

VILLAGE life

Your Community Magazine

Issue 213 December 2018

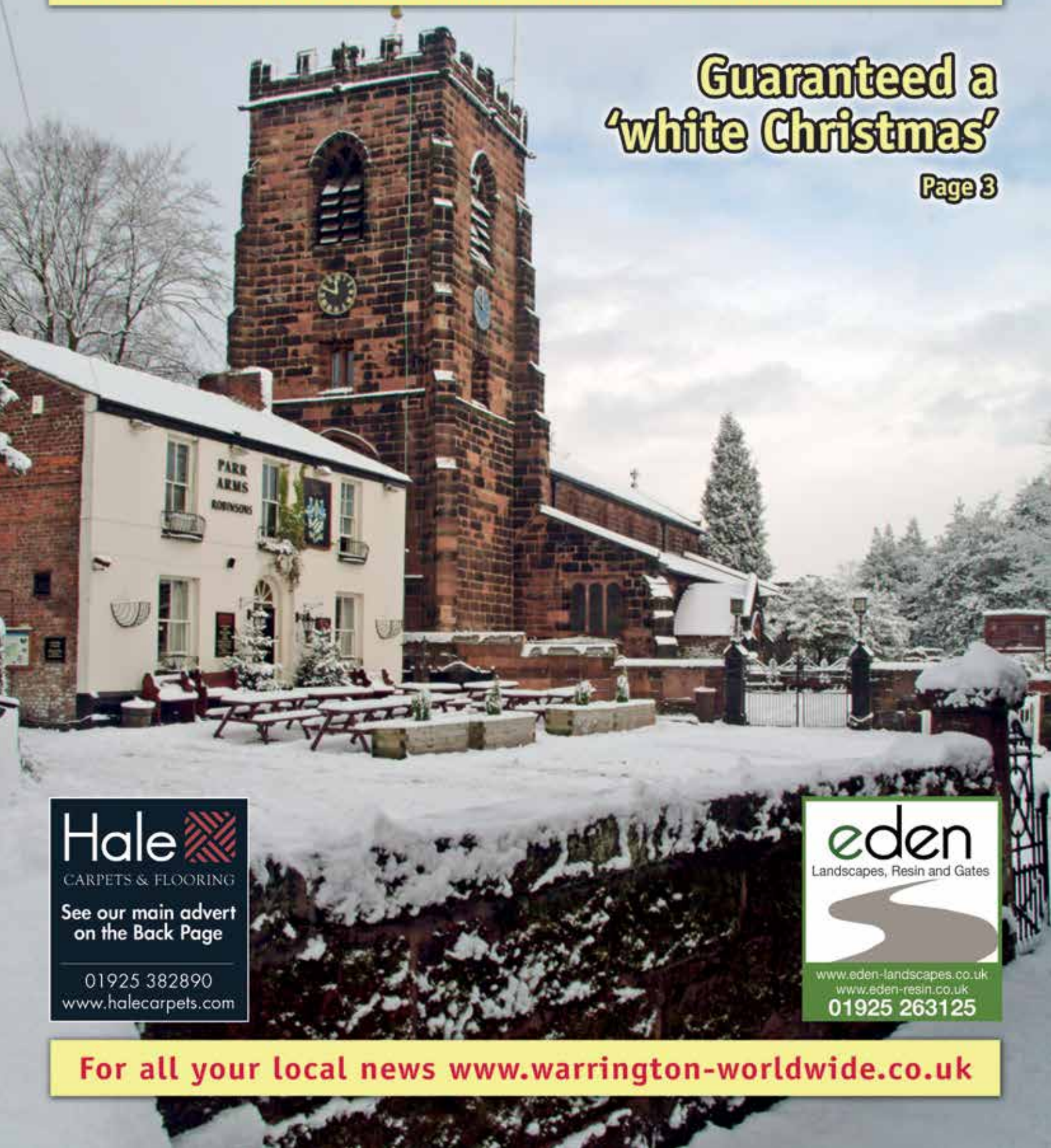
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The longevity challenge and how to tackle it

In the UK, we are faced with the challenge of an ageing population. Many of us will live longer than we might have expected. Already, 2.4% of the population is aged over 85. Because of improvements in healthcare and nutrition, this figure only looks set to rise.

The Office of National Statistics currently estimates that 10.1% of men and 14.8% of women born in 1981 will live to 100. A demographic shift to an older population brings unprecedented change to the way the country would operate, from the healthcare system to the world of work.

In addition, a long life and subsequently a long retirement, bring challenges of their own from a personal financial planning perspective.

