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Warrington's Cutest Cherub!

Page 3

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warrington-worldwide is published monthly by Orbit News Ltd.

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Printed by TwentyFourSeven

THE ongoing issue with illegal traveller encampments setting up at various locations across Warrington seems to be going from bad to worse.

One can only presume they are picking up plenty of business in the area – or they wouldn't visit so often.

So next time someone knocks on your door offering you a cut price deal – just think on about the possible consequences for some of your neighbouring areas.

Recent encampments include Silver Lane Risley, Dakota Park Chapelford, Woolston Park, Winwick Park and most recently Alban Retail Park on Winwick Road.

To be fair to Warrington Borough Council and Cheshire Police, they appear to be getting them to move on fairly quickly, thanks to the section 77 orders which can be served promptly.

Clearly there is a pressing need for a permanent solution and Warrington Borough Council need to deliver it sooner or later – realising wherever is suggested will be an unpopular decision.

A properly managed traveller facility is clearly needed somewhere in the borough – only then will there be any real chance of stopping the illegal encampments which continue to take up so much officer and police

time.

Meanwhile by the time you read these notes, penned before the EU referendum, we will either be still in, or chosen to have left the European Union.

Whatever the outcome let's hope it doesn't impact on the economy as Warrington has done so much hard work in recent years to buck the trend – with an economy many other towns and cities would be proud to have.

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Elyse is Warrington's Cutest Cherub!

LITTLE Elyse Livesey from Warrington is officially the town's "Cutest Cherub."

Elyse (middle right) won the 6 - 18 months category and the overall top prize in the competition organised by Oculus Studios on Warrington Market, after gaining the most votes.

Winner of the 0-6 months was Braydon Thompson (top right) from Padgate while Millie Walker (bottom right) from Great Sankey won the 18 months - 3 years category.

All three won £250.00 with Elyse winning an additional prize of £500.

The competition was sponsored by Fidelis Food Service Equipment Ltd, Warrington Wolves and Ideal Unified Communications, while Jenny's Designs donated a portrait

for each category winner.

The competition raised just over £100 for chosen charity Warrington Disability Partnership.

Organiser Tony Longmore from Oculus Studios hailed the event a huge success and is already planning next year's which he says will be "bigger and better."

It attracted more than 1,200 voters into the market.

One trader, Carol from "Crafted With Love" said that during the competition, her stall saw a marked increase in sales.

She continued "I estimate that during the baby competition, our sales doubled."

Tony added: "Thanks to our media sponsor, Gary from warrington-worldwide for the fantastic coverage and promotion of the competition."



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Hello and welcome to my monthly column . . .

Hypnotes

by Michael Mahoney

Hypnosis

Hypnosis is often a subject that will spark the curiosity of an inquisitive person, or shut down a conversation almost immediately with another.

Hypnotherapy, uses hypnosis as a THERAPY to help with a wide range of conditions of mind and body. Most readers will know hypnosis is used to help people stop smoking, lose weight or deal with a phobia. However, many readers might not be aware that hypnotherapy can be used to help manage and control gut disorders especially Irritable Bowel Syndrome (or IBS), and other conditions including emotional recovery after breast cancer / cancer. It can also help to manage chronic or acute pain, and many other physical conditions.

Hypnosis can also help business people when giving presentations or with their promotion prospects. It can also assist employers in motivational skills with their staff. The list of benefits and possibilities is as wide and diverse as we are all individuals.

So why do we get either positive or negative opinions about hypnosis. Some people may believe it is stage hypnosis, but it isn't. They might think it 'messes with the head' but in reality the individual is more aware of their surroundings and internally process things more freely. Or they might just

think it is not natural, but it is, there are no pills or potions, and in fact that nice twilight zone we enjoy before going to sleep (and experience as we wake up) is the same type of feeling as being in that altered state of consciousness called 'trance'.

Yikes, another word 'Trance', it means being out of control doesn't it? No it doesn't. It must mean the therapist has control over you? No it doesn't! Trance is simply a word to describe a calm, peaceful state in which the THERAPY is conducted.

Then, there are the people who want to know more, learn how this natural, innate ability can be used to make a better life for themselves and those they love. They can see the possibilities it can bring, they are open minded and prepared to engage in a natural learning process.

Hypnosis & Hypnotherapy are not alternatives to mainstream medicine, rather complementary. The government's NICE guidelines for IBS class hypnosis as a psychological intervention - a far cry from stage hypnosis!!

