

# VILLAGE

Cheshire's Community Magazine

Issue 153 December 2013 FREE

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## 'Walton Winter Wonderland'

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# Hot food takeaway rejected

PLANNING chiefs have thrown out proposals for a hot food takeaway shop in an area already plagued by nuisance youths late at night.

They refused permission for the proposed fish and chip shop in a

former beauty salon in Bridge Lane, Appleton.

Appleton Parish Council lodged a strong objection to the scheme and there were also objections from five residents of Bridge Lane.

The planning committee was told a similar application was refused 15 years ago and was again rejected when it went to appeal.

Grounds of refusal included late night noise, increased traffic and parking problems.

The same issues were still relevant, with the shop located in a small parade of four shops with flats on the first floor. It was already regarded as a "hot spot" by police because of youths congregating outside the shops late at night and a takeaway would worsen the problems.

There were also noise and smell issues.

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# Opinion

**MORE than 25 councils across the country are to offer free parking on the first-ever Small Business Saturday UK, on December 7.**

We are pleased to see that among them are Cheshire East Council and Cheshire West and Chester Council.

Sadly, Warrington Borough Council, whose loss-making parking service has been causing controversy in recent times, is not - although there is still time for a change of heart.

The initiative came from the Knutsford-based Forum of Private Business, who contacted every council in the country suggesting a day of free parking to mark the occasion. We understand they have contacted those councils which did not respond again, in the hope that more will join the enlightened authorities who immediately agreed to the concession.

Small Business Saturday UK will celebrate small businesses across the country and is the culmination of a campaign to encourage communities to shop local and support their small businesses.

Phil Orford, the Forum's chief executive officer says, rightly, that free parking is a proven benefit to small businesses. Charges discourage many consumers from shopping at the high street's diminishing number of small businesses and removing them for the day will help make it the success it deserves to be.

Hopefully the Forum's second letter

will encourage more councils to join in the occasion - and hopefully one of them will be Warrington.

After all, if its parking service runs at a loss, closing it down for a day should actually save the council money - as well as contributing to the good will we expect at this time of the year.

## WHAT a refreshing change!

After reviewing the health and safety implications of den building, Grappenhall and Thelwall Parish Council decided that not only would it be permitted, it would be actively promoted at both Diamond Park and Jubilee Park.

These days, when councils starting talking health and safety is usually means banning something - often something generations of children have been doing without coming to harm. Remember the council that decided playing conkers was dangerous?

Well, den building has been part of growing up for longer than most of us can remember. It probably does as much to educate future structural engineers as any subject on the national curriculum.

We have heard of other councils who have taken a different view, fearing the dens could be used for

underage drinking and even drug taking, but in our view the sort of youngster who builds dens is not usually the type attracted by drink and drugs.

It might be an idea to keep an eye on what goes on in the dens but, in the meantime, congratulations to Grappenhall and Thelwall Parish Council for a common sense decision.

**The editor and all at Village Life would like to wish all readers and advertisers a**

**Merry  
Christmas  
and a Happy,  
Healthy and  
Prosperous  
New Year!**

## Christmas card prize



THE prize for St. Matthew's CE Primary School Stretton for winning a Christmas Card competition for North West Primary Schools was a Science Day at their school by the London Science Museum.

■ Laura Meade of the Science Museum shows the reaction of adding dry ice to water to students from left, Ava Webber, Ryan Vickers and Mollyanna McCluskey.

# Hope's amazing title haul at Face of Globe

**STOCKTON** Heath youngster Hope Burton-Baddeley had an "amazing time" after winning through to the finals of the face of the globe competition.

Hope aged 8, won the most titles at the event at Disneyland in France and also raised more than £4,000 for charity.

She won through to the finals after coming runner-up in the Face of the Globe regional heat at Chester Music Theatre, winning three of the four possible titles.

Proud mum Carolyn Burton-Baddeley said: "I am absolutely delighted that Hope was the highest fundraiser out of all the 80 or so entrants with a final fundraising total of just over £4,365! Even more amazing than the highest fundraiser in the competition she was crowned Miss Charity!

