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# Editor's Comment



As we enter a new year there is plenty to be positive about in Warrington with the Bridge Street regeneration on schedule which will provide a welcome boost to the town centre.

The Omega development continues to boom creating new jobs in the town and Warrington is also set to benefit from £1.2 billion worth of rail improvements.

When I reflect on various events I have attended there is always lots of great community activity going on, most recently the Lymm Dickensian Festival, the town centre lantern parade and the Santa Dash at Birchwood to name but a few.

During my travels there has been one continuous shining example of community spirit - our town Mayor Geoff Settle.

## Outstanding

Warrington has had many good Mayors over the years but Geoff and his Mayoress wife Jean have been outstanding.

Not only have they visited numerous events and businesses, often supporting charitable causes, they have gone the extra mile as the town's first Digital Mayor, promoting their activities on social media.

I would like to take this opportunity of personally thanking Geoff and Jean for all their endeavours since taking office and look forward to

working with them in the new year.

Of course it is sadly not all good news in Warrington, with the council having to find another £22 million of cuts to balance the books. This is on top of the £94 of efficiency savings which have been made since 2010.

One wonders how £112 million can disappear from the council coffers in the space of five years without having some major impact on front line services - unless there was a lot of flesh on the bone?

My final thought goes to my

good friend Adrian Derbyshire who had to say farewell to his beautiful daughter Julia, aged just 16.

In the new year Adrian will be summoning up the strength to continue his fantastic anti-hate and anti-bullying work in the community, linking it to the memory of his daughter.

As a community we all need to unite with Adrian to help prevent other teenage tragedies.

RIP Julia



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# Magical lantern parade lights up Warrington

WARRINGTON was aglow with hundreds of lights for the annual Lantern Parade as people of all ages, from right across the town, snaked through the streets each carrying a lovingly-crafted lantern.

The theme of this year's parade was Dick Whittington to coincide with Parr Hall's festive pantomime.

As part of this year's event The Liverpool Lantern Company wowed participants and spectators with magnificent larger-than-life animal lanterns.

The parade set off from Queens Gardens and embarked on a magical softly-lit winter tour of the town centre.

The event, which was funded by Warrington Borough Council and provided by Culture Warrington, was part of a multitude of Christmas events across Warrington this year.

Cllr Kate Hannon, executive board member for leisure, community and culture, said: "Investing in our Christmas events programme gives us opportunities to support the council's wider objectives and compliment other events that are taking place.

Not only do we want to provide events for all to enjoy, but we want to attract more residents and visitors into the town to boost the local economy and see what else we have to offer."



Culture Warrington chair Maureen Banner and Livewire director Carl Oates and local youngsters at the parade.





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Hello and welcome to my monthly column . . .

# Hypnotes

by Michael Mahoney

## Our lessons in life

**As you head into 2016 and reflect on the experiences of the previous year, perhaps it may be time for you to assess what you have learnt and gained, and the things you are keen to change during this next year.**

Life brings us many lessons although we can often see it as being trials and tribulations. However, we can learn something from each experience, no matter how bad it seems at the time. We all want good things to happen to us, to have more money, a better standard of living, more friends, happier relationships, the list is endless. However, we can often get blinkered by dwelling on the things we are lacking, how difficult life is, and how badly it treats us, and most people rarely look beyond the difficulties and can feel victimized, to the point of giving up and feeling they don't deserve good things to happen to them.

It is important to step back from the feelings of being totally immersed in each experience where we feel lacking of something or expecting something bad to happen like it always seem to do. It is vital that we look at patterns that are repeating themselves, the similarity of each

experience, and explore what it might be telling us about ourselves or our current circumstances that perhaps might need to change. However, change is scary for most people, and often we don't know how to go about it. We may feel stuck in our current situation with no way out. If it seems too difficult most people just give up, but if you really do need things to change, and you are the only one that can make it happen, how do you go about it?

The first step is to recognize the lesson life is trying to teach you, the second is to reflect on what needs to change, and the third is to talk it through with someone to help you to gain the confidence to turn things around. When you start talking about it and exploring ways to change the situation, then you are giving it positive energy. Unlike when you felt stuck in it, and there seems no way out. You may have been talking to people about it, but if it was in a defeatist way, then it would have been getting fed with more negative energy, bringing you down further into feeling helpless.

Where there is a will, there is a way. We have to want to make changes in our lives and to learn the lessons it gives us to grow as people.

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.



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[www.michaelmahoneyhypnotherapist.com](http://www.michaelmahoneyhypnotherapist.com)

It is too easy to give up and say it's too difficult. If we do this, we are not being fair to ourselves and not recognizing our true potential, and what we have to offer to the world.

It can often help to listen to other people's stories of how they overcame adversity, or became successful after having a difficult start in life. There are always people worse off than you; it is only the negative thoughts and overwhelming emotions felt at that time that tells you otherwise. However, it's important to get past that and have the desire and belief that you deserve things to be different this time around.

**If you need help and support with a problem, or are looking to do and be more, then please contact either myself or my partner, Cate on 01925 658322 to arrange an Initial Consultation. Happy New Year to all our readers.**



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# Panto cast strike lucky at Golden Gates

THE cast of the Parr Hall's pantomime Dick Whittington went in search of streets paved with gold - striking lucky at Warrington's iconic Golden Gates.

Tony Peers Productions returns to Parr Hall this festive season with Dick Whittington, running from Saturday 2 until Sunday 10 January 2016 as Dick embarks on his journey hoping to find streets lined with gold.

The rags-to-riches story tells the tale of one man and his cat as they embark on a quest to become Mayor of London, whilst featuring all the traditional pantomime ingredients including; sensational songs, dazzling dance routines, magnificent slapstick comedy and bags of audience participation.

The 2016 pantomime cast includes Double Trouble comedy act Damian Elliott & Tom Rolfe, who will take on the roles of Captain and Mate.

This comic duo has comedy mentors of the highest calibre in the form of Damian's uncles, The Chuckle brothers.

Rebecca Draper takes on the title role of Dick Whittington fresh from filming her part in ITV's Stand By Your Man and Wirral born Ellie Carroll will star as Alice in this version of the classic tale.

Parr Hall pantomime veteran Phil Beck returns as the Dame and David Kustard brings to life the character of King Rat in his Mother's home town.

Finally, after appearing in last year's pantomime, local dancers from the Felicia Burns School of Dance will once again add festive sparkle to the show.



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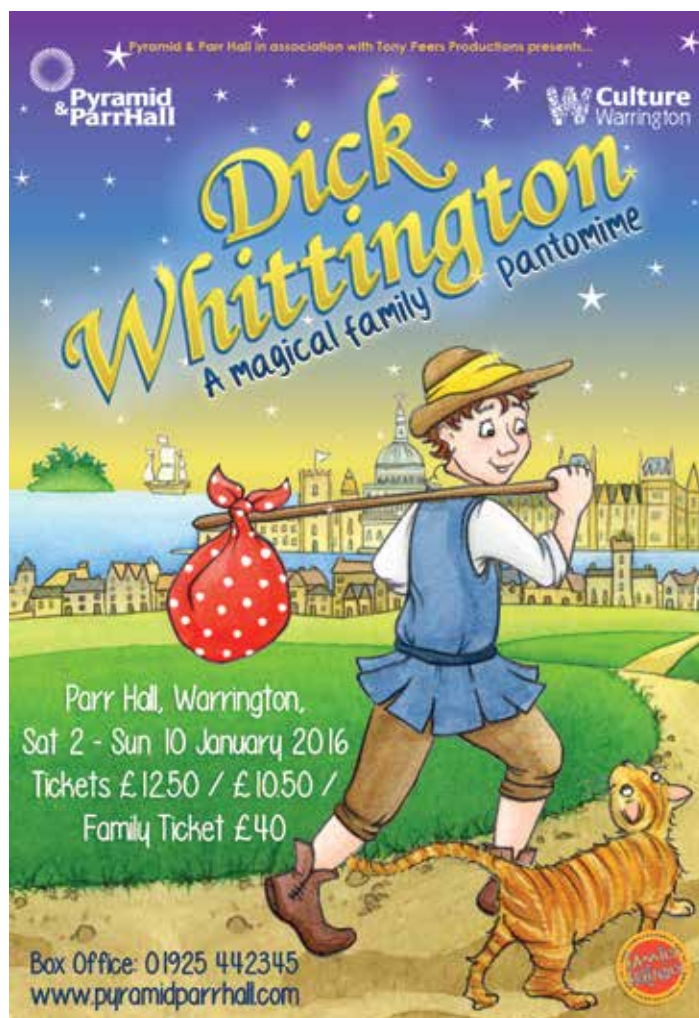
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# Interesting reaction to Chancellor's Autumn statement

"It was interesting to hear the reaction from business representatives to the Chancellors' Autumn Statement.

The Confederation of British Industry (CBI) welcomed the spending on infrastructure, the increased housebuilding and support for energy-intensive sectors including advanced manufacturing. The CBI did however feel there was a 'sting in the tail', despite continued work on deficit reduction, and industrial strategy and an emphasis on nurturing a vibrant business community, the size and scope of the Apprenticeship Levy caused concern.

