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## Time in the market, not timing the markets

With markets around the world continuing to prove unpredictable as momentous financial and political events continue to unfold, it's perhaps not a surprise that investors are increasingly concerned about when the 'best time' for them to invest might be. Many of these people will decide to hold off on making an investment, choosing to keep their money out of the markets in order to see what happens.

This might seem sensible, but if you find yourself in this position it's worth taking time to really consider your best option. The first thing to do is to remind yourself why you're investing in the first place. Any investment should be made with the goal of achieving something you want, such as providing for your retirement; however, it's important to remember that returns don't run like clockwork.

Predicting short-term stock market movements is incredibly difficult, if not impossible. If it wasn't, then every investor would be doing it and making their fortune easily. In order to counter any short-term shocks, one option is to make scheduled, monthly contributions to your investments if you're using current income. This can position you over the long term whilst also helping to develop financial discipline. Those looking to invest a lump sum can also use this technique, splitting it into several tranches and investing over a longer period of time to reduce

exposure to short-term risks.

Other ways to help maximise your results include investing as soon as you can in order to benefit from compounding, using tax allowances such as ISAs to reduce the impact of tax on your returns, and reviewing your annual saving total and increasing it when you can. Staying disciplined in your investments is key, as missing just a handful of the best days on the market can have a major impact.

2018 has been a good year for investors so far, but it's important to keep in mind that this could change just as easily as it could continue. Many financial experts forecasted 2017 to be a worse year than it actually was, but that doesn't mean these predictions can be forgotten just because the calendar has changed. Many are still expecting a market correction in the near future and with Brexit now just over a year away, it's more likely to be a question of 'when' not 'if'.

Enjoy the good times, but don't focus on trying to predict exactly when things are going to change. If you're planning to invest throughout your life, you can be certain that some years will be bad. Remember: long-term investors who keep to their plans are, more often than not, those who reap the greatest rewards.

Disclaimer: None of the above article constitutes advice.



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# Editor's comment

**WE were a little disappointed to see Stockton Heath Parish Council deciding not to accept an invitation to enter this year's Cheshire Best Kept Village competition – and a little puzzled at the reason for the decision.**

Councillors felt that Stockton Heath's recognition as the first Purple Flag Village in the country – back in 2011 – was an accolade "not yet to be overshadowed."

Well, if Stockton Heath was to be lucky enough to win the Cheshire Best Kept Village competition this year, we hardly think this would "overshadow" a national award gained seven years ago and, as far as we are aware, retained ever since.

Particularly as the Purple Flag is awarded for a different reason – for providing safe, well-managed evening economies with a diverse mix of leisure and entertainment facilities, restaurants and bars. The Best Kept Village competition – actually part of the Community Pride competition – is more to do with the general attractiveness and tidiness of the village.

We can't see why holding both titles could be anything but good for Stockton Heath.

However, we say we are only "a little disappointed" in the decision because we see no diminution in

the parish council's determination to ensure the village remains spick and span and a pleasure to visit.

The very same meeting that decided not to enter the Best Kept Village competition was also arranging to carry out floral planting, restore the war memorial, organise litter picking, take part in the Great British Spring Clean and much more.

In addition, considerable sums are being spent to improve Mill Lane and Ackers Pit.

So, even if Stockton Heath is not to figure in the Best Kept Village competition this year, we can rest assured the village will remain one of the most attractive in the area.

**ACCORDING national figures, the borough of Warrington's population is likely to grow by some 24,000 over the next 20 years. According to the borough council's Preferred Development Option (PDO), the number of new homes required over the same period, is also around 24,000.**

Are we to assume from this that all the new dwellings are to be single-bedroomed apartments?

Well, there may be a need for one-bedroomed properties but there is something wrong with the figures somewhere – unless of



course our planners intend to solve the "affordable homes" problem by packing young families into tiny properties that would not be acceptable even in Third World countries!

Given that most of the homes seem destined for land south of the Ship Canal, we need answers now – before the PDO progresses further.

**Deadline for the  
April issue  
of Village Life is  
March 13**

## TV company seeks 'film stars' of 1953

**A COLOUR movie film made in Stockton Heath on the occasion of the Queen's Coronation in 1953 is to feature in an ITV documentary later this year.**

The film was shot by members of Warrington Cine and Video Society on behalf of Stockton Heath Parish Council and showed the Coronation Day celebrations in the village.

There was a whole week of celebrations, including a fancy dress procession, and the society – then just a cine society – captured it all on 16mm film.

