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Issue No. 191 September FREE EVERY MONTH

**TV star  
Sammy  
finds  
new  
heroine**

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# Editor's Comment



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THE big talking point in Warrington over recent weeks has been travellers and "secret" plans for a transit camp.

Following claim and counter claim between Cllr Kev Bennett and his former colleagues in the Labour group no one is entirely sure whether a permanent transit site has been earmarked for land off Birchwood Way near Padgate – or not.

We are told a special task group set up to find a suitable location had voted on Padgate last December. But the controlling Labour group on the council are adamant no site has been selected and that the land at Padgate will not be considered.

Considering the number of issues being caused in the town by travellers setting up illegal camps the need for a permanent site requires addressing urgently – but if a task group was discussing it last December and we are now heading into September, with no clear option or a site – just how long is it going to take?

Hardly a week passes without reports of travellers setting up camp

somewhere in the town.

So come on Warrington Borough Council let us all have an open and honest debate on where to site such a facility – sooner rather than later – and not behind closed doors.

It is likely to be a sensitive issue wherever such a site is located so transparency is the best policy so everyone can have their say before any decision is made.

Meanwhile the curtain is coming down on what can only be described as a disappointing season for Warrington Wolves

who lost out in the Challenge Cup at the semi-final stage for a third consecutive season and with two defeats in the opening rounds of the Super 8s any chance of making the Grand Final is realistically over. It is worrying to hear the coach saying his players were "out enthused" in a must win game. Hopefully the arrival of Chris Sandow bodes well for the future - but the Super League slogan "every minute matters" may need a re-think!

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# TV star Sammy finds a new heroine

TV actress turned children's author Sammy Winward discovered a potential new heroine for her stories at a book signing event in Warrington.

The former Emmerdale soap star met six year old Matilda Blue Williams from Stockton Heath, who was full of questions for her. Sammy, who played Katie Sugden in Emmerdale, before leaving the TV hit to further develop her career, said: "Matilda was just lovely, so inquisitive and chatty and she spoke several different languages which for her age was amazing. She was really interested in my book. I told her its main character was very curious - just like her."

The book, Princess Phoebe Meets

the Tudors, is aimed at youngsters aged seven to 12 and is about a time-travelling princess who goes back through the ages meeting famous characters from history.

Sammy, 29, was inspired to write it after the birth of her daughter, Mia, now 10.

Meanwhile Sammy has just finished filming a new series of the TV drama, Prey, with Life on Mars and Ashes to Ashes star, Philip Glenister.

"I play the daughter of Philip's character. It has been great to do and will be coming to our TV screens shortly," she said.

Sammy is planning to continue her writing career with further Princess Phoebe adventures.



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Hello and welcome to my monthly column . . .

# Hypnotes

by Michael Mahoney

## Priorities

Life moves on, sometimes at a steady pace, and at other times it seems to speed up or slow down. It is important to make the most of each day and the time that we have, however, busy lives, commitments and routines often take over. We often have to prioritize what we think is most important, or what others deem to be most important, and quiet time for ourselves often gets pushed back and gradually forgotten about. Most of us rush around doing things for others and to earn money and never have the time to enjoy the things that perhaps we need to prioritize to help our emotional and physical wellbeing.

Priorities constantly change depending on circumstances, and in response to the needs or expectations of others. For instance, when a young professional woman has a baby, her priorities constantly shift, from holding down a successful career and busy social life, to preparing for babies arrival, with everything that entails, including arranging maternity leave, future child care etc. The hormones are also affecting her sense of identity, mood, sleeping and eating patterns, which would also then affect her working day and social life. The expectation of the changes baby will bring, reduced pay during her

maternity leave, whether she will want to go back to work, but financially she may not have a choice, and if she does the feelings about leaving her baby, and who will provide the child care, and costs involved with that. The young mum's priorities will then all change as her new baby's needs will be the priority and everything else that was familiar to her, will then take a back seat. How does she find time for herself?

If you cannot relate to this, you will have most likely had other experiences where one thing has happened in your life that has changed everything else, including short and long term plans and goals. It may have been an illness or accident, or the loss of a loved one.

Sometimes our perception of the right thing to do, and the pressures from others, and societal norms can dictate how and what we prioritize. Many people believe that it is selfish to put their own needs before others, however, if you do not look after yourself then you may not be in a fit state to help others, which can have disastrous effect on those most dependant on you.

How can you prioritize time for yourself, when you have a hundred and one things to do? It often helps

Michael Mahoney is a Clinical Hypnotherapist. He has research, and patient trials experience. He is a member of



the Hypnotherapy Association, an associate of the Primary Care Society for Gastroenterology, based at Woolston Surgery, Neighbourhood Hub, Warrington WA1 4PN.

Tel: 01925-658322 email [timelineservices@aol.com](mailto:timelineservices@aol.com)  
[www.michaelmahoneyhypnotherapist.com](http://www.michaelmahoneyhypnotherapist.com)

to write lists, or a pictogram to make it more interesting. Start with the things that definitely need doing each day, and decide what can be handed over to someone else. Is there anything that you can actually totally let go of? Can you improve your time management? Do you need to change your emotional response and beliefs in order to let things go or to pass them onto someone else? Often we believe we should be doing something in a certain way, which may be time consuming, when in fact we can make changes to improve life for ourselves. It is important to plan in time for yourself into your daily and weekly routines, and when setting longer term goals.