"As well as the title she gets to choose where 10% of the total charity amount raised goes and I'm delighted to say she has chosen Tommys, the charity for premature and still born children as her sister Evie was ten weeks premature and also had a twin that was stillborn.

"The total charity figure raised was £45000 so £4500 will be going there."

Hope also won Miss Publicity, Miss People's Choice and was also placed 3rd in her age group.

Carolyn added: "She had an amazing time in Disney, she met new friends from all over the world and also Met Chico from the X factor who founded the charity and is intending to carry on with fundraising.

"She won the most titles in the competition and came home with a load of sashes and two more tiaras to add to her collection!"



## Purrfect gift for cats

ABANDONED and neglected cats are set to benefit from a Warrington business owner who has volunteered to collect donations of food, blankets and toys.

Paul Clark, owner of Ovenu Warrington, has started to collect donations that will benefit felines being fostered out by Cats Protection volunteers.

Paul, 50, who has been running his business in the Warrington area for the past six years amassing more than 5,000 oven cleans in this time, is collecting a variety of donations from customers on his daily oven valeting appointments.

Cats Protection is a national organisation dedicated to the rescue, short-term fostering and permanent re-homing of the animals.

Paul, who previously worked as a social worker, said: "I am delighted to be doing my bit to help cats in the Warrington area. Cats Protection do such a fantastic job rescuing, re-homing and rehabilitating many abandoned cats locally and I am more than happy to help out in this way.

"I wanted to help on a wider scale than by simply donating money, and I think that donating food, blankets and things that are of more immediate help does more good.

"This is an excellent opportunity for me to help this local charity which provides such a vital service. They are a self-funded organisation that relies on donations to survive, so I am pleased to support them in any way I can."

Rik Hellewell, national Founder

of Ovenu, said: "I am delighted that Paul has chosen to make a real difference to animal welfare in the Warrington area. The work he is doing to collect donations is already making a difference locally. Donations are collected on his rounds as he visits customers who are aware that he has started this initiative locally."

The Ovenu valeting process involves dismantling key components of an

oven such as the door, interior panels, fan and shelves and placing them into design-registered tank equipment, which uses safe, non-caustic products to clean the oven parts. The whole process takes around three to four hours and leaves the oven, hob and exterior in immaculate condition.

For more information about Ovenu, or to make a booking with Paul, or to donate to his initiative for Cats

Protection, call: 01925 453 377, email [ovenuwarrington@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:ovenuwarrington@hotmail.co.uk) or visit [www.ovenuwarrington.net](http://www.ovenuwarrington.net) for more information.

■ Left to right: Adam Penniston, Ovenu National Training manager, with Nikki Butcher and Bluebelle the cat.





Advertiser's announcement

# Club Med

Thank you to Angela our own tripadvisor reporter!

Club Med? If you're one of the growing number of people seeking an All Inclusive holiday, but looking for something a bit different, then Club Med is worth looking at for your next holiday.

We holidayed at Da Ballaia resort in Portugal's Algarve region, which is situated on the dramatic Atlantic coast. At the airport we were given our room keys and wrist bands then took a private transfer to the resort. We were met by a representative (GO's as they are known) and welcome drinks. Following a short tour of the resort we were taken to our large interconnecting rooms and our luggage was waiting for us. So far, so relaxing.

There were a lot of activities on offer, sporting and cultural. Facilities included three golf courses, 12 tennis courts and a spa, add these to a beach with great waves and a pool and there was plenty to keep two teenagers and us occupied. Families with younger children had a Baby or Mini Club for a bit of respite! On the two rainy days we had, the resort put together a programme to keep us entertained, including a child's magic show, gym classes, quizzes and board games. Each evening there was great entertainment; the shows were very well produced and all suitable for the whole family. A point to mention is that all the activities and entertainment are not 'in your face' and there was definitely no 'compulsory fun' element to this type of holiday. Join in though, as this really does make for a great holiday.

Buffet style meals were taken in the restaurant and all ages are catered for. There is a baby and young child area with bottle warmers, lots of high chairs, plastic crockery and soft food, a family area and an adult's only area. Larger tables are available and these are designed for sharing with other families and GO's, which was a great way of meeting other people. As well as the usual buffet style food there was also available plated, top restaurant quality meals prepared by chefs, which added luxury to the dining experience. All meals taken were delicious and great quality.