Now an independent television company – Oxford Films – is looking for local people who appeared in the film or who were there on the day so they can be interviewed for the documentary.

Society president Rob Evans said: "The film has featured on television before and it is in the North West Film Archives. We have had it digitised now.

"It is just one of many films we have made over the years of momentous occasions and moments in the history of Warrington.

"The television company has

managed to trace one person who appeared in the film, but they would like to find more.

We are hoping we can find some for them."

Anyone who appeared in the film – or who remembers the week of

celebrations in Stockton Heath June 1953 - is asked to call Mr Evans on 968100.

Founded in 1936, Warrington is one of the oldest cine and video societies in the country.



## Homes plan withdrawn after objections

PLANS for a pair of semi-detached houses in Pool Lane, Lower Walton, have been withdrawn following objections from nearby residents.

Neighbours claimed additional houses in the road would exacerbate traffic problems which have already

prevent refuse connections from taking place over a period of four weeks.

Any increase in traffic would lead to problems, particularly in view of the concealed entrance to the road from Chester Road.

Other residents raised concerns

about the loss of wildlife habitats in the area, with foxes, stoats, squirrels, hedgehogs, rabbits and protected bats being seen in the area, as well as numerous species of bird.

There were also issues with cars parking in Pool Lane.

# Petition launched for referendum on elected Mayor

**FRUSTRATED and angered by Warrington Borough Council's handling of various issues across the town local resident Richard Buttrey has launched a petition calling for a referendum on an elected Mayor.**

Mr Buttrey, aged 71, from Grappenhall, requires 7,917 names – 5 per cent of the local population, to sign the petition to trigger a referendum on whether Warrington should have an elected Mayor.

He believes an elected Mayor, with a politically balanced Executive Committee would be a better way to run decision making at the town hall.

Mr Buttrey said: "For three years I've been observing and publishing YouTube videos of various Council Meetings in an attempt to shed more light on the council.

"Over that time it has become clear that the quality of debate and decision making is well below that which we have a right to expect. Decisions are often ill-judged and merely rubber stamped resulting in waste of time and money.

"The original decision to close libraries, the High Court rejection of the earlier Local Plan, the auditors critical report over the Great Sankey leisure centre, and the current Western Link ever increasing forecast cost are just some cases in point."

He says "the ill thought out and badly presented and advertised Local Plan Preferred Development Option (PDO) in July 2017 finally brought things to a head."

Mr Buttrey added: "All Council Committees are required under the Constitution to be politically balanced. All that is except the Executive Committee where the Labour Leader, Cllr. Terry O'Neill, clearly believes it acceptable that all the members are Labour Councillors. It means that there is no effective opposition to offer checks and balances. An effective opposition is vital to the democratic process as has been well demonstrated at a national level.

"It's clear that the ten member Council Executive just aren't up to the mark!"

Mr Buttrey believes an elected Mayor, who had campaigned on a manifesto of running the Council with a politically balanced Executive that was representative of all voters, could change this.

Meanwhile he says the borough council has resolutely refused to permit the use of their e-petition service on the WBC servers for this purpose.

"Several other local authorities around the country have done so and

there is nothing in the legislation that says that there must be 'wet' signatures on paper petitions.

"I've been in discussions with the borough council since October trying to establish why they won't allow it and all I've had is 'it's our decision not to'. I've made the obvious point that from their point of view it would be far simpler and less costly to cross check a file of electronic signatures to the electoral roll than have to manually inspect 8000 names spread across who knows how many sheets. You may have a view on why the council are so reluctant to make gathering signatures by e-petition, I couldn't possibly comment!

"The aim of the petition and the resulting referendum is to seek to elect a mayor who has pledged to appoint a politically balanced Executive Committee. Under WBCs constitution the Executive Committee is the only one that is not required to be politically balanced and many of us feel that isn't just and right. It's all about a question of fairness and democracy and having the views of ALL voters represented on the most important Committee in the council.

Mr Buttrey added: "I followed the government guidance on Mayoral petitions which says that it's a good idea when starting one to discuss with the Local Authority to ensure the wording is correct. WBC resolutely refused to offer any opinion or otherwise engage in any discussion with me despite me requesting a number of times. I even offered to have a face to face chat but they declined that too.

"The only conclusion I draw is that they want to make it as difficult as possible!"

A council spokesperson said: "The council is aware of an individual within the borough who wants to commence a petition in order to call a borough referendum on whether or not the council should move to a model of an elected mayor.