**If you wish to discuss how you can prioritize your own needs in a structured way, then please contact either myself or my partner, Cate on 01925 658322 to arrange an Initial Consultation.**

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# No traveller camp for Padgate

WARRINGTON Borough Council has denied, categorically, that a site at Padgate is being considered as a transit camp for gypsies and travellers.

A statement issued by deputy leader of the council, Cllr Mike Hannon, and the chairman of the travellers' task group, Cllr Maureen McLaughlin, states: "We wish to make it clear that the council has not made any decision on the development of a specific travellers'

transit site.

"There are no plans or decisions on any specific site and this includes the site referred to in the media (land near Bennett Recreation Ground) as this site is unacceptable due to its proximity to residential properties.

"Any future decision regarding a transit site will be conducted on an open and transparent basis."

The statement was issued as rebel councillor Kevin Bennett – the former Labour councillor who now represents TUSC (The Trade Unionist and Socialist Coalition) revealed further information which he claimed was evidence of a "war" between back bench Labour councillors and the council's executive board.

Cllr Bennett revealed the content of emails sent by Cllr Colin Froggatt which criticised executive board members Cllr Hitesh Patel and Cllr Maureen McLaughlin for poor communication.

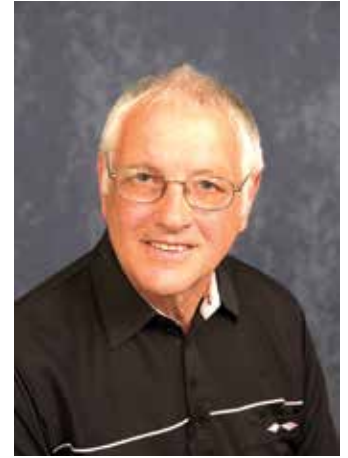
He said: "The secret plan to put a gypsy traveller 'transit site' in Padgate has re-ignited the 'infighting' in the Labour Group.

"Cllr Colin Froggatt has revealed that he and Cllr Maureen Craghan have been kept 'in the dark' over these plans.

"There is obviously a growing culture in the Labour Group where the executive board operates like a 'secret society' and keeps information from their own Members."



Cllr Kevin Bennett



Cllr Colin Froggatt

## World War 1 exhibition

AN exhibition is planned to celebrate the activities of Warrington's voluntary organisations during the First World War.

Staff at Warrington Voluntary Action (WVA) are collecting information about the town's voluntary sector during the 1914-18 period with a view to displaying stories and memorabilia as part of a travelling exhibition, starting at the Gateway in Sankey Street from November 11. Any charity, community, voluntary or faith group that has been running for 100 years or more should contact project co-ordinator Stef Woo by email at stef@warringtonva.org.uk or call 01925 246 880.

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# No slowdown for Warrington's regeneration

THE summer months are arguably some of the quietest in terms of work, with people going off to enjoy well-earned breaks, and sometimes, as a result things tend to slow down.

However, I think that it is fair to say that despite it being summer time the evidence is to the contrary as far as Warrington's regeneration is concerned, with a number of the town's development schemes moving significantly forward.

### Business incubator

At the Stadium Quarter, work has started on site to construct the £10 million state-of-the-art University Technical College (UTC) Warrington which will open its doors for business in September next year. Next door, the new business incubator is nearing completion, on time and on schedule. Fit out is underway, local management company Langtree Property Partners have been appointed and it will be open in October.

Anyone who has been into Warrington Town Centre recently

cannot miss the remarkable headway that has already been made on the Bridge Street Quarter project with the former Time Square area now demolished.

Shortly we will announce the appointment of the contractor appointed for the construction of the temporary market building, that when completed in early 2017 will become the markets' home until the fantastic new market building opens in 2019. Throughout all of this the market will not cease to trade and will remain open to customers as usual.

It is also our intention to provide a temporary surface level car park onto the former Time Square site that will be open in plenty of time for Christmas this year.

Over at Omega the 250,000 sq ft manufacturing unit being built for Plastic Omnium who manufacture automotive parts will be finished any day and they will then fit out the building and work is on schedule for completion of the huge 685,000 sq ft unit for The Hut Group in November. The extension of Skyline Drive which

will connect Junction 8 of the M62 across to Omega Boulevard by the Royal Mail building is also very nearly complete.

These are exciting times indeed for the regeneration of Warrington.

### Warrington & Co Corporate Challenge

Before I go, I want to remind you all that it's still not too late to enter into the Warrington & Co Corporate Challenge that will be taking place on September 20 as part of this year's wonderful Warrington Festival.

As part of Warrington Borough Council's Wellbeing Agenda, the Warrington & Co Corporate Challenge hopes to encourage and empower teams from local businesses to work together to strive to reach a common goal whilst also keeping active.