Talking about Irritable Bowel Syndrome (or IBS), readers may not be aware, that my IBS Audio Program 100, developed, researched and brought to market, here in Warrington town is the leading IBS product in its field since 1998, and it is known and

Michael Mahoney is a Clinical Hypnotherapist. He has research, and patient trials experience. He is a member of the Hypnotherapy Association, an associate of the Primary Care Society for Gastroenterology, based at Woolston Surgery, Neighbourhood Hub, Warrington WA1 4PN.



Tel: 01925-658322 email mikeforhelp@gmail.com
www.michaelmahoneyhypnotherapist.com

respected by international thought leaders in the gastroenterology world. Those who still think hypnosis is a parlour trick, should research more, they may be missing a valuable life changing treatment option.

Since 1995, I have been working with the medical profession, both in primary and secondary care. My practice is medical centre based. I have been in practice for 30 years, and hold several innovation and research awards for my work in developing innovative health solutions.

So when and if you want to know more about how hypnosis could help you, just email or ring to arrange an initial consultation. I have some exciting projects in the pipeline, new websites, and new products to be announced soon too.

So if you want a friendly, professional, experienced hypnotherapist to help with issues of mind, body or emotion or all three, you know where I am.



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New mayor shows he means business

WARRINGTON'S first 'Business Mayor' started his year with a bang as around £13,000 was raised by his very first charity event and £20,000 raised during his first month.

Mayor Cllr Faisal Rashid held the event, the launch of his 'Circle - The Future' while announcing his four charities, when more than 300 guests enjoyed a three-course meal and entertainment at the Halliwell Jones Stadium, just a few days after being elected as the town's first ever muslim mayor.

Cllr Rashid has chosen to back St Rocco's, Brainwave, Warrington Disability Partnership and The Tim Parry Johnathan Ball Foundation for Peace.

Cllr Rashid said: "I am absolutely thrilled and honoured to be the Mayor of Warrington. When I first came to this town, I never imagined I would become a councillor, never mind Mayor, with my wife as Mayoress.

"It is not just an honour for me, but for my whole family who are over the moon.

"I am very pleased to be supporting such worthy charities and am overjoyed that we have raised so much money already - I'm excited to think how much we can do in the coming year!"

The Circle - The Future is an initiative by the Mayor to help turn Warrington into an entrepreneurs' hub.

He said: "My plan is to create unique business opportunities for the people of Warrington and help the borough become an economically stronger and more socially active community."

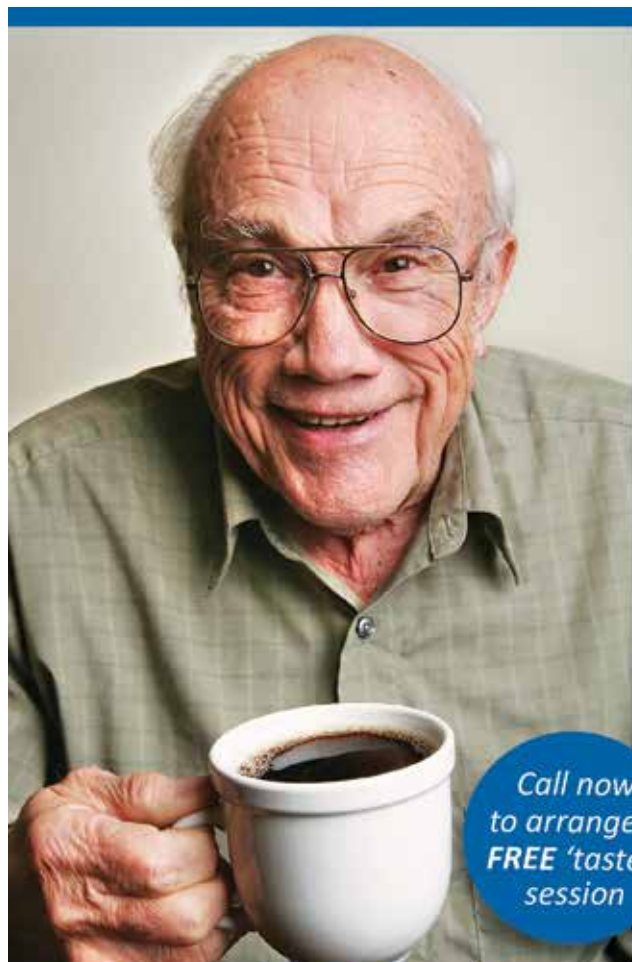
To learn more about The Circle visit warrington.gov.uk/mayor or [facebook.com/MayorofWarrington](https://www.facebook.com/MayorofWarrington) or you can follow Cllr Rashid's work this year on Twitter @WarringtonMayor

Cllr Rashid has more than 15 years commercial experience in the financial services sector currently working at the Nat West Bank in Warrington as a business manager.

