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**Livewire
2017
See Page 10**


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Editor's Comment



THE ongoing saga over the future of the town's libraries looks set to rumble on until at least November.

Following the extensive public consultation members of the borough council's executive board have now decided to go back to the drawing board by forming a working party to oversee the next phase of the "modernisation" of the town's libraries.

A draft report by library operators LiveWire, which aimed to keep libraries open pending ongoing negotiations has now been shelved while representatives from the council, LiveWire and independent advisers form a working group.

One wonders what cost it has taken in man hours to get to this stage following the various public consultations – with many more hours head – all brought about by a need to cut £300,000 a year from the library budgets.

I'm glad I'm not the one who has to plan budgets for the year ahead! Meanwhile LiveWire have yet again come under fire from Warrington North MP Helen Jones, this time for not paying their staff the Living Wage.

While Warrington Borough Council, who are implementing the squeeze on LiveWire may have agreed to pay their staff the Living Wage, they are set to put up council tax by 4.98 per cent, which is way above the rate of inflation.

Many businesses up and down the country are struggling to pay the minimum wage, let alone the Living Wage and in comparison to many in their industry, the rates of pay at LiveWire, which will be £7.50 an hour from April 1st are above the average market rates in their sector.

Maybe it is time for Helen Jones to sit down with the LiveWire Board and help come up with solutions. There is an open invitation on the table from LiveWire.

It is always easy to criticise

but not so easy to come up with solutions - particularly during these times of austerity and budget cuts.

Negative thoughts and comments can create negative outcomes.

We all need to try and pull in the same direction for the benefit of our town. Even if you don't get on with people it is better to sit down at a table and discuss solutions rather than firing bullets.

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The search for optimisation

In a list of marketing options available to a modern business, is 'Search Engine Optimisation'. But is it the right decision for your business?

If you're going out for meal next weekend, would you Google "Italian Warrington"?

Apart from the uncertainty of what images Google could bring back, what is more likely to steer your decision, is reputation and peer reviews. Word of mouth, social media, TripAdvisor – these will be key elements to your choice of restaurant.

So, if your business provides customers with an experience, then optimise the experience, not necessarily your website.

On the other hand, if you're looking to buy a rucksack, you're more likely to Google "Camping Rucksack" and shop around. You're purchasing decision will also be guided by consumer reviews, but in this instance you're using Google to feed the choices available to you.

Understanding this difference will help guide your marketing choices and should mean you



Bernard McCabe - MD of Dreamscape Solutions

focus on the best channels for your business. As a business owner, it's crucial for you to know what forms of sales and marketing work best for you.

It's also important that you work with a marketing company that listens to and understands your business. One that provides pertinent advice and relevant options.

For help selecting the right forms of marketing for your company - call Warrington's digital engagement specialists; Dreamscape on 01925 755 960.

Marissa's mission to help people with eating disorders

A WARRINGTON woman is on a mission to help people conquer eating disorders.

Marissa Pendlebury, from Westbrook, is working alongside schools, colleges and universities and providing counselling.

She has also written a book and launched a website and a YouTube Channel, all called "Nourishing Route."

She said: "The book is based on my experience of overcoming anorexia nervosa, and helping individuals to learn to love food, adore their body and become themselves."

"The philosophy of Nourishing

Routes is founded on my personal experiences and academic research in nutrition, positive psychology and public health, so that I can help individuals to realise that health and happiness doesn't just lie in following faddy diets, clean eating plans or rigid fitness regimes.

"I strongly believe that we can find our own unique paths to wellness through learning to live more self compassionately – learning the art of self love and self care – while appreciating that food is more than just nutrition, expressing creativity, making positive social connections, being

more mindful, feeling grateful and becoming empowered to live life to the full while acting in line with our authentic values and beliefs.

"I am really passionate about sharing this message with young and old people alike, so at the moment, I am working alongside schools, colleges and universities, as well as aiming to provide counselling/mentoring and workshop opportunities.

