

VILLAGE

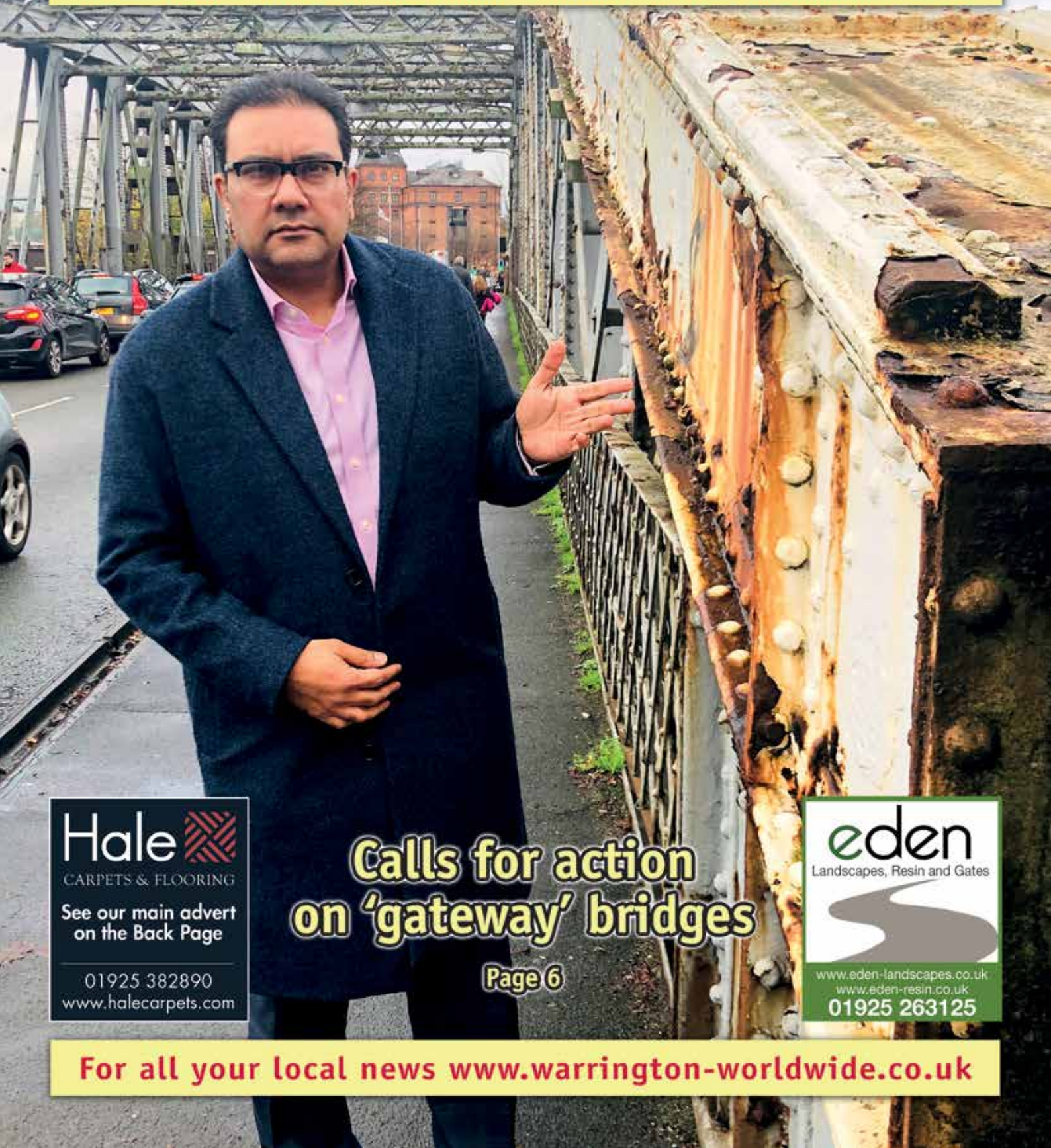
Your Community Magazine

Issue 214 January 2019 FREE

life


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**Calls for action
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4 ways to live a happy retirement



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Retirement should be the time of your life. No more early alarm calls, no more commuting and no more carefully counting your holiday allocation. Instead, you have the freedom to do exactly as you please. Yet retirement might not always work out as the idyllic move to a cottage by the sea it's billed to be. Some people, in fact, dread retirement and feel they're being put out to grass. They fear they'll miss the structure and companionship that work gives.