"This would be a paper petition and would need to attract 7,917 signatures from individual voters within a specified time period. The council would then validate all the names on the petition to ensure that they are currently on the electoral role.

"If there is a referendum and the outcome is for an elected mayor then the council would need to completely review its constitution, its democratic processes and its structures".

On the issue of a hard copy petition the council spokesperson added: "A petition proposing a referendum which could change the constitution of a council is subject to legislation which requires the authority to confirm the

validity of the petition. Given the particular requirements for a valid petition of this nature, the council has determined that a hard copy paper petition is the appropriate method to allow the authority to make that determination."

Last year, after originally being linked to a devolution deal with Liverpool the controlling Labour group eventually

voted in support of a deal with Cheshire West and Chester Council and Cheshire East Council, although nothing has been formally agreed as yet.

For more details on Mr Buttrey's campaign for a referendum for an elected mayor for Warrington or to download copies of the petition visit [wbselectedmayor.wordpress.com](http://wbselectedmayor.wordpress.com)



## Young musicians help raise £1,100 for Warrington Foodbank

YOUNG musician Meera Maharaj's fifth concert in support of Warrington Foodbank raised a total of £1,100 to support local people in crisis.

Meera, who was very grateful once again for the tremendous support and encouragement of Rev'd Jane Proudfoot and the team at St Wilfrid's Church, Grappenhall, is now studying at London's Royal Academy of Music and brought her friend Dominic Degavino, also a post-graduate student in London at the Guildhall, to launch their new piano/flute duo.

The pair presented a varied recital programme which took in dramatic tangos, pieces alternately serene and furious by renowned American composers Samuel Barber and Lowell Lieberman, alongside compositions by Dutilleux and Tchaikovsky. Dominic's playing of two pieces from Ravel's solo piano work Miroirs was exquisite.

Hilda Whitfield, Chair of Warrington Foodbank commented: "It was magical. For two young people to give their time to charity and be so enthusiastic about the food bank is humbling."

Meera added: "We've really enjoyed preparing this programme

and have lots of plans for the duo, including forthcoming festival performances and recitals around the country. I'm very grateful for everyone's support and encouragement: it's lovely to play for a home audience, especially one that is so attentive. I give my support to the Foodbank because it looks after people who are very vulnerable, sadly including a significant number of children."

Meera and Dominic will be back in Warrington to play in WACIDOM's series at Holy Trinity, Market Gate, on April 21, and she will also be performing in Lymm with Meraki, her flute and guitar duo, at the United Reformed Church, Brookfield Road, on March 14 at 7.30pm, when once again, all will be welcome.



## What's trending in kitchens this year?

THE team at Warrington based JD Kitchens looks at what's hot for 2018.

Cass, designer suggests open shelving is making a statement.

"Open shelving is becoming increasingly popular with homeowners able to make a statement in their kitchen by adding their own personality with accessories, treasured finds and even deluxe food items. It's perfect for homes where the kitchen is a focus for entertaining".

"Great lighting", says new team

member Jason.

"As kitchens become used for more than cooking, lighting to zone and tie the look together become more important. If you want to sit down and enjoy your meal in the same room, you need options to change the mood from bright cooking space to a more mellow ambience".

Dave, owner of JD Kitchens suggests that whatever the size of the kitchen, making the most of the space is paramount.

"Floor to ceiling units with no

space above the unit not only stops any dust catching, it maximises storage, and it is a key trend for 2018.

Whilst efficient use of space is essential for smaller kitchens, those with a love of entertaining and kitchen gadgetry benefit too.

Internal drawers, pull out storage systems and tall larder storage also help with this, and they create a very streamlined look".

Finally, Dave explains that colour is big for 2018.

"Whilst grey and cream remain

popular base colours, we're seeing a rise in customers choosing more than one colour unit, or adding accent colours with their worktops".

Whatever your kitchen ambitions for 2018 the team at JD Kitchens, Warrington are here to help you every step of the way.

Call in to their showroom on Gorse Lane, Warrington or call to make an appointment on 01925 636997.

Advertiser's announcement

# Love affair with Lanzarote

Village Life Editor Gary Skentelbery checks out the Sandos Papagayo Beach Resort

**MY love affair with Lanzarote started more than 25 years ago – in fact I proposed to my wife there and we are celebrating our 25th wedding anniversary later this year!**

Flight time of just over four hours, a chance of all year round sunshine, some beautiful sandy beaches as well as stunning volcanic scenery make it the ideal destination for family holidays or just to get away as a couple.

This was our third stay at the Sandos Papagayo Beach Resort in recent times – and why do we keep returning – well it has pretty much got everything you could wish for.

