

VILLAGE

Your Community Magazine

Issue 163 October 2014 **FREE**

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**Record breaking
garden event**

Page 3



Independent Financial Advice v Restricted Financial Advice

Do you know the difference?

The word restricted comes across as an awful word when it comes to financial matters, and it can be very confusing for the public too.

What a restricted financial planner is most certainly not, is like what the old tied adviser of the 1990's used to be. A restricted firm **chooses to limit** the number of areas of financial advice that they choose to advise on.

The Financial Regulator, The Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) states that if a financial firm chooses to specialise in a particular market then it **should not** hold itself out as acting independently in the broader sense. What the regulator is telling us here is that a true independent financial adviser should be able to give advice, or at least offer advice from all product areas on the market. This could include deposit accounts, structured products, or life protection plans to name but a few.

Look at this from a health service analogy. Let's suppose you go and see a GP who will give holistic health advice to many people. But if you went to see your GP about your eye sight for example, if he cannot resolve your problem he may well refer you to an eye specialist. There is that word again, specialist. If you think about it, when it comes to your health, you would want to be seen by a specialist wouldn't you?

I think most people when they are making financial decisions, rather like with their health, would want to see a specialist. Here at Simple Solutions we specialise in Investments, along with Pensions this is our core business. So the FCA will class our firm as restricted.

So although the word restricted does come across as being a little negative and somewhat off putting, in essence the word is quite positive in terms of a financial practice such as ours. Therefore Simple Solutions shall move to restricted status from 1st October 2014.



Don Wernham,
Financial Planner

TECHNOLOGY

Simple Solutions uses the latest technology to keep you updated, even when you are on the move or abroad, check out our website for more details.



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

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- Risk Profiling
- Diversification
- Correlation

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Editor's comment

AT risk of being dubbed kill
joys, we must again express
our astonishment that those in
authority - the far distant Halton
Borough Council - apparently
continue to believe open fields at
Daresbury are a suitable location
for the Creamfields music festival.

Another has been and gone and yet
again the event has been surrounded
by controversy.

We will not dwell upon the deaths
of two young men because, at the time
of writing, it has not been shown that
there was any direct link between
them and the festival. We will not say
too much, either, about the deaths of
two dogs apparently locked in the
back of a security van, although it is
difficult to see how such a needless
tragedy was through anything other
than gross carelessness on someone's
part.

But again the weather intervened.
It was not so severe as two years ago,
when the festival had to be cut short
for health and safety reasons due to
waterlogged fields. But it was bad

and if it had not been for significant
earthmoving operations could easily
have resulted in the A56 being
blocked.

As it was, this busy road was
plastered with mud for days
afterwards and at times must have
presented a very real skid risk for
passing motorists. If some local
farmer has caused such a mess he
would almost certainly have had
action taken against him.

Then there was the noise. The
music could be heard inside a house,
above the sound of the television, as
far away as Penketh! In the Stockton
Heath area, some houses were literally
shaken by the beat of the music. The
profanities of a foul-mouthed DJ
could be clearly heard.

What must it have been like for
people living only a matter of yards
from the festival site? The noise, the
lights, the mud, the eyesore metal
fencing in front of their homes - the
60,000 revellers who descended on
what is normally a peaceful village.

We hear a lot about Human Rights
these days, but it would seem the



residents of Daresbury don't have any.
Some years ago, two of them had the
audacity to go to court to try and
stop Creamfields. Not only did they
fail, but the judge ordered them to
pay hefty costs.

The lunatics have taken over the
asylum.

Meanwhile it is refreshing to see that
people power appears to have won
the day regarding the Sandly lane
recycling Centre at Stockton Heath,
with the council approving a u-turn
on the closure decision.

Fingers crossed they can find a way
to make it sustainable!

Record numbers attend open garden event

**WET weather didn't deter a record number of people from attending a
Thelwall couple's open garden weekend - raising more than £3,000 for the
National Garden Scheme Charities.**

Despite the poor weather Howard
and Wendy Platt had a record 452
visitors to their gardens at Laskey
Farm, Thelwall and only one was brave

enough to have a swim!

Combined with earlier and future
visits from garden groups in 2014
they will have seen over 500 people

and raised in excess of £3,000.