Firstly, it means you have to sustain yourself from your retirement 'nest egg' of cash savings, investments and pensions. You need to ensure that you draw from this at a sustainable rate so you don't run the risk of outliving your money.

Secondly, there's the question of funding long term care. If we live longer, the chance that we will one day need to fund some sort of care increases. Alzheimer's Research UK report that the risk of developing dementia rises from one in 14 over the age of 65 to one in six over the age of 80.

Of course, there are many different types of care, ranging from full time care to occasional care at home, with a variety of cost levels. All require some level of personal funding.

The amount you pay depends on the level of need and the amount of assets you have, with your local council funding the rest. This means that it's definitely something that you need to take into account in your financial planning.

Having the income in later life to sustain long term care really does require detailed planning. Because of the widespread shift from annuities to drawdown, working out a sustainable rate at which to withdraw from your 'nest egg' is essential.

There is no 'one-size-fits-all' sustainable rate at which to draw from your pensions and savings. Every person has their own requirements, savings, liabilities and views on what risks are acceptable.

There are some things which you will be able to more accurately plan when working out the sustainable rate to draw from your pension. These include your portfolio asset allocation, the impact of fees and charges and the risk level of your investments. Speaking with your financial adviser will help you on your way to working out the right withdrawal rate for you.

There are, however, some unknowns. These include the chance of developing a health condition later in life and exactly how long you'll live. It is best to withdraw leaving plenty of room for these to change unexpectedly, improving your chances of having a financial cushion to cope with what life throws at you.

Disclaimer: None of the above article constitutes advice.



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Editor's comment

People power wins the day – for now!

PEOPLE power won the day in South Warrington as members of Warrington's Planning Committee rejected proposals by Eddie Stobart to build a huge distribution centre on Green Belt land.

I have nothing against Eddie Stobart and indeed they have invested heavily in Warrington – but as I commented prior to the planning application, this proposed development was too premature for our precious Green Belt Land, when we still have no idea what is being proposed in the Local Plan, which has again been put back until March next year.

Following the planning decision, Eddie Stobart were quick to announce they may well now look elsewhere to invest and create more jobs. If that is the case, so be it.

But I am sure other development opportunities will present themselves but we cannot afford to sacrifice what remains of our green belt until we have all the pieces of the jigsaw in

place for the Local Plan, in the way of housing and infrastructure.

Almost every week we see first-hand problems on our highways due to incidents on the local motorway network. Imagine how much worse they could have been if there had been a HGV distribution centre up at Appleton Thorn.

The battle for our Green Belt is far from over, with the threat of another huge Six 56 development by Langtree at Grappenhall – and of course Stobart may well decide to appeal against the decision of the planning committee.

But as the well organised parish councils and residents groups in the south of the borough have shown – any future developers will have a fight on their hands to build on our Green Belt spaces – and people power can win the day.

Some development is inevitable but what we need more of is affordable homes and leisure and recreational facilities – and of course a highways infrastructure which can cope with the additional demands.



We still don't know if Warrington is ever going to get the funding the proposed Western Link!

So hopefully a lesson has been learned – no more major developments until the Local Plan is drawn up!

**Deadline
for the
January
issue of
Village Life
is December 1**



Festive fayre that guarantees a 'white Christmas'

THE annual Christmas Fayre at St Wilfrid's Church, Grappenhall takes place on Saturday, December 1 – with a guarantee of snow.

A snow machine will make sure there will be a "white Christmas" for the event.

Last year, more than 1,000 guests attended the event and this year organisers aim to make the show bigger and better.

There will be a host of craft stalls, free activities for children and the grand Teddy Tombola.

Children will be able to meet

Father Christmas while parents sip mulled wine and enjoy a selection of festive foods and treats while being serenaded by Scottish bagpipers.

At 5pm people can join in carol singing around the iconic St Wilfrid's Christmas tree with the church's children's choir.

There will also be a grand draw with a first prize of £350 and numerous other prizes including a round of golf at Warrington Golf Club and a meal for two at the Parr Arms, next door to the church.

Children are admitted free and there is a £2 admission fee for adults.



School's 'Eco Warriors' carry out litterpick

EIGHTEEN pupils from Bradshaw Primary School, Grappenhall took to the streets to carry out a litterpick.

They were led by head teacher Christopher Short and other members of staff, parent helpers and neighbourhood representatives.

