear, that 9,000 homes on Green Belt land, most of which will be in South Warrington, present an even bigger infrastructure issue than the 770.

An eight week public consultation is to be held including, we regret to say, the month of August, when so many people are away on holiday.

It really is quite remarkable how many times planners manage to organise major public consultation exercises during periods when it is going to be inconvenient, if not impossible, for many people to take part. Could it be done deliberately? Perish the thought!

But deliberate or not, we are stuck with it and we can only repeat our exhortation to residents to somehow attend one of the consultation events, the dates of those which still remain, are listed elsewhere in this issue

We have no doubt our parish councillors will be on the ball but they will need all the help they can get from the public.

Building 9,000 homes on Green Belt land over a period of 20 years may not seem all that many in a borough the size of Warrington. But if they are all in Appleton, Grappenhall and Stretton, and each house brings with it two cars, it is a heck of a lot!



IT should not really come as a surprise that retailing gurus consider small shopping centres like Stockton Heath and Knutsford to have more "vitality" than larger towns such as Warrington and Macclesfield.

After all, haven't Marks and Spencer recently opened in Stockton Heath and announced plans to close their town centre store in Warrington?

Presumably, when the research was done, the M&S decision was not known. How much more "vitality" will be lost in the town centre as a result of the closure?

Deadline for the September issue of Village Life is August 15

Walton Lea Partnership Dig for Victory



LOCAL charity the Walton Lea Partnership held it's first Dig for Victory Lunch at their Walton Lea Victorian Walled Garden site to help showcase their work and facilities.

Apart from a brief shower the weather was glorious, visitors, beneficiaries, staff and volunteers all enjoyed a lovely afternoon entertained by live music from the era surrounded by the Dig for Victory themed gardens.

These included a specially commissioned memorabilia

hut displaying letters, photographs, certificates, momentos of staff members families, newspapers from the day and genuine ammunition from the era.

The gardens and memorabilia are open to the public and any groups that would like to visit during the summer seven days a week, 10.00am until 4.00pm.

More Pictures from the day will be on the charity's Facebook page along with news and upcoming events.

<https://www.facebook.com/waltonleapartnership/>

Record crowds attend 10th anniversary of Stockton Heath Festival

HOT weather and plenty of activities to suit all ages were the recipe for a great 10th anniversary as record crowds attended Stockton Heath Festival over four days.

Festival Director, David Craggs said: "The hard work put in over the year by the Committee of volunteers paid off and they should all give themselves a pat on the back.

"Thanks to all the supporters of the Festival including sponsors, grant providers, traders and businesses who contributed in many ways. A special thanks to Rotary Club of Warrington and the Army cadets who provided well needed volunteers over the weekend."

The variety of events and activities at several venues in the Stockton Heath area were well attended and some excellent performances took place. The Art exhibition at St Thomas' Church displayed 195 exhibits by local artists and Ben Watson swept the board with his oil painting "On The Other Hand".

The Festival field had many free events and a new Kids Zone marquee this year with many activities for children. Three live concerts in the main marquee over three nights were a sell out as was the outdoor theatre production "Comedy of Errors" at Grappenhall Heys Walled Garden.

The scarecrow competition, organised by local businessman Ian Clayton (pictured right), which had a Harry

Potter theme, also proved very popular. Best window display was Maddocks Funeral Directors.

The Comedy Night at the Slug & Lettuce raised over £2500.00 which will be donated to the John Holt Cancer Foundation, Warrington and over £400 was raised in the final raffle held at the Motown Gold performance which is being donated to the Walton Lea Partnership.

All the competition and Festival Draw results are detailed on www.stocktonheathfestival.co.uk

warrington-worldwide was on hand to broadcast live from the Festival Field - check out warrington-worldwide.co.uk for more pictures and video highlights - just search for Stockton Heath Festival.

Stockton Heath Festival were also proud to present the Festival Cake, kindly donated by Waterfieds Bakers, to Belong Village, Loushers Lane.

Belong villages act as a vibrant hub at the heart of the community and offer a continuum of services that enable them to provide a "home for life" when people begin accessing Belong support.

The cake was presented to Andrea Knight, Front of House Manager by Stella Craggs, Sponsors co-ordinator.

Meanwhile volunteers are now being sought for 2018 Festival. Please email volunteers@stocktonheathfestival.co.uk and you will be made very welcome.



Advertiser's announcement

Costa Blanca's Sunny City

Alicante is a port city on Spain's South Eastern Costa Blanca and is mainly associated with the vibrant resort of Benidorm, which is just a 40 minute drive from Alicante Airport.

