WARWICKSHIRE PENSION FUND

NEXT CHAPTER

YOUR NEW PENSIONER NEWSLETTER FROM WARWICKSHIRE PENSION FUND

ISSUE 4 | SPRING 2026

Welcome to the latest edition of our Pensioner Newsletter, The Next Chapter.

We are delighted to welcome you to the latest edition of our Pensioner Newsletter and hope this finds you well. This newsletter is designed to keep you informed about matters that are important to you, provide useful updates, and help you stay connected with the Warwickshire Pension Fund, Local Government Pension scheme and the wider pensioner community.

In this issue, you'll find updates on recent developments, reminders about key processes, and practical information to support you in managing your pension. We also aim to share news that is relevant, reassuring, and easy to follow, recognising that clear communication is essential when it comes to pensions.

Your pension represents many years of service and commitment, and we remain dedicated to ensuring it is administered accurately, securely, and with care. Whether it's changes in legislation, payment information, or helpful tips, our goal is to provide clarity and peace of mind.

We value your feedback and welcome your suggestions for future editions. If there are topics you would like us to cover, or questions you would like answered, please do get in touch.

Thank you for taking the time to read our newsletter, and we hope you find this edition both informative and enjoyable.

Lisa Eglesfield

Pension Administration Delivery Lead

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

AGM INVITE

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

Thursday 26th November at Old Shire Hall, Warwick at 10am.

Refreshments will be provided from 9.30 am and we expect the meeting to finish around 1pm.

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 email pensions@warwickshire.gov.uk We do hope you can join us.

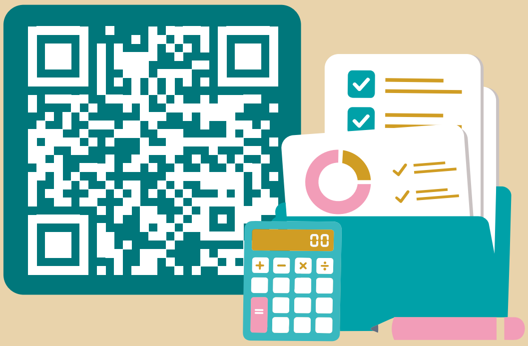
Please ensure you provide us with an email address so a reminder can be sent to you prior to the meeting or a link to allow you to watch it online.

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

ENGAGE

Last year the pension team updated their member portal to a new system called Engage during Spring 2025. Any of our members that have previously registered for our old system (MSS) and members who have not yet signed up for portal access can register on Engage as new users.

Members can access the Engage system by visiting our website warwickshirepensionfund.org.uk or by scanning this QR code with your smart phone:



The system offers functionality such as -

- Keep your contact details up to date to ensure we are able to contact you
- Update your nominated beneficiary to receive any lump sum that would be payable should you pass away
- Share documents with the pension fund digitally and securely
- Find out how much pension your beneficiaries could get in the event of your death

Please note your pension payslip and P60 are not available on Engage. Both documents are sent via email to your current email address, if we do not hold your email address your P60 will be posted to your home address.

If you have any questions about Engage please contact us using **pensions@warwickshire.gov.uk**

WHERE IN THE WORLD?

With an increasing number of former employees choosing to spend their retirement abroad, we've taken a closer look at where in the world our members call home. From Jersey to New Zealand, the findings reveal that Warwickshire Pension Fund has a truly global footprint.

Whilst many our overseas members have stayed close to home, settling in Ireland (10%), France (17%) and Spain (18%), others have travelled much further afield to enjoy retirement. From the wildlife in Africa, to the endless sun in Australia (20%) and the dramatic scenery of New Zealand (6%), our members have planted roots across an impressively diverse geographical spread. These destinations, alongside less common destinations such as Cyprus (2%), Malta (2%), Portugal (2%) and Canada (5%), mean that Warwickshire Pension Fund now has members residing in five of the world's seven continents, with only Antarctica and South America yet to feature.

Some members have relocated to be closer to family, while others have sought warmer climates, quieter lifestyles or new cultural experiences. Whatever the reason, our members have thoroughly embraced retirement.

