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**Campaign
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AFTER more than three decades of reporting I am struggling to find the words to convey my feelings about the tragic loss of Warrington band Viola Beach.

Five young men cut down in the prime of their lives while doing the job they loved, killed in a car crash on their first gig outside the UK.

Details of the crash which killed them after their car plunged more than 80 ft into dark icy waters, were still emerging as **warrington-worldwide** went to press.

Whatever the outcome of the investigations they won't change the huge waste of such young talented lives, who were more than likely on the brink of making the big time.

With a cult following in their home town and recognition by the BBC as an up and coming band, they were about to be taken under the wing of local concert promoter Simon Moran, which would have most likely have given them the spring board to even greater success.

While the boys and their manager are now tragically gone, I am sure their memory will live on.

Very often in the world of music tragedy can be a spring board to success - and I am sure the music of Viola Beach will be around for a long time to come, keeping alive the memory of five young men who had their lives cut tragically short.

Deepest condolences to their families and all those who knew them.



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Council urged to commit to saving historic cabinet works

CONSERVATIONISTS are calling on Warrington Borough Council's leadership to commit themselves to saving and preserving as much as possible of the historic buildings on the Garnett's cabinet works site.

Warrington Civic Society believes there is now an extremely urgent need for the council to take robust action to preserve and repair the Water Tower, Garnett Works, ex-council office and schools.

Last month Warrington Borough Council issued a statement saying demolition work would be required on some parts of the building within the month "due to real dangers to human life" due to the dilapidated state of the building which has been targeted by vandals.

Emergency works to make the building secure have already taken place.

Civic Society Chairman John Shipley (pictured right outside the building) said: "A clear corporate approach is needed and we advocate that this should be conservation led.

Meanwhile he has commended the council's approach to recent emergency works on the building.

Mr Shipley added: "We were particularly pleased with the use of a mobile platform from Barbauld Street for access rather than the partial demolition of former Industrial School originally proposed by the owner's appointed contractor. We felt that the supervision of the works by

Building Control Manager Tony Gartside was careful and ensured the works were kept to a minimum.

"We were also glad to hear that no other removal of fabric is envisaged necessary as part of the emergency works."

He added: "Following the emergency works, it is our view that the Council should serve a Section 215 notice under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, taking authoritative control of the situation.

"We also advocate that this approach should be conservation led and with the immediate involvement of accredited conservation officials. This would best allow the Council to fulfil its legal duty under Section 72 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 which requires "that special attention shall be paid in the exercise of planning functions to the desirability of preserving or enhancing the character or appearance of a Conservation Area."

Mr Shipley said Section 215 had been successfully applied by other local authorities for derelict unlisted buildings in Conservation Areas.

Rather than continued dereliction

and decay, Warrington Civic Society want a positive outcome for the site, where these heritage assets can be harnessed to enhance the Conservation Area and the town centre as a whole.

"We look forward to working with anybody who shares our aims," he added.

Meanwhile David Garnett, grandson of the last chairman of the Cabinet Works and a retired National Trust manager has been in touch, and says he would be happy to contribute towards any exhibition on the history of the site.

He will also be writing a letter to the leader of the council expressing his disappointment that the buildings have been allowed to reach such a state and what a loss demolition would be.

The Civic Society have also contacted the Victorian Society, who although they don't usually get involved before an application is submitted, will be contacting the council to ask that they are kept informed and also to state how much of a loss the building's demolition would be.



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Hello and welcome to my monthly column . . .

Hypnotes

by Michael Mahoney

Staying 'In Control'

People often struggle to stay in control of their thoughts, feelings and actions, and may often use avoidance or alternatively be overly controlling in order to cope with life.

Staying 'in control' can be perceived to be positive or negative, depending on the circumstances of situations, the beliefs a person has about themselves and others, and the results certain actions may bring. Some people keep themselves too much 'in control' in a way which limits them from having a full range of life experiences. They may do this, as they believe it will keep them safe from imagined or potential harmful situations. People who suffer from depression or anxiety use all their emotional energy to avoid situations and other people so that they can feel in control, which usually means that they are attempting to feel safe and secure, or are avoiding specific things that they perceive are fearful or harmful. They may also be attempting to protect others from themselves, if they have deep anger issues which they feel unable to control if someone triggers them.

Most people we speak to have some level of control issues to work

through, especially around power and control within personal or work relationships. As a society, we are encouraged to be competitive and live our lives by conditions and expectations placed upon us, which may be difficult to adhere to, or are sometimes totally unnecessary. We generally spend too much time in our heads, which overrides our intuition, and we can become confused about what it means to be 'in control'. However, it is important to trust our inner guidance from the heart.

Did you know that the heart is the first organ that develops in a fetus, not the brain? It is 100 times electrically stronger, and 5,000 times magnetically stronger than the brain.

As we grow up we learn to ignore the messages from our heart, as we use the logical and analytic left side of our brain much more than the right side, which is the creative communicator of the heart. We all need balance of right and left brain hemispheres, to ensure that the communication between heart and mind is stable. We feel more in control when we are listening to our true selves, as the heart and mind are working as one. We can

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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 mikeforhelp@gmail.com www.michaelmahoneyhypnotherapist.com

then trust our feelings as well as our thoughts, and we can make clearer decisions about our reactions and actions. As we feel in control in a positive way, we can begin to understand things so much more clearly, and know what we want and the things that make us feel comfortable within ourselves. We can also become more nurturing of ourselves, and therefore our interactions with others are more compassionate and sincere. We no longer feel the need to regain control to feel safe, as we are happy as we are, without needing to avoid people or situations.

If you would like to learn more about staying 'in control' in a balanced way, and how to make positive changes in your life, then please contact either myself or my partner, Cate on 01925 658322 to arrange an Initial Consultation.