This resort is very French and my French language education stopped at the description of the contents of my pencil case - not very useful! However, there were no problems as every member of staff spoke English.

If there was one thing that really set Club Med apart from other types of holiday we've been on, was that we



■ Linda Crowder - Stockton Heath Travel

really felt that every member of staff wanted us to have a great holiday, and guess what...we did!

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# Anger over housing plan for playing field

**A LONG-running dispute over the future of a disused rugby ground has come to a head with an application to build houses on it.**

Angry members of Appleton Parish Council claim the plan would enable a private sports club to make hundreds of thousands of pounds out of a publicly-owned asset.

The field, off Bridge Lane, Appleton is owned by Warrington Borough Council but leased to Warrington RUFC – part of Warrington Sports Club.

It has not been used for rugby for about 10 years after fire destroyed the clubhouse – despite efforts by the parish council to get it re-opened.

The rugby club has moved to Warrington Sports Club's ground at Walton Lea and although it still holds the lease on the Bridge Lane ground for more than 40 years, they say it is too remote from their changing facilities for them to use it.

Several other clubs have expressed interest in using the pitch but no agreement has been possible to bring it back into use.

Now the club, in conjunction with

house builders Ashall Developments and Morris Homes, has put forward a plan to develop the six and-a-half acre Bridge Lane site.

Half the land would be used to build 55 two, three and four bedroomed houses, 20 per cent of which would be "affordable." The other half would be landscaped as a "linear greenspace with recreation facilities."

There would be an all-weather multi-use games area, a formal footpath around the edge of the field and car parking for users and customers at existing shops in Bridge Lane.

A cash sum would also be paid to the borough council as owners of the site.

As part of the plan, Ashall Developments would transfer an 11-acre site in their ownership at Walton Lea to the sports club, providing space for three rugby pitches and training areas.

Cllr Brian Axcell (pictured), of Appleton Parish Council, said the parish council challenged a number of the claims made by the rugby club.

"We also point out that the sports

club does not own the land; it has a lease with about 45 years remaining, but nevertheless it believes it should be allowed to make hundreds of thousands of pounds out of a publicly owned asset

"Privately owned land at Walton in the Green Belt, which cannot be developed, would be transferred to the sports club for pitches. In exchange publicly owned land would be handed over to the developers for housing!"

The parish council says the amount of traffic on Bridge Lane – a feeder road to five schools – is already at capacity. Sums of money promised would not even solve existing traffic issues.

The field should be retained for sport and recreation because the financial package offered to the borough council would not benefit Appleton residents.

Overall, there would be an unacceptable loss of green open space as the proposed recreation area would be small.

The Walton Lea pitches would be too far away to benefit Appleton



residents and, in addition, would be part of a private club with membership fees – not equivalent to council-owned playing fields open to all.

Finally, the borough has adequate housing provision – particularly in the Appleton area, where land originally earmarked for housing has been removed from the "area of search" for at least 15 years.

## Countdown to Christmas at Festival Market

**START the countdown to Christmas in style in award winning Stockton Heath at the annual Christmas market.**

Organised by volunteers to help raise funds for the 2014 Stockton Heath Festival, it takes place on Sunday December 1 from 10:00am until 3:30 pm with something for all ages. All attractions are under cover so bad weather will not be a deterrent.

Based in the Forge Shopping Centre and Stockton Heath Primary School there will be around 40 stalls selling unique Christmas gifts from craft traders and a range of seasonal food and drink. Mulled wine and a mince pie will be available while listening to live music from local groups including Wired for Sound, The Bridgewater Singers, Sixpence Voice Studio and The Golborne Brass Band.

The children are not forgotten as they have their own dedicated area behind the Red Lion with story telling, nativity scene and a bran tub. There will also be a visit from Santa.