This concern being echoed by the Institute of Directors (IoD), who described the new levy as "... a new payroll tax". At 0.5% of payroll, the IoD claim it will be a big new cost for many companies including medium-sized ones.

Infrastructure investment is something that the business

community across the UK has been asking for a long time, and in particular John Longworth (Director General of the British Chambers of Commerce) was 'delighted' businesses were now being listened to on infrastructure matters.

Infrastructure investment is of particular importance to Warrington given its proximity to the U.K.'s main motorway and rail networks, a position which has

undoubtedly been part of the town's economic success story. The 'Pinchpoint' project to help alleviate congestion in Birchwood is nearing completion, consultation is underway (until 11 January) regarding the Centre Park Link project and, later this month, there will be announcements regarding consultation on Junction 8 improvements on the M62. Warrington & Co continues to work closely with Warrington Borough Council and the Local Enterprise



Partnership to ensure government funding is available to help develop the town's strategic infrastructure.

An undoubted success of the work done by Warrington & Co, in conjunction with partners, was the creation and designation of Birchwood as an Enterprise Zone. This is great news. It's the first ever Enterprise Zone in Warrington and was announced as a part of the Cheshire Science Corridor in the Chancellor's Statement. It's recognition of the strategic importance of the Birchwood/Warrington East area which employs over 27,000 people, 20% of whom are employed in the nuclear industry.

Finally, I wish all businesses, large and small in Warrington a healthy and prosperous New Year."

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Steve Park  
MD of Warrington & Co.

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## Chancellor announces Birchwood as first Enterprise Zone

THE Chancellor of the Exchequer George Osborne has announced that Birchwood in Warrington is to be given Enterprise Zone status.

The announcement came within Mr Osbourne's Autumn Statement where he announced that twenty-six new Enterprise Zones will be created across the U.K. including a new Cheshire Science Corridor that will join together Cheshire and Warrington's nationally and internationally significant research facilities at Alderley Park and the nationally significant nuclear cluster at Birchwood in Warrington.

Earlier this year, led by Warrington & Co., the Cheshire & Warrington Local Enterprise Partnership submitted an application to the Government for a new Enterprise Zone to be created around the Cheshire Science Corridor across Cheshire and Warrington that included the nuclear cluster area at Birchwood.

Enterprise Zones were established by the government in 2012 with the aim of creating jobs, boosting businesses and encouraging business growth for both new and expanding companies, with the assistance of Government backing. Prior to yesterday's announcement there were 24 enterprise zones across the country, with five of them located within the North West of England, there are now 44 with eight in the North West.

The benefits to companies within an Enterprise Zone can include business rate discount for occupiers worth up to £275,000 over five years; the development of a simplified planning approach that can assist in the growth of new

build and subsequent infrastructure; and more support for superfast broadband. The retained business rates are also used by the Local Enterprise Partnership to then fund development required on the Enterprise Zone sites.

Warrington has a long established nuclear industry resulting from the UK Atomic Energy Authority (UKAEA) and then BNFL being headquartered in Warrington and has led Birchwood Park to be the location of an internationally significant nuclear cluster. The National Nuclear Laboratory and Amec Foster Wheeler's Nuclear Analytical Services laboratory, Europe's largest commercial radiochemical analysis laboratory, are now both also based in Birchwood.

Birchwood's nuclear cluster has led to a wide range of nuclear related companies establishing a presence in Warrington so as to be located at the centre of an important nuclear industry, and the diversity of operations in Birchwood has led to a deep and broad cluster around engineering, design, R&D, project management and project delivery.

Further benefits to Warrington's local economy are also being achieved through Local Growth Fund resources from the Cheshire and Warrington LEP in terms of investment in Warrington's strategic road network. This investment will enable the strategic transport network in and around Warrington to be substantially upgraded. Key schemes include Warrington East phase 1, (Birchwood Pinchpoint) project M62 Junction 8 and Centre Park Link.

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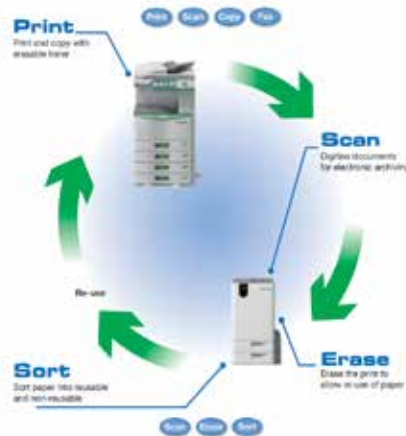
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# Housing Trust one step closer to £10.6million for local projects



GOLDEN Gates Housing Trust (GGHT) has moved one step closer to receiving millions of pounds in funding to transform lives in Warrington and Cheshire.

The Trust has been awarded almost £50,000 to further develop plans for the New Leaf project. If successful in stage two, the Trust and its partners would receive up to £10.6million in funding from the Building Better Opportunities programme to deliver the New Leaf project.

Peter Fitzhenry (pictured), GGHT Managing Director said; " We are really excited about the New Leaf project because of the huge potential it has to change lives, create opportunities and a positive future for thousands of local people.

If we are successful, the project would allow GGHT and its partners to support 2,800+ residents across Cheshire and Warrington into work which will make a really positive contribution to local communities and the regional economy."

The Building Better Opportunities programme is a key part of the Cheshire and Warrington Local Enterprise Partnership's (LEP) European Funding Programme. The scheme sees the Big Lottery Fund matching funds from European Social Fund (ESF) 2014-2020, to provide joint investment in local projects that tackle poverty and promote social inclusion. Over the next few years the funding will be delivered in 38 Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) areas according to local priorities. If successful the New Leaf project would run from 2016 – 2019. GGHT and their partners will find out if they have been successful with their Stage 2 submission in 2016.

## Have your say on library services

WARRINGTON residents are being given the chance to shape the future of libraries in the town as LiveWire conduct their biggest survey ever.

The organisation's 33,000 library users, those who haven't used a library for more than a year and those who've never used one of Warrington's libraries before, are being encouraged to give their views on how to bring the town's 11 libraries into the 21st century.

The results of the survey will be used to develop new activities at Warrington Central Library, currently based within the same building as Warrington Museum, which is set to expand into the heart of the town centre next year and Great Sankey Neighbourhood Hub, which will provide Warrington's first ever smart library when it opens in late 2016.

People who complete the survey will be entered into a free prize draw to win £100 worth of shopping vouchers to spend at Golden Square. The survey will run until 15 January, and the results will be published in late January.

To fill out the survey online, please visit [www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/LibrarySurvey1](http://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/LibrarySurvey1)

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# Council must bridge £22m gap in its budget

CASH-strapped Warrington Borough Council is working hard to bridge a £22m gap in its budget for next year.

The council has submitted a report to the scrutiny committee outlining the position and the various challenges it faces to balance its books for the coming year.

Squeezed on both sides by a combination of escalating costs and reduced funding from central government, the council has already saved more than £94 million since 2010.

Town Hall chiefs say that among other things, the bill for adult social care continues to rise while at the same time the government has again decided to award Warrington the lowest settlement funding position in the North West.

Warrington has the fifth lowest council tax in the North West and owing to the two per cent referendum limit, is only able to raise its Band D council tax by £24.11 compared to neighbouring Stockport who can charge an additional £27.94 for a Band D



household.

This discrepancy compared to other local authorities equates to a shortfall of £34m, Warrington says.

The council adopted an outcomes based budgeting approach in 2014/15 and says this has proven effective in providing a long term strategic and sustainable financial

plan.

It will enable the council to operate in a way that works better, costs less and focuses on delivering outcomes which put residents first. It puts accountability and innovations at the heart of what the council does and is focused around its pledges of "Growing a Strong Warrington".

The council will consult on the proposals before a second report goes to the scrutiny committee in early February, ahead of the full council meeting at the end of that month.

Cllr Russ Bowden (pictured), lead member for corporate finance said: "Yet again the council is facing a challenging budget and some tough decisions will need to be made."

"However, residents can be assured that we are working hard to identify every practical way of delivering on our pledges of growing a strong Warrington."

"We have a track record of innovation and delivering value for money and I'm confident that will continue that despite the challenging budget position."

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## Become a morning person this Winter

It's that time of year again. Dark, cold mornings can make it even harder to get up! Here are some tips to avoid hitting that snooze button too many times!

### Wake up gradually

Many people become irritated by sudden and annoying alarm sounds. At this time of year, light alarm clocks are especially beneficial. These are designed to wake people with a gradually brightening light that simulates sunrise. Waking up naturally and gradually this way is much more welcome than being shocked out of a sound sleep.

### Nourish your body

Feeling groggy, isn't uncommon when the alarm sounds. However, this isn't always caused by tiredness. It's often caused by dehydration. Drinking a glass or two of water before your first brew can really help.

