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Your Community Magazine

Issue 189 December 2016 FREE

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Defined Benefit Pension Schemes – Feeling the strain!



Don Wernham,
Financial Planner

1st Floor,
67 London Rd
Stockton
Heath,
Warrington
WA4 6SG

Tel:
01925 266628
Fax:
01925 267043



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Defined Benefit Pension Schemes (DB) are still the best form of pension that anybody can have. I often refer to them as gilt edged or gold plated schemes. However, there is a problem with them. They rely on gilt yield returns, and these yields have been falling in value for many years now. Furthermore, they do not show any sign of increasing soon.

I saw figures recently that stated of the 5945 DB schemes in the UK, 5040 of these were in deficit. This creates a big problem for this type of scheme and it is little wonder that many firms have closed them to new employees over the last 10 years. Many people think that a DB scheme is a 'cast iron' guaranteed Scheme, but this is not always the case and if we were to ask members of BHS or Tata Steel schemes, they would confirm this to be true. A DB scheme is a promise of benefits for the future. But if circumstances change, then it is likely the rules will to.

Do you need to do anything if you are a member of a DB scheme? Well no, do nothing. If you are already enjoying the benefits of one of these types of schemes. There is more risk in coming out of a scheme like this and giving up the benefits of your employer's contributions for a start. And in addition, there is often the

valuable benefits of life insurance offered, called death in service benefit. However, the people I would urge to look at this immediately are deferred members. You can very often find that a modest pension in a DB scheme can often give rise to a large cash equivalent transfer value (CETV). I recently saw an example of a client with a deferred pension of £26,000pa at age 60, however her CETV was almost £900,000. Probably the most startling factor in all of this is death benefits for deferred members. If you are divorced and have grown up children (by this typically it is children past age 23, but can be 18) then all the benefits in a DB scheme, could effectively be lost on death. Now consider the example above and if you had the chance of having a pension pot of £900k in your control, and you died. These funds can then be passed into your estate. As the chancellor said in 2014, this wealth can be cascaded down to future generations. But this is not necessarily the case with a DB scheme.

A decision to look at a transfer away from a DB scheme is a big one. There are likely to be investment risks to consider if you do want to move your fund to a personal pension arrangement. However, in all instances like this you should always take professional financial advice.

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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
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www.village-life.co.uk
www.warrington.tv
www.warrington-
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Address
New Media Centre
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Cheshire WA4 1AT

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Editor's comment

BACK in August, we expressed concern that consultation on three separate proposals for major housing developments at Grappenhall Heys, Appleton Cross and Pewterspear Green, was being carried out in a piecemeal manner.

Today we are even more concerned for it would seem that planning applications for the three developments are also arriving in a piecemeal manner. One has already been made but the other two have not. Between them, they will add almost 1,000 new homes to the Appleton, Grappenhall, Stretton area – an area that already suffers from chronic traffic congestion.

All three developments are in locations where there is little or no

public transport so the likelihood is that up to 2,000 extra vehicles will be using a highway network already regarded as inadequate by local people. A recipe for gridlock if ever there was one.

Local parish councils are aware of the impending chaos. They are calling on Warrington Borough Council, who will have to determine the planning applications as they arrive, to carefully consider the infrastructure implications of all three developments as a whole, rather than in isolation.

The way consultation was carried out denied local people the opportunity of studying the whole development picture. The way planning applications are being made will similarly make life difficult for planners.



We accept there is no way these proposals can be stopped. The principle of housing on these sites was established back in the days of the Warrington New Town, more than 40 years ago.

But if we could have some joined-up thinking on infrastructure, there might be some chance of the new homes being built without completely destroying some of the few remaining green and pleasant areas within the borough.

Gearing up for Christmas

THE Walton Lea Project based at Walton is gearing up for Christmas with a whole new range of festive gifts – along with their usual herd of reindeer which they hope will be flying out.

