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# Editor's Comment

## MY heart goes out to the families and friends of Warrington band Viola Beach which ranks as one of the most heart-breaking tragedies I have ever reported on during a career spanning more than three decades in my home town.

The inquest which took place in Warrington has left many questions unanswered and we will probably never really know what happened that tragic night in Sweden.

Five young men tragically lost their lives on the brink of achieving their dream of making it as a band. It has come as some comfort that

they achieved a number one album and their memory will live on with

a lasting legacy. As a town Warrington has already led by example in the way we have remembered the young boys, Tim Parry and Johnathan Ball, who lost their lives in the Warrington bombing and I am sure Viola Beach will also forever have a place in our hearts.

As Warrington approaches the first anniversary of the tragic death of the band members this coming February hopefully a lasting memorial can soon be unveiled in the town.

Meanwhile as we approach another new year Warrington continues to develop as a town at great pace, with the redevelopment of the town centre, going hand in hand with new housing developments.

While this is all fantastic news I do fear how our highways will cope with the increased traffic.

Yes new bridges are on the horizon - but will they help alleviate the ongoing problems every time there are road works or accidents on the surrounding motorway networks? It doesn't take much to bring Warrington to a complete standstill.

Then when I see the ongoing work on bus lanes (do we really



need them?) and traffic lights on roundabouts I do wonder whether our highway planners actually drive around town during rush hour to see the outcomes of their work.

There seems to be no shortage of money when it comes to carrying out roadworks or "highway out roadworks or "highway improvements," yet the ongoing traffic problems persist. If we want to continue to prosper as a town the road networks need sorting out!



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## How Warrington got to be so active!

WARRINGTON'S achievement, in becoming the most active borough in the North West, is due to a number of local organisations working together to increase the number of people taking part in sport.

The town's biggest provider of sport and leisure activities is, however, LiveWire, which last year provided 4,233 hours of sports activity across 2,498 sessions activity across 2,498 sessions through their Active LiveWire team.

Emma Hutchinson, managing director of LiveWire, said: "It's fantastic that Warrington has topped the regional chart for the first time following significant increases in adult participation.

"This builds on the consistently strong performance we have seen

in participation among young people for some time. "Becoming the most active local authority in the region was one of the headline aims of our last business plan, and it is testament to the hard work of staff at LiveWire and our partner organisations to have achieved this

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The figures released by Sport England and Active Cheshire, also show that the Cheshire and Warrington sub-region was the second most active in the Country.

second most active in the Country. They show that 43.1 per cent of over 16s in Warrington took part in at least 30 minutes of physical activity at least once a week – an increase of 7 per cent on last year. It was also revealed that Warrington is the second best

Warrington is the second best performing area in the region for junior sports participation with 42.9 per cent of 14-16 year olds taking part in at least 30 minutes of moderate, intensity sport each week.

The survey, which assesses every local authority in England, propels Warrington into 36th place nationally for over-16 participation and 43rd position for 14-16 years



participation. Nationally, the Active People Survey also showed that more people than ever are getting active. The number now stands at 15.97 million people over the age of 16 playing sport weekly. That's up 229,400 from 12

months ago and is 1.88 million more than when London won the right to host the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

In Warrington, LiveWire ran their own "This Girl Can" programme and supported 32 inactive females from across Warrington to take part in a range of activities such as horse riding, indoor wall climbing, archery and golf as well as tennis,

archery and golt as well as tennis, running, trampoline classes and ladies only boxing. Anne Boyd, Active Cheshire CEO said: "I know local partners will be thrilled with this result as it demonstrates what's possible through collaboration. Improving levels of physical activity locally can have a dramatic effect on the can have a dramatic effect on the health of our communities and must not be overlooked as a 'nice to do' but viewed as an important part of everyday life. Congratulations and thanks to all involved in achieving this impressive result."

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I have spoken to so many people over recent months who have expressed how difficult 2016 has been for various reasons. Many more simply say they will be pleased to leave 2016 in the past.

In fairness I have spoken to some who have felt the opposite, some who have reit the opposite, 2016 being a great year for them, and that was really nice to hear. Personally I have had better years, more could have been achieved if several health issues hadn't got in the way. I will remember some very special people who are no longer here, and be grateful for knowing them and the things I learned from them.

As I write, our 16 month old grandson is running around and generally making us laugh with his antics. He is full of curiosity, seeing new things all the time, accepting some boundaries which are there to protect him, always exploring and living life in every moment he is awake.

And yet we can do the same, no matter our age. We hope to get over our illnesses, we accept the passing of dear friends because life goes on. We can chose to see life anew. We can set our goals and aspirations. We can roll with the knocks and get back on our feet. No one ever said life would be easy, nor without its dangers. Life is dangerous, it has a 100% mortality rate

If we decide we want a better year for ourselves and our loved ones, most of us have to work for ones, most of us have to work for it, to accept the setbacks and to plough on, but the rewards are worth it. Regular readers will know my old school motto was, and still is 'Perseverance' (Definition: steady persistence in a course of action, a purpose, a state, etc., especially in spite of difficulties, obstacles, or discouragement.)