Howard and Wendy said: "As always
thank you for your support!"



Council was 'not open and transparent' over tip closure plan

WARRINGTON Borough Council's decision to complete a u-turn on the decision to close the Sandy Lane Recycling Centre at Stockton Heath has been welcomed by opposition councillors who have accused the controlling Labour group of not being 'open and transparent'.

Cllr Bob Barr, deputy leader of the Lib Dems said: "The Liberal Democrat Group can only welcome the "u-turn" and believe that the Council should heed the feeling of people in South Warrington that this administration is not working on their behalf."

"The bottom line is that the decision to close Stockton Heath Recycling Centre was wrongly made, was not open or transparent and was not based on an appropriate public consultation."

The decision, which has now been rubber stamped by the council's executive Board followed a four week public consultation about the council's waste and recycling services and means that the opening hours for the three Community Recycling Centres (CRC) are:

- Gatewath will be 8am to 6pm all week
- Woolston will be 10am to 4pm weekdays with weekend openings of 8am to 6pm.
- Stockton Heath will be 10am to 4pm weekdays with weekend openings of 8am to 6pm during the summer and 10am to 4pm weekdays with weekend openings of 8am to 4pm during the winter.

This is part of an overall decision to award a new contract for the management of the town's three CRCs which can now be put in place from late autumn.

This follows a tender exercise to reduce expenditure and provide efficiencies within the waste service for 2014/15.

Cllr David Keane, executive board member for environment and public protection, said: "I want to thank everyone who took the time to take part in the waste and recycling consultation

and we have taken on board all the comments and feedback.

"We have listened to what people have said and have addressed specific concerns raised about the future of the Stockton Heath CRC. This decision to keep the site open also means that we can maintain current services while we progress with a new waste strategy.

"Our aim is still to continue with our excellent recycling rates and support residents and the consultation has been a very fruitful exercise in terms

of helping us to do this. For example it is clear from the results that residents would like to see the development and expansion of kerbside recycling services to help boost recycling levels.

"The council will look into ways of expanding the current services as part of the development of the new waste strategy during the next 12 months, including improving localised recycling facilities and also progress the proposal of a single CRC site for the town."

Cllr Barr added: "One can't help but sympathise with Cllr David Keane on the twists and turns he is having to make to justify the "u-turn" on recycling centres forced on him by the public, assisted by the Liberal Democrat Group on the

Council.

"First a decision, apparently against Cllr Keane's wishes and the advice of the one Labour Councillor representing Warrington south of the Ship Canal and their Warrington South PPC, was forced through by the Leaders of the Council.

"Then he had to argue, at the call-in meeting, that the Liberal Democrats had not queried the agenda item at the Executive Board which purported to be about the award of a new recycling contract but actually turned out to be about the closure of recycling centres. And then, in desperation, he argued that it was always the intention to consult about recycling centres after the closure decision had been made.



■ Left to right: Local councillors Laurence Murphy and Helen Dutton with councillor David Keane.

Hotel invests in state of the art gym

THE Park Royal in Stretton, Warrington, part of QHotels, has worked with Pulse Fitness to create a new state of the art gym, enhancing its guest leisure offering with 50 new pieces of equipment.

The hotel has invested £170k in developing a fitness suite to exceed all expectations of a traditional hotel gym.

The Park Royal is the first hotel to receive the Console 6, an 18.5" android tablet touch screen attached to the Fusion Cardiovascular range, allows users to experience digital TV and radio, as well as full internet browsing and social media access during their workout.

The cardiovascular kit also includes SmartCentre, an interactive system which provides motivation, stores personalised workout programmes and gives user feedback and guidance. The Park Royal will be the first site to use smartcentre.com, a web based platform that auto connects member's personal fitness data inside and outside the gym environment, allowing them even greater accuracy in tracking their progress. In addition to this state of the art equipment,

the facility will benefit from Pulse's Evolve strength equipment.

QHotels have been working with Pulse since 2010 and have installed equipment at three other hotels in the portfolio.

Dave Heap, Group Leisure and Spa Manager for QHotels, says. "We're passionate about offering our guests and members the best leisure experience we can and the new equipment from Pulse allows us to do just that. The new facilities also enable users to stay online with hotel WiFi throughout their workout, something we know is important to business guests specifically.

