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Issue 166 January 2015 FREE

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Live Long and Prosper

Why financial planning is good for you

According to a recent report by the Nationwide Building Society the secret to health and happiness is not necessarily how much you earn or how you earn it. It's whether you feel in control of your money and your life. A new study by two universities in the United States has found that feeling on top of things doesn't just make you happier, it can help you live longer too*. And these benefits apply no matter how much you earn.

The problem is however that over 30 million people in this country don't feel they have their finances under control according to a survey from ThinkMoney. If your finances are 'neat and tidy' then it allows you to go about your everyday life better. It stops you from waking up at 4am worrying about the future. This is not rocket science.

So how do you begin to get a grip of your financial situation? Well here are a few tips.

Make a financial plan – *Good time to do in January!*

This may seem obvious but it is the starting point to getting your finances in order and establishing some control over your life. The main areas to consider are budget, retirement planning, savings and investments, and emergency funds.

Set a goal

Equally important is knowing what you want to achieve from your financial plan. What are you saving for, how long do you want to save? There are so many people I talk to that don't know how much they want at retirement, or how their pension fund relates to this. Our technology on a client's personalised website allows them to set a goal for one or more of their financial products. They can then monitor this whenever they like by simply logging on to the website and observing the graph. It really is that easy.

*www.urmc.rochester.edu/news/story/index.cfm?id=4005october2014

Markets

The world's stock markets have rallied significantly towards the end of 2014. And if the European Central Bank announces a series of Quantitative Easing, as they should, then expect a cracking start to 2015. I would also expect sterling to increase significantly against the Euro if this was announced, so delay buying your currency for a while!

Don Wernham,
Financial Planner



– TECHNOLOGY

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PENSIONS

• Pensions are changing due to the March 2014 budget and you now have a lot more options to consider'

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1st Floor, 67 London Road
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Tel: 01925 266628
Fax: 01925 267043



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
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Editor's comment

ANOTHER year has gone and still parking remains one of the biggest issues in our postbag - not least at Stockton Heath.

It's strange, really, because the village is blessed with more parking spaces than most and it is handily located for most of the shops.

Of course, it is pay-and-display and there remains a good proportion of the motoring community who believe it should be free - particularly when the car parks offer the driver no more security than parking anywhere else.

Indeed, the activities of over-zealous parking wardens have made them more feared than car thieves in the minds of many motorists.

But cost is not the only issue. Parking is a problem in Stockton Heath even in the evening when the car parks are free.

The village's many bars and restaurants fuel a booming evening economy and it seems at times there are more people - and more cars - in the evening than during the day. The free car parks are not always full, yet the side roads near the village centre are lined with vehicles, often badly parked, obstructing footpaths and making life generally difficult for local residents.

The dining-out fraternity, it seems,

not only want to park free but also as near as possible to the restaurant where they are dining.

This has implications for that other problem of which we are always reading about these days - the rising level of obesity in society.

What the answer is, we do not pretend to know. But a council operated parking service which antagonises motorists, drives shoppers away and still runs at a loss clearly isn't it.

Perhaps it might be better to scrap the parking service altogether, erase all the yellow lines and allow parking anywhere except in places where there are obvious road safety and obstruction issues?

May be a little drastic - but the existing car parking management is certainly not working.

IT is 10 years since the first Grappenhall Charity Walk organised by local resident Roy Kettle in memory of his wife, Sue.

The 10th annual walk raised £2,900 and brought the total raised for Breakthrough Breast Cancer over the 10 years to around £30,000. What a magnificent achievement.



Roy and his son, Martin, always attribute the success of the event to the local people who take part in the 5k walk around the village and it is true that without them there would be no walk.

But Roy and Martin deserve recognition for the quiet, unassuming but dedicated way in which they have gone about organising an event that has become part of the local calendar. Well done, both of you!

Happy New Year to all our readers and advertisers

Park zoo staff devastated by death of BoBo the donkey

STAFF at the Children's Zoo based at Walton Hall Gardens have been left devastated following the death of BoBo the donkey - the oldest resident of the zoo.

BoBo was 29 years old, and had suffered various health problems over the past couple of years, including Cushing's disease and dental problems.

He was treated for colic and then the zoo vet diagnosed a twisted gut after he failed to respond to treatment, which left no other option other than euthanasia to ensure BoBo did not suffer any more.