Think of it more as 'change' not 'old age'

Retirement is automatically associated with old age in people's minds. The very word conjures up images of people sitting around in retirement homes in their slippers, watching daytime T.V. But this is far from the truth. Old age, today, encompasses a vast span of years, from 65 to 100. There are many active retirees living life to the full. And if you think how much the average person's life changes between 25 and 60, just think how many possibilities could lie ahead in the same timeframe. Going from work to retirement is a huge transition – yet people cope with many other major transitions during the course of their lives; having a baby, changing jobs, going through a divorce, moving house. The key is to use your resilience and strength from previous times of change to help as you move into retirement. Don't see it as entering old age, see it more as a time of embracing life's opportunities.

Don't just be concerned about the money side of things

That may sound a curious thing to read in a financial newsletter. And pensions will form a key part of any more retirement planning. There's also no denying that pensions can be complex so it's important to find the right solution for your situation whether it's taking an income or accessing a lump sum. But the financial side of things is much wider than

just your pension. So take time to think about what your ideal lifestyle would look like. Think about some proper financial planning. What are your goals and ambitions for retirement? Are your current finances on track to help you reach them? The money is just an ends to enable you to live a happy retirement and find a new purpose.

Be clear in your mind what you really want to do

In today's world, where such value is placed on career status, retirement can be seen as an end rather than a new beginning. But you don't have to be in paid employment to be happy and fulfilled. You may, in fact, find you achieve far more satisfaction in life after work. Why not do something you've always wanted to but never had time to? Learn to play a musical instrument, take up a sport, sign up for some volunteering, enrol on a course, get involved in a conservation project, travel the world... This is your time to do as you please. Remember, you don't have to be constantly busy – sit back and reflect on your true values.

Adopt a proactive mindset

You often hear stories of people becoming ill, or even dying, within months of stopping work – a cruel twist of fate after they've laboured hard for years, looking forward to their retirement. According to the Office for National Statistics, though, health and wellbeing do actually increase in retirement while depression and anxiety often fall. This is as people have more time to adopt a healthy lifestyle and find new sources of fulfilment and exercise. The key seems to be to make a determined effort to stay sharp, be proactive and keep stretching your boundaries. It may sound surprising but workaholics often love retirement as much as they loved their careers.

Disclaimer: None of the above article constitutes advice.

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Editor's comment

People power wins the day – again!

IT would appear that our politicians are indeed listening to the people!

After reporting on last month's success at the decision by members of the planning committee to reject controversial plans by Eddie Stobart to build a new distribution centre and warehousing on Green Belt land at Appleton Thorn, members of the council's Executive Board have now put a halt on plans to close the Stockton Heath recycling centre.

Officers had been recommending it should be closed to make savings of around £300,000 despite more than 1,000 people responding to a public consultation opposing the closure, with a further 3,000 signing a petition.

But instead members of the Executive Board have granted a stay of execution until at least May

and instructed officers to find an alternative site in the South of the Borough before closing the existing site.

Meanwhile they have also instructed officers to meet with the site operators and look at efficiency savings.

It is good to see that the council has listened to the people, otherwise it would beg the question "What is the point of consulting if you are not going to listen."

We now have two local success stories where the council has listened to the people – long may it continue.

Congratulations to all those involved in taking part in the consultation and to our elected representatives who campaigned against the closure.

Now we wait with baited breath to see the outcome of the Local Plan



consultations.

Hopefully those in power will take on board all the information they have received and ensure whatever plans are in the pipeline, the right infrastructure is in place to deal with them.

Our highways, schools and GP surgeries are all at bursting point and with hundreds of new homes already being built there is no spare capacity.

Finally I would like to wish all our readers and advertisers a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year as we face uncertain times on various fronts!