He was first elected as a Councillor in Warrington in May 2011 and Parish Councillor in 2012. He says his main purpose of entering into politics is to make

a difference in the local community where he lives and help to transform better quality of life.

He is passionate about improving lives and building a stronger integrated community with acceptance, full of peace, love and harmony, devoid of prejudice about colour, race and religion.



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Flagship project going from strength to strength

by Steve Park

This year seems to be flying by and it's hard to believe that we have reached the month of July already.

Personally I am delighted that so much has been accomplished since the start of the year - particularly in the last few months - in terms of development progress on various sites across Warrington.

Warrington & Co.'s flagship project, being delivered on behalf of the Council, the £107 Time Square Regeneration project, has been going from strength to strength and continues to make remarkable progress.

The steel framework for the temporary market is almost entirely constructed now and the designs for the new hoardings, that will surround the whole of the site, have been completed and are due to be put into place in the very near future,

making the construction site look and feel much more aesthetically pleasing whilst the works continue.

Last month Warrington & Co. was also very pleased to announce the appointment of construction specialist I & H Brown on the £18.5 million Time Square new car park construction contract.

This announcement also coincided with the commencement of the demolition of the existing multi-storey car park on Academy Way that will make way for the construction of a brand new multi-storey car park that when completed will provide circa 1,150 of secure car parking spaces over 8 levels and will be integral in supporting Warrington town centre's overall car parking offer.

Top beautician and glassblower named in Queen's Birthday Honours



A top beautician and an award-winning glassblower from Warrington, have been named in the Queen's birthday honours list.

Former Warrington Collegiate student Rianne Chester and Paul Le Pinnet, chief scientific glassblower at Runcorn-based SOG Ltd received their honours as part of Queen Elizabeth II's 90th birthday celebrations.

Rianne, who receives a BEM celebrated at the double at the WorldSkills International competition in São Paulo, Brazil, last year after taking a gold medal for Beauty therapy.

She also gained the illustrious Albert Vidal medal which recognises the best of best, the first time the UK has ever won the prize.

Mr Le Pinnet is renowned for his ability to mould molten glass into intricate shapes.

The 71-year-old grandfather received an MBE for his services to British scientific glassblowing.

Backbone of title winning team agree new terms

WARRINGTON Town are delighted to announce contract extensions for three of their title winning team, with skipper Ciaran Kilheeny, vice-captain Jay McCarten and goalkeeper Karl Wills all agreeing new terms for the 2016-17 season.

All three players featured in the Evo-Stik Division One North team of the year last season with Kilheeny also topping the goal scoring charts with more than 40.

Chairman Toby Macormac said: "All three players played a big part in our title success and we are delighted they have agreed new terms for the forthcoming season.

"They are part of the backbone of the team and a key part of our future plans as we look to push for the play-offs next season."

McCarten, who joined Warrington in 2012 is now the longest serving player at the club following the departure of Chris Gahgan to Colwyn Bay.

Away from the Time Square Project planning approval was recently granted for 1,100 new homes and neighbourhood facilities on the Omega South site in Great Sankey, including a number of much needed affordable starter homes, which will be invaluable for the area.

The new development will be supported by new local transport infrastructure improvements, linking the community to a network of 35 acres of green spaces that will benefit both new and existing residents. The council has also allocated £1.25 million to be spent on works to upgrade Junction 8 of the M62, linking residents to the motorway.

Finally, last month I was honoured to be asked to sit on the judging panel at this year's North West Business Insider Awards. The event itself was very enjoyable and Warrington & Co. would like to extend our warm congratulations to our development partner on the Time Square Regeneration Project, Muse Developments, who picked up the award for Developer of the Year.

2016 has been very productive so far and I look forward to the next six being equally exciting.

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Steve Park
MD of Warrington & Co.

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Are you on LinkedIn?

As we all know relationships are vital for all forms of business. From potential clients to the regular in the pub, making sure that you create and maintain relationships is vital. Business networking is great for developing new relationships offline, but sometimes it's difficult to make the time required if you're running your business and they are at awkward times for you.

Social Media can be the missing link to ensure that you don't miss out on any potential chance to develop new connections. From Twitter hours to LinkedIn groups the potential to create long lasting developments can be limitless – all from the comfort of your phone.

LinkedIn is an amazing tool that I use on a regular basis for networking. If you thought that it was just for job hunting and recruiters you'd be wrong - I've gained new clients, leads, partnerships and met some amazing people through it.

So here's some of my top tips to

ensure you can network at any time.

Photo

Give yourself a face to your name. No selfies – make sure you have a professional (and recent!) photo that if you meet offline you're recognisable.