However, it is a dynamic, attractive city with a castle, old quarter and long waterfront. There are a number of gorgeous city beaches and just out

of town there is a seven-kilometre stretch of sand and blue water at Playa San Juan. Nightlife is great - particularly in the old town. You can basically choose any of the old streets in the Barrio as a starting point and you'll find a host of restaurants, tapas and cocktail bars to choose from. Numerous flight options from both Manchester and Liverpool Airports make this a great option for a holiday or short break at any time of the year.



While October is one of the wetter months for Alicante, that is still not very wet, and it rarely rains for long. The average daytime temperature is 24C in October, but bring a jacket for the evening. Even December can bring daytime temperatures of 18-20C and this is a great time to visit some of the mountain villages of Polop de la Marina, Biar and Altea.

Making your way from the Airport to the City is very easy with Bus C-6 (every 20 minutes) operating between Plaza Puerta del Mar and the airport. Special 'resort buses' also run direct from the airport to resort towns up and down the coast. However, there are numerous car rental offices at the airport.

The Castle of Santa Barbara is Alicante's main emblem; a glorious golden fortress standing 166 metres above sea level. Once you reach the very top, the breath-taking views of the marina are worth the climb. The Explanada de Espana is a maritime



Stockton Heath @ Hays

promenade that runs parallel to the port, from Puerta del Mar to Canalejas Park and is one of the most popular places in Alicante. Here you can enjoy a lovely stroll with plenty to do and see such as browsing the market stalls or stopping for a nice meal at one of the restaurants.

Whilst the month of June is exceptionally busy with Alicante's major festival, Hogueras (when mid-summer bonfires are lit), another major sporting event is the Volvo Ocean Race. In October 2017 this will be the fourth time the race will start from Alicante. This brings people from far and wide to see the iconic Volvo Ocean 65 boats first hand and if you are lucky you might even bump into the sailors as they prepare for battle!

A fascinating port city definitely worth visiting.

We are open Monday to Friday 9am to 5.30pm and Saturdays 9am to 5pm
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Local landscape architect sweeps the board at RHS Hampton Court Flower Show

WARRINGTON based landscape architect Adam White won a unique treble at the RHS Hampton Court Palace Flower Show.

Adam from Appleton Thorn and his business partner Andrée Davies won RHS Gold Medal, the highly coveted RHS Best in Show and the popular RHS People's Choice Award.

Winning the treble is unheard of at RHS Flower Shows as the public normally choose a garden for entirely different reasons to the judges.

Along with his design partner Andrée, they run a small design practice called Davies White Ltd which specialise in creating children's nature play spaces and gardens.

Together they designed the Zoflora & Caudwell Children's Wild Garden which highlighted the beneficial qualities of a therapeutic garden for children with various disabilities, in particular Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). It's been ten years since they were last at RHS Hampton Court where they also won an RHS Gold Medal and People's Choice Award for their Playscape Show Garden.

Playful and edible planting, wild grassy mounds, huge trees and tree-top nests, a huge spinning boulder, hidden woodland scent pots, a secret mushroom cave, a ground level trampoline, a giant hollow oak log and opportunities to play and explore along a woodland stream were all on offer. A number of secluded spaces within the garden provided somewhere safe to relax. The RHS judges were particularly impressed in Adams enthusiasm for the project and his in depth research into ASD. BBC Gardeners World presenter Monty Don said the garden was like no other show garden he had ever seen before and was beautifully designed and constructed.

Following the show, the garden will be reimagined at the Caudwell International Children's Centre at

Keele University, Staffordshire, which provides multi-disciplinary support for children with developmental disorders. Adam and Andrée will again lead the design and oversee its delivery on site.

Adam said, "I am passionate about reconnecting children with nature and believe the design process is as important as the end product. We have serious epidemic of nature deficit disorder in the UK and I hope this garden will showcase and raise awareness of how landscape and horticulture can create the perfect antidote. The garden was designed to be accessible and inclusive for all children, including those with autism. Winning the treble was the icing on the cake. The project began when I was locked in a glass box for three days and nights in central London to raise awareness of autism. During my time in the glass box I made a scale model of the Wild Garden"

"Working with the children as part of the design process was hugely rewarding, and we are now looking forward to seeing them enjoy the wild garden and allowing their imaginations to run wild."

The garden also has a narrative, beautifully illustrated by artist Josh Knowles and brought to life by Room60 Animation. You can follow the adventures of Hampton the Butterfly as he explores the garden by visiting the Davies White website (davieswhite.co.uk) or You Tube Channel.