So why not get your skates on (well, running shoes) and put your name down for what will be a thoroughly enjoyable event.

I hope to see you there.



Steve Park  
MD of Warrington & Co.

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# Applications wanted for Heart of Community fund

GOLDEN Gates Housing Trust is inviting groups and individuals supporting their neighbourhoods and communities in Warrington to apply for a share of £40k in funding from the Trust's Heart of the Community Fund.

Over the last four years GGHT and its partners have allocated over £75,000 in funding to local groups and organisations and this

years pot is the largest to date.

The Heart of the Community Fund has been created by GGHT and Jewson to help individuals and groups achieve their aims to enhance the lives of local residents.

Deadline for the next round of applications is 31 October 2015.

If your application is received before this date it will be included in this round. You will be invited



## Heart of the Community Fund

FUNDING SUPPORT FROM JEWSON, GGHT & PARTNERS

to attend an informal meeting to discuss your application further on 25 November 2015.

If you would like to find out more

about this initiative log on to [www.gght.org.uk/gghtfunding](http://www.gght.org.uk/gghtfunding) or call Mark Foster on 01925 452416 or e: [mark.foster@gght.org.uk](mailto:mark.foster@gght.org.uk)

## How to choose the best chiropractor

THERE are a number of Chiropractors in the area to choose from and, if you have never seen one before, it is always difficult to know how to choose the right, and best, one for you. Here are a few tips to make the process more straightforward:

\* As with choosing any professional service, recommendation by someone is best. Ask around amongst your friends and family. 70% of all our new patients come via word-of-mouth.

\* All chiropractors in the UK have to be registered with the General Chiropractic Council by law. You can check the register at [www.gcc-uk.org](http://www.gcc-uk.org)

\* If a chiropractor recommends that everyone has an x-ray, this is not considered good practice. X-rays can be very helpful in certain circumstances, but useless in others.

\* An important aspect to your care is your privacy - not only for reasons of confidentiality, but also to ensure you receive a personal approach to your care. Most chiropractors (including ourselves) will treat you in a private room.

\* The number of sessions you need should be made clear to you at the start of your care, and you should start to feel an improvement within the first few sessions. If you are not improving as you and your chiropractor would expect, then a full reassessment should be carried out.

\* Information about fees should be made easily available to you (on the website, in the clinic, and over the phone if you ask), and you should not be required to pay large up-front fees.

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# Green light for £16m community hub at Great Sankey



PLANS to build a £16m state-of-the-art community hub to provide leisure, health and cultural services in Great Sankey, Warrington have been approved by planning chiefs.

LiveWire's proposal to transform the existing Great Sankey Leisure Centre into a neighbourhood hub was given the go-ahead at Warrington Borough Council's planning committee meeting. Councillors voted unanimously in favour of the plans.

The dementia friendly facility will include a fitness suite, swimming pools, sports hall, tennis courts, 3G pitch, GP surgeries, library, cafe and health and wellbeing facilities including a spa. Construction on the first stage of the development will start later this year with phase 1 of the project set to open in Autumn 2016.

The £16 million project will revamp the existing centre to provide residents with a one-stop-shop for all their leisure, health and wellbeing and cultural needs.

Services will be delivered by LiveWire, Warrington Borough Council, Culture Warrington, the NHS, Warrington Clinical Commissioning Group and Health Plus.

More than 700 local residents took part in consultation exercises and in excess of 60 of their suggestions have been incorporated into the design of the hub. The building designs have been made dementia friendly to support local need.

Jan Souness, managing director at LiveWire, said: "This new neighbourhood hub will make a real difference to the lives of people in west Warrington by allowing them to access leisure, health and cultural services all under one roof. It was important to make this LiveWire's first dementia friendly facility to cater for a growing and older population in the area".

Cllr Kate Hannon, executive board member for leisure, community and culture at Warrington Borough Council, added: "This facility will be a major boost for west Warrington and will

help us achieve our vision for a healthier, happier and more active population. It is the product of a concerted multi-agency approach and has had the enthusiastic input and support of Warrington west residents".

To find out more information about the development, and to keep up to date with the latest news, visit [www.greatsankeyneighbourhoodhub.co.uk](http://www.greatsankeyneighbourhoodhub.co.uk)

## That Netball Thing...free sessions!

ACTIVE Cheshire has created a free 30 week programme of netball for Warrington women who want to have a laugh and get active.

Sessions are starting in September aiming to get women aged 17-25 who haven't hit on a method of being active that works for them yet.

That Netball Thing is a flexible, fun and friendly programme and has been created to get confidence and fitness back on track in a great atmosphere.

It's all about women being active on their own terms regardless of shape, size or experience. For more information including how to join, dates, times and frequently asked questions go to [facebook.com/thatnetballthing](http://facebook.com/thatnetballthing) or [twitter.com/netballthing](http://twitter.com/netballthing)

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# Builder wins award for exceptional homes

CB Homes Ltd Andy Oakes is a first-round winner in the annual NHBC Pride in the Job Awards, which recognises personal achievement of site managers in creating new UK homes of outstanding quality.