**Deadline
for the
February
issue of
Village Life
is January 22**



Top guitarist to play at St Wilfrid's

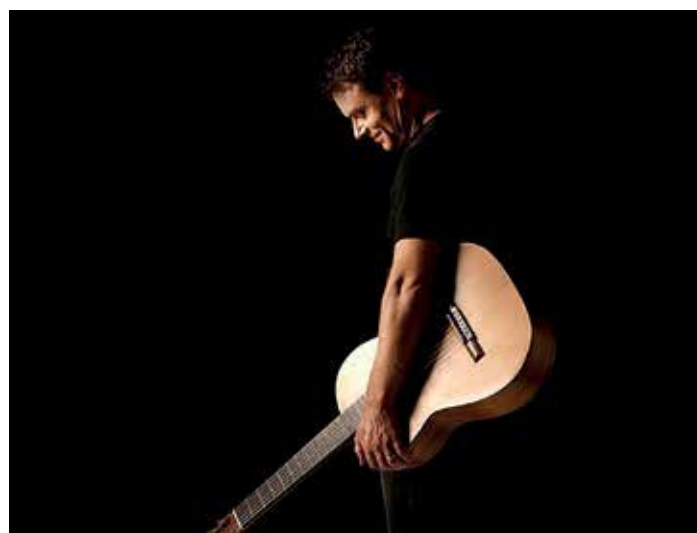
THE 2019 season of music presented by Live at St Wilfrid's, Grappenhall will start on February 14 with a visit from classical guitarist Craig Ogden.

Australian-born Ogden, is principal lecturer in guitar at Manchester's Royal Northern College of Music. He has been based in the UK since 1990, since when he had had a string of albums to his credit.

The recital will be at St Wilfrid's Church, Grappenhall starting at 7.30pm.

Other concerts scheduled for the Live at St Wilfrid's programme in the coming year include

March 23: The Apollo Saxophone Quartet, April 6, Scott Brothers Duo, May 18, The Pelleas Ensemble, June 20, Leyland Band, September 7, Kathryn Rudge, October 17, Telemann Baroque Ensemble, November 14: Swingshift Band.



Council donation to charity chosen by Armistice Day piper

STOCKTON Heath Parish Council has agreed to make a donation to Warrington Animal Welfare – the charity chosen by piper John Imrey who played the bagpipes in the village at 6am on Armistice Day.

Mr Imrey was taking part in the national initiative which saw pipers across the country playing "When

Battle's O'er" at 6am – the time when the Armistice was signed in 1918.

More than 30 people, including representatives of the parish council, turned up at Victoria Square on a chilly morning to hear Mr Imrey play.

Afterwards a beacon was lit at the top of the tower of St Thomas' Church and the church bells were rung.

"When Battle's O'er" is a famous retreat march written in the 1800s by Pipe Major William Robb

The council also agreed to make a donation to Lymm High School who supplied bugler Tom Leighton-Jones, who sounded the Last Post at the Remembrance Day service in the village.

Young artists create landmark pictures for calendar

STOCKTON Heath Primary School pupil Holly Bouzaglo is celebrating after winning first prize in a competition to produce a new calendar featuring Warrington landmarks.

She was one of a number of school children who take part in the competition to help raise money for arts charity Culture Warrington.

Youngsters from a number of Warrington schools and an art group took part in a competition set up by Culture Warrington, the charity which runs Pyramid and Parr Hall and Warrington Museum and Art Gallery, to create a stunning calendar which is on sale now.

Andrea Morley, fundraising and sponsorship officer for Culture Warrington, explained the inspiration for the project entitled Warrington Through the Eyes of Our Children: "We were really keen to come up with a way of engaging our local young people while celebrating Warrington's rich heritage.

"The children who took part really got on board with the idea of recreating some of Warrington's best-known landmarks and drew stunning depictions of a variety of locations, from Walton Hall Gardens to The Guardians in the town centre.

"Their entries are really eye-catching and we'd like to thank them for putting so much effort into their

drawings.

"The quality of artwork was outstanding and we received over 1,300 pieces of artwork."

The top prize went to Holly Bouzaglo from Stockton Heath Primary School for her colourful oil pastel sketch of the town's iconic Golden Gates, made all the more poignant for their current absence due to restoration work.

The 11-year-old said she was very surprised to win, although art is one of her favourite subjects, but she was proud that her image would be appearing on the front page of the calendar.