"Unfortunately there is not that much support locally for individuals who are suffering from eating disorders or a less than loving relationship with food and body.



Hence, I am trying as much as I can to get Nourishing Routes off the ground so that I can spread its important message further."

Flood defence gets go-ahead

PLANS for a proposed flood defence embankment and the realignment of Padgate Brook have been given the green light.

The scheme, submitted by the Environment Agency, is a continuation of the major flood defence works which have been ongoing in Warrington for several years. It is part of a third phase of works and involves land at the rear of Orford Road.

They include flood defence works to a gas regulator station, with landscaping and other associated work.

Warrington planning committee was told the location and site of the work remained largely unchanged from that envisaged in an outline application submitted in 2011.

A new earth flood embankment will be constructed on land off Orford Road and a stretch of Padgate Brook will be realigned and de-culverted. The new embankment will tie in to higher ground at Birchwood Way and to a Network Rail embankment to the south.

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Burtonwood lectures are sell out success



A SERIES of lectures on the history of RAF Burtonwood were a sell out success- thanks to **warrington-worldwide**.

The lectures which focus on the American occupation during and after World War II, were given by Burtonwood Association Honorary lifetime president Aldon Ferguson at the Gulliver's Hotel.

Aldon has been overwhelmed with the response from warrington-worldwide readers.

He said: Just a note to say a great thank You for the article on my lectures in the January edition of **warrington-worldwide**.

"I have had so many replies that we filled the first series almost immediately and I have enough on my reserve list to fill a second series later this year.

"The power of your magazine obviously is extremely successful and certainly spread the word and created considerable interest.

"I will be re-running the lectures later this year and hope I may be able to utilise your excellent communications again then!"

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.

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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Council leader's fury over Mersey bridge U-turn

FURIOUS Warrington Borough Council leader Terry O'Neill has expressed his ongoing frustration and disappointment over the Government's U-turn over free tolls for local drivers using the Mersey Gateway Bridge at Halton.

He said the Government's explanation – that it faced a legal challenge from another council in the area – was a deceitful example of "smoke and mirrors."

Cllr O'Neill said: "The decision of the government to withdraw from its clear commitment to free tolls on the Mersey Crossing is a total disgrace and an act of political deceit. The Chancellor's statement prior to the government elections was clear and unequivocal that residents and businesses in Warrington would have free passage over the crossing.

"It wasn't a promise but a clear comment made days before the Election. "As far as I understand no local council has considered such legal action.

"Warrington businesses and residents deserve to know the truth and I call upon the government to reinstate free passage across the crossings. After all, this is what was the original commitment."



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Warrington Continues to perform well

By Steve Park

IT'S the time of year that independent stats are produced relating to the economic performance of the previous year. These are a great barometer to assess how Warrington is performing collectively as an economy in relation to the rest of the UK.

Despite the global market uncertainty, I'm pleased to report that Warrington continues to fare well economically. The annual statistics produced by the economic think tank, Centre for Cities, continue to show Warrington outperforming most of the UK in terms of economic indicators. The Centre for Cities consider Warrington to be in the top 64 cities in the UK.

Warrington continues its proud status as the only place in the North of England classed as a high wage and low welfare city. Warrington is also ranked in the top 20 for average earnings and has the 16th lowest welfare spend per capita in the UK along with the 22nd lowest claimant count.

The borough has the 9th highest employment rate in the UK and is 8th highest in terms of residents who possess formal qualifications.

In previous years Warrington has always been ranked in the bottom

10 for high speed broadband but encouragingly has now moved up considerably and is ranked 40th out of 64 and well above the national average, as a direct result of the Connecting Cheshire initiative. Great news but clearly still some way to go, which I know the Connecting Cheshire programme is on with.