It's also important to replenish the body with nutrients after a night's sleep. Aim for complex carbohydrates such as oatmeal,

proteins such as eggs, and healthy fats like avocado and nuts, rather than a sugary, simple carb breakfast. Having a nutritious, filling, and enjoyable breakfast to look forward to can also be a great motivator to get out of bed!

### Exercise

Whether someone is a yogi, gym-goer or enjoy a revitalizing morning stroll, exercising in the morning will get the heart pumping oxygen-rich blood around the body, improving overall function. Exercise can also be a great way to clear the mind in preparation for a productive and more stress-free morning, plus there are obvious health benefits to increasing physical activity in this way.

People introducing these tips to their morning routine should aim to commit for at least 21 days. This will help to form healthy habits that both mind and body will be grateful for!

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## Tennis marathon helps raise funds for foundation



PADGATE Tennis and Bowling Club has presented a cheque for £1,610 to the Steve Prescott Foundation.

Club president Steve Brown, tennis chairman Mike Spencer and Andy Hawley presented the cheque to Alex Chicken, secretary of the SPF, at their annual awards night at the Grange Social club.

The tennis club held a 12 hour tennis-a-thon earlier this year with a number of other activities which ran during the course of the day including free tennis coaching, round robin competitions, a prize raffle and a BBQ.

A unique piece of tennis memorabilia was also auctioned to raise funds for the SPF.

Judy Murray sent a tennis shirt and tennis ball both signed by her son, former Wimbledon champion Andy Murray. She also sent a personal note saying, 'Signed shirt from Andy for your Steve Prescott fundraiser. Good luck. Judy x'

A club spokesperson said: "The donated items were framed to create a magnificent piece of memorabilia which will now be even more valuable thanks to Andy Murray's heroic performance at the historic Davis Cup triumph in Ghent at the weekend.

"Thank you so much to Andy Hawley and all the volunteers who helped raise such a fantastic amount for the SPF and to Judy Murray for her generous donation of the signed shirt and ball."

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# UTC champion Lord Baker visits new University Technical College

WARRINGTON'S University Technical College (UTCW) received a visit from former Conservative Education Secretary and UTC champion Lord Baker as he attended the site of the new facility being built on Dallam Lane in Warrington town centre.

As co-founder and Chairman of the Baker Dearing Trust, (an educational trust that was set up in 2009 to promote the establishment of University Technical Colleges in England), the purpose of Lord Baker's visit was two-fold; to see Warrington's new cutting edge educational institution, that when it opens to students in September 2016 will specialise in engineering and energy, and secondly to meet and present to a number of the UTC's employment partners and prospective students.

During his visit Lord Baker met with the UTC's employment partners, including representatives from Sellafield Ltd, Manchester Metropolitan University, Atkins, Nuvia, Tenet Consultants, Warrington & Co, Flamefast, National Nuclear Laboratories, National Decommissioning Authority and ISG.

Lord Baker then took part in an open discussion with the employment partners about the benefits and opportunities that UTCs can provide to students in



preparing them for the world of work and in working towards achieving productive careers. This was then followed by a meet and greet session with a small number of prospective students.

With the launch of the Baker Dearing Educational Trust Lord Baker pioneered the idea of "career colleges" that would provide technical education for 14 - 19 years, enabling them to access training and educational in a wide range of subjects including construction, healthcare, catering with many UTCs, such as Warrington, specialising in the

"STEM" core subjects of Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths.

Construction of the new £10 million, 620-place UTCW began in July 2015. Located in the heart of Warrington within the Stadium Quarter, UTCW will have excellent access to rail and bus networks. Completion of the build is scheduled for the summer of 2016.

UTCW is sponsored by Manchester Metropolitan University and local employers. UTCW will specialise in energy and engineering and will offer an outstanding opportunity for the

young people of Warrington and the wider region to work with major energy and engineering employers based in the town. The aim of UTCW is to integrate technical, practical and academic learning and create an environment where students can thrive and develop the abilities that industry needs.

Lord Baker said: "This was a wonderful opportunity to visit the UTC Warrington site. Next time I visit I am looking forward to seeing the completed facility and meeting the students. UTC's prepare the students for work, teaching skills that mix the brain and the hand. Students leave work ready. Of the 1700 students in the UK who graduated this year 99 - 100% have now found employment".

Principal and Chief Executive of UTCW, Lee Barber said: "Lord Baker's visit to University Technical College Warrington has been invaluable as we have heard how UTC's are already impacting the lives of young people across the country. As a champion of the UTC concept Lord Baker outlined the importance of learning skills in technical subjects to provide young people with a greater confidence in finding employment after education.

For more information visit [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 curriculum supported by employer partners including GCSEs, A Levels, Engineering AQA Tech A Levels, Engineering BTECs and professional 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, Vinci, Unilever, National Nuclear Laboratories, Warrington & Co, Warrington Borough Council and many, many more.

Application  
deadline for  
Year 10 & 12 places  
29th February

## OPEN EVENT

Opening in  
Warrington Town  
Centre, opposite Central  
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### THURSDAY 4TH FEBRUARY, 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 4th February, 5.30pm - 7.30pm

Where: The Pyramid, Cultural Quarter, 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:

- MEET THE PRINCIPAL, Thursday 14th January, 5.30pm - 7.00pm
- ENGINEERING MASTER CLASSES, providing an insight into the different areas of engineering available for students to consider, Thursday 11th February, 5.30pm - 7.00pm

University Technical College Warrington | 01925 737067  
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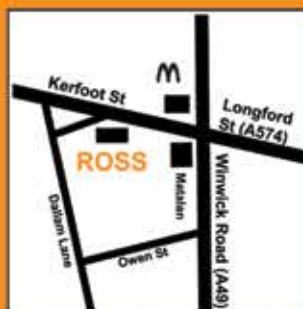
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## Social Media Matters

All of your Social Media Marketing questions answered.



Welcome to my first column. I'm Helen Pritchard - a busy working mum of two living in Grappenhall and a total Social Media obsessive! I love our home town and am proud to be part of the business community in Warrington.

Since I set up Blue Sky Digital Marketing in 2007, I've grown from just me to an incredible team of 10! Becoming a Patron for the Warrington Wolves Charitable Foundation and an Entrepreneur of the Year Awards finalist are two highlights of a

spectacular year. You can find us at our Station House HQ - right on Central Station platform.

Social Media is a brilliant way to speak to potential customers. It's knowing where to start, right? The online world moves so fast, it can feel overwhelming...

For New Year my hot tip is: 'Get-back to basics'! Do you know who your ideal customer is? What motivates them and how? Where and why they use Social Media?

If the answer is "No", you're shouting into the abyss! I'll be exploring these questions in our Business Bootcamp Workshops (pictured left) and I'd love to see you there! Let's get your business into shape for 2016!

What's your big social media question? Tweet me @blueskydigi or email me helen@blueskydigimarketing.co.uk and I'll answer them in February's edition.

Interested in our starter social packages (from £250pcm for two platforms)? Please telephone me on 07807 912 721 to arrange a coffee and a chat.

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# ANNUAL REVIEW 2015





## Introduction

# Chairman and Chief Executive's Report

In mission terms, Warrington Disability Partnership (WDP) and our social enterprise the Disability Trading Company (DTC) continue to deliver a wide range of high quality mobility and independent living services.

Our performance against contracts is subject to regular inspection, and it is satisfying to report that we have continued to receive excellent outcome results. Our financial position has improved thanks to increased self-generated income from DTC and an excellent year of fundraising and community engagement.

WDP as it is today is a charity which has an excellent team of staff, volunteers and trustees, as well as a substantial customer base. During the past 24 years we have benefitted from the selfless involvement of hundreds of people. It would be easy to forget, given our present size, with over 50 staff and 200 volunteers, just how much voluntary effort went into the early years.

The reason for reflection on those early pioneering efforts – which shaped the charity's mission and its early direction – is because, regrettably, two very significant people from that era have passed away in the past year – and it is appropriate to acknowledge their major contribution. Two of the founders, Alan Shaw and Eric James sadly passed away. Alan played a critical role in the development of our disability information systems, and Eric was fundamental in us establishing Shopmobility and our Market Information Point.

Sadly we also lost one of our longest serving volunteers Terry Gatley earlier this year. October and November this year tested the teams' resilience when we also lost Elaine Ives, Julia Derbyshire, Andrea Glenn, Richard Ward and Marie Whitfield. Their passing has been felt by everyone involved in WDP.

Other major changes saw the two of us taking up new roles, (John) moving from being a Patron to Chairman and (Dave) resigning as Chairman to apply, and after successful recruitment, take up the post of Chief Executive.

As we head towards our 25th Anniversary Year we would like to thank everyone involved in 'Team WDP' for their valued support. We would also like to thank our partners, our funders, supporters and customers.

We are mindful of future challenges, in a climate of continuing funding pressures and strong competition for corporate support. This environment makes us mindful of following a

commercial/social enterprise approach, albeit, we will stay consistent with our values.

Together with other members of our Board and Senior Management Team we are committed to closely monitoring our strategic direction, and we are confident that we will continue to thrive in the deliverance of our mission.

