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**Exploring  
film noir's  
dark  
history**

**Page 3**



Picture: Paul Jackson

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**Livewire  
2017  
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**ARE YOU  
HEALTHIER?**

**312**  
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# Editor's Comment



## BEING a father and a grandfather I cannot imagine anything worse than losing a child.

Over the years I have covered many heart-breaking stories where someone has lost a child, none more so than the tragic death of 16-year-old Julia Derbyshire.

Her father Adrian Derbyshire made the difficult decision of sharing photographs of his dying teenage daughter with the world, on what would have been her 18th birthday.

Instead of sharing a glass of champagne with his beautiful daughter he was placing roses on her grave.

She took the decision of ending her own life after being a victim of

online bullying which led to mental health issues.

I can't even begin to imagine the pain Adrian has been going through since that tragic day in October 2015 when he discovered his daughter's lifeless body in the family home.

But I salute his campaign to raise awareness of teenage suicide, online bullying and mental health issues and will continue to support him.

I am honoured to be a trustee of his new charity and I hope the good

people of Warrington will do what they can to help Adrian through these difficult times.

While we shared the tragic photos of Julia online we have chosen to use this beautiful picture of her which I know is one of Adrian's personal favourites.

What a tragic waste of a beautiful young life - we must all do our best to help ensure other young lives are not wasted due to online bullying.



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# Exploring the dark history of 'film noir'

**THE classic Hollywood movie genre "film noir" is coming to Warrington's libraries in May with a touring photographic exhibition, special film screenings and a display on the history of cinema in the town.**

Paint it Black, a joint project between Warrington photographer Paul Jackson and partners Culture Warrington, LiveWire and the borough council, will explore the dark and mysterious world of film noir, a genre of American crime thrillers such as *The Maltese Falcon*, *Double Indemnity* and *The Killers*.

An exhibition of photographs inspired by these highly stylised black and white films, which are so evocative of mystery and intrigue with their dimly-lit nightscapes and

smoky silhouettes, will go on tour, spending a week at five of the town's libraries – Warrington Central, Penketh, Culcheth, Stockton Heath and Padgate.

The retro images will be accompanied by special screenings of classic film noir movies and promotion of the "hardboiled" American crime fiction novels which inspired them.

Warrington Noir, an exhibition exploring the history of cinema in the town during the 1940s and 1950s, will also run at Warrington Museum and Art Gallery to coincide with the film noir celebration, and will feature images and memorabilia from the period.

Paul, of Unit 8 Photography, said he was excited about the opportunity to promote the town's library offer.

He said: "I love our libraries and want to help promote what a great range of services and activities they have on offer.

"I am also quite a fan of old black and white films so Paint it Black provides an opportunity to explore both interests, and to have fun while hopefully doing something worthwhile."

Models, make-up artists, hair stylists, set and costume designers, and production assistants are needed to help recreate some of the most memorable and iconic scenes

from this period of filmmaking in 24 photos.

Those involved in the project include Woolston resident Rosa Silvia, owner and designer of lingerie and swimwear business RS Intimates, who as well as being a model is helping with styling.

Paul added: "We're after models with all sorts of looks and volunteers with a variety of skills to star in the exhibition."

All participants will be invited to the opening night.

Derek Dick, outreach and engagement manager at Culture Warrington, said: "Paint it Black is

designed to encourage people into Warrington's libraries, to showcase their unique offer and highlight their importance as community hubs."

To contribute, or apply for a place, email Paul on [film@unit8photography.com](mailto:film@unit8photography.com), message him at [www.facebook.com/unit8photos](https://www.facebook.com/unit8photos) or call 07515 337975.

Tickets can be bought at any of Warrington's libraries or at [www.pyramidparrhall.com](http://www.pyramidparrhall.com)

The photographic exhibition will be touring between April 29 and June 2 and the films will be screened between May 4 and June 1.