New businesses are the lifeblood of Warrington's economy and the borough is ranked at 15th highest in the UK for the number of business start ups per capita and encouragingly are 5 paces below the national average for business closures. Business survival rate is therefore strong. The Centre for Cities stats are based on figures for 2015. Start-up Britain have released their stats for 2016 and rank Warrington at 13th highest number of business start ups in the UK.

Next month Warrington & Co. will be announcing the findings of our Annual Property Review which looks at the trends and uptake in the commercial and residential property market over the last 12 months. These stats are now in their 19th year and provide an interesting measure of the growth and strength of Warrington as a residential and business location. I've had a preview

of some of the figures and, once again they are very encouraging. I'll report more next time.

For those businesses on Twitter, Warrington & Co. will be hosting #WarringtonCoHour every Thursday between 3pm and 4pm and between 8pm and 9pm. This is an innovative way of using social media to get the word out that there are small companies and sole traders across the entire Borough of Warrington, and across all sectors, who are open for business. Connecting the local supply chain is a small but essential part of growing Warrington's economy and I encourage all small businesses to get involved and be part of this thriving economy. Participation is easy (and free!). Warrington & Co. will be tweeting, we'll retweet your business tweets and we encourage other businesses to contribute with their business news and offers and retweet each other. We'll be starting on Thursday 9th March, so please be a part of it!

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Steve Park
MD of Warrington & Co.

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Carpe Diem's Bill Carr named as new chair of IOD

WARRINGTON based Bill Carr, Managing Director at Carpe Diem, has been appointed as the new chair of the Institute of Directors' (IoD) Cheshire branch.

Bill has been a member of the IoD's branch committee for over two years; his new role will see him fly the flag for businesses in Cheshire, giving them a voice on the IoD national stage and helping the organisation promote business growth in the area – including launching the IoD Advance concept to businesses in the North early in 2017.

An experienced director, Bill established full service digital agency, Carpe Diem in 1999 and has since grown it to become one of the UK's top 50 independent agencies working with international brands such as GlaxoSmithKline, Asics and New Balance providing website design and digital marketing. It is located at The Base in Warrington.

Bill is passionate about working with start-ups, as both an investor and a mentor, providing guidance and support to a variety of businesses in the digital and tech sector.

Bill said: "The Cheshire branch of the IoD has always been a very proactive and engaging force within the local community so this is a great platform to bring

my knowledge and experience to further improve our offering to Cheshire businesses. I am particularly excited about the opportunity to engage with local business startups and use my experience to encourage, support and mentor this growing community.

"In addition to its wide range of events and networking, the IoD provides, without doubt the best training and resources to support business leaders as they look to develop and grow.

"As we continue what will be a challenging but exciting year, I look forward to taking up the

role of Chair and working with our members here in Cheshire to put forward our voice on both a regional and national level. I would also like to personally thank our former Chair, Jeff Hardman, for his efforts and support during my time working with the Cheshire Committee."



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New fundraising role at culture and arts charity

CULTURE Warrington has introduced a new fundraising role designed to promote the charity's work and raise vital funding.

Andrea Morley has been appointed the new fundraising and sponsorship officer for the charitable trust which was established in 2012 to manage Pyramid & Parr Hall, Warrington Museum & Art Gallery and a variety of cultural events across the town.

Having grown up in the area, Andrea is passionate about the town and is channelling her enthusiasm for culture and the arts into this new position, which is a dual role between Culture Warrington and its sister organisation LiveWire.

At community interest company LiveWire, Andrea's role is to make connections with businesses to provide them with sponsorship opportunities for some of the town's high profile events including the LiveWire Mile and LiveWire Santa Dash.

Andrea has worked for LiveWire since 2012 with her most recent role being senior conference and events officer, following previous jobs in advertising, marketing and PR.

She said: "It's an amazing thing to be able to contribute to creating brighter futures and that's exactly what those who raise funds for Culture Warrington will be doing in



a very real way."