Small is beautiful when it comes to retail "vitality"

SMALL is beautiful when it comes to the vitality of a shopping centre... well almost.

Retail specialist Harper Dennis Hobbs has ranked 1,000 retail centres across Britain after researching the quality of their retail offer.

In Cheshire their study has shown that Stockton Heath, ranked at 237, beats Warrington, ranked at 405.

Knutsford, ranked at 108, beats Macclesfield, 680, Altrincham, 554 and Northwich, 439.

Leaving aside major cities like Manchester and Liverpool, or specialist retail centres like the Trafford Centre, only Chester, ranked at 43, beats the small towns and villages.

Harper Dennis Hobbs don't rate places like Lymm, Culcheth or Frodsham as being big enough to include in their "Vitality Index."

The index ranks all retail centres in Britain by quantifying the "retail health" of each centre.

Vitality is measured through: The proportion of up-market shops, the proportion of value-led shops, the vacancy rate and the proportion of "undesirable" shops - such as pawnbrokers, money lenders and bookmakers.

In addition, these variables are also compared to the demographic composition of the centre's catchment area and a greater score is given to areas whose retail mix is optimally adapted to the local community.

Jonathan De Mello, head of retail consultancy at Harper Dennis Hobbs, said, "This iteration builds considerably on our inaugural Vitality Index, released in 2014, which was the first retail ranking in

Great Britain to emphasise the quality of retail in a centre, in addition to its size.

"In this release, by popular demand from both retailers and investors, HDH have incorporated additional small towns and high streets, which gives a greater range to the ranking,

and allows for comparison of local high streets

with major retail destinations. We've also included a number of temporal variables - tracking the change in retail mix of a centre over the past 5 years, to credit those that have improved, and penalise

those that have deteriorated. "This ranking highlights the 'healthiest' retail centres in Britain, which successful brands should target when considering network expansion. Smaller centres are of increasing interest to retailers, given rents are often highest in the largest centres. So a small centre with a high vitality score - and the right shopper profile - could potentially yield strong profit."

James Ebel, executive director in Harper Dennis Hobbs' retail agency division, said: "With an

increase in online retailing, many of our clients, especially those from North America, now want to consider why they should enter a

market rather than how many stores they should have. For this purpose, it's important to know not only who trades in a retail centre, but how many are vacant and whether the market captures their customer profile.

"Each retailer has different requirements in terms of what makes an ideal location to trade in. This ranking, with some bespoke criteria included, can be an important tool for retailers looking to expand their store portfolio. The Vitality Index highlights some of the highest quality retail centres in Britain, demonstrating the fact that market size isn't the only predictor for commercial success."

Which UK centre comes top of the league? They will be green with envy in Oxford - because it's Cambridge.

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Glorious sunshine greets Stockton Heath Walking Day

GLORIOUS sunshine greeted Stockton Heath Walking Day as hundreds of people lined the streets to watch the annual Bridgewater Churches walk together.

This year's event, which was broadcast live by **warrington-worldwide**, was the first for Stockton Heath Methodists Revd. David Easton, who led the service on Alexandra Park.

The various churches and schools then set off on their annual walk through the village.

Onlookers included new MP for Warrington South Faisal Rashid, who stood alongside Parish Council Chairman Peter Walker to wave to the the walkers.

Business was booming in local restaurants and bars as villagers turned out in force to enjoy the sunny weather.

More pictures and highlights of the live broadcast can be seen on warrington-worldwide.co.uk



StocktonHeath Rainbows and Brownies.



Youngsters walking in the annual Stockton heath Walking Day.



Stockton Heath Methodist Church.



St Thomas's Queens Amelia Smith (retiring) and Ella Thornton with St Mary Magdeline Rose Queen Isabelle Watson.

MORE PICTURES AND VIDEO ONLINE AT
www.warrington-worldwide.co.uk



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Villagers keep 180 year tradition alive

BEFORE the start of this year's walk of Witness around Grappenhall village the Reverend Jane Proudfoot from St. Wilfrid's Church said a prayer asking for dry weather which obviously worked as the grey skies threatened but held off raining.

This year's Rose Queen was a very proud Olivia Proctor and equally happy Rose Bud was Holly Higham.

They were joined by their predecessors, Gabrielle Groves and Natalie Finegan at the village hall to prepare for their procession and crowning.