Headline

Showcase what you do for others – not your job title. Sprinkle with keywords that clients might need your services if they search on LinkedIn.

Profile

Double down on how you can help meet the needs of whoever reads your profile. No boring summary about your job!

Engagement

There's plenty of ways to engage, from groups to LinkedIn Pulse, to general newsfeed updates. Just make sure that you start your dialogue with new and old connections.

Inmail

Don't just go for the sales pitch straight away. Get to know a connection – and ask how you can help them achieve their goals, not yours.

If you have any questions about LinkedIn I'll be happy to answer them. Drop me an email at helen@blueskydigimarketing.co.uk - or connect with me on LinkedIn!

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Sun shines for Chapelford Fun Day

GLORIOUS sunshine ensured a successful time was had by all at the Chapel Fun Day at Dakota Park, Chapelford Village at Great Sankey, Warrington.

Deputy Mayor of Warrington Faisal Rashid was on hand to present the fancy dress prizes to local youngsters at the event which had fun for all the family with something for all ages.

As well as the fancy dress contest, there was a kid's funfair, children's entertainment, artisan market, cream teas, inflatables, donkey rides, live entertainment, and much more.

The event was organised by local organisers in partnership with the borough council.



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Pupils thrilled by visit from Gothic fantasy writer

PUPILS at Great Sankey High School, Warrington, were thrilled to receive a visit from fantasy adventure writer Jon Mayhew.

The author's writing methods and advice on how to keep the reader captivated were embraced by staff and pupils as he talked about his literary influences, which included Charles Dickens.

He talked about the background to his first two books "Mortlock" and "The Demon Collector." Both are exciting, dark and gruesomely gothic chillers set in a Victorian setting.

Pupils constructed stories from their own real life events. They were then asked to expand their stories using descriptive writing tips that Jon had given them. They were also given story cubes and random words from which they had to create a short piece of fiction.

This was an interesting challenge to which pupils responded well especially with lots of helpful tips and writer's secrets from Jon.

Pupils were even more thrilled to be given the opportunity to buy a signed book at the end of the session. They can't wait until Jon's new Monster Odyssey book "The Eye of Neptune" is out in September.



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Ancient Buddhist stone carving discovered in a farmyard

AN ancient stone carving depicting a scene of Buddhist gods and deities discovered in a Cheshire farmyard and used as a garden ornament, has now found its way to Warrington and could be worth thousands of pounds.

The huge carved stone panel was uncovered by **warrington-worldwide's** James Balme, who has previously made archaeological discoveries, including a lost Roman settlement near Lymm which later featured on Channel 4's Time Team with Tony Robinson.

James from Woolston, who regularly searches the area looking for old or ancient objects noticed that a large stone garden ornament was for sale at a Cheshire farm.

Having seen photographs of the stone carving James suspected it was not an ornament and was actually something far more special. The carving was covered in moss and dirt obscuring much of the details.

He decided to pay a visit to view the carving to see for himself whether or not it was what he believed to be ancient and he was not disappointed.

James said: "When I arrived I examined the object to make sure that it was actually hand carved. I was astounded to find that it was indeed a hand carved statue portraying two gods and two deities in a carriage being pulled by two horses. In the background were three servants looking on.

The procession was being led by an elephant, a classic symbol of Buddhism."

He agreed a price for the carving of a "few hundred pounds" and took it away for cleaning and restoration. He spent over three weeks gently removing the soil and moss from the carving to reveal fantastic details of the statue. Once cleaned he contacted a London based specialist in Asian art.

James added: "The expert was amazed at the carving and was very happy to confirm that it was indeed an ancient Javanese stone carved panel dating between the 11th to 13th century this being a time when Buddhism was the main religion of Indonesia and in particular the Island of Java. The question now is to work out how this ancient carving made its way to Britain? "

An expert from the BBC Antiques Roadshow recently paid a visit to see the statue for themselves. Due to the size and weight of the carving it was agreed that it was not safe or practical to transport the carving to Arley Hall for filming.

James said: "It was a great experience having a famous face from the Roadshow pay a visit to

see the carving. Unfortunately as the statue is over four feet in length and weighs well over 300lbs it was just too risky to move it for the purposes of filming.

"My research will now continue and I will be consulting experts via universities and museums over the coming months to find out the true meaning of what the carving represents. It is amazing that such a rare and ancient object was being used as a garden ornament!

"The fact that it is worth a lot of money means little compared to the ancient history that it represents."



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Birchwood Carnival basks in glorious sunshine

Report by Dan Warren Pictures by Paul Jackson

GLORIOUS sunshine and clear blue skies ensured Birchwood Carnival at Birchwood Forest Park, went without a hitch.

