

County Matters

The work order has been passed to start the programme of improving some of the pavement access for disabled users agreed last year with the Grange Disability Group. These should now be implemented within the next few months.

On Sunday the 8th August I again helped out at the Historic Vehicle Day on the Playing fields at Yew tree Road. It was a wonderful day for everyone with plenty to occupy you even if you were not a car buff. I must congratulate Geoff and his committee for all their hard work in organising this event and the volunteers for manning the gates and other activities. Well done everyone for making this day so enjoyable for us all.

The previous week a tea party was held in Park Road Gardens to celebrate gaining the national award of Green Flag status once again for our Garden. We had an additional award this year of the Heritage Award and the Mayor and District Council colleague Tom Harvey with Margaret Robinson from the Friends of Park Road Gardens accepted this on behalf of our community.

Thanks must go to the District Council contractors Continental Landscapes and to the Friends of Park Road Gardens for all their efforts in making this such a wonderful and pleasant garden to visit. These are just two examples of our community working together to enhance and promote our Town as a very pleasing and worthwhile place to live. David Cameron does not need to look any further than Grange-over-Sands to find a place where "The Big Society" is already working and has been for years. I am sure we would be happy to show him.

Our next County Council Neighbourhood Forum meeting will be on the 21st September at Haverthwaite Parish Hall. If anyone requires details of the meeting and how to apply for a Forum grant please contact Kelly Alty on 01539 713448 or e-mail kelly.alty@cumbriacc.gov.uk

Bill Wearing
County Councillor Grange Division

Get your Self Assessment Tax Return In!

It's that time of year again, when self assessment tax returns need to be completed, and submitted to HMRC.

If you're self-employed, a company director, a trustee, have income above a certain level from savings, investment or property, you have foreign income, your annual income is over £100,000, or you have capital gains tax to pay, you will almost certainly have to fill in a tax return.

The return can either be completed by paper, or be submitted online through the HMRC website. However, depending on the method you choose there are different deadlines for when it must be received by HMRC.

If you send in a paper return, it must reach HMRC by midnight on 31 October.

If you send in your tax return online it must reach HMRC by midnight on 31 January.

You'll be charged an automatic penalty of £100 if your return isn't received on time (although this penalty is restricted to the amount of tax due if this is less than £100).

If you decide to file your return online, and you owe tax of less than £2,000 and you want HMRC to collect it through your Pay As You Earn (PAYE) tax code next year, the deadline is earlier, you need to send your return online by 30 December instead.

Once your return has been submitted you must pay any amount due by 31 January. The payment deadline is the same whether you file paper or online.

You'll need to pay one or both of the following:

- The 'balancing payment' - the balance of tax you owe for the previous tax year (you may have paid some of the tax already).

- The first of two 'payments on account' (advance payments) for the current tax year. You won't always be asked for these - it'll depend on

Catch up on Energy matters

As we head into autumn and the heating is turned on, make sure you know the latest on energy matters.

New rules for doorstep selling of gas and electricity - know your rights! The CAB welcomed tougher rules introduced by Ofgem in January this year.

A doorstep salesperson should give you an estimate of the total annual charges for the next year under the terms they are offering. If they claim to be offering a cheaper deal than your current provider (or if you use a prepayment meter) they must also provide a written comparison of your current energy costs and those expected under the new offer. Let us know if energy salespeople are not following these rules.

Do you qualify for the Energy Rebate Scheme?

This is a one-off rebate of £80 on Electricity bills. To qualify you or your partner must have been aged 70 or over on 26 March this year and get the guarantee credit element of pension credit (not savings credit). If you are responsible for the electricity bill and not on a discounted tariff you should qualify and have received a letter about the scheme by the end of July. The rebate will appear on summer and autumn bills. Prepayment customers should get either a Post Office voucher to cash in, or a top-up to their card, or a cheque. Your energy supplier should let you know how to claim. For more information or to check if you can get the rebate, telephone the Energy Rebate Scheme Claims Helpline 0845 600 033 (Monday to Friday 8am to 8pm).

Stop Press -Saturday Opening At Windermere Cab

The Citizens Advice Bureau at Windermere will be open every Saturday from 10.00 - 1.00 during September, October and November as a pilot scheme. Many clients are not able to attend weekday appointments and the extra opening

the amount of tax due and the kind of income you receive

If you are completing your tax return for the first time, or you have been submitting them for numerous years and are looking for further professional advice please ring or contact us at Alexander Myerson & Co, Chartered Accountants, details per advert, or visit our website.

We look forward to hearing from you.

hours could help reach a wider group of people. The Windermere and Grange offices will continue to open during weekdays as usual.

Free, confidential advice and help is available on any aspect of this article as well as debt, benefits, employment, housing and any other problems. You can contact the Grange or Windermere Citizens Advice Bureau by phone or in person. Call 015395 33100 / 015394 46464.

Cumbria Rural CAB is holding its AGM on Wednesday 22 September at 3.00 pm in the Windermere Library meeting Room. All are welcome.

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DEADLINE Thursday 23rd Sept

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