The "Eco Warriors" included pupils from Year Six to Year One and were: Jason McDonough, Ava Powell, Esme Heavey, Connor Rothwell, Isabella Crosthwaite, Elliot Barnett, Maddie Hollis, Ava Powell, Jamie Davies, Kara O'Donnell, Joshua Stokes, Fraser Ruddick, Caleb Sutton, Robyn Jones,

Riley Williams, Esmail Blears, Finn Knight and Sam Scott.

In the meantime the rest of the school were busy litter picking in the school grounds.

A spokesperson for the school said: "With this litter pick, we could help ease the constant struggle against litter. Big thanks to all who helped our school become more eco friendly!"

"All the children involved were responsible and sensible. We, at our school believe that this event will impact on the rest of the environment."



Two for one kitchens at JD Kitchens!

When you move into a new house you don't always get the perfect kitchen, but if it is half way decent you are certainly happier to live with it for a while.

However, the owners of one new home in Warrington got a lot more than they bargained for when they decided to update their kitchen.

The kitchen in their new home was in great condition, but it just wasn't to their taste. They looked at the cupboards and found there wasn't anything wrong with them, so contacted JD Kitchens to see if a simple revamp would be possible.

After a visit to their showroom they decided that they would prefer to completely redesign and modernise with a designated cooking area, pull out larder and appliances that better

suit the way they live and cook.

But they felt that the old kitchen was just too good to be taken away.

So the team at JD Kitchens repurposed it as a fabulous utility room, giving them two kitchens for the price of one! Not bad for a 14 year old kitchen.

British designer Mackintosh are behind this gorgeous chamfered shaker door in limestone. Topped with a 30mm quartz worktop, it provides a robust cooking and baking surface that will look great for many years to come.

The appliances are by quality German manufacturer NEFF and include a slide&hide oven, compact oven with microwave and warming drawer, as well as flex induction hob, extractor and fridge freezer.



Advertiser's announcement

Messing about on the river!

Where does the time go? Nearly another year has gone by and always lovely to see our regular, loyal clients, but I do have to say we welcomed lots of new clients this year and a large proportion of them are 'cruisers'.

Our very own cruise expert has great expertise in this area and is happy to assist with enquiries, or for those of you who have not cruised and think this is something you might like to consider, but need steering in the right direction, please come in and talk to Sarah.

One area which is growing fast is the 'River Cruising' market and so much is on offer to passengers of all ages. Companies are introducing new 'family' cruises along the Danube timed for the festive season, plus new ships are offering a Nile Christmas Cruise. Is dance your thing? Strictly always brings dance to the forefront at this time of year and we have river cruises offering live performances, which not only makes you feel good, it helps you connect to a destination in a way that nothing else can. Of course, you

can also join in, because apart from anything else, dancing is great fun. On the beach or in the bar, whether you are a toe tapper, an enthusiastic Dad dancer or you know exactly how to strut your stuff, everybody is welcome. All inclusive options are increasing with Operators and this includes shore excursions not only food and drink.

You can take to the dynamic waterways of Southeast Asia in style and navigate your way through a tapestry of colour and culture. Cross country borders and see the river banks come to life while indulging in the luxuries of modern day cruising. Some ships are specially commissioned and offer state of the art standards. Most are like luxury floating boutique hotels not just a conventional river cruise ship. Each perfectly appointed suite benefits from its own balcony, en-suite

bathroom and living space, so you can be sure your stay on this mighty waterway will be as comfortable and luxurious as it is culturally stimulating.

With the introduction of direct flights from London Heathrow to Nashville (domestic flights from Manchester can be included); this opens up the South of America and Steamboat cruising. Once onboard you will find a relaxed, warm and welcoming atmosphere and a highly trained crew. Elegant staterooms offer comfort and when it comes to dining there is a wonderful array of culinary experiences.

There are an increasing number of UK travellers who are choosing to explore the world alone and some operators are offering new destinations 'For Solo Travellers'. We have an abundance of

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Eddie Stobart Green Belt plan rejected

CONTROVERSIAL plans by haulage company Eddie Stobart to build a major distribution centre on Green Belt land opposite their existing HQ at Appleton Thorn has been rejected by members of Warrington's planning committee.

Members of the committee voted against officer recommendation to approve the application on the basis it was "premature" and not enough evidence to show the economic benefits outweighed the loss of green belt.

The Full Planning application (Major) by Liberty Properties Developments Ltd & Eddie Stobart consisted of demolition of all existing on-site buildings and structures and construction of a National Distribution Centre building (Use Class B8) with ancillary office accommodation (Class B1(a)), vehicle maintenance unit, vehicle washing area, internal roads, gatehouse, parking areas, perimeter fencing, waste management area, sustainable urban drainage system, landscaping, highways improvements and other associated works.