"Pulse offer fantastic support and comprehensive training, they're dedicated, supportive and they've helped add value to our hotels. Choosing them to supply equipment for The Park Royal was an easy decision."

Pulse has already supplied QHotels with one piece of CV and resistance equipment, as well as a SmartCentre kiosk for The Park Royal to offer the induction process for their 2,000 members and minimise disruption.

"We are thrilled to be creating such

a fantastic facility which reflects the high standards of The Park Royal" says Kenny Wattam, Pulse's account manager for the hotel sector.

"We're very proud of the Console 6 and can't think of a better venue

at which to launch this equipment. Both leisure and business travellers will benefit from the world class technology which dramatically enhances their workout experience."





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Stretton scuba diver visits WW1 wreck

A SCUBA diver from Stretton was part of a team who laid a wreath and raised a flag on the wreck of a First World War ship to remember the 250 crewmen who lost their lives.

Sophie Heptonstall, 34, a marketing manager and a member of Hartford Sub Aqua Club, was one of team of 10 British Sub-Aqua Club (BSAC) divers who took part in the commemorative dive on the wreck of HMS Pathfinder - the first ever ship to be sunk by a submarine-launched torpedo.

HMS Pathfinder was steaming off the east coast of Scotland, near St Abbs Head, on September 5, 1914, when the locomotive torpedo from German U-boat 21 slammed into her side and the ship went down.

The flash ignited the ship's magazine, destroying the fore section of the ship and causing the foremast and number one funnel to collapse.

The majority of crew below decks had neither the time nor opportunity to escape and went down with the ship.

The aim of the dive was to take more photos and video footage of the wreck to ensure her story is recorded in more detail for future generations.

Sophie, a qualified First Class BSAC diver and National Instructor who has been diving for 22 years, says the technical dive proved to be a sombre and poignant occasion.

She said: "The weather was perfect, it really couldn't have been kinder to us with the sea flat calm. Visibility was also good and it just proved to be a wonderful occasion. We were so glad to welcome John Magee, whose grandfather was the Master at Arms of the Pathfinder, and died in the disaster.

"John's presence really drove it home to me that this was a human

disaster, as all war is, and 250 men died when this one ship was sunk. We laid a wreath on the wreck and raised the Union flag above her. However, as per the terms of our Ministry of Defence license, we removed the Union flag at the end of the dive and brought it back to the surface where we presented it to John Magee.

"We held a simple service when we got back on the dive boat at the conclusion of the dive and Mr Magee gave a wonderful, touching eulogy to those that lost their lives on the Pathfinder. He then cast a wreath onto the surface of the sea as we BSAC divers did in memory of all those that died."

She added: "The dive itself went so well and the wreck is still in very good condition. There are still guns, shells, magazines and torpedo tubes clearly visible. We even saw toilets still in place on the deck and quite a few smaller artefacts like crockery dinner plates. I think they bore the GR emblem.

"However, we would never disturb what is a war grave and everything was left exactly as we found it, nothing was removed or disturbed.

"Our task was to record the wreck, video and photograph her for future generations. I'm really pleased that we did that and were able to tell the families of relatives who died what we saw. There were a number of families on the quayside desperate to hear all we could tell them of the condition of the wreck and what it looks like now."

BSAC is the national governing body

for scuba diving and is made up of 120 dive centres and 1,000 plus family friendly and sociable clubs, run by volunteers, up and down the country and abroad.

It represents more than 30,000 scuba divers and snorkellers and welcomes new members from complete beginners upwards including those who have trained with other agencies.

BSAC National Diving Committee member and group leader for diving and coaching, Dave Lock, 63, of Felixstowe, Suffolk, led the HMS Pathfinder dive team.

He said: "The dive went really well and the conditions could not have been better. Visibility was excellent too. The day started so well as we were escorted from the harbour by a pod of dolphins which was just wonderful.