Cllr Russ Bowden, Chair of Birchwood Town Council & Executive member for finance for the borough council opened the carnival after a short procession.

The winning group the local Brownies and Guides dressed as the planets; and were presented with a prize after a short speech of thanks to the organisers.

The afternoon was well attended, with something for all ages including a funfair, Vale Royal birds of prey display, circus skills, donkey rides, a dog show, Warrington pipe band, refreshments, a local

heritage tent and much more.

Many local charities also had stalls including Warrington Disability Partnership; now in it's 25th year raising money with a cuddly toy tombola, the Scouts and Guides and the Women's Institute. Friends of the Feral Cat and Kitten Rescue also had a stall, which had a tombola, lucky dips including one for the adults with the chance to win water, bottled beer or wine, and raised £575.

The event was organised by Birchwood Carnival Committee in partnership with the town council.



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Relocation of GP Out of Hours in Warrington

NHS Warrington CCG has started an eight week public consultation on proposed changes to the location of the GP Out of Hours service in Warrington.

The proposed change will see GP Out of Hours relocate from Warrington Hospital to the Bath Street Health and Wellbeing Centre.

Bath Street Health and Wellbeing Centre is an NHS facility located in Warrington town centre, providing modern state of the art accommodation for the service and the local population.

The town centre location is easily accessible, serviced by Warrington's main bus routes and has free parking and disabled bays on site.

NHS Warrington CCG would like to hear residents' views about the proposed change.

A spokesperson said: "Your opinions matters to us and you could make a difference to the decision-making process."

To share your views and comments about how the change will affect you and your family in accessing the service please email: ccg.communications@warringtonccg.nhs.uk

Rain fails to dampen spirits at Orford Park Festival

Report by Dan Warren Pictures by Paul Jackson

GREY skies and rain failed to dampen spirits at the annual Orford Park Festival which was lit up with colour from a Rio de Janeiro Olympics theme.

There were many other activities for the whole family including fairground rides, a ride along train, birds of prey, dancers, a climbing wall plus food, craft, charity and gift stalls.

A mascot and character parade featuring Peppa Pig, Ben 10, Wolfie and LiveWire's very own Jet also took place.

The event, now in its fourth year, was organised by a group of local partners including LiveWire, Culture Warrington and Warrington Wolves Foundation, supported by the Central Neighbourhood Board.

Cllr Mike Hannon from Orford ward, said: "This year's Orford Park Festival was a fantastic success once again and really brought the whole community together. It was great to

see so many residents enjoy all the activities on offer.

"Since its launch four years ago, the event has grown each year and is now something that people look forward to. We hope that next year's event will attract many more local families."

Describing the successful event; Cllr Tony Higgins, executive board member for culture, leisure and community said: "In the last week I've attended the Birchwood carnival and today the Orford festival; showcasing what is so fantastic about our town, and proving to many what a great community we have. To see so many people attending just these two events goes to show that investment and support pays off to enhance community cohesion."



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Arctic Convoy veterans honoured by Russia

By Dan Warner

RUSSIA has bestowed one of its highest military honours on local World War 2 Arctic Convoy veterans at a ceremony at Warrington Town Hall.

The borough council and Mayor Cllr Faisal Rashid hosted the mayors of Halton and St Helens and representatives from the Russian Embassy at the special ceremony.

Konstantin Shlykov, from the Russian Embassy in London, said: "These brave men have been awarded, by decree of the President, Ushakov Medals.

"This is Russia's highest award for naval merit, second only to Hero of Russia. Being a high state award, these medals can only be presented in person, by an embassy diplomat or a high ranking British official."

At the ceremony it was described as "the equivalent of one step below the Victoria Cross".

As part of the ceremony, renowned Russian sculptor Leonty Usov also donated a wooden bust of Mikhail Sholokhov, the Russian Nobel prize laureate in literature, to Warrington Borough Council.

The donation was on behalf

of the people of Tomsk and was received by Mayor Faisal Rashid.

Cllr Rashid said: "We are honoured to be presenting these courageous men with awards to mark their gallantry in serving their country in the Second World War.

"We are also delighted to be able to thank Mr Usov for his wonderful work of art that will be displayed in the Town Hall."

The Arctic Convoys of the Second World War sailed from the UK, North America and Iceland to ports in northern Russia between August 1941 and May 1945. About 1,400 merchant ships delivered supplies to aid the Russian fight against Nazi Germany and were escorted by Royal Navy ships. The Navy lost 16 warships and 85 of the merchant vessels were sunk.

Receiving the award were veterans from Warrington, Runcorn, St Helens and Widnes.