If we persevere through hardship and difficulties we will eventually prevail. Don't let anyone tell you, that you cannot be or do more. If they do, tell them to stand aside and watch (and be quiet while you exceed their limitations, and push

This year I have been spending more time in the country, walking and climbing and generally creating time for me. It is with some degree of hope, planning and selfdegree of hope, planning and selfbelief that I expect to make 2017 better than last year. And I hope to

Michael Mahoney is a Clinical lypnotherapist has research and patient trials



and partient indis experience. He is a member of the Hypnotherapy Association, an associate of the Primary Care Society for Gastroenterology, based at Woolston Surgery, Neighbourhood Hub, Warrington WA1 4PN.

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help many of you in the process. Already I have launched a new website www.healthyaudio hypnosis.com with tried and trusted audio programs, single session recordings, electronic gift vouchers and discounts too. Go there and see what's on offer!

Now is the time dear reader,

Now is the time dear reader, if you haven't done so already, to get planning your 2017, plan your hopes, and dreams and be determined to make them a reality. If you don't know how to plan and structure, let me help you. If you need confidence, or life-coaching, to reduce your stress or anxiety, IBS or insomnia, business performance skills L am here to anxiety, IBS or insomnia, business performance skills I am here to help. If you have a problem of mind, body or emotion, fear or phobia email me. If you are not sure I can help, email me. Your future is in yours hands. The success of your 2017 is in your hands. I have guided many in the

hands. I have guided many in the past, let me guide you!



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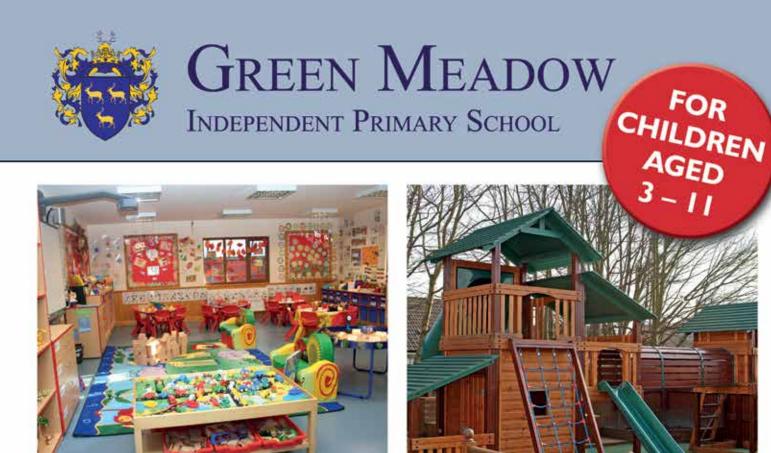
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#### Warrington Business

## **Warrington Means Business**

At the time of writing, last Saturday (3 December) marked, for me, the start of the Christmas season and of course the joys of Christmas shopping! It was perhaps no co-incidence that Small Business Saturday launched their campaign to support local businesses, and encouraged shoppers to shop local.

Warrington & Co. lent its support of the need to shop local and support our grass roots businesses, so that they can grow and flourish.

and grow and flourish. At this time of year you can't help thinking about the opportunities and resolutions for the New Year, and reflect on the past 12 months' achievements. Warrington's skyline changed significantly this year, with the rise of The Base and the University Technical College along with the demolition of the old market multi storey car park, and the pace of change isn't set to slow any time soon. The temporary market hall will be finished early in the New Year ready for its comprehensive fit out, and market traders will move in during the summer. At ground level there have been some positive changes too such as

the summer. At ground level there have been some positive changes too such as the underpass works that link Foundry Street and the Bus Interchange, these have significantly improved the link through from Stadium Quarter across to Golden Square. In March we'll be announcing the winning contractor for the main build of the Time Square scheme. This will include the new market hall, council offices, public realm, cinema and restaurants. We'll also be in a position to announce the first four family friendly restaurants who have signed

up. And there are some exciting names in there too!

To support the developments and the new Warrington market, the 1,160 space multi storey car park will open up mid-summer, with state of the art electric car charging points and family friendly parking friendly parking. In the town centre it's encouraging

In the town centre it's encouraging and great to welcome many new business arrivals including Crawshaws, who opened in the Summer, A & D Needham jewellers who have moved from Legh Street, Phone Clinic, Barbers No.1, Peter Walsh Hairdressing and Hop & Co., also the many new arrivals at the Market including Italian Produce Direct, the Thai delicatessen and the Craft Room and over at Golden Square, Footlocker and Lambretta amongst others. amongst others.