*Thank you.*

**John Gartside OBE DL JP**  
*Chairman*

**Dave Thompson MBE DL**  
*Chief Executive*



**Warrington Disability Partnership**  
'Supporting Independence throughout Life and Work'

**Centre for Independent Living**  
**Beaufort Street, Warrington WA5 1BA**  
**01925 240064**

**[www.disabilitypartnership.org.uk](http://www.disabilitypartnership.org.uk)**  
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**[info@disabilitypartnership.org.uk](mailto:info@disabilitypartnership.org.uk)**

**disability**  
**trading**  
**company**



# Who we are and what we do

Warrington Disability Partnership (WDP) is an independent, user-led social enterprise committed to valuing everyone's life skills, experience and individuality to enable positive change. We're proud of our wide-ranging service offering information, advice and guidance, which includes:

### Promoting Independent Living

Visit our Centre for Independent Living (CIL) - located on Beaufort Street, Smart House at the Lifehouse on Brunswick Dock, Liverpool or our Mobility and Independent Living Solutions Services at Golden Square, Warrington to see all the latest equipment from baths, showers and kitchens to beds, wheelchairs and stair lifts, plus so much more!

Our Disability Helpline (01925 240064) and Market Information Point, offer advice and support around local support groups and services. The Long Term Conditions Support Group and Forum supports local disabled people around self-management alongside Pain Management Support Groups in Warrington, Halton and St Helens.

Our Shopmobility Scheme - located in Legh Street Car Park - and other satellite venues offers scooter and wheelchair hire in Warrington Town Centre. Membership costs just £20 for a full year!

WDP's trading arm - Disability Trading Company (DTC) - offers high-quality independent living products at competitive prices. In addition, the Mobility Workshop provides servicing, repairs and maintenance support for mobility equipment. All profits from DTC services are gifted to WDP to support the work of the charity.

### Support with Employment and Money

Our award-winning Employment Team is proud to specialise in supporting local disabled people, enabling everyone to make more effective choices about skills, careers, work and life.



Our benefits advisors offer information and advice in relation to benefit applications and entitlements (including Personal Independence Payments), as well as offering support to existing and transitional claimants.

Our Independent Living Team specifically provides a support service for Warrington residents who use the Government's Direct Payments scheme, assisting with all aspects of employing a Personal Assistant (including support from our Payroll team).

### Learning and Development

Visit the Discover IT Suite at Marjorie Griffiths Learning Centre on Beaufort Street to take part in a host of educational and inspiring IT courses including 'Computers for the Terrified', OCR qualifications and pre-employment IT.

### Accessible Holidays

Our fully accessible holiday homes in North Wales and our adapted, wheelchair-accessible narrow boat 'The Wizard', are available for hire at competitive rates - leaving you to enjoy a bargain break or day out on the water! Turn to page 8 for more information.

### Sports for Children and Young People

The Children's and Young People's Sports Team actively promote inclusion and integration to ensure that children can achieve in a safe and fun environment. Our clubs welcome people of all abilities and include Wheelchair Basketball, The Disability Inclusive Sports Club and the Planet Blue Youth Club.

### Opportunities to Socialise

Looking for friendship, activities, fun and lunch? The Luncheon Club meets every Tuesday and Friday from 10am to 2pm.

Our Galleries Community Café offers a wide range of hot and cold meals, snacks and drinks in a warm and friendly atmosphere. The CIL and MGLC's well-equipped meeting and training rooms are also available for hire, with catering facilities available.

Our large team of volunteers work across all our services, including supporting our team at many of our weekend fundraising activities (see page 7 for our for 2016 events).

### Listening and Advocacy

Get your voice heard locally by attending our monthly meetings of the Warrington Disability Forum (held on the second Thursday of every month except July and December) at our CIL.



## Volunteer spotlight:

# Colin Whitfield

From competing as a Welsh international at the World Curling Championships in Prague to singing on the pitch at Wembley Stadium at the Rugby League Challenge Cup Final 2015, proud husband and father Colin Whitfield - aged 59 - exemplifies WDP's 'can do' philosophy.

A wheelchair user for more than 40 years, Colin has physical disabilities and experience of mental ill-health. He first met Dave at Warrington Sports Club in 1991. "He asked me: 'What do you do during the week?'" recalls Colin. "I started as a volunteer at Warrington Disability Information Service, which would go on to become WDP. Since then I've had many roles - including Access Advisor to the Head of Cheshire Disability's Federation. I'm a 'Jack of all trades'.

'When I'm not directing traffic at Disability Awareness Day (DAD), you'll find me performing in the Arts Marquee with Warrington Community Choir - Wired for Sound. I love everything about it! The dynamics... the crescendo... My favourite song that we do is One Day Like



This by Elbow."

Colin's curling career started in familiar fashion... "I was asked: 'What do you do on Monday nights?'" he laughs. Five years on, he now captains the international team, which practises weekly at Deeside Leisure Centre. It's a passion he shares with his wife Ann, aged 45, who he met at Beaufort Street. "She came in to WDP for some advice and we just hit it off," says Colin. The couple married last year. "It was the highlight of my life," he adds. "That, and the birth of my daughter, Hannah - now 15. Ann is a 'curling convert' and Secretary of our club!"

Looking ahead to our 25th anniversary, Colin is hopeful about the legacy appeal: "We've gone from being a purely voluntary organisation to a place of employment; a support network to help our service users towards employment too," he says. "The appeal is about empowering the next generation of young disabled people to carry our work and values forward."

## Volunteer spotlight:

# Enid & Tony Newens

Mother-and-son team Enid and Tony Newens, from Latchford

Hard-working Tony, aged 55, has found new life after redundancy - becoming a much-valued WDP volunteer, along with his doting mum Enid, aged 76.

"Tony was made redundant from his job at a steelworks in 2008," she recalls. "He has learning difficulties, is diabetic and has lost 70 percent of his hearing. The Job Centre told us about WDP's computing courses. Tony has panic attacks, so I asked if I could sit in the building to be near him. The course tutor said I may as well do the course too! 'Computers for the Terrified' was our first taster. Learning about spellcheck was life-changing for Tony, who has Dyslexia."

Fast-forward to today; Enid and Tony are a 'hands-on' addition to the Administration Team - helping out with crucial fundraising tasks, such as event publicity mailouts and folding raffle tickets.

"We've been wrapping gifts for Santa's Grotto, and I have used my learning from the computer courses to help Tom Coleridge out with his accessibility audits," adds Enid. "We support all the events like A Walk in the Park and, of course, DAD."

'Losing my lovely husband of 47 years, Arthur, was devastating. Our WDP 'family' has become a lifeline for me and Tony. At a time when others were focused on what they thought Tony couldn't do, WDP took the time to ask him what he could do. That's a lovely legacy after 25 years."





# 2015 highlights

## The year in pictures



WDP Volunteers Clare McDonnell and Ian Arnold nominated for Adult Learners Week Awards. Clare received the 'Life Skills Award' at this year's ceremony.



Tom Coleridge awarded the 'Inspiring Young People to Achieve' at the '2015 Warrington Youth Awards'.



Wizard Narrowboat completes 135 trips in 2015 - a new record.



Tiana Hobbs (5) officially opens the 2015 Santa's Grotto.



WDP Trustee, Sue Bentley awarded an MBE for her services to charity work.



WDP Supporters raised over £3,000 by organising a number of Charity Golf Days.



Members of our Wheelchair Basketball and Disability Inclusive Sports (DISC) Clubs were asked to take part in filming for 'A Question of Sport' with former Olympic gymnast Beth Tweddle, as part of a Children in Need special.



# 25 years of Warrington

Warrington Information Group for the Disabled launched at Dallam Day Centre.

Opened our Disability Information Point in Warrington Market

Opened Warrington Shopmobility (3rd in UK)



Received the Queens Award for Voluntary Services for DAD from the Duke of Gloucester during his visit to the CIL



Partners in launching the Centre for Independent Living (CIL)

Transferred WDIS offices to the Centre for Independent Living

Opened the Marjorie Griffiths Learning Centre

Opened our new Mobility Training Track

Opened our new Mobility Workshop and Service Centre

Opened our new Galleries Community Café

Opened our Mobility & Independent Living Store (MILS) in the LifeHouse in Liverpool

Secured nearly £1million funding from the Community Assets Transfer Fund to refurbish the CIL

1991

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2014

2015

Launched Warrington Disability Sports Forum



Changed name to Warrington Disability Information Services (WDIS)

First Disability Awareness Day

Invited to participate in 2 European exchange projects, Access Europe and HELIOS II.