The site extends to approximately 15.7 hectares in size and is currently two undeveloped, arable fields divided by a low hedgerow running from north to south.

The site falls within the Green Belt land (as defined by the Adopted Warrington Local Plan Core Strategy) between the Warrington urban area to the west and Lymm to the east. The application site lies within the Appleton Thorn Neighbourhood Plan Boundary.

Opposing the development Cllr Judith Wheeler said: "The National Planning Policy Framework states that 'Good quality pre-application discussion enables better coordination between public and private resources and improved outcomes for the community.

'A local planning authority cannot require that a developer engages with them before submitting a planning application, but they should encourage take-up of any pre-application services they offer.'

"Stobart's, this 'significant outfit' generating £570m turnover per year from its Warrington HQ and with a proposed development that will have a massive impact on the Green

Belt and local highway network did not or could not seek to engage with the local residents in Appleton Thorn, local Councillors or the Parish Councils. This is shameful and shows their arrogance and utter contempt for the local community.

"For those of you who have visited the site, you will have seen Beehive Farm, a Grade 2 Listed Building. The impact on Mr and Mrs Barber who live there is dismissed, the harm is negligible. I don't call 40 tonne lorries thundering past your door every 2 minutes, including times when you are asleep negligible. I don't call not being able to get in and out of your driveway negligible.

"Beehive Farm was built without foundations. What impact is this additional traffic and construction work going to have on the building?"

Mrs Barber told me that when she lies in bed, she can see the tops of the lorries going past. She's going to see them at lot more now.

"What mitigation measure have Stobart's put in place - none. Stobart's couldn't even knock on the door of Mr and Mrs Barber

"At the front of your report members, Articles 8 and 1 of the Human Rights Act is quoted. This applies to one household as much as it does for many more.

"This application asks more questions than it answers and is full of if, buts and maybes."

Meanwhile in a joint statement, local parish Cllr Gerry Palmer, who represents the Thorn ward, and local resident Kevin McAloon said:

"Last year this committee supported Warrington's first and only NDP and validated it as a legal document. If you approve this application, you, as a committee, will be overriding a plan that took 4 years to develop and which has been agreed between you, the Council and the community. This application would lead to unprecedented environmental damage - destroying green belt, unbearably increasing road congestion, and significantly reducing air quality, each with direct consequences for the people of Warrington.

"Overall Warrington's development plan includes the adopted Thorn Ward Neighbourhood Plan. National Policy requires any development to



be considered against those plans. This application contravenes several Thorn Ward NDP Policies: the Design of Development, Protecting and Enhancing Local Landscape, and New Local Employment Opportunities.

"This development does NOT make a positive contribution to local character in the area, and its size and scale are overwhelming. Rather, it destroys Green Belt land with associated local habitats and wildlife corridors; and we do NOT agree that there exists 'very special circumstances' (vsc) to build on Green Belt. It seems that Stobart promotes a weak economic justification which mostly serves themselves and does not meet the 'vsc' rigorous criteria to justify the release of Green Belt. Equally an unwelcome precedent would be set.

"Based on Stobart's figures, there will be an unrelenting traffic flow 365days/24/7 with around 2000 vehicle movements per day including an HGV passing every 2 minutes, and many of these movements continuously through the night. Roads are already under stress at peak times. Government figures say that transport is now the most polluting sector of the economy, even ahead of the energy sector, which includes power stations. The resultant air, noise, and light pollution from this operation is unacceptable."

Cllr Bob Barr raised concerns over Stobart's lack of consultation and asked why the applicants were not asked to consult with the local community and councillors?

While acknowledging the firm's positive impact on the town he also raised concerns over the application being 'secretly put together' without

consultation with the community.

Cllr David Keane raised concerns over Stobart's paying some of their employees less than the living wage and questioned how this could be an economic benefit?

Planning consultant John Groves, a former head of Warrington's planning department, but now representing parish councils in the south of the borough pointed out that 60 per cent of Stobart's existing workforce came from outside the borough and there was not enough evidence to show new employees would be from the Warrington area.

Speaking in support of the application Eddie Stobart Chief Executive Alex Laffey said the company was "proud" of its links and investment in Warrington and wanted to continue to grow with a multi-million pound development.

"We currently employ 700 people at our existing site, many from the the local community.

"We were proud of the training and development of our staff and we are continuing to invest in training programmes.

"We are ambitious for Stobarts and Warrington. We have invested in state of the art warehousing but none in the north west. After much research we have concluded this is the only suitable site. Our team has worked closely with the council's planning officers to ensure a high quality and sustainable development."