BoBo was born at the zoo on 16th May 1985, meaning that many residents of Warrington have grown up with him.

Due to his mother being poorly, BoBo was hand reared by Zoo Ranger Peter Cookson Dean - even living in his house for the first 6 months of his life!

BoBo went on to become the most popular resident in the zoo, posing for hundreds of photographs and being visited by thousands of children.

He had a donkey disco for his 21st birthday and even had a beer named after him at a beer festival!

Peter said: "The Children's Zoo will not be the same without him."



Green fingered pupils plant new trees

GREEN-FINGERED pupils from St Thomas's Primary School, Stockton Heath, have joined forces with housing chiefs and parish councillors to plant more than 30 new trees.

Golden Gates Housing Trust (GGHT) and Stockton Heath Parish Council provided the land and the trees while the youngsters planted the 33 Silver Birch and Sorbus Aucuparia trees on Chadwick Avenue in Stockton Heath.

The aim is to improve the look and feel of area while at the same time considering the environment.

The project concept, delivery and funds were spearheaded by the parish council, residents of Chadwick Avenue and Willow Drive and the Warrington Borough Council Community Chest.

Residents of the two streets also came together to contribute generously towards the cost of the trees.

GGHT chairman Roy Smith said: "It is important to recognise that children represent our future and educating them on the environment is critical. "Planting trees is one of the easiest ways we can look after our environment. We would like to thank St Thomas's Primary School, the local parish council, residents and WBC Community Chest for coming together to make this initiative happen.

■ From left to right: Mike Claffey, GGHT, Paul Taylor, Warrington Borough Council, Cllr Chris Jones and Cllr Ann Raymond, Stockton Heath Parish Council and pupils from St Thomas's Primary School.



Disability campaigner's TV award

DISABILITY campaigner Jonathan Levy has been recognised for his contribution to a TV film about dyspraxia – a little understood condition which affects between 5-10 per cent of the population.

Jonathan (pictured), aged 23, from Appleton, appeared on the Channel 4 series "Embarrassing Bodies" raising awareness of dyspraxia, a neurological condition which affects speech, movement and co-ordination.

A series of films aired in the series – including one involving Jonathan and dealing with dyspraxia – have won a Mind Media Award.

The judges highlighted Jonathan's film for encouraging and engaging an audience, who might not naturally sit down to learn about mental health issues.

Jonathan said: "This is wonderful news and another milestone in my never-ending quest to raise awareness

of dyspraxia, a condition which is so poorly understood and relatively unheard of, despite overlapping with autism and dyslexia, both of which are far more well-known.



"Although my Embarrassing Bodies film was very well received, my decision to appear on the programme was questioned by some people with a few claims that it would damage my career.

"To the contrary, it has made it easier to start conversations about dyspraxia and made it less of a taboo subject, while my career has continued to progress."

Jonathan's film was recorded at his workplace, the Tim Parry Johnathan Ball Peace Centre in Great Sankey, and near his home in Appleton, showing a range of everyday tasks that can be difficult for people with dyspraxia, such as cooking, tying shoelaces, using office equipment and crossing roads.

The film also highlighted other symptoms of the condition which can include exaggerated arm movements, poor hand-eye coordination and speech with uncontrolled pitch,

volume and rate.

Dyspraxia affects between 5-10 per cent of the population – two per cent, severely.

Males are up to three times more likely to be affected than females. Dyspraxia sometimes runs in families and there are believed to be two children affected in every class of 30 children.

There are many adults who are unaware that they have the condition.

Jonathan Levy as a trustee of the Dyspraxia Foundation, a national charity which works to enable children, young people and adults to reach their full potential in life.

Anyone who thinks they or their child may have dyspraxia should visit www.dyspraxiafoundation.org.uk

Advertiser's announcement

Cultural tours and music holidays

If you want to do a holiday with a difference and with likeminded people, one of these holidays would be a good choice for you. Whether you travel alone or as a couple these tours are perfect for you.

Take a tour of the Art Cities of Flanders, this is a 5 night tour based in Bruges where you will be introduced to some of the greatest examples of Flemish art in three cities. A Classic tour of Bulgaria for 9 nights visiting

Thracian, Roman and Byzantine sites as well as medieval Orthodox monasteries, whilst driving through beautiful countryside. Six night tour of the Western Front introducing you to the complexities of the Great War ie Ypres Battlefields, Menin Gate Memorial, Notre Dame etc. The Palaces and Galleries of St Petersburg for a 6 night tour visiting Menshikov Palace, Alexander Nevsky Monastery, various cathedrals, theatres and great

churches.