The other children whose work was chosen to appear in the calendar were Hina Fazel, Annabel Jones, Millie Manuel, Bradley Kernahan, Chloe Shaw, Max Cook, Hannah Bond, Theo Pugh, Olivia Ann Whitlow, Olivia Brassell, Lucy Brindle and Summer Ashworth.

The standard was so high that the work of runners up – Esmee Parker, Ruby Ella Boyd, Hannah Nestor, Marshall Anders, Eve Powell, Nanayaa Odoro, Vlad Balutiu and Jaymie Howard – is also featured on the back of the calendar.

Joining Andrea on the judging panel were the Mayor of Warrington, Cllr Karen Mundry, Warrington Museum and Art Gallery education and learning officer Katy Melville and Culture Warrington chairman Maureen

Banner.

Mrs Banner said the quality of the artwork, which totalled more than 1,300 pieces, was outstanding.

"The standard of work submitted was really wonderful, the talent our young people demonstrated was incredible.

"Holly was selected as the winner for the quality and standard of her drawing, she is clearly a very talented girl and she should be proud.

"The Golden Gates are one of Warrington's claims to fame and Holly has managed to capture the intricate

detail of the metalwork which makes them such a treasure."

The calendar, which costs £4.95, is on sale now and can be bought from Culture Warrington and LiveWire sites, online at culturewarrington.org or at the Calendar Club outlet in the town centre.

Proceeds will be fed back into repeating the project next year and there is also an option to round the sale up to £6 to include a donation of £1.05 towards Culture Warrington's education activities which are offered to local schools.



Holly Bouzaglo is pictured with Culture Warrington Chair Maureen Banner and Andrea Morley who co-ordinated the competition.



A kitchen without compromise

What do you do when you've trawled the high street kitchen places but not found what you're looking for, and you don't want to compromise on your wish list....?

Welcome to JD Kitchens, the company that designs kitchens around you.

Here's a real life example of what JD Kitchens did last month.

The owners of this kitchen are busy people. They wanted an open space, with breakfast bar that doubled as a desk space, and a family area to sit together. It needed to feel luxurious, modern and warm, so that's what they gave them!

To create a kitchen with all the storage space that they needed, alongside a very long list of NEFF appliances was a challenge, particularly as their designer, Jason wanted to ensure that it was a relaxing space that didn't feel cluttered.

Jason didn't want them to have

to compromise on style or on the number of appliances that they wanted, so planned the kitchen to use the benefit of the room's natural height utilising extra tall units to maximise the space.

The design offers the family a well planned and thoughtful kitchen that brought together all of the requirements. A concrete effect adds interest and texture, with high gloss doors to contrast and reflect the light.

Jason included larders and corner units to ensure that every inch of cupboard space could be accessed.

The ceiling was engineered to introduce lighting that complemented the scheme, minimising fuss and maintaining the streamlined look, and the work was all done by the JD Kitchen team, meaning it has a six year installation warranty.

If you're looking for a kitchen without compromise call in to see Jason at JD Kitchens, 4 Gorsey Lane, Padgate 01925 636997.



#KEEPING IT LOCAL

As most of our lovely clients are aware; we have been in the Village for a long time (over 20 years) and along with fellow traders we are passionate about 'keeping the village alive'.

The traders attend regular meetings and we have a couple of ladies (you know who you are!), who are hardworking and committed to the cause. A number of traders are award winners and I am happy to say we appear on that list! The village has continued to evolve and adapt to the fast growing pace of change (social media at the forefront).

In 2002 we became Stockton Heath Travel and have arranged thousands of

holidays for both local residents and customers from all over the world. In 2016 we became part of Hays Travel, who are the UK's largest independent travel agent. They have specialised in providing good value, quality holidays and excellent customer service for valued customers for over 30 years. Fully ABTA and ATOL bonded, means your holiday and your money is safe in our hands. The North West division now has more than 30 shops in

Cheshire, Wales, Wirral/Liverpool and Manchester.

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We look forward to welcoming you all in the New Year and hope that 2019 brings you all health and happiness. Whatever destinations are



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MP calls for action on 'gateway' swing bridges

MP Faisal Rashid has added his weight to the long-running campaign to get the local swing bridges repaired and restored.

The Warrington South MP has written to Mark Whitworth, chief executive of Peel Ports, raising concern about the condition of the bridges across the Manchester Ship Canal in his constituency.