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Official opening of The Base

Last month I was delighted to attend the official opening of The Base – Warrington’s brand new, £8.5 million office space that has been developed by Warrington & Co., Warrington’s partnership for growth, on behalf of Warrington Borough Council.

The great and the good of the region’s business world attended the ceremony which was presided over by none other than The High Sheriff of Cheshire, Bill Holroyd CBE, DL - himself a highly successful entrepreneur and businessman.

As part of his speech at the event Mr Holroyd shared some of his considerable experience and wisdom that he has gleaned from his years of being a business owner. He went on to explain why – once his 12 months tenure as High Sherriff is completed - he intends to return to helping start-up businesses and encouraging budding entrepreneurs saying, “I will see anyone, because anyone saw me when I was starting up.” He continued; “I will always look at their business and give what advice I can.”

It is this kind of invaluable support and backing that Warrington & Co. aims to offer to ambitious SMEs and start-up businesses at The Base, which is geared up to offer them support and credibility whilst also meeting the demand for high quality business space.

Warrington now boasts the sixth highest number of start-ups in the country and is in the top ten places

in the UK for high growth SMEs with the level of company formation in Warrington consistently growing as business people realise that the skills and expertise they need are here in abundance.

We’re targeting The Base at advanced manufacturing and engineering businesses

in particular, sectors where Warrington has particularly strong credentials – and now the town has a fitting new home for ambitious entrepreneurs making Warrington an appropriate base for its entrepreneurs to thrive within.

I’m thrilled to announce too that The Base has already signed up its first tenant that is due to move in to the building in early February and discussions are already underway with a number of other parties to take space.



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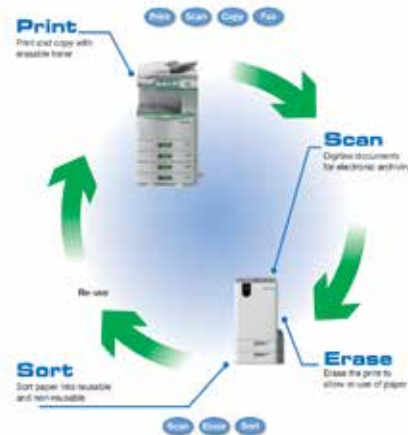
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Housing chief to retire after 30-year career

PETER Fitzhenry, managing director of Warrington's Golden Gates Housing Trust (GGHT), part of North West housing group Torus, is to retire this spring.

His departure follows a successful 30-year career which has seen him embrace influential roles in the public, private and not-for-profit sectors.

He said: "I have been with GGHT for 12 years, had a long and varied career in housing and played an active role in the creation of new group, Torus. I

hope that Torus, GGHT and Helena continue to grow, thrive and make a difference in the lives of the people and communities they serve."

Peter will be replaced by former GGHT colleague and current managing director of Helena Partnerships, Angela Perry.

Angela, who has a career spanning more than 20 years in

the housing sector, was GGHT's director of property services until April last year. Under her supervision a £105m investment programme was undertaken in Warrington transforming homes and neighbourhoods.

When GGHT joined forces with Helena to form Torus, Angela took the helm at Helena as MD. Moving forward, her position as MD will straddle the housing operations of both GGHT and Helena.

GGHT chairman Roy Smith said: "Peter has been an outstanding leader at GGHT. His passion for social housing, his commitment to our tenants and his encyclopaedic knowledge of the benefits system will be greatly missed."

"Having worked with Angela on the board of GGHT for seven years, I know that she has the personal qualities and the skills to take GGHT forward as part of the Torus group."

The management changes come at a time when housing associations up and down the country are operating under growing pressure.

Government aims to reduce the housing benefit bill, mean that housing associations will be reducing their rents by 1 per cent a year over the next four years. This significantly reduces the income of groups like Torus and their ability to finance much needed affordable



housing in the region.

Torus group chief executive, Rob Young explains: "Like other housing groups, last year's summer budget has had a profound impact on our plans. However, Torus' original vision to provide affordable homes and support customers stands firm and, in spite of difficult times, we're in a strong position."

"Last year we developed 172 homes for affordable rent and shared ownership and are currently on site in Latchford developing a further 104 homes. In April, as part of a regeneration programme in Dallam and Bewsey, we'll begin the construction of 24 two bed houses and bungalows."

Together, as Torus, GGHT and Helena are stronger and better placed to build homes, improve homes and enhance opportunities for people throughout the region."

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If you would be interested in a coffee and a chat about your social media plan for 2016 email me Helen@blueskydigimarketing.co.uk or call me on 07807 912 721 today and let's get it in the diary.

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Freedom of the Borough honour for popular minister

WARRINGTON'S popular Borough Minister Rev. Stephen Kingsnorth has been made a Freeman of the Borough.

Members of Warrington Borough Council unanimously endorsed the proposal put forward by deputy leader of the council Mike Hannon, which was seconded by Cllr Peter Carey.

Various tributes were made to Stephen.

Lib Dem leader Cllr Bob Barr described him as the "Holy ghost and guardian angel of Warrington" due to the number of community events and activities he was involved in.

"I can't think of any other citizen more deserving of this title," he

added.

His fondness of buffets was also touched upon several times during numerous tributes.

Council leader Terry O'Neill felt Rev Kingsnorth's role as a trustee of the Wolves' Foundation "Wolf it up" initiative was a most appropriate one, especially as it encouraged healthy eating.

Stephen, who was joined at the event by his wife Denise, their three children and various friends, was presented with a framed scroll by Mayor Cllr Geoff Settle, who thanked him for his support and advice during his mayoral year.