amongst others. Elsewhere, across the town, Omega continues to thrive. The speculatively built 365,000sq ft unit is complete and Omega Warrington Limited will shortly be announcing who has taken occupancy. The massive 600,000 sq ft unit for Asda Walmart will open in March 2017. It is the most advanced logistics facility in Europe and cost £80 million to fit out. The Hut Group are already operating from their similarly sized unit at Omega, which when fully operational it will employ up to 3000

people. The new manufacturing unit for Domino Pizza is under construction and will be completed in Summer creating hundreds more jobs.

and will be completed in Summer creating hundreds more jobs. We know that growth can't happen without some significant infrastructure changes, and we're looking at plans to address this, to keep Warrington moving. Next year we'll begin improvement works to Junction 8 of the M62 to assist traffic flow. We're also planning to build a bridge over the River Mersey off Chester Road on to Centre Park and assist traffic flow at Bridge Foot. Subject to funding work will begin on the construction of Warrington West Railway Station too. It was very positive news that last month the Government announced in the Autumn Statement funding for further feasibility studies into Warrington Western Link; the high level bridge that would link Warrington West across to Warrington South. An additional £11.2 million was also granted through the Local Growth Fund for further infrastructure improvement works at Birchwood and at Omega. There's so much happening, and at such pace that we have had to update 'Warrington Means Business' ahead of schedule. This important document

'Warrington Means Business' ahead of schedule. This important document of schedule. This important document is Warrington Borough Council and Warrington & Co.'s ambitious framework for economic growth. The first version launched in 2013 has achieved development projects totalling £750 million creating over 4 500 ibits 4,500 jobs.

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# Carpe Diem rank in the Drum Top Agencies 2016

#### At Carpe Diem around this time of year we get ready for the Digital Census results from The Drum.

The Drum is Europe's #1 marketing news website and every year they compile a list of the UK's best digital agencies. The census is carried out by RAR (Recommended Agencies Register) who collate Agencies Register), who collate independent information on agencies direct from clients, which makes the Drum Digital Census one of the most widely recognised awards for agencies in the UK.

awards for agencies in the UK. We have continually ranked in the Top 50 agencies since first joining RAR in 2011, and this year is no exception, with the company again breaking into the Top 50. After taking on large brands like Warrington based Certas Energy and continuing our fantastic work

and continuing our fantastic work with existing clients, we came 30th out of the 8,100 companies registered with RAR. This is a good improvement from last year where we came 45th.

we came 4.5th. Bill Carr, Managing Director of Carpe Diem commented: "I want to say a big thank you to all of our staff, clients and partners for making 2016 a very successful

"Our performance in the census shows that the team are delivering a great service and results to our clients, and we will continue to do so. We enjoy working with clients that are looking to grow their business. Many of our clients are established businesses who already have a web presence that is not performing as well as they hoped, or they have been over promised and under delivered by their existing agency. Therefore, we spent a lot of time and effort to build relationships with clients and understand their business, and their aspirations, so that we can deliver a solution that will drive the business forward. The demands are often high and challenging, but we enjoy a challenge and seeing the results our work brings to clients. "2017 is going to be an exciting year as we look to grow the team further and provide the best parsible convice and result for our

possible service and results for our clients.

Carpe Diem are offering a FREE consultation to Warrington companies that are looking to grow their business, as well as being able to provide access to 40% grant funding towards projects (terms and conditions apply). Please contact us on 01925

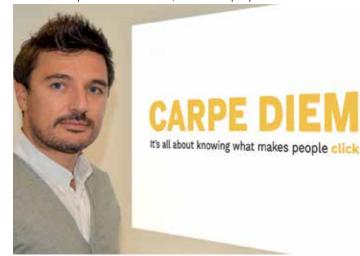
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About Carpe Diem Carpe Diem specialise in working with companies that are looking to grow their businesses online, and regularly deliver benefits to our

client of over 200% increase in website or app performance and

engagement. Carpe Diem has a team of marketing strategists, designers, technologist and developers that work with business to develop websites, apps and deliver online marketing campaigns.

They work with many clients in the sports industry, including New Balance, Warrior, Lancashire C.C.C and ASICS, for whom they have developed their website,



e-commerce platform and delivered marketing campaigns since 2001.

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Bill Carr - MD of Carpe Diem.

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Pyramid ParrHall

## Lecture series on history of Burtonwood base

A SERIES of three lectures on the history of RAF Burtonwood, and in particular the American occupation, during and after world war 2, is to be held in Warrington, on Monday evenings January 16, 23 and 30.

They will be given by Burtonwood Association founder and honorary lifetime president Aldon Ferguson at the Gulliver's Hotel, next to the association's heritage centre. Mr Ferguson said: "Our aim is

Mr Ferguson said: "Our aim is to preserve the memory of the work undertaken at Burtonwood in war and peace and the achievements of the men and women, American and local, who worked there, for future generations.

"i have so much material – photos, move clips and stories, that it has to be split into three sessions."

Admission is free for Burtonwood association members or a single payment of £5 for one, two or all three lectures, for non-members.