The charity which provides supported employment to adults with physical and learning difficulties, operates from a historic walled garden off Chester Road, Higher Walton.

It provides work in gardening, woodwork, floristry, furniture and bicycle up-cycling. Its aim is to improve the self-esteem and status of adults with learning difficulties by helping them to play a full part in the local community.

With another site at Long Lane,

Warrington, Walton Lea sells a huge variety of home-grown shrubs, flowers, fruit and veg, hanging baskets and window boxes, as well as stylishly up-cycled crafts and furniture for the home and garden.

They are now taking Christmas wreath and crem pot orders, their farm shop is stocked with wonderful and unique items handmade by their talented teams of beneficiaries and support workers in their craft, woodwork and horticulture departments. The tea room is warm and toasty and awash with delicious cake and mince pies for customers to savour.

It is open weekdays and weekends 10am to 4pm.



Freedom of the village

TWO community stalwarts have been honoured with the Freedom of Stockton Heath.

Chairman of Stockton Heath Parish Council Peter Walker made the presentations at a meeting of the council to former councillor Tudor Pole and local community worker Helen Curwen.

He said: "I can't think of anyone more deserving of the honour."

Tudor Pole, a former member of the parish council, was

the founder of the hugely popular Stockton Heath Festival, now one of the main events of the village's year.

Helen Curwen is an enthusiastic community worker involved in a number of local organisations and attending so many council meetings she could almost be regarded as a member.

Cllr Walker said: "Without Tudor, we would not have had the festival and Helen takes on so much work simply because she loves Stockton Heath."



Pupils picture their favourite places

PUPILS from primary schools in Appleton and Appleton Thorn were out and about with their cameras during the summer – taking photographs for a competition organised by Appleton Parish Council.

The 21 entries were later judged by the chairman and deputy chairman of the council.

Clerk to the council Mrs Joanne Monks noted that only primary

schools had entered the competition but that the standards of photos was high and it had been a difficult task for the judges to choose the winners.

Theme of the competition was “My Favourite Place in Appleton” and the first prize was won by Scarlett Tyson, aged 9, from Broomfield Junior School. Second prize went to Heidi Mitchell, also 9, from Broomfields Junior.

Third prize went to Alice Glenn, aged 6, from Cobbs Infant School.



3rd Place Alice Glenn aged 6, Cobbs Infant School.



1st Place Scarlett Tyson aged 9, Broomfields Junior School.



2nd Place Heidi Mitchell aged 9, Broomfields Junior School.

Cheshire's Top Divorce Lawyers Open in Stockton Heath

DIVORCE and matrimonial finance experts BPS Family Law, founded almost 70 years ago, with offices in Manchester and Hale, have opened an office in Stockton Heath.

Partner Caroline Swain, who will head up the team, said the move comes after BPS Family Law has enjoyed a strong period of growth, primarily due to the firm's recognised leadership in family law, having represented on a number of extremely complex and notable cases.

BPS represents local, national and international wealthy and ultra-wealthy clients including well known business owners and celebrities. Caroline said: “Now is the right time for us to expand. Our Stockton Heath office will complement our bases in Manchester and Hale perfectly.

“We are high end specialists in divorce. Our level of expertise and knowledge gives us the edge over other legal firms across the region.

“We have always believed that a

holistic view for the family is what matters most. We always fight a strong and robust case for our clients and the outcome they want for their

family. That is our passion and it won't change as we continue to expand.”

Caroline will be working between

all three BPS offices and leading a team of eight advisors, three of whom are partners and all specialists in their field.





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More than 2,400 residents respond to library consultation

MORE than 2,400 people have responded to LiveWire's public consultation into proposed library modernisation across the borough – which could result in the closure of Stockton Heath Library.

Over a seven week period, the neighbourhood wellbeing company received responses from residents across the borough who have expressed their views on the proposals.

These have been received via feedback forms handed out at LiveWire sites and at consultation sessions and through the LiveWire consultation

inbox and council emails.