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# Student chefs celebrate silver medal

**Hospitality and catering students from Warrington Collegiate are celebrating after taking home the silver medal at the Welsh International Culinary Championship.**

The college's Chef Lecturer, Scott Surtees, captained the team of three catering students, Russell Wood, Jack Vance and Anthony Goble.

The event, which took place in Llandrillo, was the first competition entered by the team and saw them go up against regular competition-entering colleges, cooking and serving a four-course meal in 90

minutes.

Jack, who is in the final year of his level 3 qualification in professional cookery, said: "Coming second against professional catering colleges was amazing. It's the first time we have entered a competition and we really showed off our ability and what we can do."

Russ said: "We all worked incredibly hard as a team. I think

we definitely surprised the other colleges – they didn't expect that standard of food from us."

For Anthony, who has only been studying hospitality and catering since September, the experience was out of this world.

Anthony said: "It was incredible. The entire experience was just fantastic and will look fantastic on all of our CVs when it comes to applying for jobs after college."

Chef lecturer Scott Surtees is no stranger to competitive cooking, having entered similar competitions during his tenure.

Scott said: "I am so proud of Jack, Russ and Anthony. For us to come in second place and win the silver medal at our first ever competition is just incredible. We did ourselves proud and I think we

surprised quite a lot of the other competitors who didn't realise just how talented our students are at Warrington Collegiate.

"This goes to show just how far we push our students and that what we are doing at Warrington Collegiate and what we are teaching these young chefs, is right."

"To come second, competing against very large catering specialist colleges is a fantastic achievement!"

A special evening of celebration will take place in Buckley's restaurant on Wednesday 29th March with the team's competition menu being served up.

To book, please call Buckley's on 01925 494 378 or e-mail [buckleys@warrington.ac.uk](mailto:buckleys@warrington.ac.uk)

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# Warrington's Annual Property Review

By Steve Park

APRIL sees the publication of Warrington's annual property review.

Despite the volatility and booms and busts of the economy over that period its very reassuring to see that Warrington's economic trajectory continues to ascend which is echoed in its property performance.

Industrial and office market transactions performed very strongly in 2016 almost at record breaking levels and the investment market had one of its best ever years.

Property investment, particularly commercial property investment, in Warrington is viewed by many as a very safe haven for global investment

portfolios. Warrington features prominently on the international property investment map as a prime UK safe-bet location, which is a huge endorsement of the strength of the Warrington economy as a business powerhouse.

Warrington's profile is high and becoming more prominent year on year. Warrington Borough Council's ambition articulated in its unanimously endorsed growth framework, Warrington Means Business and the City Centre Masterplan are igniting the attention of those in the know. Barely a day goes by now when I don't receive a call from an investor looking to try

and bring an investment or project to Warrington.

It was fabulous that Channel 4 championed Warrington as the second best place to live in the UK last month. The TV show, fronted by Sarah Beeny, ranked areas using the latest data on affordable housing, jobs, business, wellbeing, culture, transport and family life. Culture and lifestyle are huge attractors to investment. So I am personally delighted and excited that Warrington has voiced and submitted its intention to compete to be the UK City of Culture in 2021.

The bid has already garnered a great deal of positive national press coverage which in itself raises the 'brand' of Warrington. It is encouraging that there is tangible support and excitement amongst the business community for the bid too.

Warrington is a city of ambition and confidence and this is echoed by the City of Culture Bid. There are lots of opportunities for businesses large and small to become involved and the profile raising that the bid will achieve will benefit us all. If you are a business and wish to show your support please drop me a line.

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Steve Park  
MD of Warrington & Co.

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## FDR law offer advice on new Apprenticeship levy

WARRINGTON law firm, FDR Law, is helping businesses across the North West prepare for the impending Apprenticeship Levy which comes into force on April 1.

The new levy affects all companies with a wage bill of over £3 million who will be subject to the 0.5 per cent levy and the law firm is calling for employers to make sure they are prepared for the forthcoming changes.

If you're a business needing further advice on the new legislation, please contact Stephen Poyner at FDR Law on 01925 230000.