Stephen arrived in Warrington to minister at Bold St Methodist Mission in September 1992; the newly-arrived town centre clergy, of all denominations, met and agreed to work together wherever possible.

In March 1993 the Bridge Street bombing occurred, and thereafter faith relationships with statutory bodies blossomed.

After 12 years, he was ready to leave the Mission, but the Methodist Church did not want to vacate that wider ministry within the borough, so asked him to remain in the role of Warrington Borough Ministry as a representative available to serve and a resource for acts of spiritual reflection. It is on that basis that activity, events, appointments and invitations emerged. The town centre clergy initiated the formation of Churches Together Warrington after unitary status was achieved and WBM was appointed Borough Liaison Officer.

Stephen was instrumental in the establishment of the Council

of Faiths, serving as its secretary and administrator. That Council of Faiths appointed Stephen as faith adviser to the Borough Council. He represented the Council of Faiths on Remembrance Sunday, supplied WBC with a Faith Calendar of festival dates, organises worship site tours when schools request, attends faith festivals as able and maintains the Warrington Faith Communities' Directory. Over the years he has organised celebrations, dramas, briefings, and dialogue evenings. He has attended Council meetings over 20 years, building relationship with members, officers and staff, leading reflections when the Mayor's chaplain. WBM was asked to chair the Town Hall debate between Cheshire County and Warrington Borough when Unitary status was under consideration in the late 90s. He attends Citizenship Ceremonies to greet candidates, support the visiting VIP, and help sing the National Anthem! Amongst other bodies, he has served on the Refugee Officer Working Group, the Older People Partnership Board and is a former Chair of the Member Remuneration Panel.

Stephen said he was "shocked and thrilled" when he heard about the Freedom of the Borough which he described as a "privilege and an honour."

Although he was born a southerner he considered Warrington to be his "adopted home."

He formally retires from his role this coming June when he plans to "disappear quietly."





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Thirty employers back MP's Jobs and Apprenticeships Fair

THIRTY local and national organisations descended on Warrington Parr Hall to offer jobs, apprenticeships and training opportunities to young people in the town.

After hosting three hugely successful Jobs Fairs since 2013, local MP David Mowat convened a fourth Fair this year with a particular focus on helping young people find a job, apprenticeship or training course.

The thirty organisations included event sponsors ClearSky Accounting, Brookson Ltd, Cash Management Solutions, Learning Curve Group, Sellafield Ltd, Ombudsman Services, D Morgan PLC, Omega Opportunities and United Utilities attended the event.

Mr Mowat said: "With more people now in work than ever before, we must focus on making sure the young people of our town have secure, highly-skilled, well-paid jobs to go into when they leave school.

"Speaking to the exhibitors, I know they were highly impressed by the calibre of applicants coming through the doors.

"I'm delighted that so many young people had the chance to speak to their future work colleagues and I hope it will help more young people get on in life."



St. Rocco's News



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**Sequins and spray
tans:** How Strictly
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£60,000, p2

From *your* Hospice

Spring 2016

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News round-up

Christmas was a busy time for St. Rocco's, with lots going on!

Thank you to everyone who supported our festive fundraising or volunteered their time to help.

Early Christmas present for lucky super draw winners

Great Sankey couple Vicki and Kevin Burke were announced **winners of the £3,000** top prize in our Christmas super draw.

The family has had some bad luck over the last few months, with Vicki's nephew being treated for Leukemia and their 13 year old son fracturing his hand – twice. We surprised them with a cheque on their doorstep, bringing some good fortune during a difficult time.

Vicki said: "I felt stunned when Eric turned up at the door as I really wasn't expecting it. I buy raffle tickets every year but I do it to help the Hospice, and couldn't even remember what the prize was, so it was an extra shock to find out it was £3,000!"

The couple made good use of their winnings, booking a family holiday and welcoming a new addition to the family – a beautiful puppy named Noodles, pictured.



In December, our Hospice tree shone bright as hundreds of people celebrated the lives of loved ones by dedicating a light. £38,000 was raised from the event; thank you so much to everyone who was part of it.

The Book of Honour can be viewed in the chapel at the Hospice until this December.



The third St. Rocco's Tree Collection raised a fantastic £18,300 – beating last year's total by £6,000! Thanks to everyone who used the service, and to our fantastic volunteers and partners who helped ensure its success; Golden Gates Housing Trust, Warrington Borough Council, GroundLevel, Asda Logistics, BT Skips, White Moss and Shades Of Green.



Fancy footwork at festive fundraiser for St. Rocco's

Sequins and sparkles were the order of the evening for the glitziest event on the Hospice fundraising calendar.

Strictly St. Rocco's took place at The Mere in Knutsford on 13th December and saw eight amateur dancers take to the floor with their professional partners, showcasing their moves in style. They were cheered on by an audience of supporters whose generosity helped the evening raise a staggering £60,000 for the Hospice.

The event, which was sponsored by retail recruitment consultants Zachary Daniels, is based on the popular BBC1 series and featured Coronation Street star Les Dennis as a special guest judge. Hayley Smith, Editor of the Warrington Guardian, danced with Alex Whyatt and won over the judges and audience alike with her energetic Cha Cha Cha, taking the Strictly St. Rocco's crown for 2015.

Hospice Patron Ian Mackinnon was named runner up for his cheeky Charleston, pairing up with professional dancer Natalie Goodier to deliver an entertaining finale to the performances. Amateur dancers are currently being recruited for Strictly St. Rocco's 2016 – watch this space!



Our In Patient Unit rooms have been refurbished – and it's all thanks to YOU!

Patients staying with us in 2016 are enjoying newly upgraded bedrooms and bathrooms, thanks to donations from the community that enable us to make St. Rocco's a really special place for people in need.