In Italy there are several different tours ie Umbria, which is a 7 night tour starting in Perugia which is a great artistic centre-travel through the lovely countryside visiting various cultural centres. Villas and Gardens around Rome is a 5 night tour – experience the geology, botany and gardens in the countryside around Rome.

In Madeira there is a 6 night tour visiting the Gardens of Madeira, the volcanic landscape is covered by constant carpet of flowers and when in Madeira you will be able to see an astonishing array of flowers, plants, trees and shrubs.

There are different Music tours/festivals you can take part in, these will differ each year but in 2014 There was a Chopin Festival in Majorca for 6 nights, Choral Cruise to Ireland and the Scottish Isles for 11 nights, A Music Festival at sea whilst on a cruise to Iceland for 11 nights, Malta Baroque Music Festival for 7 nights,



■ Linda Crowder – Stockton Heath Travel

La Scala in Milan for 4 nights, The Dresden Music Festival & Performances at the Semper Opera etc. etc.

All the above have their own tour leaders and includes return flights, entrance fees and tickets to opera etc. On many of the tours where appropriate you will have the services of a tour lecturer who are very knowledgeable. The tours are operated with small number of people between 10 and 22 people. If you would like more information on what is available for 2015 please do not hesitate to contact us

We are open Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm and Saturdays 9am to 4pm. If you cannot make these times we are happy to arrange an appointment at your convenience.

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Residents holding a peaceful demonstration opposing the plans



Developer seeks talks with planners

HOUSE builders Bloor Homes has now approached planning chiefs for pre-application talks on their proposals to build more than 80 homes at Appleton Thorn.

No formal planning application has yet been made – but sceptical villagers are speculating that it could be made around the Christmas holiday period when it might escape the

notice of many people.

Two consultation meetings by the company have done nothing to convince the majority of residents that Appleton Thorn needs any more houses – particularly on the site off Stretton Road, opposite the village hall, which many had hoped might one day become a village green.

Bloor have put forward three options for local people to consider

– involving 76, 67 and 56 homes respectively. But the plan displayed at the original consultation meeting showed 82 homes.

Cllr Dot Edwards, chairman of Appleton Parish Council, said: “We understand the developer has asked for pre-application talks with the borough council. This is their first official move. The consultation meetings were purely for the benefit

of local people.

“But we have not heard anything about a formal planning application yet.

“The parish council can’t oppose anything until we have seen an application – but we have made it clear we are likely to support the residents who are opposed to the scheme.

New £4.3m juniors’ building work well under way

CONSTRUCTION work is well underway on a new, purpose-built Junior School building and central ‘Hub’ at Withington Girls’ School costing £4.3m (inclusive of fees and VAT).

The leading independent school for girls aged 7 to 18 has commissioned a state-of-the-art Junior School to be built within the grounds of Withington’s existing site in Fallowfield, Manchester.

The project will deliver a new suite of classrooms for younger pupils, enabling two-form rather than single-form entry in both Years 5 and 6, and enhancing accommodation and facilities available for the whole School. There will also be a light and airy social ‘Hub’ with a new roofed courtyard area linking the Junior and Senior departments.

Withington’s new Junior School building will be capped by an eco-friendly wildflower grass roof, and much of the preparatory work is being carried out off site to reduce disruption.

With construction due for completion in summer 2015 – Withington’s 125th anniversary year – this latest investment follows a decade of improvements at the school including a new £2m Sixth Form Centre and Bistro in 2009 and a £1.2m Science development just a few years earlier. The new Junior School and ‘Hub’ will be the largest single development in the School’s history.

The project has been designed by Manchester and London-based architects Levitt Bernstein, who have created a master plan to meet Withington’s long term development strategy. Builder and developer

Seddon, which delivered a £1.2 million science block for the school in 2004, has been appointed as lead contractor on the project.

Withington’s Headmistress Mrs Sue Marks said: “Withington Girls’ School has a heritage of vision stretching back to its foundation by a group of leading Manchester families in 1890. The new Junior

School and Hub will help to ensure that Withington remains at the forefront of girls’ education nationally in the way our founders intended, offering exceptional opportunities for personal development – academic, cultural, sporting and social – and encouraging independence of mind and high aspirations”.