He also added that the council's recent decision to invest in purchasing the existing HQ was in no way connected with this planning application. He also refuted the comments regarding salaries, stating that most drivers, after spending one year with the company, became "lifers."



Santa will make an early visit to Appleton

SANTA will be making an early visit to Appleton Parish Hall –just after the Christmas Tree lights are switched on.

He will have a small gift for the

first 50 children to arrive to meet him.

The date for your diary is Saturday, December 1 and the lights will be switched on at 4.30pm. There will

be community singing, led by AIM Independent Methodist Church and refreshments, donated by the Co-op will be available.

Appleton Parish Council chairman Cllr Sharon Harris said: "The aim is to bring our friends and neighbours in the different parts of Appleton

together during the festive season.

"This is the first time the parish council has organised such a community event at Christmas and we do hope you will be able to join us to make it successful.

"We hope it will become an annual event."



Law firm appoints new head of clinical negligence

WARRINGTON-based law firm FDR Law has appointed a new head of clinical negligence.

Stephanie Fallon has joined the firm's Civil Litigation team, based at the firm's offices on Palmyra Square.

Stephanie qualified as a solicitor in 2000 and has moved to FDR Law from Forster Dean Solicitors, where she built a fine reputation in the area of clinical negligence. She is passionate about this area of law and places a strong emphasis on thorough and meticulous medical research in order to achieve a high success rate for her clients.

She said: "I am excited to join such a progressive firm as the lead in clinical negligence, and look forward to helping clients in this complex and emotive area of law"

Stephen Lawson, head of Civil Litigation at FDR Law said: "I am delighted that Stephanie has joined us. She has all the necessary skills knowledge and expertise to provide a first class service to our clients. I feel like a top football manager who has just signed a star player. Stephanie is quality. Give her a call and find out."

Stephanie can be contacted at FDR Law on 01925 230000 or email stephanie.fallon@fdrlaw.co.uk

Villages pick up community pride awards

GRAPPENHALL and Thelwall came third in this year's Cheshire Community Pride competition in the section for villages with a population of 5,001 to 10,000.

Hatton also picked up a third place award in the category for villages with a population of under 400.

Moore came fourth in the section for populations of 401 to 600 and Antrobus were fifth in the section for villages with a population of 601 to 1,000.

The winners were announced at a ceremony at Frodsham Community Centre.

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*Mulled wine and mince pies will be available during the first two weekends of December 2018.

Win a Christmas hamper at the Heritage Café at Walton

THE Heritage Café at Walton Gardens has some new festive delights on offer throughout the festive period - and the chance of winning a luxurious Christmas hamper.

The café, located in the Heritage Yard has recently been taken on

by Lewis's and is rapidly becoming a favourite destination to drop in for either a quick cuppa, sit-down brunch/lunch or cake fest in the afternoon.

Indeed, as the Winter draws in, the café is becoming a welcome retreat for families, cyclists, park visitors and

dog walkers alike.

Throughout December special festive delights will be introduced to compliment the current menu.

Café proprietor, Stef Manfredi is very keen to have created food and drink choices to meet all dietary requirements and is excited to be able to extend the menu for the Christmas period.

Gingerbread and Chocolate and Orange Flowerpot Muffins alongside current favourites including the luxurious Parsnip, Honey and Orange layer cake and Gluten Free Chocolate Brownies.

Café Manager Karolina has taken care of the festive coffee choices and is delighted to offer Winter Spice, Egg Nog and Choc Mint Lattes alongside infusion Christmas teas and the appearance of a 'guest' Christmas blend coffee, which she is keeping a secret for now!

What isn't a secret is the fact that Walton Hall Gardens and the Heritage Café staff are working hard to ensure

that there is much to look forward to throughout December at the park.

With the Heritage Yard and Old Riding School hosting the increasingly popular Artisan Market on Saturday 15th and 16th December and Winter Wonderland taking place across two weekends on Saturday and Sunday 8/9th and 15/16th December there will be much fun to be had and lots of delicious food and drink to enjoy.

The Heritage Café will open itself out onto the courtyard and Stef explained "We aim to provide some traditional, but tasty, locally sourced 'Winter Warmers' outside for both weekends to compliment the food options available inside the café. There's a lot of planning to do but we can't wait to decorate our Christmas tree and embrace the festive period."

The Heritage Café at Walton is also offering Facebook followers the chance to win a luxurious Christmas hamper.

See the advert on the opposite page for details.