OVERSEAS PENSIONERS DATA

	Percentage	Number
Australia	20.4	51
Austria	0.4	1
Bulgaria	0.4	1
Canada	4.8	12
Cyprus	2.4	6
France	16.8	42
Germany	0.4	1
Hong Kong	0.8	2
Hungary	0.4	1
India	0.4	1
Ireland	10.4	26
Israel	0.4	1
Italy	0.8	2
Jersey	0.4	1
Kenya	0.8	2
Malta	1.6	4
Netherlands	0.8	2
New Zealand	5.6	14
Panama	0.4	1
Philippines	0.8	2
Portugal	1.6	4
Singapore	0.8	2
South Africa	0.4	1
Spain	18	45
Thailand	1.2	3
Turkey	1.6	4
United States of America	7.2	18

Asia	6	
Africa	1.2	
North America	12.4	
Europe	54.4	
Oceania	26	

ACCESS AND FAIRNESS UPDATE

The Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) in England and Wales plays a vital role in securing the retirement futures of millions of public sector workers.

As one of the largest funded defined benefit pension schemes in the world, the LGPS is a significant investor with the potential to boost growth across the country, while delivering its core duty to make long-term stable returns to pay the pensions of those who have delivered vital local services.

The government's consultation "Local Government Pension Scheme in England and Wales: Access and Fairness" outlined the government's intention to change the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) across four core policy areas, and a number of additional technical areas.

The intention of those changes was, and is, to both look at the past in fixing historic problems in the scheme and to look to the future. The government intends to improve the experience of the millions of hard-working members of the scheme and to ensure that people working to provide local services have access to the security in retirement that they deserve. That is why this crucial work is being conducted alongside significant reforms to investments and pooling in the scheme.

Changes to the scheme have now been confirmed to take place from 01st April 2026, with changes focused on Survivor Benefits and Gender pensions Gap.

For our retired members there are a number of changes that may affect you –

Death grants and survivor benefits

- equalisation of survivor benefits
- removal of the upper age limit of 75 to qualify for a death grant
- removal of the requirement to pay a death grant to personal representatives if the administering authority has not paid it using their discretion within the 'two year period'. The 'two year period' is the two years after the member's death, or the two years after the date on which the administering authority could reasonably be expected to have become aware of the death
- removal of the requirement to have nominated a cohabiting partner for deaths between 1 April 2008 and 31 March 2014
- minor changes to the rules covering short term children's pensions

For some of the changes there is a requirement to backdate the amendments.

The rectification will involve assessing and updating some dependant benefits that have been paid since 2005. It will involve identifying and rectifying any cases where a death grant could have been payable for a post age 75 death since 01/04/2014. The rectification will also involve identifying cases where a cohabiting partner pension may have been payable for a death between 01/04/2008 and 31/03/2014.

The Pension Administration service will now be working to implement process updates for the regulation changes, alongside identifying and rectifying cases where dependant benefits need to be revised or further death grant payments are due.

If you would like more information on the Access and Fairness changes, or think you may be effected please contact the Fund in the usual manner.

INVESTMENT UPDATE

The Fund has continued to build on the strong performance achieved in 2024/25, again exceeding its long term target return of approximately 4% per annum.

This sustained outperformance has supported the Fund in reaching a new peak valuation during the year to March 2026 of £3.4bn. These results reflect the benefits of a disciplined and diversified investment strategy implemented against a backdrop of persistent market volatility, shifting monetary policy conditions, and ongoing geopolitical uncertainty.

The Fund has further strengthened its position on responsible investment by increasing its allocation to low carbon and climate aligned assets and has made further commitment to invest in sustainable bonds. This progression reinforces the Fund's commitment to achieving its net zero objectives and maintaining alignment with broader global climate transition pathways.

Across the year to March 2026, all major asset classes delivered positive contributing to a stable and resilient overall funding position. The triennial valuation cycle has now been completed and shows improvement in the funding level. This provides greater flexibility on how the Fund pursues its strategic long term objective of ensuring that sufficient assets remain available to meet pension obligations as they fall due.

PENSION INCREASE

This years 'Cost of Living' increase to pensions in payment is 3.8% from 6th April 2026. The full increase is only payable if your pension began on or before the 23 April 2025.

If your pension began after this date a smaller increase will be applied, called a Part Year Revaluation (PYRV).

23 Mar 25	to	21 Apr 25	**3.8%**
22 Apr 25	to	21 May 25	**3.48%**
22 May 25	to	21 Jun 25	**3.17%**
22 Jun 25	to	21 Jul 25	**2.85%**
22 Jul 25	to	21 Aug 25	**2.53%**
22 Aug 25	to	21 Sep 25	**2.22%**
22 Sep 25	to	21 Oct 25	**1.9%**
22 Oct 25	to	21 Nov 25	**1.58%**
22 Nov 25	to	21 Dec 25	**1.27%**
22 Dec 25	to	21 Jan 26	**0.95%**
22 Jan 26	to	21 Feb 26	**0.63%**
22 Feb 26	to	21 Mar 26	**0.32%**

Your annual pension is reviewed each April, so that it reflects the cost of living. The amount of Pensions Increase is based on an index specified by the Government.