“I am delighted to announce that,

from September 2015 onwards, our means-tested bursary scheme will be extended to include junior girls coming into Years 5 and 6. This will be in addition to the senior school bursary programme which currently helps around one-in-six senior girls with the fees, according to each family’s needs.”



"Sports teach discipline and commitment, they challenge and build character for everything you do in life." *Howie Long*

2015 ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS

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Burglaries drop by 26%

THE number of burglaries in November saw a 26% drop compared to last year in Cheshire, down from 300 to 221.

In the build up to Christmas, Cheshire Police ran their "Blue Christmas" campaign, working with residents to reduce the number of victims of crime.

The campaign has been encouraging people to think about security including home, vehicle, and personal security as well as property marking.

Superintendent Martin Cleworth said: "It is great to see that the people of Cheshire have really taken the messages onboard and are making life difficult for criminals in our area. The advice we have been giving out is simple security advice, the key is to get people to think about it so that they will act.

"A 26% drop in burglaries is impressive but more importantly that figure means there are 79 less families or individuals having to deal with the distress and upset that comes with being burgled. I would encourage everyone to keep up the good work and continue to ensure that your home and valuables are as secure as they can be."

If you have any information about criminals operating in your area call 101 or alternatively you can call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111. In an emergency always call 999.

The Wonders of Walton

LOCAL photographer Andy Gilbert has been holding a "Wonders of Walton" exhibition at Walton Hall & Gardens.

The former environmental health chief, who is a member of Warrington and District Camara Club, has been delighted with feedback to his exhibition.

Now the Friends of Walton Estate who sponsored the exhibition, have agreed with WBC estate manager to refurbish one of the former stables in the heritage courtyard in order to make a gallery - and to incorporate the exhibition to make it more accessible to the public on a daily basis.

Andy, who lives in Appleton said: "A few years ago I joined the Warrington and District Camera Club and what a great way to boost your technical abilities and confidence as a photographer - whether a beginner or enthusiast. It gave me the confidence to hold an exhibition at a local framing and picture gallery in Latchford. It went very well, and I am now selling my pictures on a regular basis.

"Although I have, and will continue to travel around the world recording and interpreting what I see, I have taken many many good subjects here in Warrington."



■ The exhibition at Walton Hall & Gardens.

Students focus on page design

A PHOTOGRAPHY magazine read across the world has challenged students from Priestley College to design some of its pages.

Professional Imagemaker - which is delivered to photographers in 72 countries - has asked BTEC Graphic Design students at Priestley to create pages fit for its readership.

"The biggest thing the students bring to it is they have no pre-conceived ideas of how our pages should look so therefore they come up with some incredibly fresh and original ideas," said Mike McNamee, editor of Professional Imagemaker.

"I don't put any restraints on them other than the page size and on more than one occasion I have sought an appropriate article to fit their design."

It is the 10th year the magazine has worked with Priestley to give students the opportunity to have their work displayed in an internationally-known publication.

All their ideas will be printed in Professional Imagemaker, but the best ones will be used to inspire actual feature pages with the students being credited as 'guest designers'.

Priestley Tutor Paul McConnell said it was a great opportunity for the graphic designers to work on a brief set by a client.

"It gets them used to working with professionals on a project that has real expectations and deadlines," he said.

"It is something for all of them to include in their CVs and portfolios, especially for those whose designs inspire actual pages in the magazine."

Professional Imagemaker recently published its 75th edition and has grown over the years from a 16-page publication to now regularly boasting over 150 pages.