It's really important that those staying with us feel comfortable and relaxed and by decorating, replacing the furniture and furnishings and refurbishing the bathrooms, we have been able to create an environment that allows people to feel even more at home while they are being cared for.

We couldn't have had this work done without the tireless fundraising efforts and donations from the people of Warrington, who have supported us for such a long time. Thank you to each and every one of you; your on going support helped make difficult times for families in Warrington that little bit easier.



“Having someone knock on your door at 10pm is like an angel come calling”

Families in Warrington are benefitting hugely from Hospice At Home, but we still need to do more.

May 2015 saw the launch of something very special, as we started taking our care directly into the community through our new Hospice At Home service.

Some people prefer to die at home, and this service allows them to do so with comfort and dignity, by providing vital support. The service is led by Tracy Redmond, who has worked at St. Rocco's for 20 years, previously as a Sister on the In Patient Unit. She is supported by a team of two Staff Nurses and nine Healthcare Assistants, four of which work full time. Administrator Jacqui Barron is the first point of contact for families.

“Hospice At Home has made a huge difference to the families it has helped over the last few months. We wish we could be there for everybody.”

Julia Lowe, a Staff Nurse with the service, said: “Being able to support patients who wish to die at home is really important. Sometimes we may just do one night sit and the gratitude from families is overwhelming, which proves how much the service is needed. It really does make a huge difference, and one family described having us knock on their door at 10pm as ‘like an angel come calling’.”

Nurses usually visit patients for a couple of weeks, building strong relationships with the family so when the end does come, they feel they have a friend. Since its inception in May last year, the Hospice At Home service has helped over 70 families in Warrington, but has been forced to turn down requests from a further 40, as it simply cannot afford the nursing resources.



The Hospice At Home team - L-R: Coordinator Tracy Redmond, Administrator Jacqui Barron, Staff Nurses Julia Lowe and Lynn Wright.

Tracy added: “Saying no is really hard as we know what a difference the service makes, and you only get one chance to get it right. We wish we could be there for everybody.”

“We couldn't have launched the service without the help of the people of Warrington, who give so generously to the Hospice. It's clear that Hospice At Home has made a huge difference to the families it has helped over the last few months, and we really need for it not only to continue, but to reach even more people in need.”

To find out how you can help Hospice At Home reach more families, please contact the Fundraising Team on 01925 575780 or email fundraising@stroccos.org.uk

The family and employers of former Hospice patient Les Evans have raised an incredible amount of money for St. Rocco's in his memory.

Les, pictured, passed away in September 2015 and since then, over £4,400 has been raised from sponsored events, collections, donations and a charity day. Les's three granddaughters Olivia, Kayleigh, and 4-month old Arwen, took part in the St. Rocco' Lantern Walk, raising over £1,700 in sponsorship.

Lowri Beck, the Wigan-based company where Les worked until just a month before he died, presented us with a cheque for £1,200, raised through a Charity Day in October. Further funds were raised from funeral donations, and a donation from Waterfall Catering, the company employing Pam Evans, Les' wife.

She remembers not only his illness, but the family man that he was: "Through his illness, Les always remained positive and even continued to work until the end of August. He was a wonderful, kind, fun, family man. Les received fantastic care and there are no words that can express our thanks for everyone's support and kindness".

A heartfelt thank you from all at St. Rocco's for your kindness and generosity, in memory of a wonderful man.



Thank

In December, long-standing volunteer Peggy Moss stepped down after 30 years of helping raise funds for St. Rocco's.

From collecting stamps alone she generated an incredible £10,000 and played a key role in the income generated from our shops.

Her final fundraising venture has been to organise the breeding of a specially named 'St. Rocco's Rose' which has been sold to staff, supporters and volunteers with huge success.

In November Peggy was named 'Volunteer of the Year' at a national awards ceremony organised by Hospice UK and we can't thank her enough for everything she has done for us.



A very special little girl popped into St. Rocco's recently to tell us about her fundraising efforts over the summer.

Lillie Mai, pictured with her brother, spent her summer holidays making loom bands which she sold to friends and family, raising £32. Lillie sent in a lovely letter with her donation, thanking the nurses for looking after her Nanna. Every penny will make a difference; thank you Lillie Mai!



This is just a small selection of the fantastic fundraising that's gone on over the last few months.



Businesses across Warrington showed off their festive knits during our Christmas Jumper Day in December.

Thank you to businesses including Torus, Portal Business Centres, Asda Logistics, Brookston, Village Hotel, Tiggywinkles, Cheshire Grange Care Home, Birchwood High School, The Warrington Guardian and Thornton's in Golden Square.

A special shout-out to Thornton's, pictured above, who raised a total of £3,000 during 2015, always with enthusiasm and a smile!

Supporter and volunteer Stacey Higgins-Martin challenged herself for St. Rocco's throughout 2015, taking part in five organised runs in five different towns.



Keen runner Stacey completed the Liverpool Half Marathon, Great Manchester Run, Wigan 10k, English Half Marathon and the Conwy Half Marathon before hanging up her trainers for a well-earned rest over Christmas.

She said: "St. Rocco's cared for my Grandad, and also my family in his last days so I wanted to do as much as possible to raise awareness and funds for the Hospice. This year I want to really challenge myself and do something different so I am taking part in a Sky Dive on the 16th April. I also plan to get my trainers back on this year and carry on the running."



Thank you so much for the support Stacey and good luck for your 2016 adventures!

YOU!

We had a lovely surprise in October when Chris Ashton from Woolston Legion dropped in with a cheque for £2,130.

The money was raised through a summer bowling tournament, in memory of Mike Roach.