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Soldier trains in jungle warfare techniques

A WARRINGTON soldier is training in jungle warfare techniques deep in the rainforests of Central America.

Corporal Martin Shaw 34, who serves with the 2nd Battalion The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment, is working alongside the Belize Defence Force (BDF) – some of the world's best tropical warriors.

The former Padgate High School pupil has been in the Army for 10 years and has served in Canada, Kenya, the Falkland Islands, Iraq and three tours in Afghanistan. He is now in Belize for a month working in energy-sapping humidity and temperatures of more than 30°C.

Martin said: "I actually joined the Army for a bet. I had a mate who joined the Royal Logistics Corps and he was telling me I would not be able to cope with it, so I did it to show him that I could. It was the best thing I ever did."

Martin is in Belize along with more than 100 others from the battalion's Blenheim Company, learning how to survive and fight in some of the toughest conditions on the planet.

He said: "We're based in the primary jungle which is very dense, hot, humid and sweaty. We work really hard during daylight but at night we get to rest well in our hammocks – which are great; they keep us off the ground and away from the bugs. We've also got a river nearby which we can dip in and have a wash after training."

Perhaps the hardest work has been at Sibun Gorge. The location's holiday brochure natural beauty hides a deadly arsenal of snakes including the giant boa constrictor and the venomous Fer de Lance. The region's lush vegetation, hilly terrain and still air, thick with humidity, add an extra dimension to the daily tests of survival, navigation and attack.

Exercise Mayan Warrior examined how well personnel adapt to such a demanding environment. Soldiers live in the wild, sleeping in tree-slung hammocks and drinking river water they purify themselves. British Army jungle warfare instructors and soldiers from the Belize Defence Force educate the 2 LANCs personnel in how to navigate the featureless jungle, move through it undetected and strike enemy positions fast and hard from close quarters.

Martin, who is married to Emma, said: "I love my job. I've been in Belize through the Army once before and I thought that would be a once in a lifetime opportunity, but lucky enough here I am again. I do enjoy the big exercises like this one and I'd rather be doing this here than on a cold training area back in the UK!"



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As we continue to jet-set toward 2020, things are not going to slow down. How we shop and interact with brands is set to continue even further toward a fully digitalised and engaged relationship.

I expect that by 2020, we'll be walking into stores wearing Google glasses and are likely to have a personalised shopping experience, or guided tour, by that brands 'digital customer experience team'.

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You might be reading this in horror, or possibly disbelief – but I fully expect this to be a reality very soon. What is important to realise, is that a personalised marketing strategy is not only achievable by big brands.

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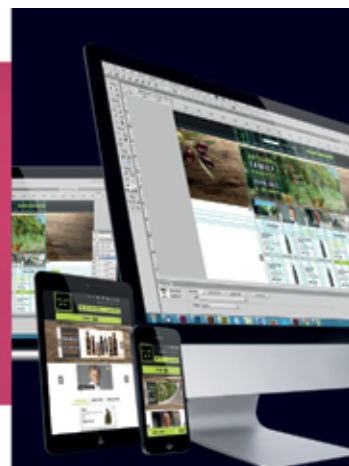
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'Royal' Garden Party success

THE Mayor of Warrington Cllr. Faisal Rashid opened up the town hall for a special garden party to help celebrate the queen's 90th birthday.

The event took place at the back of the town hall as hundreds of people brought along picnics to help celebrate the Queen's birthday.

Showers failed to dampen spirits as Mayors from other town's attended along with parish council chairs and other civic dignitaries including the Queen's representative for Cheshire Lord Lt.

David Briggs.

During the event the Mayor was presented with two special pencil drawings by family friend and local taxi driver KH Khalid – one of Cllr Rashid and one of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth.

Also pictured (right) are Michele and Martin Butterworth and her majesty enjoying a copy of [warrington-worldwide](http://www.warrington-worldwide.co.uk).



Long-awaited medical centre gets the go-ahead

PLANNING chiefs have given the go-ahead for the long-awaited new medical centre for the Chapelford Urban Village area of Warrington.

Members of the borough council's development management committee approved proposals put forward by NHS Property Services for the centre on land forming part of the Chapelford Neighbourhood Centre in Santa Rosa Boulevard.

The centre will include a GP surgery and a pharmacy, together with parking space and the scheme replaces an earlier one approved in 2013 but never implemented. There will be six consulting rooms and two treatment rooms, together with potential for future expansion. Opening hours have yet to be decided, but will be restricted by condition to a maximum of 8am to 8pm Monday to Saturday and no opening on Sundays and Bank Holidays.