"The team worked together and supported each other both in the water and out for what was a fairly technical dive. We had just 25 minutes on the

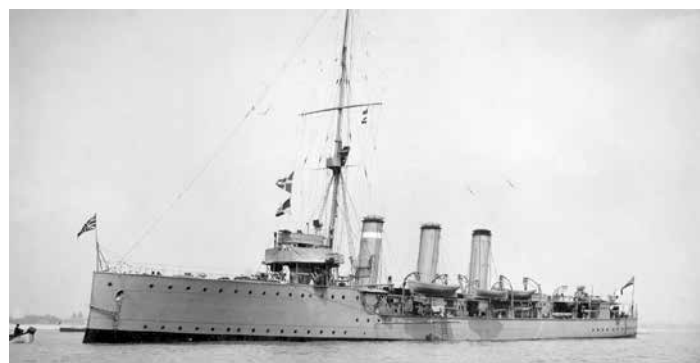
wreck of the Pathfinder and while the ascent, with decompression stops, took more than an hour.


"The wreck is in good condition although much of the superstructure is missing. There are still guns visible and shell cases. We laid a wreath on the wreck and raised the Union flag which we removed, as per our license, before we surfaced."

Records show that the Cammel Laird Birkenhead-built HMS Pathfinder was struck by a single torpedo fired from U-21 as it patrolled the Scottish coast south of the Isle of May.

Launched on 16th July 1904, HMS Pathfinder was the lead ship of the Pathfinder class of cruisers.

Armed with nine 4-inch guns, she initially saw service with the Atlantic and channel fleet while at the start of the First World War she was part of the 8th destroyer flotilla based at Rosyth in the Firth of Forth.

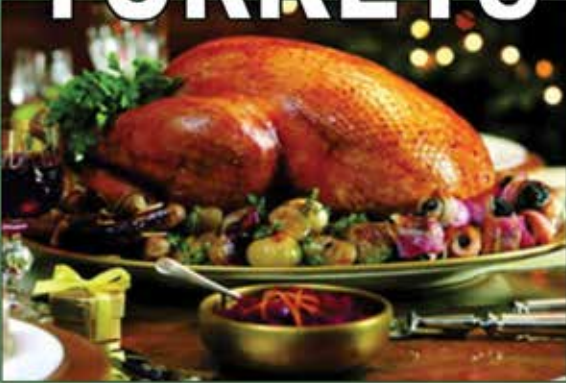




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LOOK!

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Reproductive Health Group offer free and discounted IVF cycles

The Reproductive Health Group opened the UK's first integrated fertility hospital, the Centre for Reproductive Health, at Daresbury Park earlier this year and feedback from patients and visitors has been highly positive.

Recognising that embarking on fertility treatment is an extremely important decision and that uncertainty about costs and the chances of success can cause concern, RHG have decided to take a unique approach to funding for IVF treatment which demonstrates their confidence in the exceptional quality of fertility care they deliver.

After undergoing a full set of diagnostic tests to identify the best course of treatment, patients can be

offered one of two packages which include subsequent free or discounted cycles of IVF treatment should the first cycle not result in a pregnancy. RHG are the first clinic in the UK to offer such a scheme.

More information on the scheme and on the services, care and support offered to anyone seeking IVF treatment will be available at RHG's free to attend IVF Information Evening, to be held on Wednesday October 1, 6pm - 8.30pm, at the Centre for Reproductive Health. To reserve your places please email Annette Eckersley at education@reproductivehealthgroup.co.uk or book online at www.reproductivehealthgroup.co.uk

Golfing in Belek, Turkey

Turkey is a great location for golfing holidays especially during the Autumn, Winter and Spring months. Flights into Antalya mean you can stay in Belek which has been developed into a purpose built golf and holiday resort.

Belek borders the sea with the Toros mountain range and the flat coastal plain, which is ideal for golf courses and relaxation/spa holidays. Many of the hotels in Belek are 5* and set in their own private beaches and offer all inclusive board. This area has won awards for environmentally friendly development where the beach is a nesting ground for rare loggerhead sea turtles and the dense forest is a haven for 100 species of birds. The hotels are ideal for groups, families and couples as they offer golf, Spas, activities and children's clubs. 16km away from Belek lies Antalya where you can visit the old quarter of Kaleici which holds the old wooden Ottoman mansions and a maze of narrow streets leading down to the vibrant marina with waterfront cafes

and restaurants.