I would recommend the upgrade to Royal Elite if you want to enjoy the hotel to its full potential.

It is suitable for couples with adult only areas but also welcoming for

families with a great entertainment team who put on some excellent shows in the evening.

Situated right next to the beautiful white sandy Papagayo Beaches, which are just a 15 minute walk away, you are also within a 25 minute walk of the old fishing village of Playa Blanca, which has grown in size considerably since our first visit!

There is now a fantastic Marina surrounded by restaurants if you are not staying all-inclusive at the hotel.

It does prove difficult to pull yourself away from the hotel because it has everything you need on site.

As well as the buffet restaurant,

there is also the Royal Elite dining area which includes a carvery and then another restaurant which alternates between Mexican and Asian food – so there is plenty of variety.

If you like a drink in the evening, the Royal Elite roof top bars are packed with branded drinks and is self service – so be careful with the measures!

All in all the Sandos Papagayo and the neighbouring beaches offer so much, it is difficult to pull yourself away to explore the rest of this fascinating island.

But if you have never been before I would recommend hiring a car and taking a tour, just to see the moonscape scenery which surrounds "Fire Mountain", which is still a live Volcano! But don't worry it has not

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THE HOME SPECIALISTS ASSOCIATION



# Bus company wants people to let the cat out of the bag

**BUS company Network Warrington wants local people to let the cat out of the bag – by sharing stories and pictures of their feline friends.**

The company wants to celebrate the launch of their new south Warrington service, the Cheshire Cat, which starts in the spring.

So they want to hear people's stories and see pictures.

The Cheshire Cat fleet of 13 new buses will be named after the most memorable cats.

Manager director Ben Wakerley said: "We'd love to hear from the cat-people of Warrington about their pets and what they have been getting up to."

"I have two cats myself, Minky and Flint. Judging by how mischievous they can be, I can't wait to hear about Warrington's other funny cat stories."

"I'm also excited at the prospect of our new bus fleet being named in

honour of the best cats in town. Send us your pictures so we can feature them inside the buses too!"

Residents are encouraged to share their pictures and stories on Twitter @WarringtonBuses, on the company's new Facebook page or via email to Network Warrington's feline aficionado Gina Johnson at g.johnson@networkwarrington.co.uk

The full improvements and changes to the south network will be announced soon with a public roadshow on Wednesday February 28 at Sandy Lane community centre at Stockton Heath, 6pm-8pm.

The roadshow will give residents the chance to comment on the Cheshire Cat changes before they are officially confirmed.

For more information about the Cheshire Cat, call 01925 634296 or visit networkwarrington.co.uk



## Festival begins to take shape

IT'S still more than four months off, but the programme of events for the 11th annual Stockton Heath Festival is beginning to take shape.

The four-day festival will start on Thursday, July 5 and, as ever, will aim to offer opportunities for residents of all ages to enjoy a celebration of arts, culture and heritage events.

There will be a mix of professional and local amateur talent on offer at a variety of venues around the village and in neighbouring parishes.

Regular favourites such as an art exhibition and photographic competition will give a chance for local to display their creativity and there will be the perennial scarecrow competition for local traders and a dog show on the Sunday afternoon.

Other events already scheduled are:

- Thursday July 5 at Appleton Parish Hall: Talk: Local soldiers in World War 1.
- Friday July 6 at the Festival Marquee: Viva La Coldplay tribute band.
- Saturday July 7 at St Thomas's Church Hall : Chris James and his seven-piece swing band.
- Sunday July 8 at the Festival Marquee: David Live – David Bowie tribute band.

## Pupils to visit site of concentration camp

A PARTY of Year 9 pupils from Bridgewater High School is to visit Poland in October on a five day educational trip which will include the site of the notorious concentration camp of Auschwitz-Birkenau.

Organised by the Religious Studies department, the trip will centre on Krakow and the party will get to hear, first hand, the experiences of a survivor of the Holocaust to give them a living connection to history.

But there will also be other activities to give the trip balance and ensure pupils get the most from their time in Poland.

More than 40 youngsters are expected to go on the trip which takes place between October 24-28.



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Our family team all live in the South Manchester and Cheshire area. Living within the same community provides us with unique insight into what affects your daily lives. You are just a ride away from one of our offices in Sale, Timperley or Manchester. We have additional meeting facilities in Warrington.