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# Warrington 2021 City of Culture

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## Going for it!

Warrington has thrown its hat into the ring to become the UK's City of Culture 2021 – and needs your help to win!

The town is one of eleven areas bidding for the title and already hundreds of people have signed up to show their support on Facebook and Twitter.

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The competition, which happens every four years, was started after Liverpool's successful European Capital of Culture and is designed to build on the successful regeneration that

Liverpool achieved. Despite the title, you don't have to be a city to enter.

Warrington based award winning TV Producer, Ken Horn said: "Whatever you think of culture in Warrington right now, this is a great opportunity to accelerate existing cultural plans and to put Warrington on the map for the right reasons."

Win or lose, there will be a benefit to Warrington by just being part of the process. I'm proud to be backing the bid and the support so far has been brilliant."

Town centre  
investment  
of more than  
£100m by  
2021

Hull is the UK City of Culture for 2017 and has already brought in more than £32m of additional investment as a result with an overall economic impact of more than £60m being projected by the end of the year. If Warrington was to be successful it could expect to see similar benefits.

## Back the bid!



@Warrington2021



Warrington2021



# Lucy's legacy set to live on

**THE memory of a Warrington woman who gave up a promising career to help others is set to live on after her life was tragically cut short.**

The Relationships Centre in Museum Street recently lost one of their key members of staff, Lucy McGuire (Hindmarch).

Lucy aged 44 passed away after a short illness, leaving a husband and young son.

Typically of Lucy, she was thinking of others and donated her organs so that nine people could achieve an increased chance of an improved quality of life.

Having worked at the centre for many years, she touched the lives of many local families and individuals through both her work at the Relationships Centre and her strong association with St. Thomas' church in Stockton Heath.

She gave up a promising career in business to retrain as a counsellor to be able to support and empower young people to achieve their dreams through engaging with them and building their life skills.

She set up many young people's programmes and was passionate about reducing the effect of social isolation and increasing opportunities for a wide range of young people by listening, supporting and engaging with them.

A spokesperson for the relationships centre said: "Lucy's legacy is the charity which she helped build and which has had such a tremendous impact on so many people's lives. We will miss her physical presence but her

essence lives on in the daily work of the charity.

"Her family have asked that rather than flowers, please would anybody wishing to remember Lucy make donations to the charity either directly to the centre or through a justgiving page set up for her via a text message. Simply text TISA19 along with an amount of £1, £2, £3, £4, £5 or £10 to 70070

The Relationships Centre can be contacted via 19 Museum Street, Warrington, WA1 1JA or by calling 01925 576757

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Laugh-out-loud comedy
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- Fri 28 Apr From The Jam**  
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- Thu 4 May FILM: The Maltese Falcon (PG)**  
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- Sun 14 May Vienna Festival Ballet presents... Cinderella**  
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- 28 Apr - 8 Jul: Priestley College Street Art •

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## Amateur radio club celebrates 70 years

**WARRINGTON Amateur Radio Club is celebrating its 70th Anniversary this year.**

To mark the occasion, they are having an open day on Saturday April 1 at their headquarters at Grappenhall Community Centre from 10am till 4pm.

The club has been going strong since 1947 and has a current membership of more than 50 people. They have a well-equipped 'Radio Shack' and meeting room within the community centre.

During the open day they will be welcoming interested members of the public to see amateur radio in operation.

The Mayor of Warrington, Cllr Faisal Rashid, has agreed to attend to help celebrate the landmark in

the club's history.

Members of the public will be able to see the latest amateur radio equipment being operated and talk to club members about their hobby.

Warrington Amateur Radio Club has been an active part of the local community for many years, indeed members helped in the construction of the Grappenhall Community Centre.

The club has trained and supported many individuals and members of local organisations throughout the past 70 years and hopes to continue this tradition into the future.