Andy won the award for working on their site Heyes Park in Northwich, joining 450 Quality Award winners from across the UK. Selected from around 15,000 entrants from across the country, they are in the top few percent of their profession.

Ian Davies, Regional Director for NHBC, the UK's leading standards setter and warranty provider for new UK homes, said: "Congratulations to Andy Oakes of CB Homes Ltd, who has been commended for building homes that are of an exceptional standard."

"For 35 years, our Pride in the Job Awards have played a pivotal role in NHBC's work to raise standards across the industry through the celebration and sharing of best practice. Put simply, site managers that win an award are creating houses of an outstandingly high standard."

"A Pride in the Job award is the highest industry accolade a site manager can receive. It represents success for the site manager, his team and associated trades as well providing a reputational boost for the building company. Most



importantly, homeowners who buy a Pride in the Job award-winning home benefit from a high quality product.

"It's no surprise that Pride in the Job winning sites also have higher levels of customer satisfaction as these homes are without doubt among the best the UK has to offer."

Site managers are uniquely positioned to positively influence the quality of a build, being responsible for a project from start to finish, overseeing everything that happens on site.

The winners have excelled in a comprehensive year-long judging process, assessed against stringent criteria defined by NHBC's technical Standards for building new homes. They are now shortlisted for regional titles which will be revealed in the autumn.

The regional champions will then go forward to contest the national Supreme Winner title in their category at the Pride in the Job Gala Final in London in January.

For more information, visit [www.nhbc.co.uk/prideinthejob](http://www.nhbc.co.uk/prideinthejob)



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# 'Hitman' Pete Waterman helps launch UTC ground breaking ceremony

RECORD producer Pete Waterman joined industry specialists, local councillors, representatives from university sponsor Manchester Metropolitan University and the team behind UTC Warrington for the official ground breaking at the development site on Dallam Lane.

Principal & Chief Executive, Lee Barber said: "I am pleased to see so much support for the college as we mark the start of the construction on site. Over the next year we will be able to see our state-of-the-art, iconic college take shape. We will be working closely with main contractor ISG to ensure everything is fit for purpose."

Danny Murray, ISG's Northern regional managing director, commented: "Taking the first two phases of this major urban regeneration project in Warrington is a key achievement for the business. This ambitious redevelopment will deliver a positive and long-term legacy for Warrington, with exceptional new facilities attracting the very brightest young people, entrepreneurs and major employers to the area - delivering important benefits to both the local community and the wider economy."

At the ground breaking Leader of Warrington Borough Council, Cllr Terry O'Neill said "This is an exciting moment for Warrington. The new UTC Warrington is critical to addressing our skills



gap. It is essential that we skill our communities up for the jobs that we are creating in the town."

Also in attendance Pete Waterman said: "It is fantastic to see a dedicated energy and engineering college being built in Warrington. UTC Warrington will equip students in Warrington and beyond with the skills they need to succeed in a career in engineering. Perhaps some students will take up railway engineering as a specialism.

"I look forward to coming back to see it when the building is complete and buzzing with students."

UTC Warrington is part of a movement across the UK towards

specialist colleges which are designed to address skills gaps within local industry. With the Manchester Metropolitan University School of Engineering behind UTC Warrington students can look forward to a STEM rich curriculum, with access to the best educational facilities in the North West. The college will house £1m of specialist equipment; additionally students will be able to access facilities at MMU locations across the region and industry specific equipment at employer partner sites such as Sellafield, Amec Foster Wheeler, and Tenet Consultants.

Of the partnership, Professor Philip Wheeler, Dean of Faculty

and Pro-Vice Chancellor, Faculty of Science and Engineering at Manchester Metropolitan University said "We are very pleased to be a part of the University Technical College, Warrington. Our world-class engineering research and teaching complements our partner employers' expertise to provide first class opportunities for 14-19 year old students."

The college will be under construction for the next 12 months, before opening its doors to Year 10 and 12 students from across the region to study GCSEs, A Levels and vocational qualifications from September 2016.

During the next six months prospective students will be invited along to a series of events hosted by the team at UTC Warrington to find out more about the curriculum on offer to 14 - 19 year olds from across the region, as well as hearing from employer partners and industry specialists about the types of projects they could look forward to working on as students at the college.

Prospective students and their families are invited to find out more on Thursday, September, 17, 5.30pm - 7.30pm at the Pyramid & Parr Hall. Interested parties can register and find out more by visiting [www.utcw.eventbrite.co.uk](http://www.utcw.eventbrite.co.uk) or [www.utcwarrington.org](http://www.utcwarrington.org)



Opening in September 2016, UTC Warrington will provide students aged 14 - 19 with the opportunity to study specialist engineering qualifications supported by employer partners alongside GCSEs, A Levels and vocational qualifications.

If you have a passion for designing, creating, inventing or problem solving and are interested in following a career in engineering, come along to find out more about this exciting opportunity open to current Year 9 & 11 students.