There are Nick Faldo designed golf course, ie Cornelia Faldo Golf Course-par 72, this is built through a vast sand dune ridge and weaves through umbrella pines. The other courses include Antalya Pasha -par 72 this course has cleverly placed bunkers, undulating greens and tricky doglegs will test even the most experienced golfer, Antalya Sultan-par 71 this course is proving a challenge for experience golfers but can be rewarding for most golfers, Carya Golf-par 72 this is a challenging course for most golfers, Gloria Old Course - par 72 situated in the pine forest of Belek at the foot of Taurus mountains-designed by Michel Gayon, Gloria New Course-par 72 designed by Michel Gayon, Kaya Eagle-par 72, this has been designed with all golfing abilities in mind-it has a short yet challenging layout and big hitters will have to watch out especially with the strategically placed bunkers, National-par 72 this course is carved through a forest of pine

and eucalyptus trees and hosted the Seniors Open, Nobilis-par 72 designed by Dave Thomas borders the river Acisu with wide fairways, 92 bunkers and four lakes but it is a flat course, Papillon Montgomerie-par 72 set in pine trees and sandy terrain. Designed by Colin Montgomerie hopefully will become the venue for European tours, Sueno Dunes- par 69, this is a links style with island greens making use of the natural sand dunes-a gentler course than the Sueno Pines but still a good test of golf, Sueno Pines- par 72 this is a challenging course again in style of a links course and is heavily wooded with narrow fairways making it a long course but still will suit both low and high handicappers, Tat Golf-par 72 has 27 holes designed to meet the demands of all golfers designed by Hawtree of England. This course has views of the sea where the green meets the blue! There is The River, The Mediterranean and the Forest Courses

so you can have a choice of playing ie The Mediterranean front nine and The Forest back nine holes. The back nine is quite a tough one to play especially for those who do not have particularly a long drive and quite a bit of water to get over or not! Here it is better to hire buggies as they do not have electric trolleys especially if it is very hot.

Golf carriage can be included at time of booking and depending on which airline as to how much weight you can have ranging between 13kgs to 23kgs. Transfers to the golf courses are either provided by the hotels if the courses are part of their complex or can be booked prior to departure as tee times will also need to be booked.

If you need any further information or quotes on trips please do not hesitate to contact us and we will be happy to help.

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A new approach to makeup has arrived in South Warrington with the opening of The MakeUp Clinic at Walton.

In a relaxed and private environment women of all ages can have their makeup applied professionally or learn how to apply it themselves. Previously this kind of service has only been available in London or New York.

"We all wear makeup, but very few of us ever learn how to apply it properly", says Emma Clare, owner of the clinic.

"I bring the skills of a professionally trained makeup artist to all women, not just to celebrities and models. I can teach you how to apply your own makeup in a professional way and advise on what colours and textures to wear."

Emma added, "It doesn't matter whether you have never worn makeup before or want to improve your skills, I will teach you all you need to know".

As well as lessons the clinic also does special occasion makeup, where women can relax and enjoy being transformed. Makeup Parties are also becoming increasingly popular, with a group of friends getting together to have fun and learn more about how to apply their makeup.

Emma is passionate about helping women find their confidence and believes that makeup can really help.

"Most women are way too negative about how they look, I want to show them how gorgeous they really are".

For more information about The MakeUp Clinic go to www.themakeupclinic.co.uk, email makeupcliniccheshire@gmail.com or call Emma on 07785 242001.

Historic hall featured in TV drama

THE historic Walton Hall has been taking a "starring role" in the new BBC 1 period drama "Our Zoo".

The hall and its gardens were chosen as a filming location for the drama, which tells the story of George Mottershead, who created Chester Zoo, and the impact it had on his family.

Warrington Borough Council worked with Big Talk Productions who filmed on site and nearby Arley Hall during the summer.

Cllr Kate Hannon, the council's lead member for leisure, community and culture, said: "This has been great for Warrington!"

"We were delighted when we were asked if Walton Hall could be a part of this production and we worked closely with Big Talk Productions to make it all happen."

"It is great that one of our most popular and well-loved hall and gardens and main tourist attraction now gets to be on a national stage and we hope it will encourage more people from far and wide to come and visit."

"I must also thank everyone who has been involved in this project."

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Glimmer of hope travellers will have to move

A GLIMMER of hope exists that a controversial gypsy encampment on Green Belt land at Grappenhall will eventually be closed, a councillor believes.