The Queens and their attendants were accompanied on the walk by the Dobcross Youth Band, Church members, The Scouts, Cubs, Beavers, Grappenhall Rainbows, Grappenhall pre school, St. Wilfred's School, and many local residents.

Local people came out to show their support for the walkers. After parading through the village it was back to the school field for the crowning of the new Queen and Rosebud.

Once the formalities were completed and speeches made it was time for some good old fashioned family fun and well-earned refreshments.

With tombolas, hook a duck, cake sales, Hog Roast donated by The Rams Head and BBQ, beer tent, Nerf Gun arcade, Elsa and Anna singalong and many more stalls, activities and entertainments which meant there really was something for everyone.

More pictures can be found online at warrington-worldwide.co.uk



Plan for 78 houses is thrown out

PLANNING chiefs have thrown out controversial plans for 78 houses in the heart of one of the Warrington area's smallest villages – Appleton Thorn .

The decision by the borough council's development management committee represents a victory for local residents – more than 170 of who had lodged objections to Bloor Homes' proposals for land east of Stretton Road.

Three years ago, Bloor Homes announced proposals for the development amid a blaze of publicity.

Several exhibitions were held to show the advantages the development would have for Appleton Thorn. But residents were not convinced and an action group was set up to fight the scheme.

They claimed it was a greenfield site, unsuitable for development which, because of its size, would completely change the whole character of the village.

Increased traffic on already congested roads, noise and a lack of public transport were also put forward as reasons for refusal, along with damage to the environment and local heritage.





Stretton Walking Day

LOCAL schoolgirl Lois Hayes Harrop was crowned Rose Queen at the annual Stretton Walking Day, where despite over cast skies and fine drizzle it stayed mainly dry.

Her attendants were Emily Mann and Alexandra Leach, Crown bearer was Olivia Howarth and Page boys were Edward Darnton and Oliver Lagar.

Retiring Rose Queen was Grace Edwards.

Meanwhile after creating history last year when Kai Jamson became the first ever Rose King in the parish of St Matthew's Church, Stretton, there was sadly no Rose King this year.

Following the annual church service and walk, attention turned to St Matthew's School where various activities took place on the school fields.





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New MP backs residents' concerns over new homes in South Warrington



WARRINGTON South's new MP Faisal Rashid has taken up residents concerns over proposals to build up to 1,000 new homes at Grappenhall Heys and Appleton.

He has written to members of the Council's Development Management Committee reflecting concerns that have been raised about two planning applications in Appleton and Grappenhall Heys, which were deferred by the development control committee recently.

Both applications were deferred pending further consideration of issues raised by local people and he says he is pleased to see that the issues they raised have been taken into account.

He commented: "The proposed developments have clearly been quite emotive and I have been contacted by a number of residents raising concerns about the importance of infrastructure and public services to support the extra houses that are the subject of the applications.

"A number of other key planning matters are also coming up in Warrington at the moment, including the Western Link proposals and the new Local Plan. We are a growing town and change is only to be expected.

"Whilst development is a very important part of promoting economic prosperity for Warrington, which in turn funds and safeguards our services, it needs to be done sensitively.

"I would encourage people to engage with the Council's consultations on these important topics to ensure that the consultation process is meaningful. That way, residents can be sure that they have had their say.

"In addition, where there are community meetings organised on these issues, I will try to attend them when I am not in Westminster, or I will arrange for one of my team to come and take account of residents' views."

In the letter to the council's development control committee he wrote.

"I appreciate that the date for submission of comments on these two planning applications has passed and I am therefore unable to make formal representations on behalf of my constituents to the Development Management Committee.

"I have only recently been elected as the new Member of Parliament for Warrington South. These two planning applications represent large scale developments in my constituency. Many of my constituents have valid concerns and objections about the adverse impact these applications, if approved, will have on their communities.

In particular my constituents are concerned about the adverse impact on:-

- local infrastructure;
- roads;
- congestion;
- leisure facilities;
- health services;
- schools;
- public transport;
- council service;
- wildlife.

"I agree that both planning applications, if approved, will put considerable stress on the existing communities in Grappenhall Heys and Appleton. The construction of a combined number of 770 dwellings will have a major impact in both these areas of my constituency.

"The existing infrastructure can barely cope with existing demands, our roads are congested particularly at peak times, our leisure facilities are fully utilised, our local health services and schools will have to be expanded to accommodate the further increases in demand, likewise council services. Furthermore the two sites also are home to many various species of wildlife and these need to be protected.

"I share my constituents concerns about both these planning applications and the stress they will place, if approved, on the Grappenhall Heys and Appleton areas of my constituency.