To reserve a place, call Aldon Ferguson on 079 121 48938 or email aldonpf@aol.com

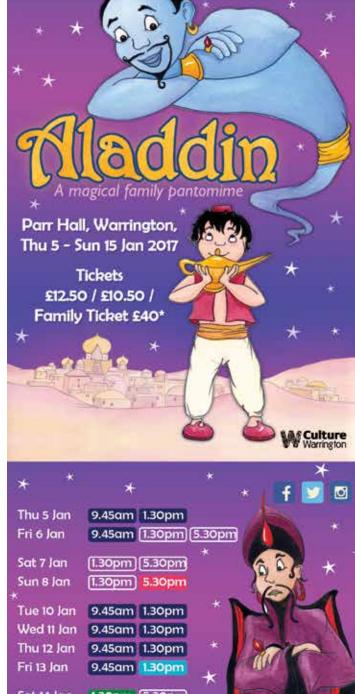
The Burtonwood airfield first opened in 1940 and was transferred to the US Army in 1942. It was at one time the largest airfield in Europe, with 18,000 servicemen and women stationed there and played a key role during the Berlin Airlift in 1948-48.

It again became a major US

base in 1966 when it became what was said to be the largest military storage depot in Europe after the US were forced to close down depots in France. The main warehouse was said to be the largest building under a single roof in Europe

in Europe. The base finally closed in 1994 and the site is now largely occupied by the Omega development site and Chapelford urban village.





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Report and picture: Paul Jackson



After his football career ended Roger began the Roger Hunt 11

WARRINGTON'S most famous footballing son, world cup winner Roger Hunt, has been made an Honorary Freeman of the Borough by the council. charity where, along with other sports people helped raise money for a wide range of charities. He supported the wife of his team mate Bobby Moore, Stephanie, with the fund in his name. St. Rocco's and Alder Hay Hensitel ware aloo and Alder Hey Hospital were also helped by Roger and more recently he helped to provide support and funds for the families affected by the Hillsborough tragedy. He remains a patron of The Warrington Wolves

patron of The Warrington Wolves Charitable Foundation. Locally the former player has been instrumental in Culture Warrington winning a grant from the F.A. to celebrate England's world cup victory in 1966. This year marks the 50th. anniversary of the win and Roger opened a special exhibition, held at the Lymm Hotel, which had hosted the famous Brazil squad. Roger continues to live locally in Croft with his wife Rowan and is a humble man despite being

a sporting legend and one of Warrington's finest.

Accepting his award Roger thanked the members of the Council and everybody involved for bestowing him this honour. It overwhelmed him as he is a hometown boy and a very proud Warringtonian. He went on to thank Gpeff Settle, former Mayor and Liverpool supporter, who had been instrumental in proposing the Freeman of Warrington accolade be given to one of his hero's.

He was presented with his An and the work of the second with the second with the second sec Foot!



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## Warrington Town get Active

WARRINGTON Town FC are delighted to announce a new community partnership with Active Cheshire.

The partnership will see Warrington Town helping promote the work of Active Cheshire in the local community, as the club's new community partner. Warrington Town's Club mascot The Legend teamed up with Active Cheshire's mascot Active Archie to help kick start the partnership. Warrington Town Chairman Toby Macormac said: "We are delighted to be working in Partnership with Active Cheshire in the local community. "Partnerships the this are the lifebload of our community football club and

"Partnerships like this are the lifeblood of our community football club and will help us deliver community activities, which in turn will help encourage people to be more active.

Active Cheshire Chief Operating Officer Adam Norris said: "This partnership is a great opportunity to work with a club that is rooted in the local community and has an appetite to make a difference locally. We look forward to working with the club to encourage more people into active lifestyles.

Picture shows Active Archie teaming up with the Legend watched by Active Cheshire's Adam Norris and Warrington Chairman Toby Macormac.



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## Mayor's charity on track to raise more than £50,000



WARRINGTON Mayor Cllr Faisal Rashid has announced that the Mayor's Charity fund has raised nearly £40,000 during his first six months in post.

Because of the unprecedented success of his fundraising events Cllr Rashid has decided to support more charities for the rest of his tenure.

charities for the rest of his fenure. The current charities selected by the Mayor – Warrington Disability Partnership, St Rocco's Hospice, Brainwave and The Tim Parry Johnathan Ball Foundation for Peace will all benefit from at least S10.000 £10,000.

The Mayor has decided to add Warrington Foodbank, Warrington YMCA and Refugee Aid NW (Care

UK). Cllr Rashid said: "We have been phenomenally successful with fundraising so far and I thought it would be a great idea to spread some of this good fortune. It's taken a lot of hard work to get this far but it's very rewarding to think about how many people we can help with how many people we can help with

this money. "I look forward to my team and I achieving even more over the next six months. It's been a very busy six months so far and we have our music competition, Christmas party, breaking the barriers, Warrington's Got Talent, charity ball and achievement awards to

look forward to. "I would like to thank all the businesses who have supported our charities – especially our Circle members. I would also like to thank the digital, communications and mayoral staff at Warrington Borough Council for their hard work. Most of all I would like to thank the people of Warrington for their support and generosity.