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# The Warrington Club

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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](mailto:iain.hope@hotmail.co.uk)

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More details about the club can be found at  
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# Smart transport scheme wins £300,000 grant

**A HIGH-tech integrated transport scheme to ease congestion has been secured by Warrington Borough Council after winning a £300,000 grant from the government.**

The fund from the Department for Transport is used to encourage highway authorities to make road transport increasingly smart through the use of data, connectivity and internet to improve safety, efficiency and emissions.

Warrington Borough Council's bid was successful and was the joint highest in the country.

The scheme will use Bluetooth technology to provide a real time communication link between drivers and Warrington's Urban Traffic Management and Control system. This will allow more effective control of the key junctions.

Cllr Hans Mundry, the council's lead member for transport, said: "We're delighted to have secured this money for another one of our innovative and forward-thinking schemes. We hope this will help make journey times more efficient and more predictable, and address some of the current problems of traffic emissions caused by queuing."

"We also hope the scheme will boost the borough's economy, benefiting local businesses with fuel and travel time savings."

The project will also provide real-time information to businesses and the public via on-street information displays, interactive web pages, social media and an innovative local mobile phone app for drivers and bus travellers. The app would provide information on the causes of any delays and also give likely journey times, therefore allowing them to make an informed decision on their journey plans.

It is hoped the scheme will be operating by March next year.



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# IMPACT REPORT

## 2016-2017



FOUNDATION

The Official Charity of The Warrington Wolves



# INCLUSION

The Warrington Wolves PANDAs are The Foundation's Inclusive Football Team who have gone from strength to strength over recent years.

With 4 specific targeted sessions per week, participants are able to thrive in an inclusive environment, make new friends and take part in regular physical activity, whilst also developing their football skills.

As part of the Liverpool County Football Association, 6 tournaments are arranged each month where the teams compete against the likes of Everton and Liverpool.

There are currently four teams that are incorporated as part of Warrington Wolves PANDAs – Under 13s, Under 16s, Open Age and the Down's Syndrome Specific Team.

Participants have the opportunity to take part in 34 hours of football each month.

Over 75 participants take part in the weekly sessions, currently ranging from ages 7 to 25.

2016 saw the Open Age PANDAs Team participate in their first overseas tournament in the Isle of Man, where they were able to spend the weekend living like professional footballers and compete against teams from as far as Gibraltar and Iceland.

The PANDAs also provides pathways for talent ID with two of the current squad having trials with the England Learning Disability team.

"The PANDAs Football Club has changed our lives"





# HERITAGE AND EDUCATION

The Pass it Back Project was created as an extension of the thriving Wire2Wolves Project; celebrating the rich heritage of Warrington Wolves Rugby League Club.

Through support from the Heritage Lottery Fund, 25 volunteers were recruited to deliver aspects of Wire2Wolves within the Warrington community, educating local groups and allowing them to share their memories of the popular Rugby Club and also their town.

Through visits to local residential homes, it was found that sport was an emotive tool that could connect communities in other ways. A 6-week programme has been developed and is now being delivered within residential settings across Warrington.

Foundation volunteers have delivered the programme across 7 residential homes to date.

Over 100 people over the age of 60 have benefitted from regular interaction while residents have recorded over 65 memories through the Pass it Back website.





# GAME CHANGERS

As a charitable organisation, The Foundation relies heavily on the support of local organisations and individuals who donate their time to assist with the life-changing initiatives. Now named as 'Game Changers', volunteers are a vital part of the day-to-day running of The Foundation.

There are currently 93 Game Changers who actively give up their time to assist with Foundation activities.

The Warrington Wolves Volleyball Club now has 6 teams and is solely run by volunteers.

With a thriving inclusion programme that is integral to The Foundation and the core values, 7 volunteers with disabilities and additional needs also work within The Halliwell Jones Stadium on every working day, assisting with general office and administration tasks but also improving their own life skills and confidence.

WELCOME TO  
THE **COMMUNITY FLOOR**







## EVENTS & CHALLENGES

Along with weekly activity sessions delivered within Warrington Schools and the Warrington Community, The Foundation also have their annual flagship events that help to promote charitable messages and raise the profile of the organisation, whilst also raising much-needed funds for the charity.