Readers subscribe from across the world including America, Korea

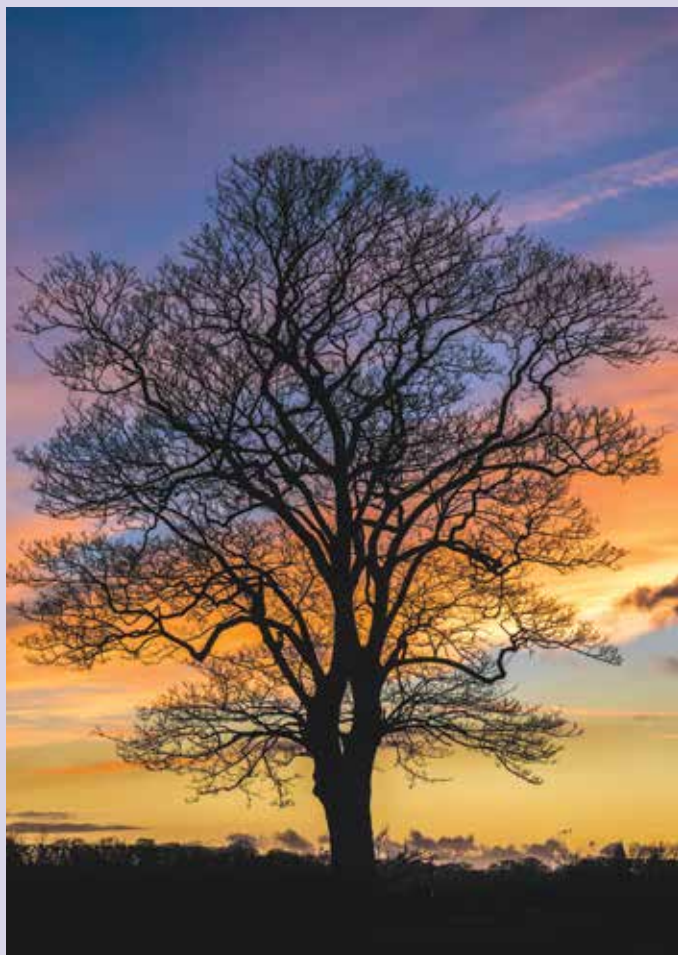
and China and those involved in the magazine hold seminars in the UK, Europe and as far away as Dubai.

Mike, who lives in Wirral, said he hoped working with Priestley College was helping young graphic designers of the future.

"This will give them a story to tell when they go for job interviews and hopefully a lot of confidence in their own abilities," he said.

■ Some of the students working on the Imagemaker project.





■ Sunset in Walton.



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Kind-hearted law firm launch food bank

BIG hearted staff at legal firm FDR Law in Stockton Heath have collected dozens of food tins, packets and cartons to donate to a local food bank run by the Parish Church of St Thomas with St Mary Magdalene.

Inspired by the financial hardship of some of their clients, solicitors Emma Allchurch and Jennifer Roulston appealed to their own staff to donate a few items from their weekly shop.

Emma, who is a residential property solicitor based at the FDR office on Walton Road, said they had been overwhelmed at the response.

"Almost everyone here has been in



a position where money has been tight in the past. It really struck a chord with our staff, knowing some people in Stockton Heath were struggling to feed their families, particularly during the school summer holidays.

"The food bank at St Thomas's actually ran out of food at times

during the summer break so there is still a massive need for us all to pull together to help.

"Organising a food bank at the office made it very easy for staff to give and it's definitely something we will think about doing again in the future."

FDR Law's office on Walton Road, Stockton Heath, provides expert legal services in wills and probate, family issues and conveyancing. For more information contact 01925 604713, www.fdrlaw.co.uk

Matt's marathon challenge



IT'S more than 1,000 miles from Appleton to Poland – but that's how far Matt Whitworth travelled to take on the Warsaw Marathon and raise money for the Clatterbridge Cancer Charity.

Matt – who works for supply chain company Flextronics at Appleton – was challenged by a colleague from the company's Polish site, to fly over and tackle the country's biggest running event.

He joined 10,000 participants on the day and raised just under £2,000 on behalf of the charity. He crossed the finish line at the prestigious 60,000 capacity National Stadium in four hours, 10 minutes and 46 seconds.

Matt said: "I went over to our partner site in Poland and during a meeting with some of the team we got onto the subject of marathons. The general manager asked if I would like to do the Warsaw marathon with him and I accepted his offer, hoping that he'd forget!

"Fast-forward a few months and I was back over there and he reminded me of that very conversation. This only gave me seven weeks to train so it was pretty intense from that point on.

"The main motivation for taking on the challenge was to raise money for Clatterbridge. So many people are affected by cancer and I saw the marathon as a perfect opportunity to raise more money for a great cause."

Lady Jane's legacy is laid to rest

THEY are believed to be among the narrowest pavements of any shopping street in England – and they were laid more than 220 years ago.

But now they are to be brought right up to date in a scheme to boost shopping, dining out and quality of life – without destroying heritage.

The pavements in Knutsford's King Street – the "Bottom Street" to locals – will be widened as part of an innovative project to bring it into the 21st century.