*"Having moved away for university, I always felt a natural desire to return to the area where I grew up. With its variety of local restaurants, shops and events, Lymm has a vibrant and strong community atmosphere which gives me everything I need on my doorstep."*

**Camilla Burton-Baddeley** | Family Solicitor

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# Parish hall to receive major facelift



■ Cllr Sandra Benger, chairman of Appleton Parish Council receiving a cheque of £1,500 from Cllr Tony Higgins and Diane White from the Families and Wellbeing Directorate of Warrington Borough Council.

APPLETON is set to get a much-improved parish hall facility thanks to a £50,000 grant from funding body WREN.

The money, awarded by WREN's FCC Community Action Fund, will be used to improve and renovate Appleton Parish Hall on Dudlow Green Road.

Councillor Sandra Benger, chairman of Appleton Parish Council believes that renovation will make a huge difference to the lives of people living in the area.

She said: "This project will provide a real boost to the people of Appleton and surrounding villages. It's fantastic that WREN has awarded us the money and we're really looking forward to improving the hall for community use."

Appleton Parish Hall is used by many community groups and clubs serving local people of all ages and interests. There is a toddlers group on Friday

mornings, a coffee morning run by Aim Christian Fellowship and a library on Tuesday mornings. Several WI groups meet at the hall along with two flower clubs and a keep fit session on Thursday mornings.

WREN is a not-for-profit business that awards grants for community, biodiversity and heritage projects from funds donated by FCC Environment through the Landfill Communities Fund.

Richard Smith, WREN's local grant manager said: "We are pleased our funding will make such a difference to so many community groups in Appleton. WREN is always happy to consider grant applications for projects that benefit local communities."

Appleton Parish Council has provided funds for the project and was also awarded £1,500 from the Community Initiative Fund from Warrington Borough Council.

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# 'Love your soil' say garden design couple

**A LOCAL couple have launched a new series of half-day courses on ecological gardening techniques at Grappenhall Heys Walled Garden.**

Garden designers Dina Kingsnorth-Baird and Neil Kingsnorth have called their initiative "Patch of the Planet" and aim to nature-rich gardens and teach people to "love their soil."

The pair are passionate advocates of grow-your-own, green living and healthy communities.

They use permaculture design and ecological gardening techniques to design and create nature-friendly and edible gardens and community spaces.

Dina Kingsnorth-Baird said: "Who doesn't love a beautiful green space? Whether it's your own garden or a shared community space, every outdoor space is a patch of the planet and we believe that every patch wants to thrive. That's why we have set up Patch of the Planet – to help design and create thriving green spaces that work perfectly for people."

"We also want to help build people skills and passion for gardening with nature, and our new courses are perfect for anyone interested in doing just that."

More details can be found at [www.patchoftheplanet.com/events](http://www.patchoftheplanet.com/events) Meanwhile Spring is in the air at

the Walled Garden which also has a "secret garden" which is home to some interesting wood sculptures and carvings as well as a restaurant facility.

New for 2018 are Children's Parties by Wilder Things who have put together a series of outdoor parties that involve WILD experiences for your children.

Based on 27 years experience and expertise in the natural environment and working with children, Tim Kirwin will deliver a unique and creative party experience for children from 5 - 12 years old.

Different party themes cater for different age groups and

include: archery, bushcraft, art and storytelling.

For more details contact Tim on 07543406968 or [tim@wilderthings.co.uk](mailto:tim@wilderthings.co.uk)



## Bellringers hunt for relatives of fallen Somme hero

BELLRINGERS in Grappenhall are searching for surviving relatives of a fallen WW1 war hero who used to ring the church bells in the village more than 100 years ago.

Second Lieutenant John Lancelot Smith of the South Lancashire Regiment died in the Battle of the Somme on 8th August 1916, and is commemorated on a plaque within St Wilfrid's Church in the village.

The Central Council of Church Bellringers has recently launched their 'Ringing Remembers' campaign, aimed at recruiting 1,400 new Bellringers during 2018, the target reflecting the number of bellringers who fell during the First World War, that ended 100 years ago.

Many churches lost some of their ringers in the trenches and battlefields of the Great War; some even lost all of them – every single bellringer of their 'band', meaning that their churches remained silent, even after the fighting had ended.

Tower Captain Mike Thomson said: "The current ringers at Grappenhall would love to hear from the descendants of John Smith, especially this year, as we hope to begin work on replacing our worn out bells and improving access in the tower for visitors to the remaining historic bells. The bells are exactly as they were in 1916, so any descendants would be welcome to visit the tower and follow in his footsteps."

"This will be the last year that the bells, exactly as they were 100 years ago, will be available to ring – as a refurbishment project to keep the bells ringing for many more years

means that some need to be recast."