Snap happy Darren's duckling delight

LOCAL photographer Darren Moston is celebrating after receiving a "highly commended" in the British Wildlife Photography Awards animal portraits category for his photograph of a baby duckling pictured at Stockton Heath.

The picture of the Mallard duckling titled "What are you doing there taking

my photo?" was exhibited in London and is now part of an exhibition touring the country.

Darren said: "I took the photo in Stockton Heath back in May when there were baby ducklings. There were four of them, two yellow and two normal. The mum and dad were both white ducks

who have been around for years.

"The ducklings were wandering around in the grass and the first day they were on the towpath side, luckily they didn't mind me being there. So I lay down and snapped away.

"I have been taking photos now since 2009 and spend way too much

time with the ducks and other animals, in Stockton Heath and Walton!

"I'm really happy to get highly commended as the competition is open to professionals as well and thousands of people enter it!"

Darren received a BWPA book as his prize.



Picture: Darren Moston



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Money Column

By Margaret Black

Do training costs qualify for Tax Relief?

This may depend on whether you are self-employed or an employee, if the latter, then it also depends on whether you or your employer pays for your training.

If Self Employed

Tax relief will generally be given if the expense is incurred 'wholly and exclusively' for the purpose of the trade or profession (not if the costs are of a capital nature). Resulting in a situation where training costs are:



David Watkinson and Margaret Black

- allowed, where the costs are incurred to update existing skills , but
- disallowed, if the training is intended to develop new skills for use in the existing business (this would be regarded by the Inland Revenue as a cost relating to the expansion of the business)

For example: No tax relief for the French course

- an individual is a self-employed lecturer in the financial services industry. If they pay to attend a course on new Stock Exchange regulations, this expense will be allowable against tax as this person is updating existing skills, if however,
- they pay to attend a 'learn to speak French fluently' course, in order to commence lecturing the language to others, such costs would be disallowed as the training is equipping them with new skills

Employees

Any training paid for by an employer which makes the employee better able to do their job (this includes equipping them with new skills) will be an allowable expense for the employer, and not taxable on the employee, if however,

The costs are incurred by the employee and reimbursed by the employer:

- the reimbursement will be taxable on the employee and will also be subject to Class 1 National Insurance Contributions, but
- there is usually no deduction for the employee against this employment income charge

The latter is usually because (under taxation laws) expenses are only allowable for an employee if incurred 'wholly, exclusively and necessarily' in the performance of duties. It would appear that there has been a consistent distinction, regarding training, between preparation for performing the duties of the employment, this may include attending educational courses and actually performing those duties.

In summary, it is preferable to get an employer to pay for training directly, as there are only very limited circumstances in which an employee can obtain tax relief for such costs

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Roofers scale new heights raising £3k for charity



A team from Warrington based Young's Roofing Contractors scaled new heights helping raise an estimated £3,000 for charity by completing the gruelling Three Peaks Challenge.

Managing Director Tom Young and members of his team climbed the highest mountains of England, Scotland and Wales in 24 hours raising money for Audacious Foundation, a charity which tackles issues including poverty, homelessness and family challenges.

Over the last year the foundation has been working alongside the community to educate, encourage and empower people to overcome life challenges and live a balanced, healthy life.

Tom and his team and support driver Liam Grady from Build Materials UK tackled Ben Nevis (4,413 ft), Scafell Pike (3,209 ft) and Snowdon (3,560 ft).

Now after completing the three peaks challenge in 23 hours and feeling "on top of the world" they have set themselves a new challenge - a 15 mile trek on Saturday December 1, around Manchester city centre

pulling a ton of clothes.

Tom said: "We are setting out on this crazy Christmas adventure to support THE BIG GIVE where the Audacious Foundation is inviting families, whose children are on free school meals, to a Christmas Spectacular.

"It is an all singing all dancing Christmas show, with free Ice skating, Santa's Grotto, Mulled wine and mince pies for all the family. Following this event each family will have hand delivered a hamper with all they need for dinner on Christmas day.

"The team will be starting bright and early with the ton of clothes ready to roll and will push and pull them around the 15 mile course! The day will end with a BBQ for the friends and family of all who have supported with all the proceeds from the BBQ also going to the Audacious foundation."

Anyone who would like to support Tom and his team can do so by visiting www.totalgiving.co.uk/appeal/onetonofclothes

www.youngsroofing-warrington.co.uk

'There but not there at St Wilfrids'

ST Wilfrid's Church, Grappenhall, hosted a special "There but Not There" event in the run-up to Remembrance Sunday.

The church was open throughout the day so people could visit to see specially created replicas, such as a World War One trench and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

There were displays, artefacts, children's artwork, crafts, activities and even an opportunity to have a "selfie" with a soldier or nurse.