Launched Warrington Wolves Disability Sports Club

Warrington Committee for Disabled People

Warrington Disability Information Services

Launched



Warrington Disability Sports Forum

Warrington Shopmobility



Lord Lieutenant of Cheshire officially re-opened our refurbished Centre for Independent Living

Launched the Disability Trading Company, WDP's social enterprise

Countess of Wessex visited our Disability Awareness Day 20th Anniversary event

Opened our first Mobility & Independent Living Store (MILS) in Golden Square





# Disability Partnership

**2016**

**Join our fundraising efforts during our  
25th Anniversary year!**

## **SPONSORED SWIM**



**Saturday 12th March**

## **5K RUN / WALK IN THE PARK**



**Sunday 1st May**



## **SPRING BALL**



**Saturday 16th April**

## **DAD BBQ & QUIZ NIGHT**



**Friday 8th July**

## **SCUBA CHALLENGE**



**Saturday 8th October**



**For more information on any of these, or for a  
full list of 2016 events, including our monthly  
quiz nights, please contact:**

**01925 240064**

**or visit [www.disabilitypartnership.org.uk](http://www.disabilitypartnership.org.uk)**



## Book your Welsh getaway or Cheshire cruise for 2016

# Holiday park fun in North Wales or a tasty pub lunch and the Cheshire countryside ... *what's your idea of heaven?*

Thanks to our accessible holiday caravans and fun narrowboat, 'The Wizard', which has wheelchair access, you can enjoy the best of both worlds. Book your 2016 break today on 01925 240064!

*Just make your choice from the following three options.*

### Coastal retreat in Pensarn

Tucked between Rhyl and Colwyn Bay, Pensarn is well connected by rail and the A55 expressway to Abergele, Towyn and Llandudno – making it the perfect accessible base for your Welsh adventure. There's a sweeping beach, a coastal pathway with splendid sea views, holiday parks in close proximity and plenty of seaside stores – guaranteeing a getaway you can enjoy at your own pace.

### Holiday park heaven in Rhyl

Start your day with a dip in the pool; drop the little ones off at the Kids' Club; enjoy a fish n' chips lunch; then plan your

big night out in one of Lyons Robin Hood Holiday Park's three bars, with varied cabaret entertainment. Our Rhyl caravan is the accessible 'home from home' you need in a spot that's perfect for families and activity-lovers! The beach and town centre are a stone's throw away, but with an on-site supermarket and diner, you'll be hard-pushed to find a reason to leave!

### Cheshire canal cruise on 'The Wizard'

Friendly onboard volunteers, fully accessible features and the beautiful Cheshire views made 2015 a record year for 'The Wizard', which completed 135 trips out on the Bridgewater Canal. A new scenic route to Phoenix Park in Runcorn (perfect for a picnic) and our most popular trip to The Barn Owl Inn, Lymm have been complemented by improved access to both Walton Park and the Walton Arms - making this a perfect group outing.



## Accessible Holiday Homes and Narrowboat

Warrington Disability Partnership have accessible caravans in both Rhyl and Pensarn, North Wales available for hire.

We also have an accessible narrowboat providing day trips on the Bridgewater Canal, Warrington.

For more information on these services contact us on:

**01925 240064**  
[disabilitypartnership.org.uk](http://disabilitypartnership.org.uk)

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# Disability Awareness Day 2015: Highlights and Special Thanks

Against the backdrop of a new Head Steward, two new Deputy Head Stewards, a new Sports Zone Co-ordinator, and 28 new Volunteer Stewards, our Founder - and now Chief Executive Officer - Dave Thompson MBE DL declared Disability Awareness Day (DAD) 2015 'without doubt one of the best yet'.

His rousing closing speech to 'DAD's Army' of volunteers and WDP staff at Walton Hall and Gardens marked the end of another record-breaking day for the 24th DAD, which was principally sponsored by Your Housing Group.

More than 20,000 visitors descended on the tented village - housing 250 exhibitors - and enjoyed an eclectic and inclusive mix of arts performers and sports activities, as well as picking up information about a wide range of support.

The world's largest not-for-profit, voluntary-led, pan-disability exhibition got off to a slightly damp start, but clouds soon gave way to brilliant sunshine - best enjoyed from the top of a 30-metre cherry-picker offering panoramic views of the showground.

## Highlights included:

- Frogstastic' - our party night for people with learning disabilities - and our Mega BBQ, Quiz and Charity Auction, which raised £5,000. This was doubled to £10,000 by Barclays Access!
- A wheelchair basketball tournament between Your Housing



Group sponsored-Cheshire Phoenix basketball team and WDP, who won!

- Paralympian hopeful and World Youth 100m and 200m champion Shaun Burrows received £1,500 in sponsorship from Your Housing Group
- Over in the Arts Marquee, ELLA Performance Group stole the show with excerpts from 'Oliver The Musical'
- The prize for 'Best Voluntary Sector Stand' was awarded to Rachel's Journey, and the 'Best Business Stand' was independently judged to be WDP's trading arm, the Disability Trading Company.

## Special thanks went to:

- 'Brun Munslow, who along with Pete Pinnington Presents, organised THE best DAD Launch Day and Arts Marquee programme in memory, which had an inclusive bill of Britain's hottest new acts, as well as disabled performers
- 'Gavin Thompson, Head Steward for this year, who together with his new Deputies - John Munslow and Dave Williams - put in almost 100 hours' work over 'DAD Week', leading 'DAD's Army'
- 'Our Community Engagement and Fundraising Team - led by Janis Williams - and our DAD Admin Team - led by Caroline Thompson and Brun - and all the team at WDP
- 'Stacey King, who co-ordinated her first ever Sports Zone this year - bringing visitors opportunities to try everything from scuba diving and fencing, to accessible rugby, football and tennis.



## DAD 2016

### 25th Anniversary

Sunday 10th July

For sponsorship, exhibition and  
advertising opportunities  
please contact the team on  
**01925 240064**



# Disability Trading Company — an inspirational story of success

A little over four years ago the internationally acclaimed Warrington Disability Partnership (WDP) launched their trading arm the 'Disability Trading Company' (DTC).

Founder and Chief Executive of WDP Dave Thompson MBE DL explained what led to the decision to extend the charity to include a trading initiative.

"Whilst reviewing our 5 year strategy we realised that to maintain the range of services we were offering, which included a team of over 40 paid staff and nearly 200 volunteers, we would need to find new ways of generating income. It was clear to see that statutory services were looking to make radical cuts to their contracts with 3rd sector groups".

The Department of Health guidance titled Transforming Community Equipment Services provided the opportunity for WDP to create an arm's length trading arm that is built on the philosophy of a true social enterprise, with the needs of disabled customers at its heart. We also received the support and encouragement of senior leaders from local and regional health & social care sectors.

In October 2011 we opened our first Mobility & Independent Living Store (MILS) in the Golden Square Shopping Mall in Warrington Town Centre. This was achieved in a partnership with the centre owners.

Our second MILS opened in April 2012 in the Disabled Living Centre in Brunswick Dock, Liverpool. The service is supported by Liverpool NHS and Social Services, and its development was actively supported by local disabled people including Sir Bert Massie. Our staff have completed Trusted Assessor

Training, which enables them to undertake assessments for a range of independent living equipment including wheelchairs and specialist seating.

As part of a £1.3million refurbishment of our Warrington Centre for Independent Living we included a purpose built Workshop and Service Centre, which was to be used to maintain our Shopmobility and wheelchair loans fleet. As our MILS services have expanded, interest has grown in our repairs service, which led to an extension on the workshop. In late 2013 we launched a Mobility Aids Recycling Service which has provided the opportunity to develop a rapidly expanding second hand sales market. New for 2015 is our car adaptation service, fitting hoists, hand-controls and special seating.

The development of DTC has attracted interest from dozens of teams nationally comprising of 3rd sector groups and health and social care partners looking to establish similar services. Earlier this year several national equipment suppliers met with our management team to review partnership opportunities.

This resulted in opening a number of new accounts including being selected as the North of England official dealer for the new Roma Vida sports and recreational wheelchair.

**For further details contact the team on  
01925 240064  
or visit [www.disabilitytradingcompany.co.uk](http://www.disabilitytradingcompany.co.uk)**

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Mobility Independent Living Services, Lifehouse, Summers Road, Liverpool, L3 4BL

**WARRINGTON DISABILITY PARTNERSHIP T: 01925 240064**  
Centre for Independent Living, Beaufort Street, Warrington, WA5 1BA

**www.disabilitytradingcompany.co.uk**





# Working in Partnership

## A Big Thank You

Warrington Disability Partnership would like to thank everyone that has supported and worked alongside us during the past 12 months - including:

- Warrington Borough Council
- NHS Warrington Clinical Commissioning Group
- BBC Children in Need
- The Disability Trading Company Ltd
- Liverpool City Council
- Liverpool Community Health NHS Trust
- Your Housing Group
- Warrington Collegiate
- NHS Halton Clinical Commissioning Group
- People Plus
- Department of Work & Pensions
- Active Cheshire
- 5 Boroughs Partnership
- NHS Foundation Trust
- Warrington & Halton Hospitals NHS Foundation

- Trust
- Golden Square Management Team
- Bridgewater Community Healthcare NHS Trust
- Warrington Retail Market
- Santander
- Barclays Bank PLC
- Francois & Cynthia Salluyts
- BT Retail
- David Mowat MP
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- Golden Gates Housing Trust
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- St Oswald's Social Club

- The Barn Owl Inn
- West, South and Central Area Boards
- Warrington Parents & Carers
- Warrington Youth Club
- Warrington Wolves Foundation
- Wire FM
- Warrington Public Health
- Alpine Hire

We would also like to thank members of Team WDP, staff, volunteers, trustees, patrons and supporters.