Andrea's new role will see her striving to increase awareness of Culture Warrington as a charity, promoting the organisation's mission to bring a variety of activities and events across art, theatre, music to different communities, and encouraging donations from those who can help ensure this good work continues for generations to come.

She is now on the look-out for support from individuals and businesses who can support Culture Warrington in a variety of ways from making Gift Aid donations to advertising, holding events at one of Culture Warrington's varied venues to payroll giving, corporate partnerships and sponsorship.

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- Thu 2 Mar** **G4 - Live in Concert**
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EXHIBITIONS

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Commemorating the centenary of the First World War, this instalment focuses on life on the Home Front. As Warrington's men were away fighting in the trenches, life back home brought it's own challenges. Munitions girls, nurses, aid workers, conscientious objectors and the women left behind fighting on the 'kitchen front' all had their part to play in the story of these tumultuous years.

Literally Mural

Now - 25 March - FREE

This exhibition is the result of a unique collaboration between Culture Warrington's outreach and engagement team, street artist and typography specialist, Dave Eardley, and a number of Warrington residents who have experience of feeling isolation.

Us and Them and Way Back When

Now - 4 March - FREE

Created by young people who use the Relationships Centre in Museum Street. A unique exhibition exploring the lives of youngsters from the past 130 years, comparing the support systems of the past with those available today.

EVENTS

Reckless Rulers

Sat 25 Feb, 6.30pm, 7.30pm & 8.30pm
£7.50 / £25 group of four

A brilliantly scary and immersive live theatre event. Become part of the history books with a cast of Reckless Rulers. Dive into Warrington's horrible past as actors lead you through REAL haunted rooms where you will become immersed in the live action. An interactive 45-minute experience, it promises to entertain, educate and scare audience members of all ages in an exciting, spooky journey into the dark side of the town's history.

Find out more at www.warringtonmuseum.co.uk



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Mum's bid to ease son's pain

A WARRINGTON mum has launched a fund-raising campaign to help her six-year-old son receive specialist surgery to alleviate daily pain in his legs.

Little Leon Hoey has cerebral palsy of the lower limbs and is in constant pain.

Leon went to Alder Hey Hospital on January 16, to see a surgeon for the results of his gaiter analysis. This shows how Leon walks and holds himself as he is walking.



His mum, Annemarie Dougan from Longford, said: "From the results the doctor decided that he wouldn't be able to do anything to the bones as Leon is too young to have the surgery and would have to wait until he is 9-11 years old."

"He then suggested a SDR* operation which is a neurology operation. This involves key hole surgery in the spine and it cuts all the tendons in his legs and helps them to release."

Annemarie added: "For Leon to have that done would be a massive change as he currently walks on his tip toes causing him to go over to the back of his foot."

"Leon has to wear splints everyday and he doesn't like them as they are big and bulky and he knows that he looks different with them on. But it's the only way that he can keep his feet flat."

She said an SDR operation, which costs £20,000 was not funded on the NHS anymore as there wasn't a 100 percent success rate.

Following the operation Leon will need a private physio which will also require funding and it will take up to two years to get his strength back.

Annemarie added: "It's a lot of hard work and will need a lot of help but if this op will save him some of the pain that he gets all the time it would be worth it. We really need the good people from Warrington to help us out. Everyone that meets Leon falls in love with him."

A go fund me page has been launched at www.gofundme.com/help-me-get-my-sdr-operation-x and has so far received over £400 in donations.

*(SDR) surgery is a procedure that treats muscle spasticity caused by abnormal communication among the brain, spinal cord, nerves and muscles.



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The Warrington Club

Networking in Warrington
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WARRINGTON'S oldest networking club is organising a series of open events, to show off their facilities and to recruit new members.

Originally opened as a Gentlemen's club by some of the town's leading businessmen, this is no longer the case with membership available for men and women.