Mike added: "The Bell Project has now raised well over half of the £175,000 needed and we should get the new bells ringing during 2019. The project includes augmenting the ring of bells to ten, so more ringers will be needed for the two new bells."

"We are hoping to dedicate one of the new bells to John Lancelot Smith and the other Grappenhall residents who fell in the First World War, and would be honoured if members of his family could be involved in the process."

Every Sunday morning, the bells of Grappenhall church ring out to summon the parishioners to morning service. Quintessentially English, the sound of pealing of bells is much loved, well beyond the church gates.

It is a traditional activity going back many hundreds of years; once the preserve of men, but now enjoyed by both men and women of all ages, although there is always a need for new ringers to keep up this ancient skill.

Anyone with information, or who would like to find out more about the Bells Project should contact Mike (Tower Captain) on Tel. No. 07710 763603, or Revd. Jane Proudfoot on 01925 261546 or email her at [revdproudfoot@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:revdproudfoot@hotmail.co.uk).

There is still some funding required for the Bells Project. A large donation could enable, for example, a family member to be remembered by a bell being cast with a suitable inscription. Other donations can be made through the above contacts or through [mydonate.bt.com/charities/grappenhallbellproject](http://mydonate.bt.com/charities/grappenhallbellproject).





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WARRINGTON

# Police chief pledges named officer in every community



**STOCKTON Heath-based Police and Crime Commissioner David Keane says he is committed to protecting frontline policing by placing a named officer or PCSO in every community in Cheshire.**

It is part of plans set out by the Commissioner in the policing budget for 2018/19 for officers to have more visibility to tackle emerging and complex issues such as cybercrime, child sexual exploitation and human trafficking.

The Commissioner has also committed to providing more support to victims of crime to help them cope and recover from their ordeal.

Additional funding has been allocated to the Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) to help the service deal with increasing demand. The budget also earmarks funding for an Anti-Stalking Clinic, run in partnership with 5 Boroughs NHS Foundation Trust.

Mr Keane said: "This is a budget that will enable the Acting Chief Constable to keep the residents of Cheshire safe and achieve the priorities of my Police and Crime Plan.

"Policing within our communities is becoming increasingly diverse and complex, which requires a more sophisticated response from officers.

"I have allocated funding to deal with these issues by re-directing officers to these priority areas. I have also committed to investing in intelligence gathering, training and crime recording to enable the Constabulary to respond to these important and emerging issues."

The Commissioner has developed his budget following an "unprecedented" response from the public to his precept consultation, where local residents and businesses in Cheshire gave the Commissioner the mandate to raise the precept to help protect policing resources.

Mr Keane asked Cheshire's tax-paying community how they would like to fund a £5 million shortfall in funding after a "woeful" flat cash settlement from central Government.

An overwhelming 77 per cent of respondents to the consultation

supported a 7.3 per cent increase to the precept, which equates to £1 a month for the average Band D household.

"I am delighted that so many people have spoken – in unprecedented levels – and I have listened to their views when setting the budget. It is imperative that any decision on force funding to be truly reflective of feelings of residents and businesses in Cheshire.

"I am also pleased that Cheshire's Police and Crime Panel has endorsed a rise to the precept to fund this budget," Mr Keane added.

Describing the ongoing budget pressures on policing, the Commissioner, said: "Not only did we receive a woeful flat cash settlement from Government, but – simultaneously – they also released the previous cap on the police precept.

"To address the shortfall in funding, Government asked Commissioners up-and-down the country to consult with the public on a rise to the precept.

"It does not sit comfortable with me that the Government has provided no additional funding and that the burden has fallen upon the council taxpayer of Cheshire, whose household bills are already challenging with increasing prices and stagnant wages.

"The public did raise concerns through the consultation around a further increase to the precept, but they understood that it is necessary to provide the appropriate resources to keep Cheshire safe."

Cheshire Constabulary has faced a 37 per cent real term cut in funding since 2010. Both the Constabulary and the Commissioner have driven significant efficiencies in this period to meet the funding gap, saving £10 million by making service efficiencies.

The Commissioner, concluded: "We've done a huge amount to find ways to deal with the financial challenges we face – and I include myself in that, as my office costs are now the second lowest in the country. We have plans to make further savings to the spend on my office to ensure more of our limited resources can be invested into frontline policing."