Can you please ensure that full consideration is given to all the points raised above when determining both these planning applications."

Money Column

By Margaret Black

'The end of the tax return'

Making Tax Digital (MTD) is a government initiative that sets out a vision for 'a transformed tax system and the end of the tax return' by 2020.



David Watkinson and Margaret Black

It has supposedly been planned to make it easier for individuals and businesses to get their tax right and keep on top of their affairs, in other words - Every individual and business are to have access to their own personalised digital tax account and these will be regularly expanded and improved. It is HMRC's ambition to become one of the most digitally advanced tax administrations in the world, modernising the tax system to make it more effective, more efficient and easier for customers to comply.

This system was first intimated in the Spring Budget 2017, the intention to Make Tax Digital and the timetable for its implementation was announced. When the proposal was made, accountants and business owners alike were completely daunted by this new regime to be delivered in the time scales given. Since then the Government has held talks with representatives from professional bodies, the Treasury select committee and agents. After listening to all points raised a new timetable for the introduction and implementation has been publicised.

On 13th July 2017 it was announced by HMRC that they have now finally revised its thinking on this whole issue. Changes have now been declared which will give businesses and accountants a more structured and feasible time frame for implementation as well as making sensible and appropriate decisions which will benefit many smaller businesses a relief to all those who would have been affected.

The proposed changes will now mean that:

- Only businesses with a turnover above the VAT threshold (currently £85,000) will have to keep digital records and only for VAT purposes
- They will only need to do so from 2019
- Businesses will not be asked to keep digital records, or to update HMRC quarterly, for other taxes until at least 2020
- MTD will be available on a voluntary basis for the smallest businesses, and for other taxes.

Ultimately it will mean the following:

- 1) businesses and landlords with a turnover below the VAT threshold will be able to choose when to move to the new digital system, and
- 2) as VAT already requires quarterly returns, no business will need to provide information to HMRC more regularly during this initial phase than they do now.
- 3) All businesses and landlords will have at least two years to adapt to the changes before being asked to keep digital records for other taxes.

WatkinsonBlack 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, however, you should always obtain professional advice before taking any action.

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What's on in the villages

August 17
GRAPPENHALL & THELWALL PARISH COUNCIL
Recess meeting
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
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.
*Stockton Heath and Appleton parish councils do
not meet during August.

To list your event call Village Life on
01925 623632



9,000 Green Belt homes worry for parish councils

THE prospect of 9,000 new homes being built on Green Belt land in the borough of Warrington over the next 20 years is worrying a number of local parish councils.

They are but part of the total of 24,000 new homes that will be required as part of the borough's local plan – but the vast majority of them are almost certainly going to be built in areas such as Appleton, Grappenhall and Stretton.

An eight week period of public consultation ends in September and councillors are concerned that much of the consultation will take place in August, when so many people are away on holiday.

Parish councils who want an input into the proposals will need to have firmed up their responses in time for their September meetings.

Cllr Peter Walker, chairman of Stockton Heath Parish Council and also a member of Appleton Parish Council, feels that insufficient time is being allocated for the consultation – particularly with so much of it being in August.

He said: "We need to have responses ready for our meetings on

September 12 and 19 so we have to move swiftly.

"The initial announcements did not contain enough detail. The figures did not seem to add up.

"But what we need to be sure of is that none of these houses are built until the necessary infrastructure has been sorted out and properly funded."

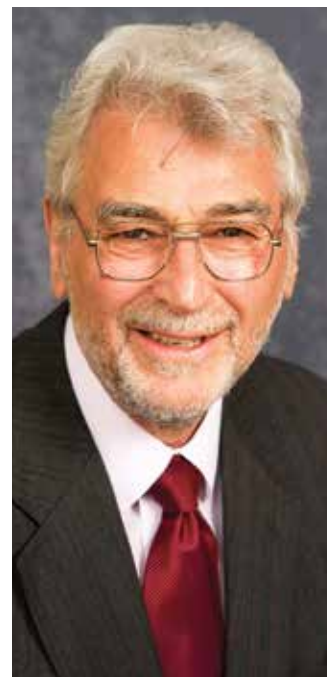
In addition to housing, the local plan will also need to provide land to provide employment – with 252 hectares coming from Green Belt areas.

Borough council leader Cllr Terry O'Neill, says the authority has worked hard on not compromising the Green Belt and believes this is reflected in the proposals.