There are some fabulous Christmas based raffles. Two hampers bursting with goodies and drinks and two children's prizes. Youngsters could take home either Rudolph the cuddly house trained Reindeer complete with activity book, spare noses and a box of poo, or Ted the Baker a lovely bear with baking kits. The proceeds of these raffles and any profit made from the event will go towards funds needed to help stage next summer's festival.

Make a day of it, free parking, many of the shops open and also a wide range of restaurants, cafés and bars for refreshments.

Further details of the Festival on [www.stocktonheathfestival.co.uk](http://www.stocktonheathfestival.co.uk) and on facebook

Stockton Heath's Christmas Lights will be switched on at 6pm on Friday, November 29 in Victoria Square,



outside the Mulberry Tree Hotel.

Children from St Thomas' Primary School and Stockton Heath Primary School will lead carol singing.

Knutsford's Christmas lights will be formally switched on in Canute Place on Saturday, November 30.

There will be a reindeer parade into the square where local schools and other groups will give performances, including carols, on a stage.

The Christmas market will open the same day, with stalls lining Princess Street and fairground rides and other attractions to appeal to children. The market will continue the following day, Sunday, December 1.

Appleton's Christmas lights will be in the grounds of the Broomfields Sheltered Housing scheme.

Santa Claus will switch on the lights on an enormous Christmas Tree outside Grappenhall Community Centre in Bellhouse Lane at 5pm on Saturday, November 30.

The community centre and adjoining Grappenhall and Thelwall Parish Council office will be decked with lights.

Santa will also be busy distributing gifts in his grotto.

The tree is being donated by Alf and Pauline Wadbrook.

## Dental practice goes from strength to strength



L-R - Katie (nurse) Laura (dentist) Andy Booth (dentist) Beth (nurse) Carol-anne (receptionist) Holly (nurse) Pat (practice manageress) Maria (nurse) Andy Brown (principal dentist)

GRAPPENHALL Dental Practice has announced further expansion due to increased demand allowing them to accommodate new patients.

Set up from scratch in 2006 by Dr Andrew Brown, who had previously worked for the NHS in the centre of Warrington for 10 years, the team now has four dentists and can offer same day emergency appointments.

Andrew decided he wanted to open his own practice and recognised the shortage of NHS dentistry in the south of Warrington. Although he wanted to continue to offer NHS dentistry to his patients he was informed by the primary care trust that they had no money to allow him to do so.

Andrew did not want to charge very high private fees to his loyal patients so decided to provide independent 'nhs style' dentistry.

Latest team members are Dr Ivan Wolfe from Ireland having qualified in Cork, while Dr Laura Pumford, who joined in September is born and bred in Warrington just like the two Andys!

They have both settled into the practice and are quickly becoming valued team members.

Both Ivan and Andy Booth are offering patients a late night clinic on Tuesday evenings till 8pm. Emergency appointments still available every day.

For more information visit [www.dentistswarrington.co.uk](http://www.dentistswarrington.co.uk)



## Are you a High Rate Tax payer in a Final Salary Pension Scheme?

**You may wonder why your tax bill may have increased somewhat over the last few years with the January 31st deadline fast approaching.**

Over the last couple of years, the government have made some significant changes to registered pension schemes that can potentially have an effect on your personal tax liability. So for higher and additional rate tax payers, who for example may work within the NHS and have a significant levels of service, this could mean a dramatic increase in their tax liability. The government have now changed the accrual rate at which it taxes these schemes, so the more you benefit from the scheme, potentially, the more tax you may have to pay for having the pension benefit.

It is not only the accrual rate that the government have changed, they have reduced both the Lifetime Allowance and the Annual Allowance that you can utilise for your retirement plans. The Lifetime Allowance is the total amount that you can accrue in a pension scheme and this will reduce to £1.25M in April 2014. It was previously £1.75M a few years ago! The Annual Allowance is more of an immediate problem as this has been reduced from £255,000 to £50,000 and is going to reduce further to a £40,000 in April 2014.



One thing to be aware of is that if these allowances are breached by you or your employer, then you could be personally liable for a substantial tax charge!

The good news is that there are investments and certain allowances that can help reduce your tax liabilities. So if you would like to discuss any of these points with one of our Financial Advisers, then please call us at Simple Solutions Financial Management Ltd to discuss it further.