Planners say the building's pavilion-like design will help to visually link Dakota Park with the village centre and sit very comfortably among the "family" of buildings nearby. There is scope for planting close to three sides of the building.

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Comic Con success as Warrington rocks!

THOUSANDS of people packed into Warrington town centre as Super Heroes descended upon the town when the annual Comic Con visited the town's market.

While the Super Heroes were joined by Dr Who and the Daleks and various characters from Star Wars along with Titan the Robot to entertain the crowds at Warrington Market, the town started to rock at

Golden Square as the Warrington Music Festival kicked into life.

Various local bands, including Ellie Dibben from Lymm, entertained the crowds in glorious sunshine.



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St Rocco's Starlight Walk raises £125k in pledges

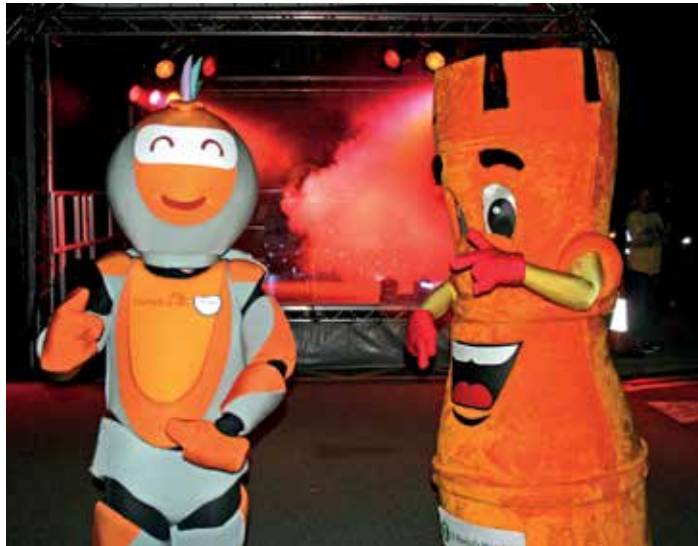
THE 11th annual St Rocco's Hospice Starlight Walk has raised £125k in pledges taking the total amount made in donations since the first event to around £2 million, involving around 14,000 women!

An estimated 2,000 women took to the streets of Warrington during the night to take part in the event at Orford Park's Jubilee Hub.

Mayor of Warrington Cllr Faisal Rashid, who is a trustee at St Rocco's, was on hand to launch the

walkers on their way.

Hospice Matron Alison White, who said she never ceased to be amazed by the inspirational women taking part, paid tribute to Labour MP Jo Cox who had tragically lost her life.



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By David Watkinson

A look to the future

As I write this the In/Out EU referendum is in full swing.

By the time you read this the referendum will all be over, and one of the biggest questions ever voted upon by the British public will have been decided. Whilst I think I know how I will vote it is certainly not an easy decision, and it has not been helped by quality of the debate which has frequently amounted to little more than personal insults aimed at the leaders of the opposing camp. But despite all of this there is one thing that I do hope, and that is that there is a large turnout. Whatever the final decision it is important that the result can be seen as a genuine reflection of the wishes of the electorate.

I have also just watched England beat Wales 2:1 in Euro 2016. As I have Wales in the office sweep it would seem that my chances of winning are, like Wales, much diminished. Again, by the time you read this the result will be in.

Having used nearly half my word allocation without mentioning taxation I thought I might try and void the "t" word for the rest of this column. Everybody has their own personal and professional milestones, and I thought I might ponder on a couple of my own that are approaching over the next few months.

Firstly, in July I become an official wrinkle, and will start to draw my pension. However, I am being thoroughly modern in my outlook and will be continuing to work, so you will have to suffer a few more of these ramblings before I pass on the baton. Does that mean that I will be delaying drawing my pension? No way. The government is too keen on increasing the age at which it can be drawn so I will be getting it as soon as it is available. One thing no government has yet done is to take something away from someone already receiving it.

Secondly, next year it will be 25 years since I first set up in practise down in Orford Lane, and I am proud of the fact that a large proportion of the clients who came to me in that first year are still clients of the practise today. To those, as well as to the many other clients of the practise, I would like to say thank you for your past support and look forward to working with you in the future.

Normally I would now finish by saying that WatkinsonBlack are pleased to advise on these and other matters. This month we could be entering the unknown. Due to considerable experience in all areas of taxation and business services, including providing a very cost-effective payroll bureau service, we will continue to be able to advise on whatever the future throws at us. If you want to arrange a no-obligation initial meeting on any taxation or accounting matter then please contact the writer Dave Watkinson, my business partner of 20 plus years Margaret Black, or any other member of the team.