### WDP Trustee Board:

- John Gartside  
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- Sue Bentley MBE - Treasurer
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- Chair until 6th February 2015

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Chair - 6th February 2015  
- 17th March 2015

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Warrington Disability Partnership

# LRS

## Activities

**Monday**  
Wheelchair Basketball  
5:00pm - 6:00pm  
Broomfields Leisure Centre  
£2.00 per session

**Wednesday**  
DISC Sports Club  
6:00pm - 7:30pm  
Locations and prices vary each week, please contact us for details

Visit our website [www.disabilitypartnership.org.uk](http://www.disabilitypartnership.org.uk) for a full programme of our current activities and partnership working

For more information, contact **Stacey King** on **01925 240064** or email [lrs@disabilitypartnership.org.uk](mailto:lrs@disabilitypartnership.org.uk)



# Support WDP's Legacy Appeal 2016

Securing Employment Opportunities to  
Young Disabled People

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**40 businesses**  
(raising £2,500 each)

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(raising £250 each)



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**Warrington Disability Partnership**



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**warrington-  
worldwide**



# Exhibition brings town 's past back to life



A NEW exhibition at Warrington Museum and Art Gallery brings the town's past to life – through the lenses of local photographers.

The Shadow Catchers exhibition reflects Warrington's changing townscape through pictures from the museum's historic collections which date back to the infancy of photography in the 1850s.

Photographers have sometimes been called Shadow Catchers because of a superstition that taking a person's image also captures their soul.

From the early days, Warrington's amateur and professional photographers have captured the story of the town and its inhabitants.

From the faded sepia prints of the time to the crisp digital images of the present day, the images on display guide visitors around Warrington's vanished heritage and allow them to come face-to-face with their ancestors.

The collections on display are accompanied by a newly published book by Janice Hayes, titled Warrington's Photographers, and a programme of gallery events with an opportunity for visitors to capture images for the Museum's family album.

Ms Hayes, collections heritage and archives manager at Culture



Warrington, said: "Too often history seems to be about great people and not those considered as ordinary or every day. This exhibition represents the story of Warrington and its residents. It allows those looking at the images to step back in time and look around the town and it also encourages them to begin to imagine the back stories of those captured in the images.

"I believe everybody can see something in the pictures on display that connects them with their own past and that is what makes this exhibition one to come and view for yourself."

Admission is free – and the exhibition continues until March 19.

A launch event for the exhibition included an opportunity for the new look Warrington Civic Society to promote their ongoing work in the community which is being backed by warrington-worldwide.

The launch event was sponsored by warrington-worldwide (pictured above).



## Warrington chief joins Subregional charity

AHEAD of their biggest year, Active Cheshire are delighted to announce that Steven Broomhead, Chief Executive of Warrington Borough Council has joined other influential business leaders on their trustee board.

Steven brings with him a wealth of experience, skills and knowledge from his current role as Council Chief Executive, and as Chair of the Health and Wellbeing board for Warrington, which has huge synergy with Active Cheshire's ambition of getting 50,000 more people, more active, more often by 2017.

His previous roles include; Chief Executive of the North West Development Agency and Chair of Entrepreneurial Education at Liverpool Hope University.

With a passion for Rugby, Steven also proudly holds the Non Executive Chairman position of Warrington Wolves Rugby Super League Football Club, and is a trustee of the National Football Museum.

Steven is joined by two other new trustees; Paul McGladrigian, Head of Crime for HM Courts and Tribunals Service North West, and Gill Holmes a fitness, health and wellbeing expert.

Paul McGladrigian in his role as Head of Crime for the HMCTS North West, is taking forward a range of change projects and is also lead Head of Crime nationally for streamlined digital working. In the past Paul has played football at a semi-professional level for Horsham and Leamington Spa.

Gill Holmes previously a full-time P.E teacher has a passion for sport and physical activity, and recognises the benefits of maintaining a healthy lifestyle. Her work in the local community and at grassroots level make her best placed to support our mission of getting more people active..

Mark Greaves DL, International Entrepreneur, and Chair of Active Cheshire's board of trustees said "I'm delighted to welcome on board Steven, Paul and Gill to join our influential team of trustees. Our board members are committed to supporting the work of Active Cheshire - the strategic commissioner of sport and physical activity in the Cheshire and Warrington subregion. I believe that our new members will join the rest of our trustees in playing an active role in providing strategic direction, scrutiny and challenge, with shared values and ethics that underpin the effectiveness of Active Cheshire."



## Sponsors required to enhance cultural offer

CULTURE Warrington is presenting a unique opportunity for businesses to help make a difference to the diverse cultural offer in the town.

Culture Warrington is offering a range of sponsorship packages that offer local businesses a variety of branding opportunities across a huge selection of projects.

Experiencing the arts and culture can improve wellbeing and transform the quality of life for individuals and communities and sponsors are invited to play a role in enhancing Warrington's cultural offer.

From supporting a young up-and-coming artist through to ensuring the elderly can take part in local arts activities, there are a wide range of customisable opportunities to suit any budget.

Sponsors can support the

creation of a unique piece of work which tells the story of Warrington and enables people to understand the rich heritage of the town and the businesses within it.

They could also help bring art to Warrington's communities, enabling the production of touring offers that target specific areas and create greater accessibility to the arts.

There is also the option for businesses to promote alongside Culture Warrington's Christmas programme including the annual Pantomime at Parr Hall, which more than 4000 people attend every year.

To find out more about the multiple sponsorship opportunities on offer please call 01925 442884.



# New chief for lifestyle and cultural groups

A NEW joint managing director has been appointed for Warrington's wellbeing and cultural organisations LiveWire and Culture Warrington.

Emma Hutchinson, aged 36, currently cultural director at Culture Warrington will take up the post in February when current managing director Jan Souness steps down.

She has been chosen by the two organisation's boards to lead and direct the organisations following an internal appointment process.

Emma has played an integral part in the development of the two companies, joining the senior management team as business development director in May 2012 when the organisations were formed following the transfer of the services from Warrington Borough Council.

She has contributed fully to the high level of success experienced across both companies over the

past three years by leading, planning and managing all business development activities.

The new managing director will now lead the teams through their new business plans which have a real focus in providing more opportunities that improve the wellbeing of residents in Warrington. She'll also work alongside both boards to develop new facilities and provide activities across the town's neighbourhoods.

Maureen Banner, chairman of Culture Warrington, said: "The board of directors are delighted to have appointed Emma as our new managing director. We believe that given her previous experience and extensive knowledge of both organisations, she is a great fit for this role."

Alan Yates, chairman of LiveWire, said: "The board is looking forward to working more

closely with Emma. She is a great leader and has already provided a good strategic direction for the implementation of business infrastructure which has achieved growth across both companies."

A business studies graduate from the University of Salford in 2001, Emma has held roles at a number of North West councils, leading teams across sports, education and children's services.

Before joining LiveWire and Culture Warrington, she held the role of development and capacity lead for five to 19 year-olds at Bolton Metropolitan Borough Council, managing the third sector quality assurance and workforce development planning programme across the borough.

As announced last month, current managing director Jan Souness will still play an active role in both organisations after her retirement,



taking on the part-time position of transformation projects strategic advisor, where she will provide strategic support on key projects.

Emma said: "I am delighted to have been appointed to this new role and look forward to working alongside both boards and as well as continuing to work closely with Jan Souness in her new projects support role."

"The next few years are going to be very exciting for both organisations with a wealth of new projects in the pipeline and I look forward to leading the strong and dynamic teams to deliver these important initiatives".

## Legends help launch Goodbye Mr Smiths exhibition

FORMER Mr Smith's legends Fitz, Spike and Wiggy, took a trip down memory lane at the launch of an exhibition which pays tribute to one of Warrington's most iconic landmarks.

Goodbye Mr Smiths is a response to the community reaction following the fire and demolition of the infamous building that housed the iconic Mr Smiths nightclub in the 1980s and 1990s, which attracted clubbers from all over the North West.

The exhibition follows the building's story from the Art Deco Ritz and ABC cinemas to its heyday as Mr Smiths nightclub and its sudden dramatic destruction in April 2015.

A collection of photographs, objects and memories, including oral history interviews with well-known local characters such as Stan the Man and Hitman and Her dancer, Wiggy, pay a nostalgic tribute to the well-loved local landmark.

The exhibition, which will be in residence at Warrington Museum & Art Gallery until February, also explores how the nightclub became known nationally in the late 1980s following its use as a regular venue for the ITV dance music show The Hitman and Her, hosted by Pete Waterman and Michaela Strachan.