For more details on mayoral events please see www.warrington. gov.uk/mayor

## Personas

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What compels one person to buy from you, might be a complete turn-off to another, regardless of what industry you're in.

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By taking the time to understand your customer profile segments, you can start to communicate the values, benefits and service qualities your prospect groups are searching for.

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your communications has consistently shown to increase sales conversion rates, both off and on-line.

Helping new clients to define the personas they want to connect with is the first process we go through and shapes all future marketing campaigns.

A website, email or social media post is only a channel we use to communicate through. If the message you're sending out isn't personalised or focused on a target persona, then you're at risk of wasting your time.

This is one reason why we use advanced website technologies that automate customer

segmentation and deliver personalised communications based on pre-defined persona groups.

Our website solutions calculate what's of interest to individual prospects and then delivers a personalised experience in order to maximise conversion rates

This can be as simple as personalising a welcome back message to an existing customer or as complex as nurturing a lead over multiple visits to your website across numerous campaigns.



If you'd like to find out more about marketing automation and profile personas, speak to Warrington's digital engagement agency 'Dreamscape' today



01925 755 960 www.dreamscape-design.co.uk



## New owners, same team at the Rams Head

#### NEW owners have moved into the Rams Head pub in old Grappenhall village, where it is business as usual with the same team.

Mujdat Karatas and his wife Joanna have taken over the pub which is next

door to the primary school where she used to work. Born in Stockton Heath and also having worked at St Matthew's Primary School in Stretton and Grappenhall Heys Primary School, Joanna is well known in the local community.

In the local community. The couple also run pubs in Uttoxter and Burscough, but have decided to make the Rams Head their family home. "We have developed a good relationship with the staff and are delighted they have decided to stay on," said Mujdat, who has worked in the industry for 30 years, starting out as a part-time bar man at Statham Lodge in Lymm. He left as an assistant manger and went into the pub trade in 1995, starting his own business in 2001. business in 2001.

"Our motto is to create a friendly atmosphere, using fresh local produce as much as we can, while keeping good ales and serving fine wines. "We believe your success is down to your staff as they are the soldiers on

the ground. "It is also a big plus that we are making the Rams Head our family home as we will be part of the local community," added Mujdat. Regular visitors to the pub will see familiar faces including Mickael Picard, Graham Newton, Dermot Ryan, Stuart Roscoe and Adam Bascom.



**Fish Friday Specials Quiz Night Sundays 8.30pm** 

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## Jade becomes youngest woman councillor

TWENTY one-year-old Jade Mitchell has triumphed in a hotly-contested by-election for a seat on Burtonwood parish council and in doing so has become the youngest woman councillor in Warrington.

She fended off challenges from an independent candidate and from the UK Independence Party. The vacancy occurred following

the resignation of a parish councillor for personal reasons. Jade, Labour, polled 52 per cent of all votes cast. The full result was: Jade Mitchell (Lab) 314; Paul Hancock (Ind) 287; Ian Wilson (UKIP) 74.

There was a 24.2 turn out.

After the result was declared, Jade said: "I am honoured and delighted that residents in Burtonwood and Collins Green have elected me to represent them on the perigh courcil. L will work on the parish council. I will work hard over the next few years to deliver on the promises I made

during the election. "My campaign focused on the 'bread and butter' issues which affect people throughout the village. I am determined to fulfil my arguing fact being fact blead and promise to bring fresh blood and

Fresh ideas to the table." A spokesperson for Warrington North Labour Party said: "We are delighted that voters in Burtonwood and Collins Green chose to put their trust and faith in Jade at this by-election. We are proud that she has now become the youngest elected female representative in Warrington.

"Jade is a dedicated and passionate advocate for her home community, where she grew up and went to school. We know that she will deliver on her commitments to local residents as soon as she takes her seat on the Parish Council.

Warrington North MP Helen Jones added: "I am very pleased that voters have chosen to elect Jade. She will be an excellent parish councillor for Burtonwood it is particularly good news to see another young, woman councillor representing local people."



## Don't miss your place at Birchwood College. The college 'Where you Matter'

BIRCHWOOD College provides a post 16 learning experience tailored to support the aspirations and goals of every individual who attends.

attends. Recognised by Ofsted in 2016 as 'Inclusive & Aspirational' and having 'High Quality Provision', Birchwood College puts their students first – allowing them to develop both academically and personally in a friendly and purposeful atmosphere purposeful atmosphere.

Birchwood College offer a full complement of A Level and Level 3 BTEC Qualifications delivered

by subject specialists in a purposeby subject lists in a probability subject lists in a probability college with excellent facilities, including science and sport laboratories, a dedicated media computer suite and great performing arts spaces. The college also offers a programme of study for students who wish to improve their qualifications at Level 2.