A total of 1,007 residents attended at 18 public consultation sessions which were held at venues across the town between September 5 and October 4.

The consultation was extended by an extra 17 days to allow LiveWire to attend follow up meetings and to give residents longer to have their say following the final public consultation session at Walton Hall.

A further 110 residents attended follow up meetings requested in Lymm, Padgate, Stockton Heath and Culcheth.

In line with a national trend,

attendance at traditional libraries has fallen across Warrington. The proposals outlined in the consultation looked at different ways of delivering libraries and learning and other LiveWire services with a view to modernising them for the future.

Emma Hutchinson, managing director of LiveWire, said: "I would like to thank everyone who has taken the time to input into the consultation process and for working with us over its duration.

"We have received a significant amount of feedback from residents across the town including some fantastic suggestions from councillors, parish councillors and residents as to how we could work with existing businesses and community groups across the town to deliver a wider range of services from existing library sites with a view to making the buildings financially sustainable.

"Understandably, some of the feedback received reflected residents' concerns at the various proposals whilst others made suggestions about different ways of delivering LiveWire services in the future.

"All feedback generated during the consultation process along with the 38 degrees petition, which has been signed by 10,711 people, alongside another petition for Culcheth Library, which received 890 signatures, will

be included as part of the report to the council on the feedback from the consultation."

Cllr Tony Higgins, the borough council's lead member for culture, leisure and communities said: "We have worked really hard to run an open, transparent consultation that has given everyone the chance to have their say on this important issue.

"I would like to reassure everyone that we are listening to your views. All suggestions are being taken on-board and no decisions have yet been made. We will now be taking some time to carefully consider all of the options before making final recommendations."

The next steps will be to analyse feedback received to create a report which will be presented to Warrington Borough Council in the New Year who will make the final decision on the proposals.

Both Stockton Heath and Appleton parish councils are opposed to any plan to close Stockton Heath Library.

They have pointed out that such a closure would leave a quarter of the population of Warrington, south of the Mersey, with at best a "lending locker" facility at Broomfields Leisure Centre while there would still be eight libraries north of the river.



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Planning victory for residents

PLANNING chiefs have thrown out outline proposals for nine houses on land off Grappenhall Road, Stockton Heath.

The decision represents a victory for Stockton Heath Parish Council and 20 nearby residents who had opposed the proposals.

Warrington Borough Council's development management committee refused consent for the development, despite planning officers recommending it be approved.

The parish council's objections were on the grounds of access and highway safety. They argued that the narrow access road onto the busy A56 Grappenhall Road, located near a bend with poor visibility, posed highway safety dangers.

Nearby residents also expressed

road safety fears. But additionally, they raised issues such as a loss of trees, damage to wildlife, over-development of the site, loss of privacy and the loss of an existing locally listed building which would have to be demolished to make way for the new properties.

Planning officers argued that the site was overgrown and untidy and was subject to trespass and anti-social behaviour.

Although a previous application for housing on the site had been refused, this had been solely on the grounds of an oversupply of housing. The situation had now changed and there were now no grounds to refuse an application on these grounds. But the committee decided to refuse permission.

Indian Ocean wildlife

The Indian Ocean is not just about amazing beaches! It is often overshadowed by nearest neighbour Africa when it comes to wildlife, but it is home to an array of creatures both on land and in water.

Manta Rays in The Maldives - It is a haven for scuba divers due to the incredibly rich abundance of marine life and divers have access to vast numbers of fish, from parrotfish to snappers and butterflyfish. Following Unesco World Biosphere in 2011; the Baa Atoll is home to manta rays and whale sharks in the summer months. You may be lucky enough to swim with them if the conditions are right. The area is home to only a few resorts, meaning that the region is less busy than its southerly neighbours making diving enjoyed away from the crowds. Reethi Beach Resort boasts one of the best house reefs in the Maldives and spinner dolphins, eagle rays, shoals of barracuda and thousands of fusiliers are regularly spotted. The Maldives has a hot, tropical climate with sunshine all year round. The most popular months to visit are between November and April when it is dry with very little wind.