He points out that the bridges – at Latchford, Stockton Heath and Walton – are in desperate need of painting and calls for assurances that the work will be carried out soon.

He asks for a schedule of the works. Mr Rashid said: "My constituents are rightly fed-up by the lack of action on this issue. For too long the bridges, located on Chester Road, London Road and Knutsford Road, have been left in a poor state and in need of immediate attention.

"I am disappointed that despite the

reported promises by Peel Ports that they intend to begin maintenance on the bridges, nothing has materialised. In the meantime, the bridges continue to deteriorate. Frankly, my constituents and our town deserve better.

"These bridges don't just connect our town, they are also gateways into our town, and as such they offer a first impression of Warrington to our visitors. The way they look matters.

"My constituents feel let-down by Peel Port's inaction to date.

"I believe that Peel Ports has a corporate responsibility to act on this issue and by doing so proving that they are indeed committed to our town and our communities.

"I hope that my letter will now spur Peel Ports on to do the right thing and carry out the maintenance on the bridges that is so desperately needed."

Thousands of people have signed petitions calling for the swing bridges to be renovated.



Village doesn't want any more bars and restaurants

STOCKTON Heath village already has sufficient bars, restaurants and cafes – any more would equate to a surplus.

This is the view of Stockton Heath Parish Council in a response to a borough council consultation on the night time economy.

Parish councilors also believe that it would be preferable if premises in the village closed before midnight on weekdays.

They claim the night time economy also creates a litter problem which is not always serviced by the borough council and that parking and traffic issues are caused by users of the night time economy.

Noise and disturbance levels also increase, particularly in the summer months and at time of celebration such as New Year.

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exceeding expectations

More to come at Heritage Café in New Year

THE Heritage Café at Walton Hall and Gardens has lots more to come in 2019.

The café which was taken over by Lewis's last July welcomes all customers including dog walkers, families with young children and local groups plus all those people with special dietary requirements.

Café proprietor Stefano explains: "We have certainly made some strides in making provisions for all members of the community who come to Walton Gardens but 2019 will be a year where we aim to make a visit to the café a little more special."

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- Free activity sheets and coloured pencils for young children
- Parent and toddler club specials
- More gluten and dairy free food options
- Music evenings and other events to support local artists and community groups
- Even more luxury cakes and muffins!



Law firm appoints new head of clinical negligence



LOCAL 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

Emerald Bay are digging for success

STOCKTON Heath based construction company Emerald Bay have been shortlisted for the prestigious North West Residential Property Awards, in the category 'Bespoke & Urban Developer of the year'.

The industry award winner will be announced at a black tie ceremony in January, coinciding with the first anniversary of Kings Court

Apartments, the Warrington town centre luxury apartments that secured their nomination.

Adam Jude, Operations Director at Emerald Bay said: "To be shortlisted for this industry award is in itself a triumph as we're up against several big players. We're extremely proud of what we achieved at Kings Court and its full occupancy is an existing measure of its success".

An independent panel of experts will announce the winner at a black tie event in Manchester on 24 January.

Since their release in December 2018, the 32 loft style properties at the heart of the Town Centre have proved extremely popular with cosmopolitan professionals from across the world, including Greece, Austria and South Africa.





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Money Column

By Margaret Black

Money Purchase Annual Allowance

Some of you out there may be a bit long in the tooth, like myself, and withdrawn their 25% tax free lump sum from a pension scheme. If so, you should be aware of the Money Purchase Annual Allowance ("MPAA") which was introduced in April 2017 to counter a perceived tax avoidance, pension "recycling".



David Watkinson and Margaret Black

So, what is recycling? This is when you take some or all of the tax-free element of your pension savings and reinvest it into a new pension plan. The new contribution qualifies for tax relief and generates an entitlement to a new tax-free lump sum. In effect, you're using your original tax-free payment to create more tax-free income at no extra cost. How good is that? Well, apparently too good for the wicked taxman (BOO, HISS Well it is pantomime season, after all)

So, what is the MPAA? This caps tax relief on future pension contributions to £4,000 per annum in most situations where you've arranged to draw money from your pension scheme after April 2015, and then made the withdrawal. The cap means that tax relief you receive for pension contributions in excess of £4,000 per year is clawed back through the annual allowance charge. Also, if the nasty man from HMRC considers that you've exceeded the limits for recycling pension contributions, then he may impose very stiff financial penalties (HE'S BEHIND YOU!!)