*Don Wernham*

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Advertiser's announcement

# Cheshire Food Festival does Christmas

**CHESHIRE Food Festival will be making a stunning return to Arley Hall & Gardens for a Christmas extravaganza on December 7-8th.**

Following on from the success in the summer when 8,000 foodies enjoyed the event, the team from the festival are back, doing their 'Cheshire Food Festival does Christmas.'

All the favourites from the summer will be there, top local producers, flavoursome hot food, real ale bars, chef demos, 'Kids Kitchen', children's cookery lessons, Men V's Food, Cake Competitions and live music, added to the mix will of course be a Santa's grotto, a children's craft work shop, some great gift stalls and of course some mullered wine, all making for a lovely Christmas foodie, family day out.

The Cheshire Food Festival has attracted lots of producers showcasing the best in local, seasonal and speciality food and drink. It's a great opportunity to get a real taste of the best of Cheshire produce - sample, enjoy and buy. After you've done your foodie and gift shopping, sit down and enjoy the live choirs and bands while enjoying tasty hot food, or perhaps a cocktail or two!

Why not get involved this year? Fancy yourself as the next Paul Hollywood? Well join in our cake competition, the Christmas categories are Yule Log and Best Mince Pie - enter online today! Baking not your thing? How about tasting and judging the cakes?! Judging is open to members of the public so you could be scoring some of the tastiest cakes in the North West! There is also, the now famous 'Men V Food' Challenge, which is back but with a Christmas slant - are you brave enough to enter? Can you beat all comers to the illustrious Christmas Food Festival Champion Title? Take on the food eating challenge, be the first man (or women!) to finish and the glory is yours!

For those who fancy a more relaxing day out sit back and enjoy a chef demo talk, learn about local artisan produce, or just chilli out - put your gloves on and sit out for the day enjoying great food and drink, with live music in beautiful, and festive surroundings. Oh and don't worry lots of the event is under cover so come rain or shine we'll have a good time!



## Charity reaching new heights!

**A local charity is reaching new heights thanks to the generosity of a ladder supply company.**

Having started out in 1997 with just seven beneficiaries, The Walton Lea Partnership now supports over 70 at any one time, across its two sites at Long Lane and Chester Road in Walton, both Warrington.

The Walton Lea Partnership operates

on a charitable basis and exists to provide learning, life enrichment and work experience for adults with learning difficulties. Wardworth Ltd became aware of some of the fantastic work being done at the Higher Walton site of the Walton Lea Partnership and wanted to help out. Within the beautiful walled gardens there are people hard at work growing plants and vegetables as well as restoring wooden furniture, bikes

and making bird boxes and a wide range of other craft items.

Some of the work undertaken by staff at Walton Lea entails working at height, which prompted Wardworth to help out with the donation of a range of new Werner Step Ladders and Work Platforms. Carl Oates (Sales & Marketing Manager at Wardworth Ltd) explained: "As I live in Walton and know members of The Board of Directors at The Walton Lea Partnership, I felt compelled to pay a visit to the Walton site to get a better understanding of the great work being done to assist people who have in some cases very challenging learning difficulties. When I got to the site I couldn't believe how stunningly beautiful the surroundings were - it was like something out of a Disney Film! After talking with the team, we agreed to help out with new ladders and advice to ensure that the staff and volunteers continue to work in a safe environment. I wanted them to have the best quality, which Werner represents".

Phil Marshall, Director at Walton Lea Partnership commented "Carl and the team at Wardworth have been of great help and their generosity to the charity is really appreciated. We rely more and more on community and local business support to continue the great work of the charity, and Wardworth's contribution is a great example of this".

Find out more about The Walton Lea Partnership by calling their Higher Walton site on 01925 860143 or visit their website [www.waltonlea.org.uk](http://www.waltonlea.org.uk)

If you need Ladders or any other equipment to work at height, you can call Wardworth Ltd on 01204 590232 or visit their [ladderstore.com](http://ladderstore.com) website.

## Entries open for 10k run

ENTRIES are now open for the seventh High Legh Robert Moffat Memorial 10k.