Michelle Hill, curator of the exhibition from Warrington Museum & Art Gallery, said: "It was important for Warrington Museum & Art Gallery to capture people's memories of Mr Smiths as it was an important landmark in the town and so many people were touched by its demolition. The exhibition gives a real insight into the building on its journey from an art deco cinema to the iconic nightclub and it also explores how local people enjoyed the time they spent there."

Admission to the exhibition is free and runs until February 20 next year.





# Former Collegiate student Liam scoops double award

FORMER Warrington Collegiate student Liam Sargeant, a former CITB apprentice, is celebrating after winning both Apprentice of the year England and Apprentice of the year Great Britain, at the Construction Industry Training Board (CITB) Apprenticeship Awards 2015.

Liam aged 20, who is now a trainee site assistant, working at Redrow's Stretton Green development, joined Warrington Collegiate straight from school, progressing onto a CITB apprenticeship with Redrow Housing.

Liam said, "I'm honoured to receive this award. Being

nominated was great, but to win feels fantastic! My apprenticeship has taught me so much and given me a real confidence boost. The opportunity to train while earning a wage makes learning a set of skills a reality and I'd encourage anyone thinking about starting an apprenticeship to give it a go."

Area Delivery Manager at CITB, Deborah Madden adds, "We appreciate the strong partnership that we have with Warrington Collegiate in delivering apprenticeships."

*Liam Sargeant with presenter Helen Skelton and Carl Rhymer Director of Delivery and Customer Engagement CITB*



## New Headmistress appointed

CURRENT Deputy Head at Withington Girls' School, Mrs Sarah Haslam, has been announced as their eleventh Headmistress.

Mrs Haslam will take up her new post in September 2016, succeeding Mrs Sue Marks, who is to retire at the end of the academic year.

Withington's Chair of Governors Mrs Elisabeth Lee, said that the appointment of Mrs Haslam to the role had been a unanimous decision taken after a rigorous and searching interview process.

Mrs Lee commented: "Sarah Haslam will be a very worthy successor to the two outstanding Heads under whom she has served as Deputy."

Mrs Haslam joined Withington as a teacher of English in 1995 and went on to take a variety of whole school roles, including Head of Years 10 and 11 and, since her appointment to the role of Deputy Head in 2007, lead responsibility for Pastoral Care and Safeguarding. She is also an Independent Schools Inspector, a Teacher Induction Panel lead trainer and has been a Governor at another school.

Mrs Haslam has a keen interest in the Arts and also loves the outdoors, particularly hill walking and sailing. She said, "I am thrilled to have been appointed Headmistress of our wonderful school and am very much looking forward to taking up the role."

Mrs Lee paid tribute to Mrs Marks as 'an outstanding headmistress' saying she had built on the success of her predecessors and had taken the school to a new level.

"The Governors are confident that Mrs Haslam will maintain this momentum whilst safeguarding the unique culture and ethos of Withington Girls' School."



## "What we learn with pleasure we never forget"

*Alfred Mercier*

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# Future Tech students are Pride of the Palace

FUTURE Tech Studio students were recently invited to Buckingham Palace to present to His Royal Highness the Duke of York, Patron of the Studio Schools Trust.

The presentation was held in magnificent surroundings for the students to hone their formal presentation skills, having to articulate the Future Tech journey to other studio school trust officials and students, a top business and research chief executive, managers and employers. Year 13 Engineering student, Connor Harris adds "I have taken part in a lot of competitions and challenges at Future Tech, but speaking at the conference at Buckingham Palace topped it all."

The convention was opened by the Duke of York before Year 11 Business students, Lauren Baker and Connor Harris stepped up to the podium and gave a 15 minute presentation to HRH and the audience.

They talked about the significant role of Studio schools and how being a part of one has improved their grades, opened up opportunities and shaped their lives with life changing experiences that they would never have dreamed possible, before being a part of the specialist Future Tech Studio school.

They highlighted their own personal achievements and talked the audience through the projects they have been involved in designing and making, the awards they have won and attributed this

to the encouragement, support and guidance of staff at the school and also to the high expectations ethos which underpins the behaviours and attitudes within the school. They further went on to explain the long list of conventions they have exhibited at and the competitions and awards the Future tech students have won over the last year such as the 3D printing, robot build and the crane zoning system which has been developed in association with Sellafield Nuclear. The audience was impressed with Future Tech being the winners in the regional North West Science and Engineering 'Big Bang' competition due to their crane zoning invention and wished FTSS success in going on to represent the North West in the regional finals in March 2016.

Four more students were invited as representatives for Future Tech Studio school. These were Jared Fisher and Charlotte Pritchard (Year 11 Engineering students), Lewis Wright (Year 11 IT) and Jerusha Bellis (Year 12 Engineering). Lewis listened to his peers presentations and has felt proud to be a part of the Future Tech Studio. "The day was an experience of a lifetime and is something I will cherish for a very long time. To be asked to represent my school at an event such as this meant a lot to me."

Principal Gail Stonier stated: "I am so proud of how they articulated themselves to such a prestigious audience which must have been very daunting. It is testament to



*L-R back row; R.Harris, Jared Fisher, Lewis Wright, Connor Harris. L-R front row; Gail Stonier, Jerusha Bellis, Charlotte Pritchard, Lauren Baker*

how we encourage the students to push themselves out of their comfort zones, step up to the mark and how they then respond positively to this expectation. It is great to be part of something where the students eagerly apply themselves to their studies and to see the passion and drive of their staff who are able to enthuse, inspire and push the individuals to reach their full potentials and unlock the skills and experiences they need to be able to thrive in the real world".

His HRH recognised the work of the studio schools and their role in the preparing students to become global competitors in the 21st Century, tough and demanding

workplace, by allowing them the opportunity to be creative, innovative and to invent ideas that can change the world.

Miss Stonier added: "Future Tech Studio has proven that they can produce the award winning inventors of the future and there is no current other local educational offer to rival this environment which combines academic excellence, specialist pathways into employment or University and provides the students with daily opportunities to constantly create, invent, make, build and produce designs and products for the future."



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# Winter Wonderland fun fair provides boost for charity

A WINTER Wonderland fun fair which arrived in Warrington on the site of the former Mr Smith's nightclub provided a boost for a local charity which is set to celebrate a special anniversary.

Warrington Disability Partnership will start to celebrate 25 years in the New Year with a whole host of special events with the aim of raising £150,000 for the charity which was launched by Dave Thompson after he suffered

a broken neck following a freak sporting accident.

Proceeds from the opening night of Silcock's Winter Wonderland will be donated to Warrington Disability Partnership.

Mayor and Mayoress of Warrington Geoff and Jean Settle were on hand to perform the official opening of the fair which will be open throughout the festive period.



Characters from the Dream Factory's Frozen at the official opening.



WDP members with the Mayor and Mayoress and Arthur Silcock.



The Mayor and Mayoress with Arthur Silcock.



WDP CEO Dave Thompson and Trustee Dave Williams.

## New Year new start!

NEW laptop or tablet for Christmas? Been putting off trying to catch-up with new technology? Or do you need to brush-up on your computer skills to help you get a job?

If so, then The Marjorie Griffiths Learning Centre is the place to be and Nick Vaughan is the man to help you gain the computer skills you need!

You will find Nick at Warrington Disability Partnership's Centre for Independent Living on Beaufort Street, Warrington, WA5 1BA where he is waiting to help you to realise your potential. He even has specialist equipment to support you if you have a disability. The Centre is a friendly and non-threatening place for you to develop your IT skills with high tech equipment and an encouraging and supportive tutor.

Nick is there to advise you on the course that is right for you whether it be starting from scratch with the Basic IT and the Computers for the Terrified courses; developing your computer skills with the Everyday and Entry Level courses; or help in getting a job with the Job Seekers and Employability Skills courses. Nick even runs a course to help you with getting to grips with your tablet.

Why not make it your New Year resolution to become more computer savvy whether it be for work or pleasure and give Nick a ring now on 01925 240064. You can chat things through with him and he will advise you on the course that is best for you.







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# Warrington's best kept secret embarks on recruitment drive

OFTEN described as "Warrington's best kept secret" a club created by the town's leading industrialists in 1876 is on a membership recruitment drive.

With active membership of the Warrington Club now less than 70 the club is eager to recruit new blood to ensure the future survival of Warrington's oldest networking group.

Membership is available for men and women with individual and

corporate packages.

Leading Warrington industrialists from the Parr, Greenall, Fairclough, Monk, Bennett and Rylands families launched the club.

Facilities which include a fine dining room, bar and snooker room, are open daily Monday to Friday for business lunches.

Members can also make use of the facilities by appointment and there is a calendar of special events throughout the year including

musical evenings, guest speakers and snooker events.

Current Chairman, well known Warrington accountant Percy Beckley, pictured right, said: "The Warrington Club has a fantastic history and tradition. Unfortunately it has been one of Warrington's best kept secrets and we are finding people right on our doorstep who didn't even know of our existence."

"It is a fantastic facility where members can either pop in for lunch during the week, or even bring clients as guests."

"Although the club was founded as a gentleman's club we welcome women members."

A special open evening has been organised for Friday, January 31 from 6pm onwards, as part of the recruitment drive and the club has even launched a facebook group.

