



WARWICKSHIRE
PENSION FUND

NEXT CHAPTER

ISSUE 1 | JUNE 2023

YOUR NEW PENSIONER
NEWSLETTER FROM THE
WARWICKSHIRE PENSION FUND



WELCOME TO THE SPRING EDITION OF 'THE NEXT CHAPTER'...

...the new look newsletter for retired members of the Warwickshire Pension Fund and their dependants.

We hope this newsletter finds you well.

You will find this edition full of the latest LGPS pension news and features. You will also find enclosed the usual pension updates including confirmation of the pensions increase applied from 10 April 2023 on page 3 and your pay dates for the year ahead on page 7.

I am sitting here writing with the warmth of the sunshine streaming through the window, long may it continue. For those of you living in and around Warwickshire you may wish to visit Coughton Court a beautiful National Trust property which is featured in our newsletter this time. *(Continued on page 2)*

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WARWICKSHIRE PENSION FUND INVESTMENTS



The Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) is a Career Average Revalued Earnings pension scheme which means your pension is based on your salary and how long you pay into the Scheme. Your pension is not affected by how well investments perform. The LGPS provides you with a secure and guaranteed income every year in your retirement.

However, the Fund needs to ensure that the contributions made by employers and members are invested in a safe and secure manner. The Warwickshire Pension Fund is currently worth £2.6bn.

Several years ago, the Government asked the 90 + Funds, to form a group of Investment Pools, these comprise of groups of LGPS Funds who work together and combine their investments and in doing so improve value for money through scale, increased access to investment opportunities, and strengthened governance.

Warwickshire Pension Fund is part of the Border to Coast Pensions Partnership.

This pooling opportunity gives Warwickshire a stronger voice by working collectively with the other Partner Funds. Border to Coast, aims to deliver cost effective, innovative, and responsible investment, thereby, enabling strong, risk-adjusted, performance in the long term.

Responsible Investment runs through all the work that both the Fund and Border to Coast do. All of our investment managers engage with companies to drive positive change in a variety of environmental, social and governance issues.

The Fund's latest Responsible Investment and Climate Policies, can be found on our website.

Although You may recall in our last newsletter we stated that we would be moving to online versions of the newsletter going forward, we decided as we wanted to advertise the benefits of signing up to our online portal where retired members would be able to view their pension information online going forward, it would be best to ensure all our retired members received a paper copy at least once more. A move to an online fully accessible version of the newsletter is hoped for going forward, but paper copies can still be issued on request.

Further information on the move to online payslips is available on page 3.

This year we have said farewell to Dawn Clutton who retired from the Pension Team after many years of dedicated service, and we would like to wish her all the best in her retirement.

Our Annual Meeting takes place on the morning of 24th November this year and for the first time we are inviting our members to join us in person or online. Further details can be found on page 7. Please don't miss your chance to learn more about what the Fund is doing, by contacting us to say you would like to join us in person at the Warwick Racecourse or online.

We also have an exciting opportunity for any of any active, deferred or retired members who may be interested in joining the Local Pension Board, further details can be found on page 9, please take a look as your contribution could prove valuable to other scheme members.

We hope you enjoy reading this newsletter.

With kind regards and best wishes to you all.

Vicky Jenks

Pensions Administration
Delivery Lead

MEMBER SELF-SERVICE AND E PAYSLEIPS

Payslips

From June 2023 your payslip will be issued electronically. The payslip will be emailed to you using the email address we hold on file. If we do not hold an email address for you, you will not receive a payslip until we do.

How can I add or update my email address?
To tell us your email address and start receiving electronic payslips you will need to register for Member Self Service by visiting our website: warwickshirepensionfund.org.uk and clicking on the Member Self Service icon.

Member Self Service (MSS) is our secure portal that allows you to keep up to date with your Local Government Scheme pension, update your contact details and access important documents shared by the fund.

Once you are registered for MSS we will email your payslip to the email address you have used to register.

Will my payslip be on MSS?

Your payslip will not be available on

your MSS page. The payslip will be emailed to your email address.

Can I sign up for electronic Payslips without registering for MSS?

If you do not want to register for MSS you can still receive an electronic payslip by emailing pensions@warwickshire.gov.uk and confirming your up to date email address.