Supported by: Manchester Metropolitan University, Sellafield Ltd, Atkins, Amec Foster Wheeler, Nuvia, Tenet Consultants, Rolls Royce, Flamefast, Warrington & Co, Warrington Borough Council and many, many more.

FREE Goody Bag for first 100\* to arrive!

## LAUNCH EVENT

THURSDAY 17TH SEPTEMBER, 5.30pm - 7.30pm

For further information and to register attendance visit: [www.utcw.eventbrite.co.uk](http://www.utcw.eventbrite.co.uk)



When: Thursday 17th September, 5.30pm - 7.30pm

Where: Pyramid & Parr Hall, Warrington, WA1 1BL

Who: Open to current Year 9 & 11 students and their parents / carers from across Warrington and surrounding areas

Additional dates for your diary:

- Engineer your Future Taster Event, Thursday 22nd October, 6.00pm - 8.00pm
- Open Event & Taster Workshops, Thursday 19th November, 5.30pm - 8.00pm

University Technical College Warrington | 01925 444191  
[info@utcwarrington.org](mailto:info@utcwarrington.org) | [www.utcwarrington.org](http://www.utcwarrington.org)

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# All set for Warrington Festival!

IT'S all happening in Warrington this September as a new, exciting and vibrant festival comes to the town to celebrate sports, culture and entertainment.

Building on the success of the Rugby League World Cup, which came to Warrington in 2013, the festivities are organised by a number of major organisations in the town including LiveWire, Warrington Borough Council, Warrington Wolves, Culture Warrington and The English Half Marathon.

Warrington Festival is designed for the whole family with a number of free activities, combining 25 events over 25 days with something to suit everyone's tastes.



## Highlights of the month long event include:

### Medieval Market - Culture

Saturday 5 September  
10am-4pm  
Town Centre  
Free

Go back in time with Warrington Market's Medieval Day. Attractions include; Epico the Dragon, Shoot a Knight, Viking Longship display, Fairytale Flashmob and Birds of Prey Display.

### Go Tri Duathlon/Triathlon - Sport

Saturday 5 September  
4pm  
Orford Jubilee  
Neighbourhood Hub  
£10

Regardless of your age, fitness or ability, this event allows you to have a try at Triathlon or other multi-sport event in a friendly supportive environment. Give it a try - you'll get a free medal and t-shirt if you complete the course. Register online at [www.warringtonfestival.org](http://www.warringtonfestival.org)

### Heritage Open Day - Culture

Saturday 12 September  
10am-5pm  
Warrington Museum & Art Gallery  
Free

As part of national Heritage Open Day weekend join Warrington Museum & Art Gallery for a peep behind the scenes to find out how museums really work. Watch a live taxidermy demonstration, handle museum objects and maybe even make a museum of your very own.

### Country Fayre - Culture

Sunday 13 September  
11am-4.30pm  
Walton Hall  
Free

Dog displays, Civil War re-enactments, mountain bike displays, live music, children's fun fair, narrow boat rides, craft stalls, children's entertainer, farmers market, gourmet hot food and much more. If we haven't got it it's not worth having!

### RunChallenge - Sport

Saturday 19 September  
11am-1pm  
Bank Park  
£5

RunChallenge combines running with a fun question and answer challenge. Come along and train your brain and body whilst exploring your local area.

### SkyRide Social - Sport

Saturday 19 September  
1pm-3pm  
Bank Park  
Free

Join British Cycling and Sky as the biggest network of cyclists invites the people of Warrington to get on their bikes.

### Pixie Lott - Entertainment

Saturday 19 September  
6pm  
Bank Park  
£14

Four-time BRIT award nominee headlines the stage at Bank Park in the pivotal event of Warrington Festival.

### Warrington Museum and Central Library's 160th Anniversary - Culture

Sunday 20 September  
11.30am-3pm  
Warrington Museum & Art Gallery  
Free

On 20 September 1855 work began building the current Museum and Central Library on Museum Street, in what's now Warrington's Cultural Quarter. Take part in this special Sunday opening and explore Warrington's history with Victorian guides and historic trails.

### English Half Marathon/10K - Sport

Sunday 20 September  
9am  
Town Centre  
£19.50

See the sites of Warrington Town Centre including the Golden Gates, Halliwell Jones Stadium and The Guardians as you take on either the half marathon or 10K challenge. Register in advance at [www.run-ehm.com](http://www.run-ehm.com)

### Festival Village - Sport / Culture / Entertainment

Sunday 20 September  
9am-2pm  
Bank Park

Enjoy a food festival, health and fitness expo, performances, live music plus lots of family fun during or after the Half Marathon and 10K.

### LiveWire Mile - Sport

Sunday 20 September  
12.45pm  
Town Centre  
£5

Grab your running shoes and the kids to take on this one mile challenge - the perfect cool down after running the Half Marathon or 10K. Register to run at [www.warringtonfestival.org](http://www.warringtonfestival.org)

### Rugby League Heritage on Tour - Culture

Thursday 3 September -  
Sunday 20 September  
Pyramid  
Free

Whether you're a Rugby League fan or a lover of social history, this exhibition is not to be missed. Featuring items from the Mike Stephenson Collection, the exhibition not only tells the story of the game, players and supporters but also the communities that helped make the sport the success that it is.