A number of local businesses are actively involved at the club including FDR Solicitors, Rigby Lennon Accountants, warrington-worldwide and Peak Associates

Based in the town centre on Bold Street, it provides the ideal venue for business lunches and is open daily Monday-Friday from 12.30pm until the last member leaves. Facilities include a silver service dining room and a full size snooker table. Members can also book the venue for private hire.

Both individual and corporate memberships are available. To find out more about the club the following open events, which are FREE to attend, have been organised.

12.30pm Friday March 31st.

Experience a normal day at the club including lunch.

6.30pm Monday April 24th. Snooker Evening.

12noon Saturday May 20th. Buffet Lunch.

All events are by invitation only. To book in for one or more of the above events please contact secretary Iain Hope on 01925 265680. Mobile 07961 835803 or iain.hope@hotmail.co.uk

More details about the club can be found at www.thewarringtonclub.co.uk

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Toyah Willcox transports music fans back to

report and pictures Paul Jackson

WARRINGTON was transported back in time to the age of the 80's with fans and aficionados of the era descending on the Parr Hall for a fantastic night of music and dance at a Loving the 80s gig.

Headlined by the iconic Toyah Willcox there was something for most tastes as the acts rolled on through the night.

DJ Caz Matthews of FAB Radio fame spun the discs and got the crowd into the party mood. Tommy Mack was his inimitable self, hosting the show and going through many costume changes. He was joined by stylist Chris Griff.

In the first of their two performances Electro80's kicked off proceedings by paying tribute to this era, with a lovingly recreated live show that transported everyone back to dawn of New Wave and beyond. They revisited some of the classic moments from the early eighties belting out songs from bands like Depeche Mode, Yazoo, Gary Numan, Duran Duran, Ultravox, Devo, Soft Cell and The Human League. The Robot dancer was superb.

Next came LaLa Shockette with her multi-media cabaret show. Tracing the steps of the early 80s New Romantic pop star, LaLa Shockette from her humble, Welsh dairy farm beginnings to Top of the Pops, appearances at Wembley & iconic stardom. Beautifully sung songs by artists as diverse as John Cale, David Bowie, Kate Bush & Gary Numan- with anecdotes, some very tall stories & all 'backed up' with back projected original photographs and live video footage.

Then it was the turn of Jennie Bellestar to roll out the hits and back the years with her unforgettable and all too catchy hits, Iko Iko, the Clapping Song and Sign of the times. Resplendent in scarlet the diminutive songstress filled the stage with her presence and had the whole hall up on their feet.

Following came the chart topping trio, Tight Fit. The original line-up reformed in 2010 to address the requests they were receiving for performances and now sing live up and down the UK and in Europe. They belted out a wide range of hits from the Eighties including their own chart successes Fantasy Island and the Lion Sleeps Tonight on which they were joined on stage by a dancing lion. The crowd were again all up dancing throughout the set. Denise Waterman of the band was a former resident of Warrington and so it was a welcome homecoming for her.

Ending the show with a fabulous finale was Toyah Willcox, the actress, presenter and singing star. Wowing the crowd and turning back the clock with her new look, energy and superb show she went through a frenzied set of classic eighties numbers including all of her own hits like Thunder in the Mountains, I want to be free, Brave new world and of course the unforgettable It's a mystery.

As a grand finale to the night Toyah invited onstage the whole cast from the evenings entertainment and in a touching tribute to George Michael they danced and sang along to Wham's hit Club Tropicana.



Warrington the 80s



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Time to bloom for former teacher!

ART and creativity classes are starting to bloom for former teacher Gail Stubbings.

Gail previously had a career of many years teaching in FE, which she believes has given her the tools and experience to help make Bloomingart a wonderful organisation, offering Art & Creativity to all.

Gail, who is now based at the Warrington Club on Bold Street said: "My children's art classes grew at an incredible rate, showing that this type of delivery is needed throughout our town. I have also witnessed some unbelievable

health success stories in older and isolated people that have engaged in our workshops.