In 2016, 30 cyclists travelled 230 miles from Warrington to Newcastle ready for Magic Weekend at St James' Park, many of which had never completed a similar challenge before. Over £8,000 was raised from this event, whom is now cemented as a favourite in The Foundation calendar.

2016 also saw the inaugural 'Foundation Mile' take place at the scenic Walton Hall and Gardens. Over 200 people were part of the event with Super League's favourite mascot; Wolfie! Families and local amateur sports were amongst those who joined in on the day and it is hoped it will encourage regular physical activity and annual participation in the event.

The Wire2Wolves Beer Festival is an event with a difference. Based in the South Stand concourse at The Halliwell Jones Stadium, real ales are sourced from the areas of all Super League Clubs and rugby and ale fans attend to sample the tipples whilst viewing the Wire2Wolves heritage timeline and learn about the history of the Club. All funds raised from the Beer Festival go back into the development of the Warrington Wolves Heritage Project. It is these events that really make a difference and enable the charitable work of The Foundation to continue to make the impact that it does.



# RUGBY LEAGUE

With The Foundation's affiliation with Warrington Wolves, Rugby League is cemented at the heart of the organisation. Through funding from Sky, a dedicated team deliver Rugby League across Warrington and the surrounding areas.

In 2016, over 6,000 children received rugby coaching from The Foundation through 30,000 contact hours.

753 hours were coached within the academic year within schools across Warrington.

1500 children were part of the Warrington Wolves match day as mascots or flag bearers.

'Winning and Losing' Assemblies were delivered to 8,000 children within Warrington Primary Schools.

60 adults have gained coaching qualifications through The Foundation's Rugby League Programme.



## **SKY TRY Success Story – Harvey Keogh**

Harvey's first experience of rugby was when Wolves Foundation coaches visited Chapelford Primary School as part of the SKY TRY programme. The coaching team identified that Harvey had attributes that would be suitable to progress in Rugby League and he was signposted to his local community club Crosfields Cobras Under 9s.

Harvey attended the sessions and enjoyed his experience with his new team. Following this, Harvey and his family were invited to the Warrington vs Wakefield game where he had the opportunity to be mascot and lead out the team.

After the game Harvey met Man of the Match, Ben Currie, where he was able to ask advice on how to develop his future career.

Harvey and his family's experience with the Wolves has led to them purchasing 2017 memberships and him becoming an integral part of the Crosfields Cobras team.



# PLAYERS & WOLFIE

The support of the Warrington Wolves players and coaches is extremely important to The Wolves Foundation.

They assist our Charity in many ways, not only by their hands on involvement across all aspects of our work but just as importantly, in passing on some of their own life experiences to help benefit others. Held in high esteem as role models across the town, their words of encouragement have inspired many to engage and achieve through our projects. During 2016, members of the Wolves squad made 139 community visits.

Warrington Wolves Mascot, Wolfie, is one of Rugby League's favourite Mascots and is loved and recognised by young and old alike. Wolfie visits many of our activities and events and due to his great popularity, is a great tool to help engage with members of our community. In 2016, Wolfie supported 144 activities and events.





### **Board of Trustees:**

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### **For more information please contact:**

Warrington Wolves  
Charitable Foundation  
Halliwell Jones Stadium

Mike Gregory Way  
Warrington, WA2 7NE

**01925 248880**

[community@wolvesfoundation.com](mailto:community@wolvesfoundation.com)

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



The Warrington Wolves Charitable Foundation are the Official Charity of Warrington Wolves Rugby League Club.

Using the power of sport and the Warrington Wolves brand, The Foundation aim to inspire and motivate the community through the areas of Sport, Health and Education, whilst also delivering a thriving Inclusion programme.

The Foundation give their time, help and messages to approximately 30,000 people each year through their various creative and innovative projects across Warrington.

Although Rugby League is primarily at the heart of The Foundation, there is also a thriving Volleyball and Handball Club that operate under the charitable umbrella, along with popular dance company Fusion.