Anyone who would like to attend the open evening or find



out more about joining the club should contact garys@warrington-worldwide.co.uk or call Gary on 07973 112262.



*The Warrington Club on Bold Street.*



*The Warrington Club boasts a fine snooker table.*



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## Temporary town centre car park now open

A 200 space temporary car-park has been opened on the Bridge Street Quarter Regeneration site to support trade in the Market and Town Centre.

The temporary car-park is situated on land between Bank Street, Academy Way and Academy Street and will cost only £1.00 for up to three hours parking.

Delivered by Warrington & Co. on behalf of Warrington Borough Council, the car-park will remain in situ until work commences on the construction of the cinema and restaurant units.

Mike Hannon, Deputy Leader of Warrington Borough Council said: "The opening of the temporary car-park is great news for the ongoing development of the Bridge Street scheme."

"It will provide a great boost for the market and also demonstrates that work on this fantastic scheme is well on schedule."

The Bridge Street Quarter Regeneration Scheme – that has been driven and will be delivered by Warrington & Co. on behalf of Warrington Borough Council with development manager Muse Developments – will create up to 400 construction jobs and 400 new permanent jobs in the leisure, retail and restaurant sectors when the whole project is fully completed in 2019.



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# Ken Dodd returns to Warrington

COMEDIAN Ken Dodd returns to Warrington Parr Hall on January 30 with his famous Happiness Show.

Audience members will be absolutely "discumknockerated" (that's Knotty Ash for 'over the moon') by a truly tattifelarious (fun-filled) evening of laughter and songs.

Averaging seven jokes a minute this inventor of words will have audiences bellowing with laughter. Ken Dodd is extraordinarily energetic and never fails to entertain audiences with his Dicky Mint puppet routine and troop of dumpy midgets - the Diddymen.

The Knotty Ash funnyman is a comedian of unrivalled and

legendary status with an incredible and hugely successful career as a professional entertainer that spans over 60 fun-filled years.

A multi-award winning entertainer Ken Dodd loves nothing more than entertaining theatre audiences. This fun-filled Happiness Show is for all the family, filled with non-stop gags and a selection of songs presented in his uniquely versatile style.

The show takes place on Saturday 30 January, 7pm

Ticket price: £21 (£22 including online booking fee) Parr Hall, Palmyra Square, Warrington WA1 1BL Tickets and information 01925 442345 www.pyramidparrhall.com



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## Financially yours

By David Watkinson

### New year tax changes

Now that Christmas is over it's time to get back down to work. We are still busy sorting out the final 2015 tax returns that need to be submitted by the end of the month. But it is also time to look at the tax changes that will be taking place in April, one of the main ones for many small companies being the change in the taxation of dividends.



David Watkinson and Margaret Black

From April, everyone will be entitled to receive up to £5,000 of dividends free of tax. Above that, dividends will be taxed at a rate of at least 7.5%. As that income has already been taxed at 20% within the company then this means that the effective tax rate will be about 27% even for basic rate taxpayers. This is a substantial increase in the amount of tax payable, but there are some things that can be done to reduce the impact.

Firstly, many companies operate from premises owned by the director/shareholder. Currently, rent is frequently charged at a nominal rate, or at a rate that will result in no profit or loss after taking account of interest charged on any loan taken out to buy the property. Consideration should now be given to ensuring that any rents charged to the company are at a commercial level. Be aware, however, that the tax office will most likely look at any increase in the level of rents charged very carefully.

Secondly, the £5,000 tax free allowance for dividends is per person. Therefore, if all the shares are held by one spouse then consideration should be given to transferring some of those shares to a spouse, thus ensuring that both allowances are utilised. Care must be taken, however, to ensure that any transfer is not caught by the "settlement" legislation.

Thirdly, if you are paying privately into a personal pension scheme out of net income then you should transfer those payments into a company pension scheme. Any contributions made, subject to quite substantial annual limits, will obtain full Corporation Tax relief and not attract any personal tax liability on the director as a benefit-in-kind.

Similarly, a fourth measure is to look at any life cover that is held. If you are currently paying life insurance premiums personally then you should consider changing these to a "Relevant Life Policy". Premiums are then paid by the company and are not a taxable benefit-in-kind on the director. The policy is then held in trust, so any pay-out is made directly to the director's dependents.

Finally, buy-to-let mortgages are increasingly available to limited companies. Therefore, rather than drawing a dividend to pay the deposit on a new buy-to-let property, the company could, instead, buy the property. This will avoid the dividend tax on the deposit but may result in additional tax later on. Do the maths!

*WatkinsonBlack are pleased to advise on these and other matters. They have considerable experience in all areas of taxation and business services, 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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## Wilderspool years DVD helps raise funds for 'Wolves' Foundation



Picture shows Brendan with Wire Legend Paul Cullen and Neil Kelly from the Wolves' Foundation.

LIFELONG Warrington Wolves' fan Brendan Douglas has created a DVD of the Wilderspool years to help raise funds for the Wolves Foundation.

Entitled "Warrington RLFC, Tries, Big Hits & Biff," the DVD is available from Wolfware for £10 per copy and so far Brendan, who also manages very successful Facebook and Youtube pages, has raised over £350 for the Foundation from sales.

It's over two hours of Wire glory from the 1950 Challenge Cup Final win over Widnes, up to Sid Domic's final try against Wakefield in 2003.

Including footage of all the Warrington greats including Brian Bevan, Alex Murphy, Phil Blake, Mike Gregory, Jonathan Davies, Alfie Langer and every one in between; All the tries, the cup wins and the fights.

Brendan said: "It's a great DVD for any wire fan and also helps provide funds to the Foundation to continue their work in the community."

"The idea for the DVD came from the Facebook and YouTube ideas. I created those so that fans could remember and reflect but more importantly is that the past players understand that they are still appreciated and not forgotten. The more I developed the YouTube page, the more people wanted to see."

"So introducing myself to the Warrington Wolves' Foundation I offered them the idea of the Wilderspool DVD to mark the ten years since we left the stadium and they gave me access to the club's archive, so it is a product of about

eighteen months work, all done in my spare time.

"There are developments for two more DVDs, the first ten years at the HJ and a Wilderspool Volume 2."

Clips start at the 19 nil defeat of Widnes in the 1950 Challenge Cup final with Harry Bath and Moggy Palin amongst the scorers.

Then brief flashes of Brian Bevan, Gerry Helme and Jim Challinor. The 1974 Challenge Cup final highlights, John Bevan scoring for Great Britain against Australia in 1978, and then scoring against Barrow in the John Player Final.

Bob Eccles and Ronnie Duane bursting through defences, the speed merchants Rick Thackeray, Mark Forster, Brian Johnson and Des Drummond sprinting up the Wilderspool pitch. Les Boyd, Kevin Tamati, Bob Jackson, Mark Roberts and Paul Cullen leading the charge in attack and defence. Ken Kelly, Andy Gregory, John Woods, Greg Mackey and Kevin Ellis making gaps that weren't there. Mike Gregory storming in for his famous Great Britain try and then lifting the Lancashire Cup. Phil Blake, Allan Bateman and Jonathan Davies scoring what seem impossible tries. Paul Sculthorpe, Jon Roper, Lee Briers and Alan Langer setting Super League alight with attacking flair.

Countless big hits, try savers and fights from the days of 'The Zoo', until the final game in 2003 when Sid Domic, Bennie Westwood and Graham Appo help close the final chapter on an era of Rugby League that lives long in the hearts and minds of thousands.



# New Vice Chairman appointed



THE Warrington Wolves Board has announced the appointment of Stuart Middleton as Vice Chairman of the club.

He will take up his role with immediate effect and his appointment was ratified at a recent Board meeting.

Professor Steven Broomhead, Chairman of the club, said "I am delighted that Stuart has agreed to take on this role. He will bring his commercial expertise and success together with his passion for the club to an already strong, business focused, performance driven Board."

Stuart Middleton, Vice Chairman, said "These are exciting times for Warrington Wolves and I look forward with relish to the start of the 2016 season and beyond. The club is a big part of me and I will do whatever needs doing in whatever the role demands of me. I am extremely grateful to my fellow directors for their support and promise to do my utmost to fulfil the role to the best of my ability."

Simon Moran, owner of the club, said "Stuart was the obvious choice to be Vice Chairman. We are both Warrington lads and since Stuart joined the Board earlier in the year he has made a huge difference, both in terms of advice and investment. We wish him well in his new role."

## Junior Park Run

AN international initiative, which encourages young people to don their running gear and get active has launched in Warrington.

Junior Parkrun is a 2km timed leisure run which takes place at Orford Park every Sunday.

Following a successful test run, the first junior event attracted more than 60 young people, aged four – 14 taking part.

The free run forms part of the wider Parkrun family of events, including the very popular and successful Warrington Parkrun in Victoria Park which has been running since January last year.

The Orford event is run by volunteers and funded by LiveWire, Active Cheshire and Warrington Running Club, who have been working together to bring this Parkrun to the town.

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