### Free Swimming for Children - Sport

Every Saturday in September at selected LiveWire Leisure Centres

One child swims free with every paying adult at a selected LiveWire Leisure Centres every Saturday during Warrington Festival.

### Harry Potter Events - Culture

Every Saturday at various LiveWire Libraries across Warrington Do you know your muggles from your mermen, or Hogwarts from Honeydukes? LiveWire is hosting Harry Potter themed activities and games to celebrate Warrington Festival. Come along and dress up as your favourite character or you're allocated into Griffindor or Slytherin by the sorting hat, before completing a quiz for house points.

# LIVEWIRE MILE

## CHALLENGE

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For more info contact the LiveWire Events team on: **01925 624997** or [events@livewirewarrington.org](mailto:events@livewirewarrington.org)

[www.livewirewarrington.co.uk/livewiremile](http://www.livewirewarrington.co.uk/livewiremile)



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LiveWire 

# Former MP publishes untold story of World War One

FORMER Warrington MP Mike Hall has published an untold story of World War One which has been 14 years in the making and inspired by his "war hero" grandfather who miraculously survived the hostilities, including two postings at the Somme.

The former Warrington South MP, who went on to represent neighbouring Weaver Vale, started researching the book, which comes in two volumes due to its sheer size, after being "sacked" by former Prime Minister Tony Blair as a junior whip in 2001.

Mike, who still lives in Warrington at Whittle Hall, had always been

intrigued how his Manchester born grandfather of Irish descent, who received the Military medal for bravery, had ended up doing active service with the "die hards" of the 18th Battalion Middlesex Regiment (1st Public Works) Pioneers of the 33rd Division.

Spending many long hours researching the national war archives Mike has now put together a detailed war diary of the day to day life of the battalion - a story which has not previously been told - and coincides with the 100th anniversary of his grandfather Thomas McBride, who died aged 52 in 1939, before Mike was born, going to war.

"My research soon told me that my grandfather, who had been working as a miner, enlisted with one of the special regiments which consisted mainly of miners and other tradesmen," said Mike, who thanks the former Prime Minister in his book for helping him find the time to carry out the research.

The 18th Battalion Middlesex Regiment were not infantry men whose primary job was to go 'over the top' at the start or during battle.

They had a different job - to build the infrastructure necessary to prosecute the war.

These 'miners pals' played a vital role in the war. They dug and drained trenches, wired No

Man's Land, mined under enemy lines, made and repaired roads, filled in craters, constructed dug-outs, stock piled ammunition, built and improved billets, fetched and carried, kept open communications with the front, made and repaired railways, built and demolished bridges, gassed the enemy, picqueted roads and held the front line.

If a job needed doing, they did it - no matter where, when or how dangerous.

At times they fought back the Germans with only their picks and shovels, and in High Wood, at the height of the Battle of the Somme, they were deployed to fight the enemy at bayonet point.

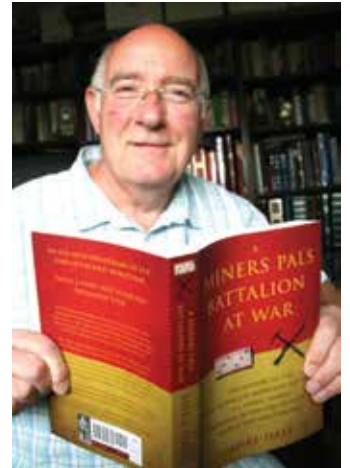
By this, amongst other events, the 18th Battalion earned the right to use the Middlesex Regiment nickname 'die-hards'.

A Miners Pals Battalion at War is written in diary form, based on the 18th Middlesex Battalion War Diary and the 33rd Division War Diary.

Volume 1 covers August 1914 - June 1917, with Volume 2 continuing the entries from July 1917 to January 1919.

There are many accounts of the bravery of members of the battalion, recording biographical details of each soldier, including the cemetery where they are buried or memorial where they are honoured.

Mike's grandfather received the military medal for bravery after



going into no man's land under fire with his commanding officer to bring back the fallen.

During the war he also survived being gassed and even returned to the front after being sent home injured.

The book is a goldmine of information, laden with incidents from the war and facts that have been cross-checked and verified.

Mike admits the book became an "obsession" and has been proof read by his wife Lesley nine times!!!

The book is officially launched at Waterstones in Warrington on Thursday September 10th at 7pm.

It can also be purchased online from Amazon.



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WARRINGTON MARKET'S

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  - Knights of the Damned
  - Signing of Magna Carta re-enactment
  - Live music from "Serpentyne", "Leafblade" and "James J Turner"
  - Fairytale Flashmob
  - Shoot a Knight – fire a bow and arrow at a real live knight!
  - Ya Raqs Crusader dance troop
  - Viking Longship display
  - Ye Old Gypsy Caravan & Tarot Readings
  - Medieval Stocks
  - Talonted Feathers – birds of prey
- Visit Warrington market on facebook for more information



# Six of the best join team at Dante Group



WARRINGTON based Dante Group are leading the way in investing in future skills with six Apprentices.