Being the only sixth form college on the east side of Warrington, Birchwood College has an excellent reputation evidenced outstanding results, with student being supported bv each through to either the next stage of their academic journey, or into employment.

They also recognise sed for holistic development need and offer students an extensive enrichment programme filled with academic and social activities. This is combined with advice and guidance from staff who really care, ensuring that students are ready for the challenges after further education.

Find out more by visiting their Open Evening on January 19, 6-8pm





## **Classic rock takes** centre stage at Parr Hall

#### CLASSIC rock fans in Warrington were treated to a double dose of high voltage rock 'n' roll at the town's Parr Hall.

Thin Lizzy tribute band LimeHouse Lizzy teamed up with AC/DC tribute act LiveWire to take local rock fans on a trip down memory lane.

From their opening number Jailbreak, Lizzy, described as the number one Thin Lizzy tribute band in the world, delivered a powerful set of crowd favourites, including The Boys are Back in Town, Killer on the Loose, Cold Sweat, China Town and many more, finishing with Whisty in the lar

with Whisky in the Jar. Then with little time to get their breath back the crowd were duly entertained by LiveWire AC/ DC, who have built up a strong following in the town, visiting the Parr Hall, for the third consecutive year

year. While key members of the line-up may have changed, they still deliver a high voltage set, starting with the Bon Scott era, with old favourites like Livewire, Sin City and Highway to Hell, before switching midset to the Brian Johnson era, with Back to Hell, before switching midset to the Brian Johnson era, with Back in Black, Hells Bells, Shoot to Thrill and crowd favourite Thunderstruck to name but a few, before the grand finale of For Those about to Rock, along with canons! With Thin Lizzy sadly no more, and AC/DC now only doing large stadiums these days, this is as close as you will get to the real thing in a venue like the Parr Hall.





TM

## Withington's winning ways

WITHINGTON Girls' School have been celebrating a series of wins in a wide range of pursuits across the whole age range of the school community from Junior pupils, through Sixth Form to teaching staff.

Year 6 girls took part in the Manchester Schools Pop Lacrosse tournament in which twelve teams girls won all five of their matches, scoring a total of 40 goals in the scoring a total or 40 goals in the process. Pop Lacrosse is a mixed game of five-a-side, with up to 3 boys allowed in a team. WGS was the only all-girls team and will now proceed to the North West Final in March 2017 where they will represent Manchester.

A team of Year 12 students won the annual Sir Rhys Davies Mock Trial competition, contested between twelve local independent and state schools, at Manchester Crown Court. Playing the roles of defence and prosecution lawyers, defendants, witnesses, clerks and ushers, they won in the final v Bury Grammar Boys. In addition, the Withington 'court reporters' won the Manchester Evening News Law Reporting Award.

In the same week, Head of PE Mrs Mhairi Ferrol and the Leigh Women's Team won the Mail on Sunday National Golf Club Classic competition at the El Rompido course in Spain. They claimed a 4-1 win over Bude & North Cornwall, having won against Scottish champions, Burntisland in the semi-final.

Scotland Former hockey international Mrs Ferrol, who captained the team, said she hopes to get more girls interested in golf, inspire them to 'go for it' in their own chosen sport and see that 'success at national level is far from impossible if you are sufficiently dedicated and bélieve in yourself'.

ational Golf Club

Champions

2016

Pa



#### Get computer savvy

WARRINGTON residents will be able to brush up on their IT skills in the

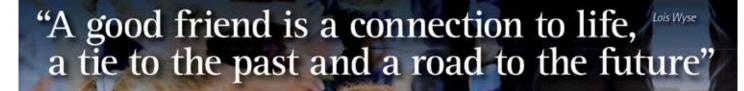
WARKINGTON residents will be able to brush up of their traskins in the New Year, with a free, three-day training course. The Neighbourhoods in Warrington team are offering the training from Wednesday 18 to Friday 20 of January from 1.30pm to 3.30pm. The classes are targeted at beginners to serve as a basic introduction to IT and aim to encourage those who are not computer savy to get online. The course will be centered on the most common uses of the internet, who as how to set up and use an email address, how to use search

such as how to set up and use an email address, how to use search engines and how to find information online. It will also teach guidance on how to upload photographs and use

different social media sites such as Facebook, Skype or YouTube, while also being secure and safe online.

Sessions will be held at Whitecross Community Centre, Lexden Street, Warrington, WA5 1PT. For more information or to book your place, call Pauline on 01925

443098.



#### **2017 ENTRANCE** EXAMINATIONS

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wgs.org

# Warrington



# NEW Indoor market opening early 2017





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## <u>£inancially</u> yours By David Watkinson

## 'Making Tax Digital'

Well that's Christmas and New Year over for another 12 months. Hopefully, you have found this period fulfilling and that you are now set up to face the cold, damp and dark days that we have ahead of us before that spring sunshine arrives again.