The race will take place on Sunday, March 9 at 11am and this will be the first year that the event will be chip-timed to ensure an even better results service.

It is organised by High Legh Community Association and Lymm Runners and starts and finishes at High Legh Primary School.

"We're delighted to once again be involved with organising this well-established and always over-subscribed race," said Chris Lees, race director and Lymm Runners club captain.

"Places do fill up fast so we would encourage people to sign up as soon as possible to avoid disappointment."

## Training courses

Lymm Runners will again be organising free 'zero to 10K' training course from early January in the run-up to the race for those who are new to running, returning to running after a break or who want help or motivation.

Entries are set at the early bird rate of £14 for UKA affiliated runners and £16 for non-affiliated runners, until the end of December after which - if there are places left - it will go up.

You can enter online at [www.fabian4.co.uk](http://www.fabian4.co.uk) and for more information visit <http://www.lymmrunners.org.uk>





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## Dining out with Village Life at the Indish Restaurant



HAVING recently celebrated its first anniversary the Indish Indian Restaurant on Walton Road, Stockton Heath, has quickly become established as a popular dining out venue in the village.

From the moment you walk through the door you receive a warm welcome, often from proprietor Milad Miah or one of his attentive staff.

With a Five Star food hygiene award the Indish is a contemporary Indian restaurant offering a stylish and relaxing atmosphere with great food.

The menu has been crafted with over 20 years expertise and offers a blend of new and contemporary dishes alongside traditional favourites. The menu includes all the traditional favourites plus house specials.

A personal favourite is the Chicken Tikka Shashlick, served on a sizzling platter with Afghan curry sauce - but be warned you will need a hearty appetite, especially if accompanied by rice and a nan bread!

If you are not sure on what to have the friendly staff will happily make recommendations taking great pride in the quality of food.

Meanwhile if you are looking to dine in at home or entertain large parties, meals are available to takeaway (order off the restaurant menu with a 20% discount for takeaway).

For more details and to see the extensive menu choices visit [www.indishindian.co.uk](http://www.indishindian.co.uk) and make a reservation or order a take away call 01925 861919.

## Festival team seeks volunteers

ORGANISERS of the popular Stockton Heath Festival are looking for volunteers to join their hard working team.

In particular, they are looking for a fund raising director and a programme organiser. The seventh annual festival will be held over the first weekend of July next year but organisers are already busy on preparatory work.

In just seven years, the event has become one of the biggest on the local calendar and there is always a need for more volunteers.

The fund raising director is regarded as one of the most challenging positions on the organising committee - because without funds there would be no festival.

He or she is responsible for engaging with existing sponsors as well as contacting new prospects as opportunities arise. The post also includes involvement in fund raising events.

The Fund Raising Director will be responsible for engaging with existing sponsors as well as contacting new prospects as opportunities arise. The job would also include involvement in fund raising events.

The programme organisers will be expected to communicate to the designer compact, pithy descriptions of the events to be included in the programme as well as proof reading the programme and supervising its progress to the final printing stage.

Interested applicants should write to Deborah Cook, Festival Co-ordinator, 6 Vicarage Walk, Stockton Heath, Warrington. WA4 6JL or email [hello@stocktonheathfestival.co.uk](mailto:hello@stocktonheathfestival.co.uk)

In the meantime, the festival's annual Christmas Market is scheduled for Sunday, December 1 at The Forge Shopping Centre.



Festival goers enjoy a trip on The Wizard canal boat.

## Cheshire helps turn technology into profit

SCIENTISTS based at Cheshire's Daresbury Laboratory are leading the way in taking technologies developed at CERN - home to the world's biggest science experiment - and translating them into successful, profit-making companies.

Medicine, telecommunications, IT and security are just a few of the sectors where inventive new businesses can make an impact using key technologies from CERN.

The STFC CERN Business Incubation Centre (BIC) is at Daresbury Laboratory, next to the Cockcroft Institute and within the vibrant Sci-Tech Daresbury campus.

First company to move into the BIC is Croft Additive Manufacturing Ltd, a developer of revolutionary additive manufacturing printing technology, also known as 3D printing, to produce highly specialised metal filters applications to industries such as aerospace, automotive and energy.