Elephants in Sri Lanka - Wildlife lovers are spoilt for choice here. Sri Lanka's



waters welcome blue whales, sperm whales and schools of playful dolphins. It is home to some of the most jaw-dropping big-game wildlife in the world and the destination is popular for wildlife safaris. Visit one of its many national parks that thrive with fascinating wildlife, including hundreds of elephants and the world's most dense population of leopards. You can even twin Sri Lanka with one of the Maldives' beautiful islands. Sri Lanka is warm all year round. December to March is the most popular time to visit.

Diving in the Comoros Islands - Should you wish to drop off the radar while on holiday and leave the busier resorts behind, then the staggeringly beautiful and nature-rich Comoros Islands might be for you. Life is slow and the culture is a fascinating melting pot of African, Malay and Arabic traditions. Moheli Island is one of East Africa's major turtle nesting sites and it is almost certain to see them nesting or even swimming past whilst snorkeling. Or a trip to Itsamia, a haven for ornithologists, offers guided walks through the forest in Grand Comore to see the roosting sites of the world's largest bat, the livingstone bat. The islands have a hot and humid season between December and April, and a cool and relatively dry season between May and November.

Pink Pigeons in Mauritius - Ten years ago, three of the world's rarest birds - the Mauritius kestrel, echo parakeet and pink pigeon - were all struggling to survive. The hard work of the Mauritian Wildlife Foundation meant these three species of bird are no longer critically endangered and clients should be able to see the trio in the biggest and most spectacular national park in Mauritius, Black River Gorges. The park is also home to 300 species of endemic bird and a vast population of giant fruit bats, while

sightings of wild boar, macaque monkeys and deer are also likely. The Solana Beach Hotel is one of the newest exclusive resorts in a great location on the east coast. From here you can combine relaxation on the beach with park visits. Again a year round destination and experiences a warm subtropical climate. May to October is dry with comfortable temperatures ranging between 18 - 24 degrees centigrade with cooling winds. During these dates you will often benefit from excellent offers from the hotels. November to April is much warmer and humid.

Lemurs in Madagascar - Madagascar will make you think of the bright-eyed lemur. These enigmatic and endearing primates are endemic to the beautiful island, which is home to about 60 species of them. Lemurs range in size from the large indri, which is famous for its hypnotic whale-like dawn call, to the mouse lemur, the smallest of which can fit inside an egg cup. You will be spoilt for choice when it comes to other wildlife, as about three-quarters of the animal species on the island cannot be found anywhere else on Earth. Private 14-day private tours can be arranged for Lemurs, Rainforests and Islands.

Giant Tortoises in the Seychelles - The Seychelles has one of the highest levels



■ Linda Crowder - Stockton Heath Travel

of unique wildlife in the world, with around 30 endemic species of reptiles and amphibians, 13 species of seabird colonies, the world's smallest frog and the largest population of giant tortoise. Visitors can also see the endangered hawksbill and green turtles which have both benefited from conservation programmes. You can combine a stay in the Berjaya Beau Vallon situated on the North West coast of Mahe Island, the largest in Seychelles, with a two night stay on Bird Island. The climate is subtropical making Seychelles a year round destination. May to September brings the cooling southeast tradewinds, bringing livelier seas. October to April bring the warm northwest tradewinds which sees an increase in temperatures and humidity.

We are open Monday to Friday 9am to 5.30pm and Saturdays 9am to 5pm. If you cannot make these times we are happy to arrange an appointment at your convenience.

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The Six week challenge – results in a heartbeat!

Editor Gary Skentelbery takes the 6 week BPM challenge

FOR more than two decades I have struggled with my weight – in fact one crash diet I did in my early 30s nearly killed me!