There are two more points to make. Firstly, both your own and your employer's contributions into an auto-enrolment pension scheme count towards the £4,000 per annum limit on contributions. Secondly, Mr Nasty Taxman cannot impose any penalties for exceeding the limits unless you've received more than £7,500 tax-free pension cash in the previous 12 months AND increased your pension contributions by more than 30%, ie penalties will only be applied in the most flagrant cases of breaches of the rules (PHEW!! HURRAH!!).

So, given the above is it worth even considering? Well, provided that you avoid paying contributions at a rate that triggers a penalty, reinvesting at the £4,000 per year maximum allowed by the MPAA can build a substantial extra tax-free lump sum. Assuming an annual growth rate for your fund of, say, 5% per year, annual recycling could generate an extra £13,000 tax-free cash over ten years. The bottom line is that just because you have or are taking money from your pension savings this doesn't prevent you from continuing to build another tax-free lump sum.

And now for the legal bit (BOO). WatkinsonBlack are not authorised to give pension advice. The above is not intended to provide pension advice but solely to consider the tax implications of pension contributions.

And finally, a Happy and Prosperous New Year to each and every one of you.

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Roofers pull a ton of clothes for charity!



HOT on the heels of a gruelling Three Peaks Challenge the team from Warrington based Youngs Roofing were at it again - this time pulling a ton of clothes around Manchester City Centre.

The 18 mile trek required pure hard work and determination, providing many trials and tribulations, hurdles and obstacles to overcome including punctures, buckled chassis, broken bearings and broken bodies!

But through great team work, friendships, sweat, (nearly some tears) and a lot of laughter the full team at Youngs pulled together with help from true friends from all corners of Manchester and beyond!!

Managing Director Tom Young from Appleton, Warrington, said: "We raised thousands of pounds in aid of those less fortunate this Christmas. Whether it be providing families with a hamper to enjoy a real Christmas, clothes and necessities for

the homeless, putting in food in the mouths of helpless children over the festive period or raising money direct for the Audacious Foundation to feed the homeless every night of the week.

"Big thanks to Justin Dring of the Audacious Foundation, Liam Grady of Build Materials UK, for all their hard work organising this event which was a hard task in itself!!

"Donations are all greatly appreciated and the amount of gratitude we were shown on our walk by the homeless was heart touching. We are all really are making a difference. So please keep donating. I know we all feel blessed to be in such a position to help those less fortunate. Thank you and Merry Christmas from all at Youngs Roofing Contractors!

Why not donate today by heading to www.totalgiving.co.uk/appeal/one-ton-of-clothes where you can give a gift towards this fabulous cause!





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Bridgewater Players' panto revival after four years

POPULAR local drama group the Bridgewater Players are preparing for their February production of "Cinderella" – their first pantomime for four years.

Sticking closely to the traditional tale of ugly sisters and handsome prince, the panto nevertheless has an original script by the late Ian Hornby, former chairman of the society and a playwright with more than 50 plays to his name.

The last time the group attempted a panto, in 2014, it had to be cancelled because of damage to the roof of their venue, Thelwall Parish Hall.

But with the hall now refurbished and a cast including new, enthusiastic members, they are confident "Cinderella" will provide plenty of laughs and excellent entertainment.

Cinderella, of course, will have to suffer the mistreatment of the ugly sisters, but she will have the help of the faithful Buttons, the Fairy Godmother and, of course, the Prince.

Interwoven throughout are the comedy antics of two shelf elves, a miserable, lazy gnome and a silly little bumble bee, all eager to Cinders in her quest to become the Prince's bride and put the ugly sisters in their place.

Tickets can be purchased from bwplayers.co.uk, by calling chairman Andy Rushman on 01925 755 846, emailing Bridgewaterplayers@gmail.com or from Thelwall post office.

On the Friday night there will be a raffle with all monies raised going to a charity chosen by director Amy Cook.



Warning after spate of burglaries

POLICE have issued a warning after a spate of burglaries in the South Warrington area involving ladders and tools left out in gardens.