## Money Column

By Margaret Black

### Tax Return myths

Each year accountants ask their clients to deliver their accounting records and personal information needed to prepare, finalise and submit the annual tax returns in time to meet the deadline of 31st January. This January was certainly no exception for WatkinsonBlack

The article you are about to read has been written many times before by ourselves, and although the words will be different, the message will be the same, we make no apology for this. **We want to dispel any myth that tax returns can be prepared, agreed, finalised and submitted on the final deadline day i.e. 31st January.**



David Watkinson and Margaret Black

Individuals, requested by the Inland Revenue to submit a tax return and who are either unable to, or do not wish to, submit their return themselves and who use the help of an agent, spare a thought for them. In a large number of cases there will be accounts to prepare to establish the level of untaxed profit and or income i.e. rental income of the tax payer. Please note the following:

- Preparation of accounts or schedules of income can take from a few hours to a few days.
- Whichever form these calculations take they will need to be sent to the tax payer for agreement. If the content of the initial document is agreed it will be transferred onto the tax return,
- which is then sent out to the tax payer for a signature of agreement.
- the document is then returned to the agent for submission to the Inland Revenue.

The process you have just read through, in most circumstances, can take an average of four days. Please now refer back to the last two lines of the second paragraph in this article.

If there are queries at any stage of the preparations this can serve to delay matters, we may need answers, contacting might not be instantaneous, and a further exasperating situation during the final few weeks before the submission deadline, is that the tax payer has gone away on holiday which can make it impossible to iron out any queries.

The result of this laid back approach could lead to the submission of an incorrect tax return, which can attract its own penalties or if it is not filed in time to meet the deadline it is then subjected to a £100 fine for filing it late. Neither of these scenarios are desirable. If this article has struck a chord with you please act sooner rather than later, help us to help you.

Finally please spare a thought for your agent and their staff, they really want to enjoy their Christmas break with friends and family as we are sure you do too. We now hope that you will appreciate our appeal in respect of all matters referred to in this article

**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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# Lynn takes career change with Bodi Calm

**LYNN Bigelow BSc Hons, MFHT, MAR a retired nurse of 31 years decided to have a career change by launching Bodi Calm in Latchford village.**

Lynn is a firm believer of massage therapy and loves what she does. Massage therapy and reflexology helps all kinds of clients who suffer from muscle tension, mental health issues such as anxiety and depression.

Massage and reflexology are wonderful tools in combatting such conditions when treated on a regular basis.

Lynn explained that she realised

that there wasn't a unisex salon within the Warrington area where men could feel as comfortable as women do in a spa/salon setting.

She decided to take the plunge and opened up a salon on the high street in the heart of Latchford Village, where she also offers male grooming treatments, CACI synergy non surgical face lift for men and woman and has also incorporated the Opus 4 robotic spray tanning booth that give you complete privacy whilst having a 6 minute tan at the press of a button.

Lynn currently employs two other members of staff.

## When life gives you lemons - make pottery!



GRAPPENHALL based Lemon Studio is a new community arts venture established by Jeni Jacques-Williams to share her passion for ceramics.

Working with clay is known to be an excellent therapeutic antidote to the stress and pressures of modern life. Lemon Studio is a place to learn, share ideas, meet new people and have fun. Regular ceramic workshops run on Monday and Wednesday evenings as well as Thursday afternoons and some spaces are still available.

Jeni is an experienced ceramic artist and qualified trainer; her relaxed and friendly coaching will support you whether you are a novice in need of step-by-step guidance or an expert looking for a space to 'play with clay'. Lemon Studio is equipped with a wide range of tools and materials and can be hired by other creative folk as a

space to run their own courses. The kiln is also available to rent.

If you can't get to Lemon Studio then Jeni can come to you! She offers group classes at a variety of venues across the north west as well as mobile pottery parties for children and adults in your setting. In addition she regularly hosts sessions for charitable organisations such as Brownies, school fairs or nursing homes.

Not feeling creative? Lemon Studio also has a small shop where you can buy beautifully hand crafted ceramic items that are perfect to decorate your home or as a unique gift and keep an eye out for her stall at local artisan markets in Altrincham and Knutsford!


For more information please get in touch on 0781 3333235 or email [lemonstudio@yahoo.com](mailto:lemonstudio@yahoo.com)



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## What's on in the villages

**March 13**  
STOCKTON HEATH PARISH COUNCIL  
Sandy Lane Centre, Stockton Heath, 7.30pm

**March 15**  
GRAPPENHALL & THELWALL PARISH COUNCIL  
Council Offices, Bellhouse Lane, 7.30pm

**March 20**  
APPLETON PARISH COUNCIL  
Appleton Parish Hall, Dudlow Green Road, 7.30pm

**March 24**  
LIVE AT ST WILFRID'S  
Choir of Clare College, Cambridge, conductor: Graham Ross.

"In Peace" – the choir explores the theme of peace across the centuries and how composers have responded to it in their writing for unaccompanied voices.