This years 'Cost of Living' increase to pensioners is 10.1% which is payable from 10th April 2023. The full increase is only payable if your pension began on or before 25th April 2022.

If your pension began after this date a smaller increase will apply as shown in the table opposite.

The increase applies to the pensions of all widows, civil partners and children, those who retired on health grounds and all pensioners over the age of 55. If you have any questions about the amount of increase payable, please contact Warwickshire Pension Fund. Email: pensions@warwickshire.gov.uk

27 Mar 22	to	25 Apr 22	1.1010
26 Apr 22	to	25 May 22	1.0926
26 May 22	to	25 Jun 22	1.0842
26 Jun 22	to	25 Jul 22	1.0758
26 Jul 22	to	25 Aug 22	1.0673
26 Aug 22	to	25 Sep 22	1.0589
26 Sep 22	to	25 Oct 22	1.0505
26 Oct 22	to	25 Nov 22	1.0421
26 Nov 22	to	25 Dec 22	1.0337
26 Dec 22	to	25 Jan 23	1.0253
26 Jan 23	to	25 Feb 23	1.0168
26 Feb 23	to	25 Mar 23	1.0084



A CROWNING GLORY

A jolly festive day,
In the month May,
For the coronation location,
At Westminster Abbey.

Two golden carriages await,
At Buckingham Palace gates.
A destiny fulfilled from a boy,
He is filled with joy.

Heading towards the Mall,
Seeing the increase in footfall.
Clad in military dress,
King Charles leaves his fortress.

From heir-apparent the King arrives,
With Queen Camilla by his side.
The waiting now is no more,
He is crowned at seventy-four.

In the country of his birth,
Encompassing all to his church,
Seated on an ancient wooden chair,
Now restored and in full repair.

With St Edward's crown upon his head,
Duty to his realm is widespread,
An oath of affirmation taken,
Presented to the 21st century nation.

To confirm him as our new King,
Charles' investiture does begin.
A regal anointing of oil infused,
With traditions of long being used.

Sitting on his throne,
Without a mobile phone,
Orb and sceptre not allowed to fall,
King Charles awaits in the Grand Hall.

The day is now done,
It is time for fun.

As once a long time ago,
Street parties, food, beer and wine galore,
The newly crowned King and Queen,
In the Golden State Coach are seen.

Driven towards the balcony,
Who shall we see, or not see?
In the past, working royals only,
Not others to tell their story!

Thus, grant him the wisdom there,
The daily burden he may have to share.
Though he may hear crowds enthral,
He may not perceive the Monarchy fall!

Kathy Tuck, April 2023



Coughton has been home to the Throckmorton family for 600 years. Facing persecution for their Catholic faith, they were willing to risk everything - involving themselves in political intrigue and the infamous Gunpowder Plot. Now, the wealth of stories and characters still fill this home, where clues to its turbulent history can be found amongst the fresh flowers and family portraits. Explore these stories through a range of interpretation and welcome talks.

Coughton is a house full of secrets and intrigue so come and explore one family's ingenuity, resilience and

resolve to overcome conflict in all its guises, from political and religious to conflicts of the heart. Visitors will be introduced to key characters, giving them the opportunity to follow their fortunes through the rise and fall of the ever changing religious and political landscape.

Our exhibition in the house for this year is focused on the various ways that animals are woven into the collection. Our theme, 'Creatures of Coughton', reveals how individuals of the Throckmorton family, and more generally, past society as a whole, perceived and benefitted from the natural world. Included within this retelling of the collection are stories of animal companionship, heraldry, farming, scientific interest, as well as more difficult topics, like hunting, and the use of animal-derived materials. Even now, animals play an

important part within the Coughton estate, with the historic herd of sheep grazing in the front park and the family's two beloved dogs.

The Throckmorton family created and continues to manage the spectacular award-winning garden at Coughton Court, offering something for everyone to enjoy. Highlights include the walled garden, lake, knot garden, vegetable garden, orchard and bog garden. The gardens were designed to compliment the house, with the courtyard garden based on Elizabethan knot garden to echo the Tudor gatehouse. In contrast to this formality the walled garden was designed as a series of 'garden rooms'. Each space was given a different theme or colour including the hot and cold borders and the spectacular rose labyrinth which boasts over 200 varieties of rose.