The tournaments have been running every year since 2008, raising a total of over £15,000 - making a big difference to the care we provide for our patients. Thank you so much to everyone involved!

Father and daughter volunteers Mike and Kate Titchard turned their family holiday into a fundraising opportunity when they visited New York in October.

The pair took on the 'Get Your Rear Into Gear' 5k, running along the banks of the River Hudson to raise money for St. Rocco's under the team name 'The British Are Coming'. Both previously non-runners, Mike and Kate trained hard and we're very proud of them.



For more stories please visit www.stroccos.org.uk





“No matter how much we do, it will never come close to what St. Rocco’s has done for us.”

When Carole Reilly was diagnosed with cancer of the abdomen in 2009, it turned her life upside down and left her and husband Vince feeling afraid and alone. For the last four years, St. Rocco’s has provided the care and support to help guide them through their cancer journey, and leaving a gift in their Wills is their way of saying thank you. In the couple’s own words, this is why they are choosing to remember the Hospice.

“When I was diagnosed it was like being in a dinghy in the Atlantic and we didn’t know which way to turn. But despite being nervous about my first visit to the Day Unit at St. Rocco’s, I walked out that day feeling ten feet tall and full of confidence for a positive future. I was so well cared for that it made me cry; all of the St. Rocco’s team make you feel you are a special person and are gentle of your feelings, mindful of your dignity, and great fun to be around. I now attend the Day Unit every week and whenever anybody asks me what it is like my answer is always the same: It’s my big cuddly comfort blanket. Thank you St. Rocco’s for everything.”

Carole Reilly

“St. Rocco’s is like an extended family to us and is much more than the sum of its parts – it’s about people, love and support. I don’t think people realise how important it is to think about remembering St. Rocco’s when making a Will, as they need an enormous amount of money each year and it helps secure the future of the hospice. Carole and I are eternally grateful as if not for the hard work and endeavours of others, now and in the past, we wouldn’t have our

St. Rocco’s in our time of need. No matter how much we do, it will never come close to what the hospice has done for us.”

Vince Reilly

One in seven of our patients are cared for as a direct result of gifts in Wills, and even a small gift can make a big difference to securing the future of St. Rocco’s.

To find out more, please call 01925 575780 or email fundraising@stroccos.org.uk

How St. Rocco’s is funded



Just 27% of our funding comes from the Government.

Less than a third of the £3.2m we need per year comes from the NHS, and this is likely to be reduced further as the years go on. We rely on the kindness and support of the Warrington community for over two thirds of our annual income and never charge our patients for their care.

As well as our shops, lottery and fundraising events, a large proportion of our annual income also comes to us through people leaving gifts in their Wills. In fact, this pays for the care of one in seven patients each year.

Is this Warrington's best kept bridal secret?

Hidden away on the first floor of the St. Rocco's Hospice shop in Orford, a treasure trove of pre-loved bridalwear and accessories awaits style-savvy brides-to-be with an eye for a bargain.

The Bridal Lounge provides everything for the bridal party with both new and pre-loved dresses, veils, tiaras, shoes and the little extras that make a perfect day.

For the Mother of the Bride and other guests we are also able to offer suits and dresses by leading brands including Jacques Vert, Frank Usher, Gina Bacconi, Monsoon and Coast, all at great prices. There is also a wide range of designer hats for all occasions, including special vintage pieces.

If you want to help St. Rocco's during your big day, we are also able to provide tailor-made favours for guests, enabling you to offer something a bit different whilst helping us continue our care.

Come and see us on Longford Street in Orford – you'll be amazed at what we have to offer!



Shop volunteers urgently needed

Our shops provide a vital source of income for the hospice, and allow everything from clothes to furniture to find a second life with new owners. They are run by volunteers, meaning every penny generated from items sold helps us to care for local families in Warrington.

Our shops are at the heart of the community so volunteering within them is a fantastic opportunity to enjoy a sociable, rewarding role, knowing you are making a real difference.

We currently urgently need volunteers for our Hood Manor, Bridgefoot and Bewsey shops. No experience in retail is necessary, but our volunteers must have good communication skills and be honest and reliable.

For an informal chat, or to find out more, please contact our friendly Voluntary Services team on **01925 575780**.



NOW OPEN!

Our new shop in Bewsey sells clearance items at unbelievable prices, with every penny going to St. Rocco's.

Pop in and see us on the corner of Lodge Lane and Lovely Lane in Bewsey for clearance clothes, toys and bric-a-brac. For more information please call the Hospice on **01925 575780**.



2016 fundraising events diary

Get involved with our fun, fabulous fundraisers and do your bit for families in Warrington. Good times are guaranteed!



Great Manchester Run, Sunday 22nd May

Grab one of our available places in this iconic 10k run and make your New Year running resolution count

Starlight Ladies Walk, Friday 17th June

Now in its 11th year, this famous event will see the town turn pink for one very special night



Dragon Boat Race, Sunday 31st July

Enter a team and row your way to victory down the River Mersey in this wet and wild race to the finish

Colour Run, Monday 29th August

Following its successful launch in 2015, our brightest fundraiser returns to Walton Hall and Gardens for a Bank Holiday paint party that's perfect for the whole family



Golf Day, Wednesday 14th September

Tee off for charity during our ever-popular Golf Day which will take place at Warrington Golf Club

English Half Marathon, Sunday 18th September

Lace up your trainers and pound the pavements of Warrington during this in-demand event which raises thousands for charities across the UK, including St. Rocco's

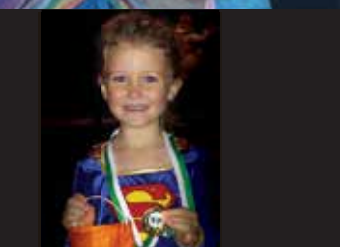


Children's Lantern Walk, Sunday 23rd October

Let your little ones light up the night during this one-mile sponsored walk around Orford Park – now in its third year.