Up to 10 companies will be nurtured at the BIC over the next two years with an exceptional support package.

They will have access to the expertise and unique capabilities of

the Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC) and CERN, home to the Large Hadron Collider which recently proved the existence of the Higgs boson - the so-called "God Particle."

Dr Sergio Bertolucci, director of Research and Scientific Computing at CERN, said: "This is the first time that CERN has been involved in a dedicated business incubation initiative."

"The BIC builds a bridge between our technical experts and entrepreneurs in the UK. This knowledge-transfer scheme could inspire other Member States to establish more national business incubation centres and turn CERN's innovative ideas into business opportunities."

Professor John Womersley, STFC's chief executive said: "UK companies already secure more than £15m each year in contracts with CERN."

"Sci-Tech Daresbury is a vibrant hotbed of world leading expertise and facilities teamed with the best business and networking opportunities - the potential for partnership and collaboration here is second to none."

## All set for Walton Winter Wonderland



SANTA'S Polar Express will be arriving at the historic Walton Hall & Gardens on Friday December 13 at 6.30pm to help kick start the festive season.

Santa's grotto will also be open on the weekends of December 14-15 and December 21-22 from 10.30am-4pm when the heritage yard will be transformed into a "Winter Wonderland" with traditional fairground games, craft stalls and demonstrations, live music, festive food and drink, entertainers and yule log making.



Provided by:  
**WatkinsonBlack**  
Chartered Accountants



**Chartered Accountants**

**Registered Auditors**

Contact  
**David Watkinson**  
or **Margaret Black**  
at:

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264 Manchester Rd  
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**Tel:**  
**01925**  
**413210**

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# Money Column

By Margaret Black

## Rent a Room Scheme

'Rent-a-room' applies to income charged for providing furnished residential accommodation in your only or main home, this may be of benefit if you take in a lodger. Rules on this will either exempt the rental income or tax it on a more favorable basis. Under 'rent-a-room' a taxpayer can be exempt from income tax on profits from furnished accommodation within their only or main home if the gross receipts they get, i.e. before expenses are £4,250 or less, but you can't then claim any of the expenses of the letting

In addition, receipts over the £4,250 exemption limit can be taxed on an alternative basis that may produce a lower tax bill. In short the excess of the gross receipts over the exemption limit would be treated as the taxable rental income instead of the actual profit. But once again you then can't claim any of the expenses of the letting. For the purposes of the rent-a-room scheme, gross receipts include not only rents but also payments made to the taxpayer for the provision of any other goods or services (such as meals, cleaning,

laundry etc) in connection with the letting. The £4,250 limit may be halved if someone else gets rents from letting the same home

The rent-a-room scheme applies to ordinary lettings of living accommodation in the taxpayer's own home. It does not apply to rooms let as an office or for other business purposes but the scheme would still apply to genuine lodgers who either study at home or who do some of their business work at home in the evenings or at weekends. Where a taxpayer has taxable receipts in excess of the rent-a-room allowance this excess is normally taxable as property income together with any other rental business income received. In some cases, income from a lodger etc may be taxed separately as a trade. Rent-a-room can also be applied by people who let a room in a home they rent as well as to people who own their homes. Although the income is not relevant for tax, it would be prudent to check whether:

- the lease allows them to take in a lodger where they rent their home
- their lender does not mind them taking in a lodger where there is a mortgage held on their home,



- their insurance cover may not be adequate if circumstances have changed and the situation has not been part of the agreed cover from the insurance company

### Legislation

The current legislation applies from 2005-06 onwards, the scope of the legislation has not changed. The exemption limit has been £4,250 since 1997-98. The scheme is for qualifying individuals only, and does not apply to companies or partnerships. However it can apply when individuals have the income jointly, i.e husband and wife, or civil partners, or even where there is no partnership.

Please telephone 01925 413210 or e-mail info@warringtonaccountants.co.uk

The Money Column.....is provided by **WatkinsonBlack**. Chartered Accountants,  
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## Farm fresh turkeys from sixth generation farmers

CHRISTMAS turkeys have become an important part of life at Bellefields Farm in Appleton which dates back to 1757 and has been worked by six generations of the Derbyshire family (pictured below) since the 1800s.