WARWICKSHIRE RECIPES



With an increasing number of people enjoying cooking at home, Warwickshire County Council's Heritage and Culture service have begun sharing an interesting selection of heritage recipes from the county.

With an increasing number of people enjoying cooking at home, Warwickshire County Council's Heritage and Culture service have begun sharing an interesting selection of heritage recipes from the county's archives on social media.

From an 18th Century almond cheesecake recipe found in the records of the Wise family, who owned Warwick Priory, to a 'cucumber catchup' from the 19th/20th Century attributed to a Mrs Bunny of Baginton, the recipes that will be shared over the next few weeks are just a sample of the vast array of the culinary records in the Warwickshire County Record Office archive.

Others heritage recipes that will be shared include a chocolate fruit fudge, seed cake, taffaty tarts and apple pasties. The recipes are also available on the 'Our Warwickshire' website, where the Heritage and Culture team have shared their experiences of tackling the recipes (prior to Covid-19) ~ including trying to get to grips with strange quantities like pecks and gills and, in many cases, no quantities whatsoever.

PENSION SCAMS

Pension scams increased during the COVID-19 pandemic. Recently, Action Fraud reported a substantial rise in fraud related incidents, and a measurable increase in attempted pension scams.

The usual methods for pension fraudsters to approach their victims are via telephone (cold-calling) or unsolicited emails, so neither have been hampered by the lockdown measures. Meanwhile potential victims, now accustomed to everyone getting in touch this way, may be less on their guard.

To help protect yourself:



Use the financial services register on the Financial Conduct Authority website at: fca.org.uk

If you suspect a scam, call **Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040** or visit their website at: actionfraud.police.uk

AGM INVITE

We are pleased to be able to invite the members of the Warwickshire Pension Fund, for the first time to our annual meeting this year, which will be held on:

Friday 24 November at Warwick Racecourse, at 10am.

Refreshments will be provided from 9.30am and we expect the meeting to finish around 1pm, a light lunch will also be provided.

If you wish to attend in person, places will be limited and will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

The annual meeting will give you an opportunity to learn more about the workings of the Fund, from both officers and advisors.

To book your place please e-mail pensions@warwickshire.gov.uk We do hope you can join us.

Please ensure you provide us with an email address so a reminder can be sent to you prior to the meeting or a link to allow you to watch it online.

Confirmation of the agenda will also be provided nearer the time; information will be emailed to you and will be available on the Fund's website:

warwickshirepensionfund.org.uk

PENSION PAYMENT DATES FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 2024

Fri 30 June 2023

Mon 31 July 2023

Thu 31 August 2023

Fri 29 September 2023

Tue 31 October 2023

Thu 30 November 2023

Fri 29 December 2023

Wed 31 January 2024

Thu 29 February 2024

Fri 29 March 2024



GET SUPPORT WITH HOUSEHOLD EXPENSES

There is a lot of support available to those who may be finding it challenging to afford living costs such as energy bills, groceries and housing costs.



Find out more on the Warwickshire Cost of Living website costoflivingwarwickshire.co.uk/



FAQ

Can I claim other benefits?

Once you are getting a Warwickshire Pension Fund pension, there might be state benefits you can claim. You should contact the Department for Work and Pensions if you think you might be entitled to other benefits. For contact details, search for your local Jobcentre Plus.

What if I change my bank account?

Please let us know if you want us to pay your pension into a different account.

If you change your bank or building society, please give us your new details in writing. Send them directly to: pensions@warwickshire.gov.uk

Please try to let us know at least three weeks before you are due to get your next pension payment.

What is a Life Certificate and why might I get one?

From time -to-time we need to check that you are still alive and well and getting the pension you are entitled to. This is entirely routine, and we do it by sending most of our retired members a form to sign called a Life Certificate.

So there's really nothing to worry about if you get one of these in the post, but we do need you to fill it in and send it back to us as soon as you can. We have to send Life Certificates because it's one of our audit requirements, and because we have a 'duty of care' to protect our members' money and guard against fraud

What is my Contracted-out Pension Equivalent (COPE) amount?

From November 2015, DWP are including a Contracted -out Pension Equivalent (COPE) amount within State Pension Statements.

This estimated amount is being introduced to help their customers, who've been contracted-out, see how National Insurance contributions paid before 6 April 2016 will contribute to their overall pension income.