During early December a number of these break-ins have occurred in the Appleton area – in Field Lane, Saxon Close, Windmill Lane and Hillside Rd.

On each occasion, the offenders have accessed properties via first floor Windows. Ladders have sometimes been used to gain access and the offences have taken place during the early evening. Vehicles and jewellery are being targeted.

A spokesman said: "We are asking residents to be extra vigilant, and ensure that house alarms are set, all windows and doors are securely locked and any ladders are not left out in open view.

"If anyone has any information, or sees anything they consider suspicious, please contact police on 101 or 999."

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What's on in the villages

January 8
STOCKTON HEATH PARISH COUNCIL
Sandy Lane Centre, Stockton Heath, 7.30pm

January 15
APPLETON PARISH COUNCIL
Appleton Parish Hall, Dudlow Green Road, 7.30pm

January 17
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
MARKFIELD 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
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
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



Council halt plans to close recycling centre while alternative site found

CONTROVERSIAL plans to close the Stockton Heath Community Recycling Centre have been halted pending further investigative work to find an alternative site in the south of the town.

In a report to Warrington Borough Council's Executive Board, council officers were recommending that the Recycling Centre on Sandy Lane be closed, but have now been instructed "to allocate a suitable site for the provision of a CRC site within the South of the Borough as part of the Local Plan Process."

Warrington South MP Faisal Rashid, who called on the council to find an alternative site before any closure, has welcomed the news.

While welcoming the Council's commitment to providing a new, fit for purpose alternative site in the south of Warrington, Faisal expressed concerns about the proposal to close the recycling centre upon completion of the improvement works at Woolston and Gatewarth, which would see residents in Stockton Heath, Appleton, Grappenhall, Thelwall, Walton, Stretton, Hatton and Lymm without access to a recycling centre in the local area.

He has been holding discussions with council chiefs to call for the Stockton Heath facility to be kept open until the alternative site in the south of the town is delivered.

Following these discussions, the



recommendation to close the Stockton Heath site has been changed to "Request officers re visit the current operating model for the facility at Stockton Heath in partnership with the existing contractor, with a view to reducing the operational cost of the facility and report back with the outcome of their discussions to the May Executive Board at the latest."

Commenting on the news Faisal said: "I have been in talks with Councillor Russ Bowden, Professor Steven Broomhead and senior officers from Warrington Borough Council over the future of the Stockton Heath Community Recycling Centre. I had raised concerns with them regarding proposals that would see the recycling centre closed upon completion of improvement works at Woolston and Gatewarth.

"I am delighted to hear that following my work on this issue, the Council's Executive Board has now halted plans to close the Stockton Heath site and agreed to look again at ways to keep the site open until an alternative facility is delivered.

"Throughout our discussions, I made it clear that whilst I welcome the Council's commitment to deliver a new recycling centre in the south of the town, there should be no gap in provision for residents in Stockton Heath, Appleton, Grappenhall, Thelwall, Walton, Stretton, Hatton and Lymm. The Stockton Heath site

is well-used and therefore I believe it must remain in operation for as long as possible to ensure that communities in the south of the town do not experience any disruption to their recycling services.

"The Stockton Heath Community Recycling Centre will now remain open while usage of the site is monitored and re-evaluated. I hope that the findings from the investigative work will ensure that the Stockton Heath facility is kept open until a new site in the south of Warrington is delivered. I will continue to work closely with the Council on this important local issue."

A consultation by the borough council over the future of the facility saw more than 1,000 people oppose the closure, with another 3,000 signing a petition.

"Leisure suite" plan turned down

PLANS for a "leisure suite" in the garden of a house at Appleton have been refused by borough council officers.

The scheme, in Lumb Brook Road, involved a detached outbuilding.

Another scheme at a house in Chester Road, Appleton, involving part two storey and part single storey extensions to the side and rear of the property has also been rejected.

But proposals for the demolition of an existing conservatory and construction of a single storey rear extension have been approved in Dudlow Green Road.

Bats about bats!

MORE than 50 people turned up for a "Bat Watch" at Ackers Pit, Stockton Heath - but only two bats!

Earlier the same day 16 residents, plus members of the parish council, carried out a litter pick.



MEET YOUR MP

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