"We are in our 2nd year of 'Art in Life' and soon a brand new fabulous, friendly and funded year long class will commence, 'Time to Bloom' which starts on Monday 13th March at Greenwood Community Hub, again led and taught by myself. (Please ring for more details)

"I love making a difference, which means I give 100%, so not only do members grow in their artistic abilities, they grow as individuals too and make new

friends along the way. They also have the opportunity to take part in our yearly exhibition within 'Culture Quarter'.

Gail added: "I'm very delighted to now have freelance artist Sophie New who is leading on our textile workshops most Monday's and has the same relentless passion as myself, I waited a year for her to complete her M.A. after meeting her once for five minutes; I just knew she'd be perfect in supporting Bloomingart's vision.

"Over the last 30 months we have formed many partnerships and led lots of community events reaching 1000s of people enriching their lives through the window of

art. We have been blessed to get so much support from a solid following, family and friends, plus endless encouragement from so many organisations.

"We work with the whole community, individuals of all ages & abilities. Art enthusiasts are welcomed to articulate, explore and express themselves through the window of art, aiding a healthier & happier lifestyle.

Gail added: "If you have a questions please get in touch. I'm based at 7 Bold St, room 4, The Warrington Club. I also have a private studio at The Pyramid Centre where I'm an artist in residence."

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- Jack Vance, Professional Cookery

Former Birchwood High student Jack Vance has taken part in a number of fantastic work placements during his time at Warrington Collegiate, including the Church Green, owned by Michelin-starred chef Aiden Byrne.

Jack is one of three talented students taking part in the Welsh International Culinary Championship alongside the college's chef, lecturer Scott Surtees. Jack is also looking forward to completing a prestigious work placement alongside Michelin-starred chef Simon Rogan at his L'Enclume restaurant in the Lake District.

Fast track to avoid the queues at
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Business as usual at Warrington Market says new project manager

IT'S business as usual says the new face of Warrington Market Andy Ward, who successfully led a re-build project at Sheffield where he worked for 18 years.

Andy has been appointed Warrington Market's Project Manager, following the departure of former manager Steve Pickering, who has retired after 18 years.

But Andy is not completely new to Warrington Market, working as a consultant on the new build project, involving a temporary market, currently being built outside the main entrance of the existing building, which is due to open this summer.

This will be followed by a brand new market being built on the existing site, including the front façade of the former Boots building on Bridge Street.

More than 50 traders will operate from the temporary building, which when vacated will become restaurants as part of the bigger project. There will be around 100 traders in the new market which is scheduled to open in 2019 as part of the multi-million pound Time Square regeneration.

The regeneration will see the return of a multi-screen cinema to the town centre along with a number of well-known high street restaurant brands



"We currently have sufficient traders for every stall in the temporary market but we are also looking to bring in some new blood," said Andy who has been working closely on trader selection.

Andy has relocated to Warrington to help oversee the project in his new role, living at Penketh and is relishing the challenges ahead.

Work is now well underway on the temporary market building with work also moving at pace on the new multi-story car park.

"There will obviously be

some disruption during a major development like this but the most important message at the moment is that it is business as usual in the existing market," added Andy.

Reunion planned for the Class of '67

THEY were the Class of '67 at the former Richard Fairclough Secondary School, Warrington – and they are still going strong.

It's the 50th anniversary of when they left the Knutsford Road school and a reunion is to be held at the King's Club, St Mary Street, Latchford on July 14 at 8pm.

Organiser Valerie Daniels (nee Brown) already has quite a few former school pals lined up to attend but is anxious to find more.

She said: "We had a reunion around 1990 which was very well attended and I am hoping everyone who came to that one will come again – as well as those who couldn't make it last time."

Richard Fairclough School disappeared in 1983 when it was merged with the nearby Boteler school to form Victoria Park Secondary Modern School.

This name did not prove popular, however, and the school later became the Sir Thomas Boteler CE High School which still thrives today.