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VPX set to return for a ninth year

THE Victoria Park Experience (VPX) will return this summer to offer young people the opportunity to try something new during their six week school holidays.

VPX is now in its ninth year after being set up by PCSOs Tom Reid and Tony Spruce in 2008 to help tackle anti-social behaviour.

The free event will take place on Victoria Park on the first four Tuesdays in August, 2, 9, 16 and 23, running from 11pm-4pm.

The usual activities will be back including the climbing wall, boxing, archery, farm animals, touch rugby and football amongst many others with new activities for this year's event including an outdoor lazer quest.

This year, VPX will also host an inclusion zone where blind football will be on offer to raise awareness of what it's like to play sport with a disability.

Last year 5,000 young people from across Warrington and Cheshire attended VPX and the event's organisers, Cheshire Police and LiveWire, hope this year's event will be even bigger.

PCSO, Tony Spruce, said: "We're really excited to be putting on VPX for

another year.

"Over the past nine years we've really seen the relationship between the police and young people in the area improve thanks to VPX.

"We've also seen a number of young volunteers who've worked with us to develop the event go on to secure employment or places on training courses."

VPX 2016 is sponsored by Warrington Borough Council's South Neighbourhood Board, Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service and a number of local businesses.

Paul Flannery, neighbourhood engagement officer at LiveWire, said: "It's fantastic to be involved in VPX and to see the difference it makes to young people across Warrington.

"There are a number of opportunities for young people to get involved with this year's event including helping with the organisation beforehand and supporting different activities on the day."

Girl of seven smashes record in fundraiser

A SEVEN-year-old girl from Warrington has completed 50 widths of a swimming pool to raise money for Claire House Children's Hospice.

Taylor Lee completed the feat at Orford Jubilee Neighbourhood Hub in just 30 minutes – thought to be a record time for someone her age.

The Callands Primary School pupil has raised £335 so far, smashing through her original target of £300.

Taylor said: "I didn't think I would be at all nervous, but as the swim drew nearer I started to get butterflies in my tummy. I didn't want to let all those people down who have sponsored me and I also wanted to stay true to my promise to Claire House."

The hospice offers care, support and choice to families whose children won't live to be adults.

The sponsored swim was Taylor's own idea as she wanted to raise as much money as possible for the cause.

Taylor's mum Jenn added: "Taylor is a loving daughter who never ceases to amaze me. Seeing her get into the swimming pool made me ooze with pride as she forged ahead with the task in hand stopping just twice to catch her breath.

"The staff at LiveWire have been extremely helpful in organising and providing the facility for Taylor to complete her mission. We'd both like to say a great big thank you for their help and support and also a massive thank you to all those who've kindly made donations to such a wonderful cause."

Anyone who would like to make a donation should visit: www.justgiving.com/taylor-lee



Kathleen dreams of Olympic gold



WARRINGTON swimmer Kathleen Dawson has talked about her hopes for the 2020 Olympics following her victory at the European Swimming Championships.

The 18-year-old was selected to represent Great Britain for the first time at a senior international meet after narrowly missing out on a spot at this year's Olympics.

She won a bronze medal in the 100m backstroke at the London Aquatic Centre, breaking her own Scottish record with a time of 59.68 seconds – making her the fastest ever female 100m Scottish Backstroke swimmer, breaking the 60 second barrier.

She was also part of the team that took home a gold medal for Great Britain in the 400m medley relay.

Kathleen, said: "It was amazing to win not just one but two medals. I went along to the championships as part of the younger squad so it was a massive achievement.

"I'm going to continue training hard and keep on trying to improve with the aim of being part of Team GB at Tokyo 2020."

The Barrow Hall College student has been swimming at LiveWire pools since the age of six, and has been part of the Warrington Warriors team since she was nine.

She said: "When I was in primary school my goal was to swim at the Olympics so to come this far is surreal.

"My dream now is to break the world record for the 100m backstroke and win an Olympic gold, and I believe with the support I have around me I can achieve this.

"My coach, Darren Ashley and my parents have been fully supportive and have mentored me through the good and the bad times."

The A-Level student has taken her exams in Geography and Art while she's been travelling to competitions and she hopes to secure a place to study at the University of Stirling next year.

The university is known for its sporting excellence and four of its students have been chosen to represent Team GB in Rio this summer.

Paul Dawson, Kathleen's dad, added: "We're really proud of Kathleen and of the courage and perseverance she's shown through her swimming.

"We're thankful for the tremendous support she's been given from her coach, Darren and the LiveWire swimming programme. It was Darren who recognised Kathleen's talent at a young age.

"Great Sankey High School and Barrow Hall College have also supported Kathleen to complete her studies around her training."

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