The story goes that the pavements were paid for in the late 18th century by Lady Jane Stanley, daughter of the 11th Earl of Derby.

She made one condition. She was a lifelong spinster and had an aversion to seeing men and women walking arm in arm.

She decreed that Knutsford's pavements should be wide enough only for one person – and in places they have stayed like that ever since.

But not for much longer. Changes are afoot to make King Street a more vibrant public space and improve access for people whose mobility is impaired, while maintaining vehicular access at all times and as much on-street parking as possible.

Cllr Michael Jones, leader of Cheshire East Council, who will be footing the bill this time, said: "I am all in favour of retaining our fantastic heritage, but this is one of those occasions when we can improve on the legacy of the past.

"We want to create a space which will be enjoyed by residents – whether they are walking arm in arm or not – while also attracting visitors and enabling businesses in the locality to thrive.

"The shops and businesses on King Street are a great asset and the street merits and deserves enhancement works."

Just what Lady Jane would have thought of the scheme is impossible to say, but she was a formidable woman and had a robust way of making her views known.

An 1859 history of the town records that at least one countryman, who got in her way while she was out walking, received a firm tap from Lady Jane's gold-headed cane, accompanied with

the words: "Take that, fellow!"

But she often avoided confrontations on Knutsford's narrow pavements by taking to her sedan chair, which can still be seen in the town's heritage centre.

Pictured: The narrow pavements of King Street – and an artist's impression of how they will look.



Above: King Street as it is now and below as it will be.



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Money Column

By Margaret Black

Taxes for the New Year

Hopefully, you have all recovered from the hangovers and other related ailments that afflict people over Xmas and New Year. Like many other accountants, we look forward to the end of January when we can hopefully celebrate getting all clients' tax returns into the tax office on time.

If you do have difficulties in submitting your return then please contact us. We would be pleased to assist. Do not delay! Submitting your return after the deadline will incur a penalty of £100. Further delay, however, will only make the problem worse, and penalties can quickly escalate to over £1,500. Burying your head in the sands is an option, but a very expensive one.

There are a couple of changes to VAT that may affect some of you, particularly one concerning the treatment of prompt payment discounts.

Many businesses offer their customers a discount if they pay outstanding invoices by the due date. At present, VAT is calculated on the sales value net of the prompt payment discount, and this applies even if the discount is not taken. In effect, the

discount is treated for VAT purposes as a separate supply of a finance charge which is an exempt supply. As from April 2015, except for a small specialised sector for whom this change has already taken place, the calculation is amended so that VAT is calculated on the full amount received for the sale.

Clearly, if you are a VAT registered business and are able to reclaim VAT on purchases then this change will not make any difference to you. However, if you are the end-consumer, or a VAT exempt business, then this will increase the price you pay for some goods or services if you do not take advantage of the discount. For instance, if your supplier offers a prompt payment discount of 5% then if you do not take advantage of this the cost of that supply will increase by about 1%.

Is this a bad thing? Perhaps not, for a couple of reasons.

Firstly, for the vast majority of people this change is totally irrelevant. They go to a shop, buy whatever they need, and pay for it immediately without any need for a discount. The only people who may be affected are those who are offered credit terms by



the supplier, and most of these will be VAT registered and therefore able to reclaim any VAT charged.

Secondly, and most importantly, even those people who may be affected will only be affected if they do not meet the credit terms to which they have previously agreed. If they pay on time then the price paid will be exactly the same as before.

Perhaps, therefore, this is a timely lesson that we should all pay our bills on time. Why not make this our 2015 New Year Resolution!

The Money Column is provided by
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Rebecca's inspirational bridalwear shop

WHEN Rebecca Lord-Lyon came to order her wedding dress she was at first disheartened - but then inspired.

She was disheartened because she could not find a bridal shop that stocked larger sizes and ended up having to make her own.

That gave her the inspiration - to open her own bridal shop that would cater for everyone, regardless of size.

Rebecca had worked at several bridal shops previously, in this country and in Australia, where she lived for 18 months.

Now her dream of owning her own business has come true with the opening of Edith & Winston Bridalwear, in Princess Street, Knutsford.

Rebecca and her husband, Callum, put two years hard work and planning into opening the shop that aims to give everyone the best possible service.