Ladies Autumn Lunch, Thursday 10th November

Join us at Statham Lodge in Lymm for a decadent day of shopping, food and wine



Light Up A Life, Sunday 4th & Thursday 8th December

Dedicate a light to a loved one and help our Christmas tree shine in celebration of the lives of those we love

Strictly St. Rocco's, Sunday 11th December

Sequins, sparkles and spray tans... Strictly is back and promises to be better than ever!



For further information on any of the events listed above, please contact our friendly Fundraising team on **01925 575780** or email fundraising@stroccos.org.uk.

You can also keep up to date with all our news by joining our online community on Facebook (search St. Rocco's Hospice) and Twitter (@stroccos).



Recruiting the right people

RECRUITING people with the correct skills and cultural match can transform a business, but recruitment can be expensive, especially if mistakes are made during hiring.

There are hidden costs if you need to replace a leaver - productivity is reduced while appointing someone new and training them to do the job properly.

Getting new staff into your business, whether or not you are growing, must be done quickly and when you run a business, you don't always have spare time or headspace.

So what's the answer? How can you speed up your recruitment and get the best results at the right price? It can pay dividends to partner with a recruitment agency that takes time to understand your business and acts as an advocate for your brand when talking to candidates. If they are doing their job properly, they will deliver great results with minimum fuss and at a fair price.

St John's Director Katherine Mountford (pictured) said: "Our most precious commodity is time and a good agency will save you both time and money, allowing you to make the decisions you need to



keep your business growing. At St John, we take a detailed brief and we are experts at sourcing. We only present candidates who we have interviewed and who believe can do the job, saving you from having to interview every

candidate who looks ok on paper. We also handle all of the interview scheduling arrangements, saving even more time along the way."

Visit www.sjrec.com to learn more about how St John Recruitment can help you.



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4 JUN • THE STORY OF TOM JONES
18 JUN • SUNNY AFTERNOON • JERSEY BOYS
2 JUL • KINKY BOOTS • BEAUTIFUL OR CHOOSE A
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OVERNIGHT HALF BOARD
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SAT 2, 23 APR, 7, 21 MAY, 25 JUN, 2, 16, 30 JUL

TORQUAY & EDEN PROJECT

4/5 DAYS FROM **£149.95**
3/4 NIGHTS HALF BOARD Seascape/Bancourt Hotel
• Admission included to Eden Project
4 DAYS FRI 18, 25 MAR, 22, 29 APR, 17 JUN, 22, 29 JUL
5 DAYS MON 28 MAR, 18, 25 APR, 16 MAY, 13, 20, 27 JUN

POLAR BEARS, PENGUINS & KINGDOM OF ICE

2 DAYS **£99.95**
OVERNIGHT HALF BOARD
• Includes admission to Yorkshire Wildlife Park, home of UK's only Polar Bears & The Deep Kingdom of Ice!
SAT 2 APR, 28 MAY, 18 JUN, 9 JUL, 20 AUG

AWESOME AIR SHOWS

2 DAYS FROM **£99.95**
OVERNIGHT HALF BOARD Admission included
9 JUL FAIRFORD AIR TATTOO
9 JUL DUXFORD FLYING LEGENDS
16 JUL FARNBOROUGH
13 AUG RED BULL AIR RACE
10 SEP DUXFORD AIR SHOW

BOURNEMOUTH & GUERNSEY CRUISE

5 DAYS FROM **£199.95**
4 NIGHTS HALF BOARD Carrington House Hotel
• Includes fantastic day trip to Guernsey
MON 25 APR, 9, 23, 30 MAY, 6, 20, 27 JUN, 4, 11, 25 JUL

ISLE OF ARRAN & LOCH LOMOND CRUISE

5 DAYS **£179.95**
4 NIGHTS HALF BOARD Adamton House Hotel
• Isle of Arran tour & Loch Lomond Cruise
MON 28 MAR, 18 APR, 30 MAY, 20 JUN, 18 JUL

LLANDUDNO, SNOWDONIA & ISLE OF ANGLESEY

2 for 1 BAR 6pm-9pm (TBC APPLY)
5 DAYS FROM **£159.95**
4 NIGHTS HALF BOARD New Loretta Hotel
• Includes visit to Snowdonia & the Isle of Anglesey and historic Conwy
MON 21 MAR, 18 APR, 16 MAY, 13, 27 JUN, 11 JUL

ISLE OF WIGHT VICTORIAN SPLENDOUR

HALF BOARD breaks at the Langham Court Hotel, Shanklin

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Explore more: Lake Garda, Austria, Costa Brava, Ostend, Amsterdam, Disneyland, Paris, Ireland from **£189.95**

New MD set to shape Warrington's leisure and culture

LIVEWIRE and Culture Warrington's new managing director Emma Hutchinson has spoken about her plans to shape the leisure and cultural offer in town.

Emma, aged 36, took up the post following the retirement of Jan Souness, who led the companies from their formation in 2012.

Emma said: "I am very excited and immensely proud to be taking on this role which will lead both companies

through their new business plans.

"LiveWire and Culture Warrington have made a huge difference to the people of Warrington over the last four years and have put the town on the map in terms of its leisure and cultural offerings.



"I look forward to building on the great work carried out by Jan and embracing exciting new opportunities that lie ahead."

Emma brings with her a wealth of experience in the two sectors and both companies. She held the post of Cultural Director at Culture Warrington during most of 2015 and has also played an integral part in the development of the two companies.

The Business Studies graduate joined 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 years by leading, planning and managing all business development activities.