The simple fact is every diet and exercise regime I have tried in the past has only ever given me a short term weight loss. As soon as I returned to my normal routines the weight gradually crept back on.

As anyone who has dieted knows too well, it is easier putting it back on than losing it in the first place.

So when I heard about the Six Week BPM challenge at the Park Royal Hotel Leisure Club, which is based on your own heartbeat, I was fascinated to see if I could find a system which would hopefully keep the weight off permanently, without the need of any silly dieting.

I was a little sceptical because the course did involve three sessions in the gym – including circuit training and following a calorie count! I've never done circuit training in my life and previous calorie counting has

never worked long term for me in the past.

I was also extremely doubtful of what could be achieved in the six week programme which has been devised by personal trainers Josh Screawn (Josh 1) and Josh Sudlow (Josh 2).

Imagine my shock after sitting down with my PT Josh 2 and him setting me a daily calorie goal of 2400! That is the average for an adult male. He explained I would need the calories as fuel for the training I would be doing!

My first PT session left me a little short of breath, on my knees – and apparently I was quite vocal. My first circuit training, which filled me with fear, actually turned out to be fun – so much so by the half way stage of the challenge I was keen to do both circuit training sessions at the weekend.

Well to be honest the results have been outstanding. In just six short weeks I shed nearly 20lb in body fat, nearly a stone in overall weight, while improving my hydration and resting pulse, which was 67 bpm when I started and can now be as low as 54 bpm.

The key to my success – stepping up my exercise and most importantly watching those all-important calories – as the one weekend when I had a blast – Josh found out pretty quickly when I got on the scales!

It's not rocket science, if you put in too many calories and don't burn

them off – you will bulge!

The old saying "you are what you eat" is pretty much spot on for most of us – and even those who are thin on the outside, can be fat on the inside.

What this Challenge has done is focus me on the importance of exercise and more importantly not to exceed my calorie goal. But the most satisfying thing is if you do some moderate exercise a few times a week – you can have a pretty high calorie goal and eat pretty much what you want in moderation.

It is still early days, but even after the challenge I have continued to lose body fat, calorie counting is now second nature – and I have signed up for the second six week challenge in January!

For more details call the Park Royal on 01925 730 000 – but hurry spaces are limited.



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Money Column

By Margaret Black

I don't believe it!

It hardly seems 12 weeks since we were preparing last year's December articles, let alone 12 months. Yet here we are approaching Christmas and, yes you've guessed it, tax return time.

If you have not already done so, this is a timely reminder that if you have been issued with a notice to submit a return then you must ensure that your return is received by the tax office electronically on or before 31 January 2017. Failure to do so will result in the tax office issuing you with automatic penalties starting at £100 but which rapidly escalate to £1,600.

If you miss the deadline then you may be able to avoid paying a penalty if you have a reasonable excuse for filing your return late. A reasonable excuse does not include relying on someone else to complete your return but who then lets you down, not receiving a reminder from the tax office to submit your return, or finding the system too difficult. The tax office defines a reasonable excuse as "something unexpected or outside your control that stopped you meeting a tax obligation".

So what does constitute a reasonable excuse? Well, the tax office guidance gives a number of examples which include:

- Your partner or other close relative dying shortly before the deadline
- An expected stay in hospital preventing you from dealing with your tax affairs
- Suffering a serious or life-threatening illness
- Your computer or computer software failing just before or while you were preparing your on-line return
- HMRC's own computer or software preventing you from successfully filing your return, or "service issues" in their talk
- A fire, flood or theft preventing you from completing your return

They also talk about postal delays but that would no longer work in respect of this year's tax return as paper returns needed to be filed by 31st October.

So during this Christmas break, when you are tired of watching The African Queen or White Christmas for the umpteenth time, and watched the repeat of the rerun of the News Review Of The Year (which is only going to be full of the "B" word and the "T" word in any event), why not excite yourself by getting together all your tax return paperwork and getting that return submitted. After all, preventing that penalty is the equivalent of 4 times the normal win on The National Lottery.