ē Watkinson Black

David Watkinson and Margaret Black

Of course, an accountant's New Year only arrives at the end of January when all of his client's tax returns have been submitted.

But if the taxman is to be believed all that is set to change when "Making Tax Digital" is rolled out. People in business have already had a few taster sessions of this digital "revolution". Payroll information is already required to be submitted monthly on-line in "Real Time", the new workplace pensions rely heavily on electronic submission of data, and VAT returns are now workplace and a compart

reiy neavity on electronic submission of data, and VAT returns are now exclusively electronic, as are Corporation Tax Returns and payments. However, "Making Tax Digital" will affect everyone in the tuture. For individuals the "Personal Tax Account" ("PTA") service is currently being rolled out, and will be available to all taxpayers from April. To get one you will need to first register for a Government Gateway account. You can then create your PTA, the aim of which is to bring together all of your dealings with HMRC. So what does this do? this do?

Currently, the service enables a taxpayer to:

See their tax code

Obtain a forecast of state pension entitlement Check the details held by HMRC regarding any benefits-in- kind

Check the details held by HMRC regarding any benefits-in- kind received and incorporated into your tax code
 Speed up the issue of a refund if you have overpaid tax. Normally, HMRC take up to 45 days after the calculation of a refund to send out a cheque. This can be cut to 3-5 days by entering your bank details on your PTA. However, this is only the start, and it is the aim of HMRC that the PTA will eventually replace the annual tax return, reducing under and overpayments of tax. It is also the aim to amalgamate all of the information held by HMRC in one place. This includes all of the data currently received from employers, banks, building societies, and other aovernment departments.

adia currenity received from employers, banks, building societies, and other government departments. As part of "Making Tax Digital" all businesses, including the self-employed and landlords earning in excess of £10,000 per annum, will be required to make returns of income to HMRC every quarter. We understand from HMRC that this requirement is not expected to place any additional burden or cost on the businesses affected, although we understand from HMRC that small businesses will be recomponed for the additional burden or cost that this requirement recompensed for the additional burden or cost that this requirement will entail. Make of that what you will!

WatkinsonBlack are pleased to advise on these and other matters. They have considerable experience in all areas of taxation and businesss services, including providing a very costeffective 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.





Contact David Watkinson or Margaret Black at: 1st Floor, 264 Manchester Road, Warrington

Tel: 01925 413210

or email: info@warrington accountants.co.uk www.watkinsonblack.co.uk

## **Search for** descendants of World War 1 school children

THE search is on for the descendants of school children who wrote letters to a much-loved Warrington teacher after he went away to fight in World War 1.

Sadly, George Arthur Whitfield, who lived in Stockton Heath, was killed in battle and never returned

to see his pupils or his family again. But Warrington Museum has a collection of his belongings – including letters sent to him by pupils at a school where he taught

in Arpley Street. Now the Relationships Centre and Life Skills Academy are engaging with young people through a Heritage Lottery Project, "Us and Then and Way Back When" which looks at life for young people in Warrington during

When" which looks at lite ror young people in Warrington during the years from 1912 onwards. As part of their research they are looking at the lives and outcomes for young men who left Warrington to find in the Great War. The academy is looking to trace descendants of the pupils who sent the latters to George when he was

the letters to George when he was away fighting in battle. The letters no doubt cheered him up to a great extent as he in return sent letters

William Bibby, who lived at 17 Arpley Street, Jack Isaac who lived at 20 Crosfield Street, and Jack Murray who lived at 23 Wilson Patten Street were three of the boys who George was in contact with.

Jack Isaac and John Bayly Isaac who was born in 1906 may have been one and the same person with parents named John Bayly Isaac, and Mildred Parry Isaac. The family lived at 20 Crosfield Street according to the 1911 Census

William Bibby may have been born in 1905, and his parents were John and Emma. It is believed that some of the family went on to live in Sheffield.

Jack Murray and John Barrie Murray, born in 1905 – possibly

one and the same person – may have been the son William Murray and Janet McEadin Murray.

Anyone who could be related to any of the above named boys, who sent such charming and insightful letters to George while he was on the battlefield is asked to contact The Balliefield is asked to contact Jackie Cooling, project worker, The Relationships Centre and Life Skills Academy, 19 Museum Street, Warrington. WA1 1JA Email: jacooling00@aol.com or call 01925 576757 or 07920 132669.



#### Council wins £3m bid for Junction 8 improvement work

WARRINGTON Borough Council has won a £3 million funding bid for work to improve Junction 8 of the M62. The scheme, which will be delivered by the council with additional funding from Warrington Local Enterprise Partnership and contributions from developers, will improve access from the motorway to the Omega site. Highways England has awarded the £3 million boost to the £12 million road improvement scheme from the government's new Growth and Housing Fund. The fund is a national Highways England initiative to support improvements to the strategic road network which will help create thousands of jobs and homes in the region

Improvements to the strategic road network which will help create thousands of jobs and homes in the region. The scheme forms part of the wider West Warrington package of transport improvements and supports the Local Authority and Local Enterprise Partnership's plans for the creation of more than 1,400 homes and over 10,000 new jobs in West Warrington which are served directly by Mó2 Junction 8.