Pensions Increase is currently based on the change in the Consumer Prices Index in the 12-month period up to the end of the previous September.

PENSION PAYMENT DATES

Thu	**30**	**April 2026**
Fri	**29**	**May 2026**
Tue	**30**	**June 2026**
Fri	**31**	**July 2026**
Mon	**31**	**August 2026**
Wed	**30**	**September 2026**
Fri	**30**	**October 2026**
Mon	**30**	**November 2026**
Thu	**31**	**December 2026**
Fri	**29**	**January 2027**
Fri	**26**	**February 2027**
Wed	**31**	**March 2027**

If the last day of the month falls on a weekend day you will be paid on the last working day of the month. Pension epayslips will be issued to your nominated email address. If pension members require a paper copy of their payslip for a specific month then please contact the pension office.

WELLBEING WALKS

BETTER WELLBEING IS JUST A STEP AWAY

Ramblers Wellbeing Walks are free, short walks delivered across England to support better health, wellbeing and happiness. With hundreds of walks taking place every week, participants can usually find a walk close to home.

There's no need to book or plan a route. Anyone interested can simply turn up, lace up their shoes, and join a local walk.

MORE THAN JUST A HEALTH WALK

Ramblers Wellbeing Walks offer more than physical activity. They provide an opportunity to unwind, enjoy time outdoors, meet new people and explore local green spaces.

The walks are open to everyone, and new participants are welcomed by friendly volunteer walk leaders. Many walks also include an informal opportunity to chat afterwards, often over a cup of tea.

A PERFECT FIRST STEP

Some walks are as short as 10 minutes, with routes designed to suit a range of abilities and walking speeds, from slow to steady. Routes are tried and tested, with accessibility in mind.

RAMBLERS WELLBEING WALKS

Mobility limitations are not a barrier to taking part. Many walks are suitable for wheelchair users and those with additional needs. Participants are encouraged to contact the walk organiser in advance if they would like to check whether a route is suitable.

MAKING GETTING ACTIVE EASY

All Ramblers Wellbeing Walks are led by trained volunteer walk leaders, removing the need for participants to plan routes or unfamiliar journeys. Walks are generally accessible on foot or by public transport.

There is no requirement to register in advance. Participants can simply find a walk online and attend on the day.

Find a Ramblers Wellbeing Walk:

https://www.ramblers.org.uk/go-walking/wellbeing-walks

WHY PLAYING CHESS IS GOOD FOR YOU: THE SCIENCE AND BENEFITS BEHIND THE GAME

For centuries, chess has been celebrated as a battle of minds—a game of strategy, creativity, and intellect.

But beyond the iconic black and white board lies a wealth of benefits that can positively impact your brain, emotional well being, and even your daily life. Whether you're a beginner or a seasoned player, here's why making chess part of your routine is truly good for you.

1. CHESS STRENGTHENS COGNITIVE SKILLS

Chess is essentially a workout for the brain. When you play, you're constantly analysing, planning, and evaluating. These activities exercise multiple cognitive functions:

Memory Improvement

Players must remember openings, patterns, and strategic themes. This continual recall strengthens both short and long term memory.

Enhanced Problem-Solving

Every move requires examining options, anticipating consequences, and adapting to new situations. This mirrors many real-life problem-solving scenarios, making chess an effective mental gym.

Better Concentration

A single lapse in focus can change the outcome of a game, so chess naturally encourages sustained attention and deep focus.

2. CHESS BOOSTS CREATIVITY

Chess is often thought of as purely logical, but creativity is just as essential. Solving tricky positions, finding unique tactics, or crafting a long-term plan taps into creative

BENEFITS TEAM A RHYMING REVIEW OF 2025!

Four new faces joined our crew,
We trained, we guided, saw them through.
One moved on to a different way,
We wished him well for his future day.
Dead cases closed, the work was done,
A thousand more pensioners—our numbers spun!
Each one cared for, each name embraced,
With pensions rising, smiles were traced.
We reached across the ocean wide,
With Crown Agents working side by side.
Proof of life, a vital quest,
January calls—again we start there is no rest!
This year brought increases, steady and fair,
1.7% for pensioners everywhere.
Next year promises even more gain,
3.8%—a brighter refrain.
Delivered on time, a pledge we uphold,
Building security, strong and bold.
Each step forward, a sign of care,
For every pensioner, we're always there.
Next year unfolds with winds of change,
Local Government plans rearrange.
Dashboards gleam with data bright,
Guiding pensions through the night.
Without such commitment from our team,
We couldn't deliver this shared dream.
It's clear in every kind word and praise,
Your efforts shine in countless ways.
Together we shape a future bright,
With care, dedication, and shared insight.
Each step forward, a reason to cheer—
Stronger pensions, a stronger year!
A year of progress, a year of pride,
Together we've walked this busy tide.
Here's to the team, to all we've shown—
The seeds we've planted, the strength we've grown.