Finally, the partners and staff of WatkinsonBlack would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a Prosperous and, above all, a Healthy 2017.

WatkinsonBlack are pleased to advise on these and other matters. They have considerable experience in all areas of taxation and business services, including providing a very cost-effective payroll bureau service. If you want to arrange a no-obligation initial meeting on any taxation or accounting matter then please contact us. Please note that these ideas are intended to inform rather than advise and you should always obtain professional advice before taking any action.



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STEM Club in the driving seat

AFTER 26 weeks of hard work, the STEM club at Sandymoor School finally completed the construction of their own customised Off-Road Kart.

The team at HUSCO worked on a weekly basis with Louis Swift, Adam Hodgkinson, Archie Wilson, Sam Theis and Abbey Jowett to strip down an Off Road Kart and rebuild it from scratch.

The pupils had to learn all about the engineering behind the kart and they were set the task of rebuilding

it within time and budget constraints.

HUSCO, M&R Hydraulics, HY-PRO filtration, MELO, Yuken and CM Kennedy Motors all contributed time, money and resources to help the STEM team achieve their aim of rebuilding the kart. Pupils then had to deliver a presentation to the businesses, explaining what they had learned and evaluating the projects success.

It is planned to display the kart in the School Forum at the Christmas Market so that pupils and parents will be able to see the result of everyone's efforts.



Councillors get busy with hedge trimmers

FIVE members of Appleton Parish Council got busy with hedge trimmers to remove a road safety hazard in London Road.

Ivy, growing along a wall on a 50-yard stretch of the road between Warren Drive and Delphfields Road, had reduced the width of the pavement by more than half, forcing pedestrians to sometimes step into the road.

So council chairman Brian Axcell, accompanied by councillors Jane Bilsland, Ken Arnett, John Price and Irina Axcell, spent an afternoon cutting back the growth.

CLlr Brian Axcell said: "We found it an enjoyable afternoon and it has certainly made a difference. It was worrying because pedestrians, including children, were having to step into what is a very busy road."



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What's on in the villages

December 13
STOCKTON HEATH PARISH COUNCIL
Sandy Lane Centre, Stockton Heath. 7.30pm

December 15
GRAPPENHALL & THELWALL PARISH COUNCIL
Council Offices, Bellhouse Lane. 7.30pm

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

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

Every Monday
COFFEE TIME, St Mary Magdalene's Church, Appleton,
9-11am.
COUNTRY DANCING CLUB
St Thomas' Primary School, Parkgate Road, Stockton
Heath.
8-10pm. Details: 01925 262356

BRIDGE CLUB
Belong Warrington, Loushers Lane 7.20pm. Details
01925 262534

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

HIGH LEGH BRIDGE CLUB
Village Hall, 7-10pm. Rubber, Duplicate and Chicago
played. Details: Audrey Greaves 0161 904 0120

Every second Monday
PARK (APPLETON) WI
Appleton Parish Hall, Dudlow Green Road. 7.30pm

Second and fourth Monday
WARRINGTON ART GROUP
Bellhouse Community Centre, Bellhouse Lane,
Grappenhall.
7-9pm.

Every third Monday
NATIONAL VEGETABLE SOCIETY
Cheshire District meeting
Grappenhall Ex-Servicemen's Club, Chester Road,
Grappenhall.
8pm. Details: 01925 265773.

Every fourth Monday
MARLFIELD WI
Grappenhall Community Library, Albert Road,
Grappenhall. 7.30pm

Every Tuesday
COFFEE MORNING
St Cross Church, Appleton Thorn. All welcome.
10am-12 noon
PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY
Quays Community Centre,
Thelwall New Road, Thelwall. 7.30pm.
Contact: 01925 757582.