She added: "This is an exciting time for both LiveWire and Culture Warrington with a range of different projects in the pipeline which will expand our delivery across the town.

"LiveWire has plans to develop a number of neighbourhood hubs in different areas. They will provide an integrated offer of leisure, library and lifestyle services all under one roof, a model which we've seen has already proved to be very successful in Orford and Woolston.

"Culture Warrington has ambitious plans to create a Heritage Hub in the existing Warrington Central Library building when the lending library expands its offer into the heart of the town centre later this year. Not only will the Heritage Hub provide more opportunities for residents to explore the history of the town, it will also act as a base for outreach activities that we plan to deliver in local communities as well as linking to LiveWire hubs in individual neighbourhoods."

Emma will continue to work closely with Jan, who has taken on the part-time position of Transformation Projects Strategic Advisor to provide strategic support on key projects two days a week.

Clean for the Queen

A WARRINGTON conservation group is planning to make its annual spring tidy-up part of the "Clean for the Queen" campaign this year.

The Friends of Gorse Covert Mounds is a Woodland Trust group which helps to maintain the urban woodland on the edge of Birchwood and every year gives the area a spring clean.

This year they plan to make the initiative part of Keep Britain Tidy's "Clean for the Queen" campaign which celebrates the Queen reaching the age of 90.

It is hoped to involve more than a million people nationally.

Friends' chairman Nigel Balding said there had been some criticism of the Clean for the Queen campaign from people suggesting a better name would be "Scrub The Streets Peasants" because the campaign was treating people like "subservient plebs".

Mr Balding said: "I disagree. We always try to have some fun whilst tidying up and I'm thinking that 'Clean for the Queen' will make the event a little different again this year.

"We have an offer from Paul Taylor, of Taylor Business Park, to use a giant queen model that I think has previously served on a float in Warrington and I have ordered 40 special commemorative purple collection bags for the litter.

"Who wouldn't want a giant model queen on their tidy-up event!

"Keep Britain Tidy does some fantastic work and it seems a bit mean for anyone to be negative about either tidying up or celebrating Her Majesty reaching this very distinguished age. Thinking about Birchwood, although it may be unlikely that the Queen will come to visit on her birthday, those of us who live here will still have the benefit of a cleaner environment."

The date for the clean hadn't been decided as warrington-worldwide went to press.

New opening hours for waste recycle centres

WARRINGTON'S three community recycling centres are to have new opening hours from March 1.

The new opening hours will be:

Gatewath CRC 8am – 6pm seven days a week

Woolston CRC 10am – 4pm weekdays; 8am – 6pm weekends and Bank Holidays

Stockton Heath CRC 10am – 4pm weekdays; 8am – 6pm weekends and Bank Holidays (April to September) 8am – 4pm (October to March)

All sites will be open every day of the year, except for Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day.

Warrington Borough Councillor Judith Guthrie, executive board member for environment and public protection, said: "The hours of operation have changed to ensure the most cost-effective and sustainable waste recycling services possible.

"It is important, however, that residents continue to make best use of the sites as well as their kerbside recycling service."

The changes follow the award of the household waste contract by Warrington Borough Council to Environment Waste Controls Plc.



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Town is tops for education and training

WARRINGTON is one of the top three boroughs in the North West for successfully placing young people in education and training.

More than 98 per cent of 16-17 year-olds were placed in education and training which met their individual needs last year, according to the borough council.

This includes young people who are not on a school roll, are home-educated or are in a custodial or a residential institution.

Cllr Jean Carter, the council's lead member for children's services, said: "Our careers for young people service works very closely with schools, colleges and local employers in Warrington to ensure that every young person receives an offer."

"We have measures in place to identify young people who are 'not in education, employment or training' – NEET or at risk of NEET – to ensure that focussed attention is given to those most in need."

"As a local authority we are really proud of the collaborative effort with our schools, colleges and local employers that has enabled us to achieve such good results."

Part of the Government's "September Guarantee" is that every young person reaching compulsory school leaving age that year or in the previous year is entitled to a place in education or training.

Last year, Warrington Borough Council achieved 98.4 per cent placements putting them in the top three local authorities in the north west and 16th nationally out of 152.

Lymm High regains top spot in schools' league table

STUDENTS and staff at Lymm High School are celebrating as the publication of the official league tables showed that the school has

regained top spot in Warrington. Seventy four per cent of students gained the key benchmark of at least 5 A*-C grades including

English and Maths, more than any other school in the borough.

The school also saw the best results at A' level, with 53% gaining A*-B grades and 79% A*-C grades and the highest average grade per A' level entry in Warrington.

Headteacher, Gwyn Williams, said: "There is no complacency about these results. We recognise that, with the wonderful cohort of able and motivated students we have here, we absolutely should be somewhere near the top of these tables. Nevertheless, the results are a confirmation of the fact that the school is in really good shape and we will use the energy this generates to ensure that we continue to go from strength to strength."

"Exam results matter a huge amount in terms of the opportunities they open up, as well as for the confidence that a good set of results can give young people. For this reason, we will never shy away from keeping excellent academic performance at the heart of our vision for a great school. There is a real desire in the school to build on these excellent results over the next couple of years and I have every confidence we can achieve that."

"Staff worked incredibly hard

last year to help so many students get over the line and they deserve tremendous credit for that – as, of course, do the students and families themselves. I congratulate all of them wholeheartedly."

Lymm has now leap-frogged Bridgewater High School to be top of the School League Table in Warrington.

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Young writers create 'spine chillers' - in 100 words

SEVENTEEN pupils at Great Sankey High School, Warrington entered a "Spine Chillers" young writer's competition.