Today Edith & Winston's dresses can be ordered from a size 6 up to a size 32, but to give everyone the chance to experience the feeling that



you should have when entering a bridal shop, Rebecca has purchased a range that starts at size 14+ - a size that can be pulled in to show a smaller person how it looks.

She can also order in sample sizes

for the smaller customer.

Rebecca's hope is that everyone will feel they can visit her - whatever their size - without fear of embarrassment.

Rebecca has herself tried to lose weight but has accepted that she will never be tiny.

She wants to help give others the confidence to wear the perfect wedding dress that makes them feel amazing on their big day.

A former pupil of Lymm High School, Rebecca obtained a degree at Nottingham Trent University. She was brought up in Thelwall and still lives in nearby Latchford.

She originally hoped to work in the costume department on Harry Potter films but when filming finished later worked as a personal carer before deciding that while she still wanted to help people, her calling was still in design and, hopefully, in giving people self-esteem.

The Teddy Bears are back – with one face sadly missing

THE annual charity jazz concert organised by the Lymm and Thelwall branch of Contact the Elderly takes place at Grappenhall Community Centre on Friday, February 13.

As usual the popular Chicago Teddy Bears Society Jazz Band will be providing the music - although this year one familiar face will be missing. Pianist Neville Goodwin, the oldest member of the band, sadly passed away recently, aged 84.

The former police sergeant from Manchester had been a member of the band for 28 years.

Over the years, the band's line-up has remained remarkably consistent and most of the regulars expect to be there on the night, including popular bassist/vocalist Rae Owens, saxophonist/clarinettist John Hallam, drummer/vocalist Brian Singleton and guitarist/banjoist Tony Ormesher, trumpeter Jim Lucas and trombonist Andrew McKenzie.

Drummer Brian Singleton, who with 30 years in the band is the longest serving member, said: "We haven't replaced Neville. I miss hearing him playing away to my right and obviously the band isn't quite the same without him. We've had to adapt things slightly because there is no piano but I think most people still

enjoy our music.

"Neville passed away peacefully in his sleep and was playing with us right to the end. I'm sure that's how he would have wanted it."

The concert starts at 8pm and tickets, £12.50 including a two-

course supper, can be obtained from Colin Melrose on 01925 756742.

Contact the Elderly rely on the concert to raise money to organise afternoon teas, trips out and other functions for elderly people in the local area.

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What's on in the villages

January 13

STOCKTON HEATH PARISH COUNCIL

Sandy Lane Centre, Stockton Heath. 7.30pm

January 20

APPLETON PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Hall, Dudlow Green Road. 7.30pm

January 15

GRAPPENHALL & THELWALL PARISH COUNCIL

Council Offices, Bellhouse Lane. 7.30pm

Every Sunday

GRAPPENHALL HEYS WALLED GARDEN

Witherwin Avenue, Grappenhall Heys, WA4 3DS.

Cafe open from 1-4pm serving teas, coffee, home-made cakes and savouries.

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 LEIGH RUBBER BRIDGE CLUB

Village Hall, 7-10pm. 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 Wednesday

APPLETON HALL BADMINTON CLUB

September - April 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

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 264427.

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

APPLETONS 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

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Rare turkeys are safe from Christmas!

ZOO rangers are celebrating the birth of eleven rare turkeys at Walton Park Children's Zoo, Warrington.

The rare Borbon Reds will not be destined for the Christmas table.

Depending on their sexes they will either carry on living as the zoo as a visitor attraction or be moved on to other collections for breeding.

Zoo ranger Peter Cookson Dean said: "These are a rare breed of bird. A pair normally have 4-5 chicks but to have eleven is very unusual.

"They are such a rare breed they will certainly not be destined for any Christmas table.

■ *Top: One of the chicks.
Right: Peter Cookson Dean with the proud turkey dad.
Below: Proud mum with her brood.*



Witnesses sought after postal worker airlifted to hospital

POLICE are appealing for witnesses after a young postal worker was airlifted to hospital following a road traffic collision at Appleton, Warrington.

The incident took place in Chessington Close at around 10:45am on Saturday, December 13, when the 20-year man was injured after a van collided with him in the close.

As a result the man suffered serious leg injuries an air ambulance was called to transport him to Wythenshawe Hospital where he remains in a stable condition. The investigation continues to establish the circumstances surrounding the incident.

Anyone who was in the area at the time and saw the incident should call 101 quoting incident 443 of 13/12/2014.



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