COFFEE MORNING
Appleton Independent Methodist Church
Appleton Parish Hall, 10am-12 noon

Every second Tuesday
STOCKTON HEATH LIONS CLUB
London Bridge Inn, 8pm
Contact: Grahamclisse58@outlook.com. Tel 01925
262669

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

Every Wednesday
APPLETON HALL BADMINTON CLUB
October - July at Hall Drive, Appleton. 7.30-10pm.
Details: 01925 262356

Every first Wednesday
WALTON WI
St John's Church Community Hall. 7.30pm
Details: 01925 604384

STOCKTON HEATH PROBUS CLUB
Warrington Sports Club, Walton Lea Road, Higher
Walton.
Details: 01925 268540

Every third Wednesday
HIGHER WALTON WI, St John's Community Hall,
7.45pm. Details 01925 262001.

Every fourth Wednesday
ALZHEIMERS SOCIETY
Support Group, Brampton Lodge Day Centre, Bridge
Lane, Appleton. 6.30-8.30pm

Every Thursday
THE SILVER QUAYS Senior Citizen's Club
The Quays Community Centre, Thelwall New Road,
Thelwall.
Details: 01925 753474.

BRIDGE CLUB
Belong Warrington, Loushers Lane 7.20pm. Details
01925 262534

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

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

Every third Thursday
NORTH EAST CHESHIRE FLOWER CLUB
Warrington Golf Club, London Road, Appleton. WA4
5HR 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



Share the Peace and Shop



THE Warrington based Tim Parry Johnathan Ball Foundation for Peace has launched its Christmas fundraising campaign as it prepares for another year of growth.

The Foundation's #ShareThePeace campaign aims to encourage members of the public to share the joy that Christmas brings between those they buy for, and in doing so, for no extra effort or expense, help the Foundation to expand its unique work waging peace in 2017.

Run on online shopping website, Easyfundraising, there are more than 3,100 shops on board with the Foundation's campaign, including Amazon, John Lewis and Sainsbury's.

Fundraiser, Jonathan Levy, from Appleton said: "This enticing new campaign of ours is a fantastic and really easy way for anyone and everyone to get involved in supporting what we do."

"Creating peace, resolving conflict and breaking the cycle of violence is about mobilising a movement of

people who want to see change and this is a fantastic and really easy way for anyone and everyone to get involved in raising unrestricted funds to support our ambitions for the coming year."

To support the Foundation's #ShareThePeace campaign, there are three simple steps:

1 Join
Head to www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/tjpbfoundation and sign up for free.

2 Shop
There are more than 3,100 shops to choose from, so just search for the retailer and start shopping.

3 Raise
After you've checked out, that retailer will make a donation to the Foundation and it won't cost a penny extra.

For further information, please contact Jonathan Levy, on 01925 581232 or email him at jonathan.levy@foundation4peace.org

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David Mowat, MP for Warrington South, holds regular surgeries throughout the constituency. If you would like to arrange an appointment to discuss an issue of concern to you please e-mail him at david.mowat.mp@parliament.uk or telephone 01925 231267.

David Mowat
Member of Parliament for Warrington South
www.davidmowat.org.uk

Produced by David Mowat MP, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

Revamped Christmas Festival

THE Parish of St Thomas' in Stockton Heath will be hosting a revamped Christmas Festival to entertain visitors and help raise funds for the local Primary School and church.

Visitors to the festival will have an opportunity to enjoy a relaxing afternoon tea in the church whilst listening to carols sung by the choir, or for those in need of something a little more spicy they can sample seasonal mulled wine and browse the new stalls in the church hall.

Santa will also dropping in from 1pm to hand out gifts to the children who visit his grotto. There's still just enough time to make sure you're on Santa's nice list!

There will also be raffles, crafts, games, silent auction and much more to help get you into the festive spirit. The fun begins from 11am - 3pm on Saturday, December 10 at St Thomas' church and hall.

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