He said: "Most of the proposed sites are in urban areas, while the vast majority of our Green Belt will be saved and maintained for the next 30 years.

"At the same time, we recognise that this is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for us to capture the value uplift of undeveloped land and ensure this is invested in the infrastructure for the future of our borough."

Consultation meetings still to be



held are as follows: Tuesday August 1 – Village Hotel, 3pm to 8pm
Wednesday August 9 – Birchwood Leisure Centre, 3pm to 8pm
Monday August 14 – Penketh High School, 3pm to 8pm
Tuesday August 22 – Lymm Village Hall, 3pm to 8pm
Thursday September 7 – Pyramid Centre, 3pm to 8pm,

Courtney strikes gold in EU Nations Cup

STOCKTON Heath swimmer Courtney Dean, was part of the national water polo team who secured gold at the EU Nations Cup.

Courtney, who is a member of Warrington Swimming and Water Polo Club, helped the England Senior Women's Team storm to victory at the championships in Pilsen, in the Czech Republic.

A thrilling final against South Africa saw the lead exchange hands frequently, with Courtney scoring one goal, but it was England who started and finished the match strongly.

Despite missing two penalties and South Africa taking a 4-3 lead

at the end of the first half, England grew in confidence and took control to win the final two quarters 3-2 and 6-0, earning them a spectacular 12-6 victory.

This isn't the first time Courtney has represented her country - she competed in both the World and European Championships as a junior, coming seventh in the World Championships in France in 2010, when she was just 15.

Now 22, her passion for water polo actually started by accident after her brother, Conor, asked her to fill in at Warrington Swimming Club when she was just eight.

It wasn't long before coaches



spotted the swimmer's talent and by the age of 11, she had made the regional squad and was playing in Manchester.

Courtney, holds her level 2 in water polo coaching and swimming teaching and currently works at Broomfields Leisure Centre.

She's also supported by LiveWire's Talented Athlete Programme and has been receiving regular support from experts at LiveWire during her training.

The swimmer's next big challenge is the World University Games next month. Water polo is one of 10 sports that will be played at the event in Taipei, Taiwan.

To compete in the next event, Courtney needs to raise £2520 to cover the cost of her travel and training. Since 2014, water polo athletes have been required to cover their own costs, since funding for the sport was withdrawn by UK Sport.

Warrington Swimming and Water Polo Club have already donated £150 to help Courtney get to Taipei.

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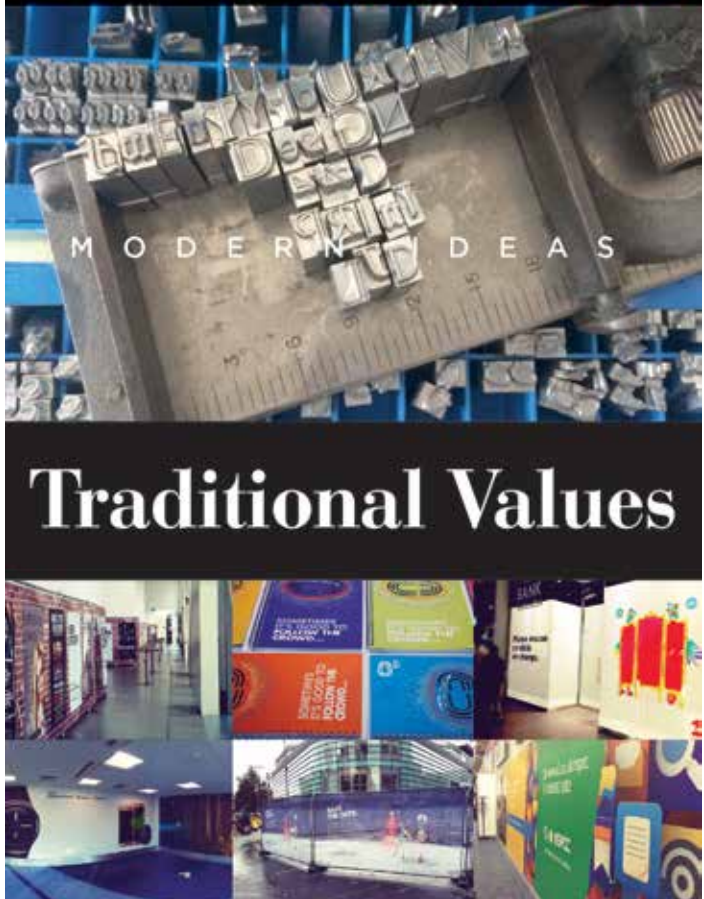
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