Different members of the community were involved, including the local preschool, St Wilfrid's and Bradshaw Lane schools, community and uniform groups, Thorn Cross Prison, etc, all with the support of the Royal British Legion and Ex-Serviceman's Club.

Prominent in the church were 10 silhouettes representing some of those who lost their lives in Grappenhall and Thelwall. The stories of some of the men were researched and were on display alongside the silhouettes.

Hundreds of people

visited the church, many more than once.

More than 760 people attended the Remembrance Day service, including 250 in an "overflow" in the parish hall, where the service was relayed.

All donations were split between Help the Heroes and the Royal British Legion.





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Every Fri 30 Nov - 21 Dec 8:30am - 7:00pm

Town Centre Christmas Market (30 Nov)

Alive after 5: late night shopping, live music & family entertainment throughout the day.
Festive decorations workshops 4.30pm - 7pm (fee applicable)

Sat 1 Dec 8:30am - 7:00pm

Town Centre Christmas Market (1 Dec)

Santa's grotto inside the market in aid of Warrington Disability Partnership 10:30am - 4pm
Festive decorations workshops 11am - 3pm (fee applicable)

Every Sun 2 - 23 Dec 11:00am - 4:00pm

Town Centre Christmas Market (2 Dec)

Festive decorations workshops 11am - 2pm (fee applicable)

Sat 8 Dec 8:30am - 5:00pm

Christmas Geeky Market

Festive Slime Party 11am - 3pm

Santa's grotto inside the market in aid of Warrington Disability Partnership 10:30am - 4pm

Sat 15 Dec 8:30am - 5:00pm

The Big Winter Lego Build - all day

Festive decorations workshops 11am - 3pm

Santa's grotto inside the market in aid of Warrington Disability Partnership 10:30am - 4pm

Every day 17 - 22 Dec 8:30am - 5:00pm

Santa's grotto inside the market in aid of Warrington Disability Partnership 10:30am - 4pm

Sat 22 Dec 8:30am - 5:00pm

The spirit of Christmas live music, choirs

Festive decorations workshop

Christmas Eve	8:30am - 4:00pm
Christmas Day	Closed
Boxing Day	Closed
Thur 27 Dec	8:30am - 5:00pm
Fri 28 Dec	8:30am - 5:00pm
Sat 29 Dec	8:30am - 5:00pm
Sun 30 Dec	Closed
New Years Eve	8:30am - 4:00pm
New Years Day	Closed
Wed 2 Jan	Business as usual



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What's on in the villages

- December 11**
STOCKTON HEATH PARISH COUNCIL
Sandy Lane Centre, Stockton Heath, 7.30pm
- December 18**
APPLETON PARISH COUNCIL
Appleton Parish Hall, Dudlow Green Road, 7.30pm
- December 20**
GRAPPENHALL & THELWALL PARISH COUNCIL
Council Offices, Bellhouse Lane, 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**
COUNTRY DANCING CLUB
St Thomas' Primary School, Parkgate Road, Stockton Heath.
8-10pm. Details: 01925 262356
- BRIDGE CLUB**
Belong Warrington, Loushers Lane 7.20pm. Details 01925 262534
- LADIES' FRIENDSHIP CLUB**
The Quays Community Centre, Thelwall New Road, Thelwall.
8pm. Details: 01925 264099
- HIGH LEGH BRIDGE CLUB**
Village Hall, 7-10pm. Rubber, Duplicate and Chicago played. Details: Audrey Greaves 0161 904 0120
- Every second Monday**
PARK (APPLETON) WI
Appleton Parish Hall, Dudlow Green Road, 7.30pm
- PHILOSOPHY IN PUBS DISCUSSION GROUP**
Red Lion pub, Stockton Heath 7-9pm
Contact: Bill Cooke cwncooke@gmail.com
- Second and fourth Monday**
WARRINGTON ART GROUP
Bellhouse Community Centre, Bellhouse Lane, Grappenhall. 7-9pm.
- Every third Monday**
NATIONAL VEGETABLE SOCIETY
Cheshire District meeting
Grappenhall Ex-Servicemen's Club, Chester Road, Grappenhall.
8pm. Details: 01925 265773.
- Every fourth Monday**
MARLFIELD WI
Grappenhall Community Library, Albert Road, Grappenhall. 7.30pm
- Every Tuesday**
COFFEE MORNING
St Cross Church, Appleton Thorn. All welcome. 10am-12 noon
- PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY**
Quays Community Centre, Thelwall New Road, Thelwall. 7.30pm.
Contact: 01925 757582.
- COFFEE MORNING**
Appleton Independent Methodist Church
Appleton Parish Hall, 10am-12 noon
- Every second Tuesday**
STOCKTON HEATH LIONS CLUB
London Bridge Inn, 8pm
Contact: Graham Clisse 58@outlook.com.
Tel 01925 262669
- BOOK CLUB**
Bizzie Beans Coffee House, Bridge Lane, Appleton
11am-12 noon
- Every Wednesday**
APPLETON HALL BADMINTON CLUB
April- December 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, Sandy Lane Community Centre, Stockton Heath, 7.30pm. Details 01925 602486.
- Every fourth Wednesday**
ALZHEIMER'S SOCIETY
Support Group, Brampton Lodge Day Centre, Bridge Lane, Appleton, 6.30-8.30pm
- Every Thursday**
THE SILVER QUAYS Senior Citizen's Club
The Quays Community Centre, Thelwall New Road, Thelwall.
Details: 01925 753474.
- BRIDGE CLUB**
Belong Warrington, Loushers Lane 7.20pm. Details 01925 262534
- Every second Thursday**
STRETTON WI
Appleton Parish Hall, Dudlow Green Road. 2.30pm.
- GRAPPENHALL PROBUS CLUB**
Grappenhall Community Centre, Bellhouse Lane, 10am.
Details: 01925 264427.
- Every third Thursday**
APPLETON AFTERNOON FLOWER CLUB
Appleton Parish Hall, Dudlow Green Road 2pm
Details: 01925 740419
- GRAPPENHALL WI**
Grappenhall Community Centre, Bellhouse Lane 2.15pm
- LYMM & THELWALL U3A**
Members' meetings 10am (not August or December)
Thelwall Parish Hall
- 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