Their remit was to grip readers and put their senses on alert, creating tension, suspense and atmosphere – all in under 100 words.

Their entries have been selected to be published in the "Spine Chillers" anthology to be published in April.



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T&C Winner will be chosen at random on 25 March. Treatments to be taken by 30 May 2016, subject to availability and valid Monday to Thursday.

FA Cup hero steps up to player/coach role

WARRINGTON Town's FA Cup goalscoring hero Craig Robinson is stepping up to fill a player/coach role at the club.

Defender, Robinson, aged 33, who scored the goal which secured the F.A Cup giant-killing act against Exeter City in the FA Cup last season, will work alongside joint managers Stuart Mellish and Lee Smith, following the departure of Shaun Reid.

Robinson has been unable to gain a regular place in the first team for much of the season due to the outstanding centre back partnership formed by James McCarten and Danny O'Donnell.

Chairman Toby Macormac said: "Craig has been a true professional this season and will provide valuable support for our new managerial partnership.

Robinson is the brother of MK Dons manager Karl Robinson, who also played at Warrington Town.





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Financially yours

By David Watkinson

Quarterly reporting

Quarterly reporting to the tax office is on its way, that is certain. This will apply to business as well as all individuals with secondary or non-PAYE income in excess of £10,000 in any tax year. You may think that that does not apply to you but you may be in for a painful shock when penalties start arriving.

For instance, you may be a basic rate taxpayer with a couple of rental properties earning £650 per month each in rent, and paying agency fees and other expenses of 20% before paying interest of £300 per month on two buy-to-let mortgages. As this creates a net "profit" of £8,800 you may think that you will not need to consider quarterly accounting. Wrong! When asked the tax office confirmed that the £10,000 limit applies to "taxable income". The new rules governing interest deductions being introduced shortly mean that taxable income is calculated before deducting interest, resulting in taxable income in the above example of £12,400.

You might be forgiven for thinking that the changes will be introduced for large corporations, such as Starbucks or Amazon, first. But again you would be wrong. Companies will not need to start submitting quarterly returns until their accounting period starting after 1st April 2020. VAT registered businesses, however, will be affected for tax years starting after 5th April 2019. Smaller businesses under the VAT registration threshold, and individuals with secondary income above £10,000, will need to submit quarterly returns for tax years starting after 5th April 2018, ie in just over 2 years.

So what will need reporting? In short, according to the tax office, no-one knows as no decision on the contents of the quarterly reports has been decided. Despite this indecision, the tax office is already somehow consulting with software suppliers on the provision of "free software for smaller businesses and those with less complex tax affairs". Similarly, according to the tax office, no decision has been made on what penalties will be payable, how much they will be and for what will they be imposed. And finally, almost, no-one in government knows, or is admitting to know, whether quarterly accounting will require quarterly payments.

In summary, in 27 months' time a large number of you will need to report something (but you don't know what), somehow (but you don't know how) to the tax office. At the same time you may or may not need to make a payment calculated by some method (but you don't know which), or probably (or less probably not) face potential penalties of some size (but you don't know how big)!

One thing is certain. If you don't do "it", whatever "it" is, then it won't be their fault, but yours.

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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David Watkinson and Margaret Black

Former players honour memory of club founder



A celebration took place when more than thirty former Moore United players commemorated the second anniversary of the passing of their founder in a charity match dubbed "Billy Green Day" at Grange Sports & Social Club.

Bill Green was a well known local football figure and the club decided to support the Alzheimer's Society Charity, which is close to heart of his family.

The match was played in great spirit and turned out to be a tight encounter after Phil McKay opened the scoring early in the game for Dot's Dynamos.

Keeper Toby Macormac excelled to keep the score down as gradually

Billy's Boys side played their way into the match and equalised on 80 minutes with a close range finish from Adam Dakin.

Bucket collections took place during and after the match which finished 1-1 and raised over £500 for the Alzheimer's Society.

The club are looking to make Billy Green Day an annual event for all those who served under him.





Warrington Town part company with manager by mutual consent

WARRINGTON Town FC have parted company with manager Shaun Reid by mutual consent with immediate effect.

The Board of Directors at the club have been discussing plans for next season and beyond as part of its longer term objectives and decided they would not be renewing the manager's contract at the end of the current season.

This decision has been discussed with Shaun and he asked to be released from his current contract to ensure he has the appropriate time to find the right opportunity for himself in the future. The club has agreed to this request.

Stuart Mellish and Lee Smith will step up from their coaching roles to form a Management pairing, supported by the remaining coaching team.

Chairman Toby Macormac said: "Warrington Town Football Club would like to thank Shaun for all his hard work and success over the last three seasons and we wish him well for the future."

The club will be making no further statement with full focus on the push for promotion.

Wolves Ambassadors

WARRINGTON Wolves have assigned a pair of player ambassadors to seven community clubs in the town.

The clubs will each have the support of two Wolves players at three community led events throughout the year, which bring together children of all ages participating in the sport - Warrington Club Challenge, One Community Day and Warrington Man of Steel Evening.

Shaun Briscoe, Rugby League Manager, said: "We are delighted to be bringing our Super League players closer to the community clubs and the future stars of our great game. We look forward to developing these partnerships and encouraging even more participation across these seven clubs."

"We'd like to thank the players who have volunteered their time as ambassadors."

The clubs and their ambassadors are Bank Quay: Stefan Ratchford, George King; Burtonwood: Rhys Evans, Ben Evans; Crosfields: Chris Sandow, Ben Harrison; Culcheth: Chris Hill, Joe Philbin; Latchford: Kurt Gidley, Declan Paton; Rylands: Ben Westwood, Harvey Livett; Woolston: Ashton Sims, Tom Lineham.

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