With a staff count of just approaching 50, of these, the six are Apprentices at various stages of their development.

Director David Roberts said: "I think it is a wonderful testament to the Company's commitment to sustainability of skills and succession, as these guys may be the Managers of the future for Dante. It also shows our commitment to the local economy."

Dante, with branch offices in Durham, The Wirral and Central London, was established in 2001 with the express intention to provide the highest standards of service available, initially specialising in the fields of electronic fire and security systems. By adhering to these high standards, Dante have become the provider of choice to many blue chip organisations and public bodies nationwide.

Dante have expanded the services they provide due to customer demand for the same levels of quality and attention to

detail in other disciplines. With a customer base that includes some of the most well known names in the Facilities Management sector, Dante now supports these organisations in their core delivery including; Fire and Security, Plumbing, Commercial Gas and Oil Heating, Air Conditioning, Electrical and all aspects of Building Maintenance.

Ensuring the future sustainability of these skills, Dante's Apprentices and their fields of learning are (Pictured L-R)

Benedict Roberts - Fire and

Security Engineer, Harry Clements - Commercial Gas Engineer, Josh Wall - Commercial Gas Engineer, Joe Tomlinson - Fire and Security Engineer, Jack Duffy - Joiner and Scott Brown - Electrician. They are flanked by employee Andy Birkhead and director David Roberts.

Employee Andy has the longest service record at Dante having started out as an Apprentice in 2002.

Andy said: "An Apprenticeship at Dante is a fantastic opportunity for them, the formal qualifications are something that stay with you throughout your career, but the on the job training at Dante is second to none, and that's where you really learn. I'm really enjoying working with them and passing on the skills I learnt in my time as an Apprentice and since. It really is a great place to work and prosper."

David Roberts added: "It's a pleasure to watch these young people thrive in the workplace and particularly satisfying to know that our first generation of Apprentices are now the Masters to these pupils. We are proud of our excellent level of staff and customer retention, it speaks volumes for the ethos of our business. Our Company tag line is 'Traditional Values in a Technological World - Integrity - Reliability - Trust' I look forward to the current trainees passing on this philosophy and their skills to future generations".

Dante's quality and capabilities are backed up by a long list of third party accreditations and customer recommendations, for further information please visit their website [www.dantegroup.net](http://www.dantegroup.net) or call them on 01925 820575.

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# Paul signs up for Sahara challenge

A WARRINGTON man has become the first fundraiser from the North West to enlist on next year's Caudwell Children Sahara Desert Challenge.

Marketing and communications officer Paul Boden, aged 23, has registered for a personal challenge that will test his mental strength and physical stamina, while raising vital funds for disabled children across the UK.



Paul, who graduated from the University of Central Lancashire with a degree in journalism in 2013, couldn't resist the lure of the adventure and says that when dawn breaks over the Moroccan city of Ouarzazate, on February 11 next year he will be fully prepared for the challenge ahead.

Caudwell Children, the national charity that provides practical and emotional support to disabled children and their families, has organised the six day fundraising trek to help the charity deliver specialist equipment, treatments, therapies and short breaks to 770,000 disabled children in the UK.

Paul admits to having some anxieties about the challenge but says that he is determined to complete the arduous trek. He said: "Whilst I'm worried about walking in the heat of the day, and I'm not looking forward to the bitterly cold evenings, I've always wanted to

do a once-in-a-lifetime challenge that would stretch me and put me outside my comfort zone. This is definitely that challenge!

"As a fair skinned individual the sun will pose the greatest threat to me. I'm also trying to suppress any thoughts of waking up with snakes or scorpions in my tent!"

Having paid out £175 to register on the event, Paul now has six months to raise the necessary £1,700 fundraising target, though he is determined to exceed that amount.

He said: "I'll be encouraging friends, family and my local community to sponsor me, but I'll also be calling on the support of my rugby club to help. I'll also be undertaking a few bag packs and I hope to have a car boot sale to help me toward the magical total."

Paul can be supported through his Just Giving page: <https://www.justgiving.com/paulboden/>



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BEHIND SAINSBURYS

## Financially yours

By David Watkinson

### New childcare support system

The government were originally planning to bring in a new on-line system of childcare support from this Autumn. However, some childcare voucher providers raised a legal objection, but the Supreme Court has now ruled in the governments favour.

The new scheme is now expected to start in 2017 and will provide up to 1.8m families across the UK with up to £2,000 of childcare support per year,

per child, via a new online system. The existing childcare voucher scheme will remain available to both existing and new claimants until the new scheme starts. After the new scheme starts, the current scheme will not be available to new entrants, but those already in a scheme will have a choice of remaining within that scheme, provided that it continues to be offered by their employer, or moving to the new one.