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Warrington **Man of Steel** Awards 2016



## FORMER England star Stuart Pearce, a well known fan of Rugby League, was special guest at the third annual Warrington Man of Steel Awards at The Halliwell Jones Stadium.

organised The event by Warrington Wolves' Foundation celebrates those teams and individuals who excel in the great game of Rugby League across Warrington.

Radio 5 Live Presenter George Riley hosted the evening, where 300 attendees were joined by Warrington Wolves stars past and present, along with Wolves' Head of Coaching Tony Smith, who together with Pearce, provided some encouraging words for the stars of the future. Guests were entertained by the talented also choir from Sir Thomas Boteler High School.

Each of the 7 Amateur Clubs were asked to nominate their own Man of Steel, from age groups Under 12's to Under 18's, of which the top three at each age group were then shortlisted to attend the evening. Other Awards on the evening included a Play Touch Rugby League Award, a Masters Award and also 'Community Heroes', with each Amateur Club selecting an individual who has selecting an individual who has gone above and beyond for their Club.

The evening came to a close with the 'Heart and Sole of Rugby League Awards', dedicated those who have made their mark and left their legacy on our sport in Warrington. Each of the Heart and Sole winners will have their own footprint, to be displayed next to the Wire2Wolves Heritage Timeline in the South Stand at The Halliwell Jones Stadium. Congratulations to the winners

who are as follows:

Under 12's Man of Steel - Charlie Groarke (Rylands Sharks) Under 13's Man of Steel – Billy Cannon (Latchford Giants) Under 14's Man of Steel – Max Evans (Woolston Greens) Under 15's Man of Steel – Callum Turner (Rylands) Under 16's Man of Steel – Kieran

Moore (Woolston Rovers) Under 18's Man of Steel – Casey Brown (Rylands Sharks) Touch Rugby League Award – Peter

Kearney Masters Rugby League Award – Fit

to Tackle High School Award – Culcheth High School

Community Heroes Bank Quay Bulls Community Hero - Jamie Barnett

Burtonwood Bulldogs Community Hero – Alan Frith Crosfields Community Hero - Ian

Boden Culcheth Eagles Community Hero –

Andy Stephens Latchford Giants Community Hero

– Ian Mercer Rylands Sharks Community Hero -

Darren McLoughlin Woolston Rovers Community Hero – Nikki Whalley

Heart and Sole of Rugby League Award Winners Pamela Caley Mike Cooper Warren Whalley

Councillor Terry O'Neill, Chair of the Warrington and Cheshire Rugby League Management Board said: "It is fantastic to be able to recognise our young players for their achievements whilst at the same time we can recognise those who have made their mark on Rugby League in Warrington. The Rugby League Management Board have been the driving force behind this event and to see everyone together in one room is the vision we had. Now lets get more people, playing more Rugby League, more often!'

League, more otten: Special thanks goes to Stuart Middleton, Total Steelwork, Matrix Networks, Active Cheshire, Warrington Electrical Services, Warrington Electrical Services, Paul Ireland Solicitors, Signs North West and OSI for their support on the evenina



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## Mike Cooper's new role with Latchford Albion



WARRINGTON and England forward Mike Cooper is take over as director of rugby at Latchford Albion RLFC.

The club has announced the appointment which will see the Wolves star overseeing a complete restructure of the club and the introduction of a new youth section in which Lee Smith will take a pivotal role.

Current director of rugby Mick Byron will become chairman of the club with the committee's full backing

The club feels the new structure will provide a clear pathway for players to develop and progress. Mike Cooper said: "I made it clear to the club that I would help

any way I can and I'm proud to oversee the development of future players wearing Latchford's colours to hopefully full time professionals." Mick Byron added: "Latchford has a fantastic tradition in regards

to player development with current England internationals Mike and England internationals Mike and Kallum Watkins both coming through the ranks. Added to this current players Ryan Hickman and Danny Brown have both represented England Lionhearts in the last 18 months. "Connor Muir was an Albion junior and in his first full open age season he received the players

season he received the players player of the season so it shows we

player of the season so it shows we offer a great player pathway. "Having Mike on board can only improve this. We had an initial chat on his return from Australia and I was impressed with his vision and commitment which fits perfectly with the ethos of the club with the ethos of the club.

"Over the last five years the club has changed dramatically with a forward thinking committee, aided forward thinking committee, aided by local supporter Lee Birchall, allowing us to provide one of the best sporting facilities in amateur rugby which we are proud to call our home and also provides the perfect environment for players to prosper " prosper."

Latchford's open age squad are currently in pre-season training ahead of a return to the NWML premier division in 2017.

Any players, coaches, volunteers who are interested in joining Latchford's journey should contact the club via their website or social media pages.

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