Whilst they may not be entitled to the full amount of new State Pension, they will instead receive some of their pension income through a different route, in most cases, their workplace (such as the LGPS) or personal pension scheme(s) should include an amount that is at least equivalent to the additional State Pension they would have got if they hadn't been contracted-out. This is known as the COPE amount.

How much tax will I pay?

Whether you pay tax when you retire, depends on the amount of your pension and other personal circumstances. Pension income is normally treated as earned income for income tax purposes, although you do not pay any National Insurance contributions on your pension income.

The amount of income tax that you pay depends on your total annual income.

Other than your local government pension, your total income could include:

- the State Pension you get (either the basic State Pension or the new State Pension)
- Additional State Pension
- a private pension (workplace or personal) - you can take some of this tax-free

- earnings from employment or self-employment
- any taxable benefits you receive
- any other income, such as money from investments, property or savings

You do not pay any income tax, if your gross taxable income does not exceed your Personal Allowance. The standard Personal Allowance for the tax year 2023/2024 is £12,500.

The amount of income tax you pay in each tax year depends on:

- how much of your income is above your Personal Allowance, and
- how much of this falls within each tax band

HMRC should tell you how much your Personal Allowance is each time it changes.

APPLICATIONS FOR A NEW PENSION BOARD MEMBER NOW OPEN

Looking for a new challenge and a chance to make a difference? The Warwickshire Pension Fund is currently seeking an additional member for its Local Pension Board, overseeing the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS).

What is the LGPS?

The LGPS is one of the largest pension schemes in the UK, providing a secure and guaranteed income every year to over 6.1 million members across England and Wales, regardless of how well investments perform. WCC is responsible for looking after the LGPS in Warwickshire, with over 54,000 members and assets of over £2.8 billion, supported by a Pension Board consisting of scheme member and scheme employer representatives.

Why is a new board member needed?

The Pensions Board needs to appoint a new scheme member representative to ensure that the interests of those invested in the scheme are fully represented. By championing the concerns and perspectives of scheme members, the new representative will play a vital role in guiding the direction of the pension fund to ensure that it is fully aligned with the needs and goals of those invested in it.

Who can apply?

Current or former scheme members, or those working for a Scheme Employer who participates in the LGPS, are eligible for this unique opportunity to be involved in the administration and governance of the scheme. Applicants must also be available to attend Pensions Board meetings on a quarterly basis.

How to apply?

Please visit <https://bit.ly/4637rwr> or scan the QR code to find out more and download an application form, which should be emailed to martingriffiths@warwickshire.gov.uk by 21st July 2023. You will also find the Person Specification and Terms of Reference, which outline the required capacity and skills that will form part of the selection criteria.

Warwickshire County Council (WCC) is committed to equality of opportunity for all employees and is keen to address areas of under representation in its workforce. This is because we understand the importance of different voices, experiences, perspectives, and backgrounds within our workforce. Therefore, we strongly encourage applications from members of underrepresented groups. WCC has a number of staff network groups which provide peer support and safe spaces for employees who hold these and other identities.



Don't miss out on this exciting opportunity to make a difference and help shape the future of the LGPS in Warwickshire.

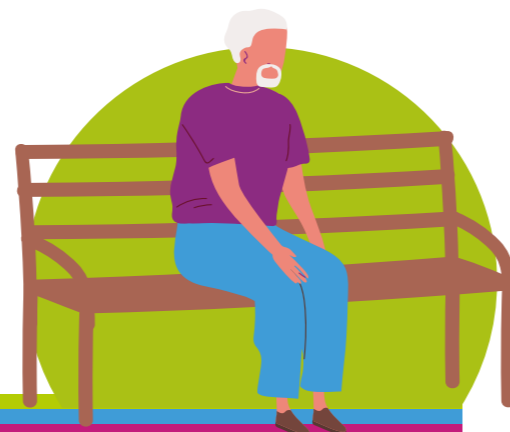
Apply today!

SCAN TO APPLY



Support for those feeling lonely or socially isolated

Loneliness can affect anyone, at any time in their life.



It is more than just being alone, although being isolated and alone can increase feelings of loneliness. It is subjective and what feels lonely for one person might be perfectly ok with another.