Tennis club to appeal against floodlight ruling

STOCKTON Heath Tennis Club is to appeal against the refusal of planning consent for floodlights on five of its seven courts.

The club, in Delphfields Road, Appleton, has been battling for permission for floodlights for 24 years and its most recent application was turned down by Warrington Borough Council last month.

Appleton Parish Council and nearly 50 neighbours had lodged objections.

Officers had recommended the scheme – which also included converting two shale courts to artificial grass – be approved.

They had argued that the lighting scheme had been scaled down since the last unsuccessful application, earlier this year, and as a result would be well below the level that could

cause concern.

However, the objectors – including the parish council – argued that that the lighting and noise would still have an impact on nearby homes.

They pointed out that the club has the use of nearby floodlit courts at Bridgewater High School which they have used for many years.

Village athletes make their mark

ATHLETES from Grappenhall certainly made their mark in the Cheshire 10k race at Arley – with a father and son putting in superb performances.

Jordan Jones, aged 16, was competing over 10k for the first time.

A sixth former from Lymm High School, he lives in Grappenhall and completed his debut 10k in 33.03 minutes, which places him 8th in the 10k UK rankings for his age group.

His father, Nick Jones, finished in 20th place overall and won bronze

in the V40 category with a time of 33.01 minutes.

Graham Green, a Cheshire Firefighter who lives in Grappenhall, won the V50 category and was 38th place overall with 34.33 mins.

Paul Bagan, also from Grappenhall, finished 5th in the V40 category and 44th place overall with 35.03 mins.

All are members of Warrington Athletic Club.



Jordan Jones and Graham Green at the start of the 10k race.

Council wins grant to restore war memorial

STOCKTON Heath Parish Council has been successful in securing a grant of up to £3,200 towards the cost and cleaning and restoring the village war memorial.

Work on the memorial, which stands at the junction of Ellesmere Road and London Road, close to the boundary of St Thomas' Church, is expected to start around February.

The council applied to the War Memorial Trust and the grant comes from the War Memorials Scheme support by the First World War memorials programme and Historic England.

Specialist restoration and conservation firm Lloyd and Smith, who carried out restoration work on St Thomas' bell tower recently, have been contracted to carry out the work.

It will involve specialist steam cleaning of the stonework of the memorial and surrounding flagstones along with repointing of memorial's construction joints. In addition, a weather shield will be installed above the World War II inscription that is mounted on the brick wall that surrounds the stone cross.

War Memorials Trust director Frances Moreton said: "War memorials are a tangible connection to our shared past creating a link between the fallen and today.

"It is vital we ensure all our war memorials are in the best possible condition for their age and the charity is delighted to support this project. The centenary of World War I is a wonderful opportunity for local communities across the country to protect and conserve their war memorials."

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