Linda Radley,
Benefits Team Manager

thinking. Many players report improved originality and confidence in thinking "outside the box" after regular play.

3. CHESS ENHANCES EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE

Chess isn't just intellectual—it's emotional too.

Patience and Discipline

A strong position can take time to build. Chess teaches restraint, thoughtful decision-making, and persistence.

Resilience and Coping with Loss

Every chess player loses games. Learning to accept defeat, reflect, and improve builds emotional resilience and humility.

Stress Management

Focused concentration on the board can serve as a mindfulness exercise, helping reduce stress and clearing the mind.

4. CHESS DEVELOPS PLANNING AND STRATEGIC THINKING

Good chess players think several moves ahead, considering various possibilities and their outcomes. This habit of long-term planning strengthens executive functioning—skills essential for managing projects, making decisions, and setting goals in everyday life.

5. CHESS IMPROVES ACADEMIC AND WORK PERFORMANCE

The cognitive skills developed through chess—focus, memory, logic, and problem-solving—translate beautifully into academic and professional environments. Studies have shown improved math performance, enhanced reading comprehension, and faster information processing among students who play chess.

6. CHESS BRINGS PEOPLE TOGETHER

Chess is universal. It bridges languages, cultures, and age groups. Whether played online or over a table at your local café, it fosters connection, community, and shared learning. It's one of the rare games where beginners and experts alike can bond over the challenge and beauty of the game.

7. IT'S ENJOYABLE AND ACCESSIBLE

Perhaps most importantly, chess is simply fun. The rules are easy to learn but offer a lifetime of complexity and growth. The game is inexpensive, widely available, and adaptable—played casually or competitively, online or in person.

FINAL THOUGHTS

Playing chess is far more than a hobby. It's a powerful tool for improving cognitive abilities, emotional strength, and overall mental well being. Whether you're looking to sharpen your mind, connect with others, or simply enjoy a fulfilling pastime, chess offers benefits that last a lifetime.

Coventry will be transformed into a city of chess next summer as the University of Warwick hosts the 2026 British Chess Championships.

More than 1,000 chess players from across the UK, including the best of Britain's grandmasters and child prodigies, are expected to descend on the city to take part in a series of tournaments and wider chess events. The 2026 British Chess Championships, which includes age-group events from under-8 to seniors, will run from 1st – 9th August 2026.

The event in Coventry will be the 112th British Chess Championship in a series which has run almost unbroken since 1904.

The last time Coventry hosted the championships was 2015, when Grandmaster Jonathan Hawkins won his first UK title and Akshaya Kalaiyalahan won the women's event. Before that, Coventry hosted the event in 1970.

MEMBERS REUNITED

Retirement often brings new experiences and priorities. However, the people you meet whilst working are often some of the people you spend the most time with, sharing ideas and celebrating achievements.

Many of those connections remain strong well into retirement, but for others, time, distance and changing circumstances may have caused you to lose touch.

Warwickshire Pension Fund would like to help put you back in touch with your former colleagues.

Perhaps you remember a colleague you worked closely with, a mentor who helped you or a friend from a different department. Whatever the story, we'd love to help you reunite.

If you'd like to get in touch with a former colleague, please email pensions@warwickshire.gov.uk, with the following details:

- **Who** you would like to reconnect with,
- **Where** you worked together,
- **When** you worked together, and
- **Which** department they were a part of.

Disclaimer

We will only contact the member you wish to reach via email. Therefore, if we do not hold a valid email address for them, we will not be able to assist.

If the member chooses not to reconnect, you will not hear from us or them. However, if your former colleague agrees to reconnect, they will contact you directly.

When you write to us, please only include the information listed above. Do not send any other personal details, such as home addresses, phone numbers or sensitive information. By emailing us, you are agreeing to us sharing your email address and name with the member(s) listed in your email.

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

Call us on: 01926 412005

Engage member portal queries:
Email: **engage@warwickshire.gov.uk**

Articles or feedback about communications:
Email: **pensions@warwickshire.gov.uk**

Our office opening hours are 9am – 5pm Monday to Thursday and 9am – 4pm on a Friday*

**Staff are available Monday to Thursday for face to face meetings but please contact us in advance to arrange a time .*

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