If you or someone you know is feeling lonely, there are lots of small ways to connect with others. Sending a letter, a text message, making a phone call or meeting face-to-face can have a positive effect that lasts.

For those that need a bit more help, there are lots of different types of support available. For example, befriending is a service that provides regular phone or face-to-face meetings with a view to building friendships between people. Volunteering can also be a great way to help out the community and meet new people. For access to these services and more, visit our Loneliness webpages.

warwickshire.gov.uk/loneliness



SUPPORT FOR CARERS

If you have caring responsibilities for a partner or family member, you may need additional support especially if you are dealing with age related illnesses, such as dementia or physical disabilities.

Please visit warwickshire.gov.uk/carers to access help and support.

You can also go to caringtogetherwarwickshire.org.uk for further information about being a carer.

INTRODUCING HUBLETS

New Hublets digital tablet. Digital Hublet tablets are available at Leamington, Nuneaton, and Rugby libraries, and allow users to enjoy eMagazines, eNewspapers, eBooks, and other online eResources without the need to have or bring their own digital devices.

The eye-catching Hublets are housed in docking stations at each library, they are completely free to use, and library members just need their library card to get going!

The Hublets are designed to be user-friendly and accessible to all, and library staff will be on hand to help so that customers can enjoy using the tablets in the friendly surroundings of each public library environment.

For more information about the Hublets and other services provided by Warwickshire Libraries, please ask a member of staff in your local library, or visit warwickshire.gov.uk/libraries



COPING IN HOT WEATHER

While many of us welcome warmer weather, it's important that we're aware of the health risks that can come with hot weather and the steps we can take to stay cool.

The main risks posed by a heatwave are: not drinking enough water; overheating; and heat exhaustion and heatstroke.

How to beat the heat

Keep out of the heat, and in the shade, particularly between 11am - 3pm. Wear sunscreen, hat and light clothes.

Cool yourself down - cold food and drinks, avoid alcohol, caffeine and hot drinks, and have a cool shower or put cool water on your skin or clothes.

Keep your living space cool - close windows during the day and reopen when the temperature outside is cooler. Check the temperature of rooms, especially where people at higher risk live and sleep.

Do enjoy the sun this summer but if the hot weather hits make sure it does not harm you or anyone you know.



MCCLLOUD REMEDY UPDATE

In April, the government responded to its consultation on changes to the LGPS to remove the discrimination identified in the McCloud court case.

A fact sheet and FAQ on the McCloud ruling is available on the LGPS member website here: <https://bit.ly/3pgnbf3>

The LGPS regulations will be updated on 1st October 2023 and the Pensions Administration team will contact anyone affected by the McCloud ruling after this date.



SCAN FOR MORE INFO



“To wake up every morning knowing that you’ve already done something for other people is a great way to start the day.”



Andrea, a foster carer with Warwickshire County Council, and her children, have been providing a loving and stable home for Warwickshire’s children in care for over 20 years.

“I began fostering sibling groups, mainly primary age, when my children were younger. As my family grew up, I began to care for older children and now I foster unaccompanied asylum-seeking young people. The young people I care for often don’t speak English and they have a different cultural background, but I try to converse with them the best I can and help them to integrate into society in a positive way”.

“Fostering has changed my life completely. Fostering has allowed my own children to grow up in an environment of caring and sharing. They

have grown into beautiful people who have a good understanding of the challenges others face and continue to help people in the community - as a parent that makes me really proud.”

Andrea and her family are one of 150 Warwickshire fostering households caring for children and young people. Foster carers offer stability and support to vulnerable children and young people who can’t be with their own families. Warwickshire is looking for more people to join this network of passionate and caring individuals just like Andrea - could this be you?

There are many different ways to foster, get in touch to find out more.



SCAN ME



warwickshire.gov.uk/fostering
0800 408 1556

WarwickshireFostering 

CONTACTING US

There are various ways you can contact our office.

Write to us at:

Warwickshire Pension Fund, Warwickshire County Council, Shire Hall, Warwick CV34 4RL

Member Self Service Queries:

Email: mss@warwickshire.gov.uk

Articles or feedback about communications:

Email: pensions@warwickshire.gov.uk

Payroll Queries:

Email: hbrandpayroll@warwickshire.gov.uk

lgps



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