St Wilfrid Church, Grappenhall, 7.30pm

**Every Saturday & Sunday**  
GRAPPENHALL HEYS WALLED GARDEN  
Wetherwin Avenue, Grappenhall Heys, WA4 3DS.  
Café open from 10am-5pm serving teas, coffee, home-made cakes and savouries.

**Every Monday**  
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  
PHILOSOPHY IN PUBS DISCUSSION GROUP  
Red Lion pub, Stockton Heath 7-9pm  
Contact Bill Cooke cwncooke@gmail.com

**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: Grahamctisse58@outlook.com. Tel 01925 262669

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

**Every Wednesday**  
APPLETON HALL BADMINTON CLUB  
March- 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 PROBUBS 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 PROBUBS 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**



# Grappers sign top coach in new bid for success

**GRAPPENHALL Cricket Club have appointed a former Yorkshire player with more than 4,200 first class runs under his belt as club coach for the coming season.**

Simon Kellett, 50, a Level 3 ECB coach played more than 80 matches for Yorkshire and then went on to have a Minor Counties career as captain and coach with Cambridgeshire.

He is currently head of cricket at Bradford Grammar School.

In a first class career of 87 matches he scored 4,234 runs at an average of 30.46 and with a top score of 125 not out.

Kellett is coaching Grappenhall's senior players at indoor winter nets and will be continuing throughout the summer. He will also be working with the club's juniors.

Club secretary Paul Tyerman said: "Simon has a wealth of experience in professional and amateur cricket

which he will be able to pass on to our players and our own coaches.

"The committee and players are excited to be working with someone of Simon's calibre and hope to be able to improve what we have already got rather than recruiting players from elsewhere."

Grappers will not be bringing in an overseas player this year as visa regulations are making it more difficult for players wanting to come to the UK for a summer of cricket.

It promises to be an interesting year for the Broad Lane club with all three teams playing in their respective Premier Divisions,

The 1st XI will again be captained by Adam Royle and are hoping to improve on last year when they were badly hit by injuries

Ross Arrowsmith will be skipping the 2nd XI, after last season's skipper Jack Critchley, stepped down after guiding his side to promotion. It

will be a tough year but the team is hoping its blend of youth and experience will see them through.

The 3rd XI will again be led by David Seed and another solid year is on the cards as the side brings through the next batch of senior players.

The Over 40s team, fresh from last season's first-ever title, is hoping to retain the trophy with a strong group of players and more "youngsters" qualifying all the time.



## Whitley 10k is heading for a sell-out



PREPARATIONS for this year's Whitley 10k are already in full swing, with only approximately 12 weeks to go.

As one of only a few 10k races to be included on the prestigious Cheshire Road Race Grand Prix, the organisers are delighted at the prospect of a sell out this year.

This rural road race that passes through the stunning scenery in and around Whitley is well supported locally and has the benefit of road closures throughout.

Last year's event was close to a sell out and this year race co-ordinator Peter Clayton is confident of another big turnout.

Peter said: "the grand prix status does help bring in runners from across the Cheshire and beyond and for more interested in a gentle run around some amazing country lanes, there is probably no place better."

The organising committee has been working hard since November and has been delighted with interest from potential sponsors.

Peter added: "This event is the main fund raiser managed by the Whitley Village Hall Committee with all funds going back into the operation and maintenance of the building and its associated clubs and events.

"As you can imagine sponsorship of any size is hugely appreciated. It is not our aim to compete with the other more significant races across Cheshire, our limit remains at 500 runners for the main event with a shorter fun run for those looking for something else."

Prizes for first, second and third, placed men, women and veterans will be handed out as well as a medal for every runner.

Entries for the race are online through the Runners World (Eventbrite) and Run Britain websites.

The race is on April 15 and there may be some available on the day although entries are already 30 per cent up on previous years.

For more information visit [www.whitleyvillage.info/](http://www.whitleyvillage.info/)

## Meet your MP Faisal Rashid

Faisal holds regular surgeries to discuss any issues that you may need help with. **Private surgeries take place every Friday.** Simply call the office on **01925 657600** to book an appointment, you can also send an email to [faisal.rashid.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:faisal.rashid.mp@parliament.uk)

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