Cllr Mike Biggin says he is "cautiously optimistic" about a successful result in the long-running battle over the site in Cartridge Lane, Grappenhall.

A public inquiry into an appeal by traveller Tom Smith and his family held in June last year has resulted in stalemate.

Mr Smith had appealed against Warrington Borough Council's decision to refuse permission to increase the size of the site to enable two mobile homes and 10 touring caravans to be sited there.

The inspector who held the inquiry

recommended his appeal be allowed because of the lack of authorised traveller sites in Warrington.

But secretary of state for communities and local government Eric Pickles disagreed and only partially allowed the appeal.

He has granted planning permission on a personal basis to Mr Smith and two other named families to remain on the site for two years but refused permission for two other residential pitches and a transit pitch.

Cllr Biggin said: "I am cautiously optimistic that eventually the situation

will reach a satisfactory conclusion.

"The two years should give time for the borough council to come up with sufficient authorised sites for travellers.

"I believe progress has been made in locating suitable sites and I would hope and expect that one of them will not be Cartridge Lane."

More than 200 local people sent letters of objection to the inquiry and 600 signed a protest petition.

Cllr Biggin said: "Although we have no prejudice against the travellers or their lifestyle choice it is plainly unfair that they should be allowed to continually flout planning law."



Action group fights housing scheme

A NEW action group is urging villagers to unite to fight a proposed housing development on "green" land at Appleton Thorn

CARE – Campaign Against Ruining Our Environment – has been set up at Appleton Thorn to oppose proposals for up to 90 homes on farm land in Stretton Road, opposite the village hall.

In a statement, the group stress that the housing scheme is "not a done deal." No planning application has been submitted as yet.

They say there are various technical aspects to the proposals which can be challenged, in connection with traffic, child safety, timing, etc.

Bloor Homes say 30 per cent of the

houses will be allocated as "affordable homes" but CARE says these will not be available to the children of villagers but for rented and social housing.

This means the whole character of the village would be changed for generations to come.

They also warn that land at the rear

of Thorn Cross Prison has been sold for development – meaning that it is vital to preserve the Stretton Road site as a green space.



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Sophie was a star performer

LYMM student Sophie Foreman was among Withington Girls' School's A-Level star performers.

She achieved an A* grade in Maths and As in Chemistry and Biology.

Among the vast majority of Withington girls heading to their first choice university, Sophie is going to Manchester University to study Dentistry. Sophie, who has attended Withington since she was in Junior School, is an exceptionally talented pianist and violinist and was leader of the school orchestra.

Throughout her time at Withington, she travelled to and from school by a

dedicated bus service which traverses Warrington, Grappenhall, Grappenhall Heys, Stockton Heath and Lymm.

Destinations for Withington girls this year include Oxford (5) and Cambridge (3), as well as Imperial, LSE, UCL, KCL, Durham, Bristol, Warwick, Nottingham, Manchester and Leeds.

The girls' chosen degree courses include medicine, dentistry, law, business management, modern foreign languages, computer science, mathematics, chemistry, economics, politics, psychology, history and geography.



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Money Column

By Margaret Black

Auto enrolment

During the next few years nearly a million employers will be compelled to offer employees a work place pension. Due to the importance of its execution support through the process will be crucial. Delaying preparation may leave employers open to major risks including:

Research suggests that the vast majority of small business employers are not aware of the obligations facing them. WatkinsonBlack will be involved in a seminar in October, this is to be held to alert as many employers as possible to the responsibilities expected for auto enrolment. Below are eight simple points which set out the bare facts that need to be shared as widely as possible with colleagues, friends and associates.

POINTS TO NOTE:

- 1 Every employer in the UK will be affected by auto enrolment**
Even those paying a salary to a spouse will need to consider their situation.
- 2 Employers with NO-ONE in the pension scheme do not escape**

They will still need to perform many administrative tasks each and every pay reference period.

- 3 Employers will need to keep records for up to 6 years**

Again irrespective if no-one enrolls in the pension scheme.

- 4 Employers have a pre-set deadline to get ready by**

The deadline dates (staging dates) are based upon number of employees in April 2012.