The key points of the new scheme are as follows:

- The scheme will cover all children up to the age of 12, and up to the age of 17 if the child has disabilities
- In order to qualify for the tax-free childcare, the parents will have to be in work, with average earnings of between about £50 and £2,885 per week, or £2,600 and £150,000 per year
- The tax-free childcare will be available to all employees and, unlike the current voucher system, will not be dependent on the employer making the scheme available
- The scheme will also be available to self-employed parents. There will be special rules for people starting up in business and there will be an initial period during which there will be no minimum income level requirement
- The scheme will be available to parents on paid sick leave and paid and unpaid statutory maternity, paternity and adoption leave

Anyone wishing to use the scheme will need to open an online account via the government website and make transfers to cover the cost of registered childcare. The government will then top these up with 20% of childcare costs up to £2,000 per child, or £4,000 if disabled, up to a maximum of £10,000 per year.

Where circumstances change, and the parent no longer wishes to pay into the account, it will be possible to simply withdraw any funds that have built up. However, where applicable, the government will also withdraw its corresponding contribution.

The scheme is designed to be as flexible as possible in respect of the timing and amount contributed. Therefore parents will be able to build up a balance in their account for when they need more childcare than usual, for example, over the summer holidays.

WatkinsonBlack are pleased to advise on these as well as other matters, including providing a very cost-effective payroll bureau service. If you want to arrange a no-obligation initial meeting on any taxation or accounting matter then please contact us.

Please note that these ideas are intended to inform rather than advise and you should always obtain professional advice before taking any action.

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David Watkinson and Margaret Black

## Wolves' guard of honour for lifelong fan Jock Maguire

SEVERAL hundred Warrington Wolves' fans were joined by players and staff outside the Halliwell Jones Stadium to form a guard of honour for lifelong fan James 'Jock' Maguire, who died recently.

Jock passed away peacefully in Warrington Hospital after a brave battle against stomach cancer, aged 85.

As his funeral car drove past the stadium the crowd started continuous applause.

The loveable Scot followed Rugby League and Warrington for 80 years since he moved to the town and he was the life and soul of the party and known by everyone associated with the club.

Earlier this year, Jock enjoyed a morning down at The Halliwell Jones Stadium sharing stories over breakfast with the players and firm friend Lee Briers.

Following the guard of honour Jock's final journey was to a service at Walton Crematorium.



## Wolves' stars at record breaking VPX

THE annual Victoria Park Experience (VPX) at Victoria Park, Warrington, continues to break all records.

An estimated 2,000 youngsters turned up for the second week following on from the first week's record breaking attendance of over 1,500.

Warrington Wolves' stars Daryl Clark and Gary Wheeler joined in the fun at the free event which is now in its 8th year.

Organised by local PCSO's Tony Spruce and Tom Reid and Paul Flannery from Livewire, the aim is to get youngsters involved in fun activities.

These include a music workshop and sweat gym challenge for adults and kids alongside football, rugby, athletics, basketball, bouncy castles, archery, rugby minis for the little ones and climbing wall and even visits from various Disney Characters and much much more.

Tony said he was "overwhelmed at the response" again this year and the positive feedback.

He added: "A huge thank you to all the providers who support us and to Cheshire Fire and Cheshire police and Livewire for making it happen and our awesome volunteers."

VPX takes place every Tuesday in August from 11-4pm and is all free.



# First interactive Digital Mayor



THE Mayor of Warrington, Cllr Geoff Settle, has gone digital and now you can follow his activities and community engagements on social media.

From Facebook and Twitter to new webpages, the Mayor of Warrington is embracing the digital revolution through a range of interactive channels to help residents understand and engage in his work.

Cllr Settle said: "I am delighted to become Warrington's first digital Mayor and champion digital channels to get more people engaged in my work and activities. It's a great way to share my news and events and promote the fantastic work of the four charities I am working with during my mayoral year."

"If residents need help to get online, they can access free, one-to-one support to get online from digital champions in Warrington. The champions can help beginners with the basics as well as help with searching for information, setting up email addresses, adding attachments, uploading photos, browsing the internet and word processing."

Residents can like the Mayor on Facebook, follow him on Twitter using #warringtonmayor, or check out his webpage.

The Mayor is supporting Go ON Warrington, a project to increase the skills and accessibility for people within Warrington to help them get online. For more information, head to: [www.warrington.gov.uk/getonline](http://www.warrington.gov.uk/getonline).

Anybody who feels they could benefit from the help of a digital champion can contact Digital Services on 01925 442418 or, with the support of someone who uses the internet and email, go onto the council website or email [contact@warrington.gov.uk](mailto:contact@warrington.gov.uk).

Cllr Geoff Settle is the 132nd mayor and first citizen of Warrington and was officially sworn into the role at the annual council meeting at the Town Hall.

The charities he will be focusing on are MacIntyre, National Autistic Society, Bipolar UK and the John Holt Cancer Support Foundation.

The Mayor attends hundreds of events every year, both inside the town and across the country, acting as a representative for Warrington. The events on his webpage are some highlights of those that will be attended during his term of office.

The Mayor is also available for civic events, on request.

GO ON Warrington is a partnership run by the council's digital and neighbourhood teams, Golden Gates Housing Trust, Department for Work and Pensions, Warrington Voluntary Action, and LiveWire.

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