John and Tom front this side of the business and are pleased at the extremely high welfare standards achieved, on farm preparation of the birds, as well as a 5 star hygiene rating from Warrington Borough Council. All this helps achieve a stress free and succulent turkey to grace the Christmas table. Both white and bronze turkeys in a variety of sizes are reared so there is a Christmas bird for everyone.

The farm was built by Captain Hoare who was based in the port of Liverpool.

Hoare, who later became a Rear Admiral, wanted a farm and estate that would reflect his position. He acquired the land from the Warburtons of Arley Hall and created the farmhouse and buildings on a site that was previously occupied by a much older farm dating from Elizabethan or even earlier Tudor times. Internal walls in the house and buildings are constructed from sandstone blocks and show period masonry marks.

The Darbyshires have lived at the farm and worked the land since the 1800s and are now in their sixth generation of farmers on this land. Frank, his son John and grandson Tom are all involved in the farm. As Taylor, Frank's great grandson was recently born; there is a possibility that a seventh generation could soon be seen driving tractors around Appleton and Stockton Heath.

The farm is predominately arable with a small amount of grass for fodder and straw bedding for other farmers, as well as logs, sticks and coal for farm gate sales.




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# What's on in the villages

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

**December 17**  
APPLETON PARISH COUNCIL  
Parish Hall, Dudlow Green Road. 7.30pm

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

**Every Monday**  
ST MARY MAGDALENE MONDAY CLUB  
St Mary Magdalene Church, Appleton 1.30pm

**COUNTRY DANCING CLUB**  
St Thomas' Primary School, Parkgate Road,  
Stockton Heath.  
8-10pm. Details: 01925 262356

**BRIDGE CLUB**  
Grappenhall Village Sports Club  
Stockton Lane. 7.30pm. Details 01928 712233

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

**HIGH LEGH RUBBER BRIDGE CLUB**  
Village Hall, 7-10pm. Details: Audrey Greaves 0161  
904 0120  
8pm. Details: 01925 264099

**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  
Independent Methodist Chapel, Knutsford 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 Wednesday**  
APPLETON HALL BADMINTON CLUB  
September - March at Hall Drive,  
Appleton. 7.30-10pm.  
Details: 01925 262356

**Every first Wednesday**  
Walton WI  
St John's Church Community Hall. 7.30pm

First and third Wednesday each month  
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS  
Sandy Lane Centre, Stockton Heath.  
8pm. Details: 01925 268311

**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**  
Grappenhall Village Sports Club  
Stockton Lane. 7.30pm. Details 01928 712233

**Every second Thursday**  
STRETTON WI  
Appleton Parish Hall, Dudlow Green Road. 2.30pm.

**GRAPPENHALL PROBUS CLUB**  
Grappenhall Community Centre, Bellhouse Lane,  
10am.  
Details: 01925 264427.

**Every third Thursday**  
NORTH EAST CHESHIRE FLOWER CLUB  
Appleton Parish Hall, Dudlow Green Road. 2pm  
Details: 01925 740419

**GRAPPENHALL WI**  
Grappenhall Community Centre, Bellhouse Lane  
2.15pm

**Every Friday**  
APPLETOTS TODDLER GROUP  
Appleton Parish Hall, Dudlow Green Road.  
9.45-11.30am. Details: 01925 268153.

To list your event call Village Life on  
**01925 623632**



# A traditional 'Sleeping Beauty'

A TRADITIONAL family pantomime, 'Sleeping Beauty' will be staged by Knutsford Little Theatre on January 16-25.

Written by Ben Crocker, the pantomime has all the well-loved features - the beautiful princess, the handsome prince and the enchantment of sleep.

The show goes on at 7pm every evening and there are matinee performances on Saturday at 2pm and Sunday at 11.30am and 3.30pm.

A "less traditional" panto is being staged by the Bridgewater Players at Thelwall Parish Hall on February 13-15.

"I'm a Celebrity Pantomime Dame, Get Me out of Here" has been written by member Ian Hornby.

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