Valerie said: "At the time we left, the school was divided into girls' and boys' schools but we hope former pupils of both will turn up for the reunion. We all knew one another even though we were taught separately."

Anyone who wants to attend the reunion should contact Valerie on 01925 659025 or Bet Llewellyn (nee Hockenhull) on 01925 601142.



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Mayor helps JD Kitchens celebrate recipe for success

WARRINGTON based JD Kitchens celebrated 15 years in business with a visit from the town's Mayor Cllr Faisal Rashid - who by coincidence has been overseeing their progress for more than a decade.

In his "day job" at the Nat West Bank the mayor has been the relationship manager with JD Kitchen's owner Dave Charlton.

Dave takes great pride in the fact that he has built his kitchen business up from a spare back bedroom at his home in the early days, to a showroom boasting quality kitchens.

The business has blossomed providing mid to high end kitchens, from a showroom on Gorsey Lane, Warrington, using the latest design technology, offering a complete service from start to finish.

Dave, who is also as a director on the Kitchen, Bedroom Specialist Association (KBSA), which helps regulate the industry, is the only outlet in the local area to supply modern and contemporary style German manufactured kitchens, whilst also offering a more traditional style kitchen from UK manufacturer, Mackintosh. He is also the local Neff Master Partner.

Congratulating JD Kitchens on their 15th anniversary in business Cllr Rashid said: "I have known Dave for over 10 years and I am really pleased to be here as Mayor of Warrington and also his bank manager as well. It is really good to support local business and see them grow."

"I have seen Dave's progress and this is a great example of a local business which are the life blood of our local economy. They create jobs and wealth which go back into the economy."

"During my year my theme has been to support local businesses which are very important."

Dave added: "Despite all the fears of Brexit and of prices going up people are still buying kitchens and we have a healthy order book."

To find out more about JD Kitchens why not visit their showrooms at 4 Gorsey Lane and see first hand the quality of their workmanship or visit www.jdkitchens.co.uk



Dave Charlton welcomes the Mayor to his premises.

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By David Watkinson

End of another tax year

As we approach the end of another tax year it is time to look again at some of the valuable exemptions available to you before the end of the tax year.

Inheritance Tax

The following annual gifts immediately reduce your estate for Inheritance Tax purposes:

1. Total gifts up to £3,000 in each tax year. Any unused gift allowance from the immediately preceding year can be used, but only in addition to the current year's allowance. Any gift taking the value of gifts in the tax year to above £3,000, and all subsequent gifts, are taxable.
2. Wedding gifts to your own child of £5,000 or less, to a grandchild or great grandchild of £2,000 or less, or £1,000 or less to anyone else.
3. Gifts totalling under £250 to any person unless that person has received other gifts in the same year. This cannot be used to reduce tax on a larger gift, so a gift of £251 is wholly taxable.
4. Gifts to help with the living costs of an ex-spouse, an elderly relative or a child under 18 or in full time education.
5. Normal gifts from surplus income, such as Christmas and Birthday presents, or a regular gift.

Capital Gains Tax

The first £11,100 of net Capital Gain, after deducting losses, in any tax year is exempt. It may be worth considering selling an asset to realise a gain. There are anti-avoidance provisions to prevent "bed & breakfasting".

Pensions

The annual amount that you can put into a pension fund is restricted to the lower of the amount you earn in the tax year and £40,000. Tax relief will increase any investment within these limits by 25%. Pension contributions can be particularly valuable where income is just above £50,000 or £100,000 as they can prevent child benefit or personal allowances being withdrawn. Contributions of £2,880 can be made by anyone, even children with no income, and the government will increase that to £3,600.

Transfer of Personal Allowances

If you pay tax at 20% and your spouse or partner earns less than the personal allowance of £11,000 then they can transfer 10% of that allowance to you. To do so they must go online to the HMRC website and have both their own and you National Insurance number and be able to answer a number of security questions. In the current year, this is worth an additional net income of £220.