- 5 Every employer must already be compliant by their staging date**

This can include having in place a fully compliant pension scheme, ready to accept employees.

- 6 There is a lot of work required prior to staging dates**

Preparing for staging will require a significant amount of time and resource and it is recommended that employers begin at least 6 to 9 months prior to their staging date.

- 7 Staging preparation will affect the employer for years to come**

Employers should start well in advance of their staging date, to make well informed decisions, as their decisions and actions will have lasting impact on the business



- 8 Hefty fines or even prison could be a consequence**

The pensions regulator can inspect any aspect of the pension compliance process. It can fine and even imprison directors in cases of persistent non-compliance.

If you are interested in attending the October Seminar on this subject please contact us for further details. Please telephone 01925 413210 or e-mail info@warringtonaccountants.co.uk by no later than 7th October 2014

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Villages in football 'derby'

TWO neighbouring village football clubs who never play each other because they are in different leagues decided to get to know each other by staging the ultimate 'derby' day.

Sixteen different teams from Appleton Boys FC and Grappenhall FC played each other in a traditional league format, with three points for a win and one for a draw.

Matches were played at both clubs' venues and involved teams ranging from Under Eights to Under Sixteens – and the result was a resounding win for Appleton Boys by 34 points to nine.

The first games kicked off at 10am and the last was at 2pm – the much anticipated coaches' match.

All were played in the best spirit of the game – competitive but respectful.

Appleton Boys' chairman Jon Uttley was delighted to receive the shield

which will be held for 12 months.

He said: "We are neighbouring clubs who simply play in different leagues and cup competitions and therefore never meet. The day served

as a great pre-season tune up as well as getting to know our neighbours better.

"Obviously winning was rather pleasant too!"

The two clubs now plan to make the day an annual event, taking place on the last Sunday in August.



Cricket legends match raised £5,000

MORE than £5,000 was raised for Age UK by a "legends" cricket match featuring former England stars at Grappenhall Cricket Club.

Darren Gough, Derek Randall, Dean Headley, Alex Tudor, Steve Harmison and Grappenhall-born Neil Fairbrother were among the ex-England players to take part in the game between a Professional Cricket Association

Masters XI and an Age UK XI.

A packed Broad Lane ground saw the Masters XI triumph – but more importantly helped raise vital funds for the charity which will be used to help older people in need.

After the match there was a gala dinner with a silent auction of sporting memorabilia, including a bat signed by the current England team.

Age UK spokesman Hugh Forde said: "We knew it was going to be exciting watching our team battling it out against some of England's finest cricketers.

"We were disappointed to be beaten, but pleased that so many people turned out to enjoy the day and helped raise so much money."



Village post office to close after 23 years

AFTER 23 years serving the local community, Mere Post Office and Village Shop is to close.

Mike, Karen and Lorna Herrievan – the familiar faces behind the counter – have decided to retire.

The post office will close on October 29 and the shop on November 12.

Mike said: "It is with much regret and sadness that, after serving the community for 23 years, we will be closing.

"Unfortunately we cannot survive in the current economic climate.

"The Post Office is doing its best to relocate this office as an 'Outreach Office' to enable postal services to continue on a part time basis. This still has to be confirmed.

"We would like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you to all our loyal customers and many friends that have supported us over the past 23 years and for keeping us here for so long!

"We are going to take a well earned rest and holiday before deciding how to spend our 'twilight' years."

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What's on in the villages

- October 9**
LIVE AT ST WILFRID'S
Horn Trio. Roger Montgomery (horn), Susanne Stanzeleit (violin), Richard Saxel (piano) play Beethoven, Poulenc, Chopin and Brahms.
St Wilfrid's Church, Grappenhall. 7.30pm
- October 14**
STOCKTON HEATH PARISH COUNCIL
Sandy Lane Centre, Stockton Heath. 7.30pm
- October 16**
GRAPPENHALL & THELWALL PARISH COUNCIL
Council Offices, Bellhouse Lane. 7.30pm
- October 21**
APPLETON PARISH COUNCIL
Parish Hall, Dudlow Green Road. 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 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
October - 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 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**
APPLETONS TODDLER GROUP
Appleton Parish Hall, Dudlow Green Road.
9.45-11.30am. Details: 01925 268153.
- To list your event call Village Life on
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