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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Wanted: Memories of west



THE people of Warrington are being asked to dig out old photos and share stories from the past to feature in a new health and wellbeing centre.

Culture Warrington's archives team are on the hunt for pictures which could be the final piece in the jigsaw of west Warrington's history to be displayed in the new Great Sankey Neighbourhood Hub – one of the region's first dementia-friendly facilities.

The charity has received a grant from Arts Council England, which has been allocated through Museum Development North West, to work with the community to display memorable pictures and pieces of art throughout the building to assist with navigation.

The hub will provide health and wellbeing facilities including a fitness suite, two swimming pools,

studios, library, health space and spa for residents living in the area which has Warrington's fastest ageing population.

Construction is now well underway and Culture Warrington is asking residents to remember the rich history of the area that the new hub will serve.

Heritage manager Janice Hayes, said: "We've scoured the official records in our collections of west Warrington and we have some huge gaps we need your help filling."

"We have old maps of the area to help build up a great picture of life in the late 19th and early 20th centuries but very little to tell the story of the area from the late 1940s to today."

"We believe you can help us fill in these gaps, although you may not even realise your stories and

Helping the homeless on town

STUDENTS from the Warrington campus of the University of Chester have been helping homeless people on the town's streets.

They have been handing out winter survival kits to those in need.

Student nurses and some of their family members spent an evening handing out bags containing items such as hats, gloves, scarves, socks, toothbrushes, toothpaste, lip balm, baby wipes, tissues, bottles of water, multivitamins, packets of crisps, breakfast bars, chocolate bars, rain ponchos, foil blankets, feminine hygiene products, and information packs on access to free hot meals and support available.

They also gave out dog food

and dog treats to people sleeping rough who had canine companions and to people at the YMCA in Warrington.

The idea came from 19-year-old adult nursing student Rachael Lambe, who, during a Christmas night out with colleagues, was shocked to see the amount of people sleeping rough and begging for change on the streets of Warrington.

She said: "I found it really upsetting to see so many people sleeping out in those cold conditions. When I looked into it, I realised that there wasn't as much support for the homeless community in towns such as



Warrington



photos are of interest to others.

"We'd really like your help and would love to talk to you about your memories."

It is hoped the images will help the team illustrate the growth of the suburbs and housing estates and a new way of life in Great Sankey, Penketh, Burtonwood, Barrow Hall Hood Manor and Westbrook.

The team would also like to hear from residents with images from the Coronation parties in 1953 and Silver Jubilee parties in 1977 for example.

To get involved, contact Philip Jeffs, archives and heritage officer at Culture Warrington by writing to him at Warrington Museum and Art Gallery, Cultural Quarter, Warrington, WA1 1JB, call 01925 443023 or email pjffs@culturewarrington.org

Warrington's streets

Warrington, compared to larger cities like Liverpool or Manchester. The people that we saw were at a significant disadvantage based entirely on location.

"I decided to message my colleagues to see if anyone would be interested in helping to make a difference to the lives of Warrington's homeless community."

Rachael and her team of adult nursing students – Ellen Soutter, Faith-Rose Partridge, Mark McArdle, Leanne Watson and her son, Logan, and Rachael's partner, Ian Williamson – liaised with Warrington police and completed the necessary risk assessments, before walking the streets of Warrington and handing out survival bags to those that they came across.

Jan Gidman, associate dean (Business and Enterprise) in the Faculty of Health and Social Care, said: "Rachael, her friends and fellow nursing students have demonstrated their care and compassion for others in need. It's easy to see the need for this but they made a difference by taking practical action. This makes them special people, and the Faculty is proud to be associated with them."

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CHILDRENS BIRTHDAY PARTIES at Shellys Restaurant, 8 Bold St, Warrington. Lots of ideas for themes, pirates, princess, musical, baking parties. **Telephone Shelly 01925 654000.** (G1)

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