# Closure of Future Tech School confirmed

**WARRINGTON'S Future Tech Studio School WILL close at the end of the academic school year at the end of August due to low pupil numbers.**

The Warrington Collegiate Education Trust has announced, with regret, that the Future Tech Studio School will close on 31 August 2017.

Unfortunately, pupil numbers at the school are low, which means the school is not financially viable in the longer-term.

Nichola Newton, principal and CEO of the Trust said: "The decision to close the school has been taken only after extensive discussion with the Department for Education and Education Funding Agency to explore all available options".

"Our priority is to ensure the wellbeing and highest standard of education possible for our pupils over the remainder of the academic year. Pupils in year 10, and their parents, will receive tailored advice, guidance and support to find alternative places to complete their studies from September 2017.

"We will continue to support pupils in Year 11 and Year 13 to plan their next steps."

Disappointed parents have launched a petition for the school to remain open.

The Future Tech Studio opened in September

2014, sponsored by Warrington Collegiate Education Trust – but student numbers have been impacted since the opening of the nearby University Technical College.

The Future Tech Studio offers a range of courses in Design Engineering, IT and Telecommunications and Business Management for students aged 14-19.

The aim was to give an innovative approach to learning for 14-19 year olds across four sector pathways, and to foster the principles of the Studio School model through the use of futuristic technology and an exciting and engaging curriculum that students can thrive on both in the classroom and workplace.



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# 'Preckyfest' music festival to celebrate legacy of Steve Prescott

**A special "Preckyfest" music festival featuring eight top artists including the Boomtown Rats and ABC has been announced to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Steve Prescott Foundation.**

This unique event is to celebrate the 10 year anniversary of the SPF and continues the astonishing legacy of the late, great Steve Prescott. Preckyfest takes place on Saturday 1st July.

In association with Woolyback Productions and St Helens RFC, Preckyfest will be the first live Music Festival to be held at the Totally Wicked Stadium, the community stadium of St Helens.

A full day of fantastic entertainment featuring eight top artists ABC, Boomtown Rats, Midge Ure, Paul Young, Jo Whaley, Dodgy, Toploader, and X Factor winner Louisa Johnson. MC for the event is the amazing versatile Johnny Vegas who will also be introducing some special friends during the day.

Doors open at 12:00. The first act will be on stage at 13:00 with the last act on stage at 21:30. Event close by 23:00.

Standard Ticket prices for pitch standing tickets, West Stand and North Stand unreserved seating are £50. South Stand allocated seating is £75.

Tickets are available online from [www.saintssuperstore.com/matchtickets.html](http://www.saintssuperstore.com/matchtickets.html)

South Stand VIP Hospitality

packages are also available with bar service and reserved seating. Tabern Premier Lounge with access to hot food £85. Hall of Fame Lounge with access to Gourmet food £95.

Hospitality packages can be purchased at [www.preckyfest.co.uk](http://www.preckyfest.co.uk)

An after party is planned at the

Imperial Bar and Terrace featuring St Helens own Stillia. More details to follow.

The Steve Prescott Foundation (SPF) is a registered charity and is the legacy of Steve Prescott MBE who passed away in November 2013. Steve played rugby league for St Helens, Hull FC and Wakefield Trinity Wildcats and was a Great Britain and Ireland international. Steve was diagnosed with a rare abdominal cancer, pseudomyxoma

peritonei (PMP) in 2006 and formed the SPF in 2007 to raise funds for and awareness of the Rugby League Benevolent Fund and The Christie in Manchester.

In 2016 the SPF reached the fantastic Million Pound milestone of donations to its chosen charities and to the SPF Special Causes Fund.

For more details of the days entertainment please take a look at the Preckyfest website. [www.preckyfest.co.uk](http://www.preckyfest.co.uk)



  
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# Hospital's Maternity unit is the best in UK

**Warrington and Halton Maternity has won 'Midwifery Service of the Year' in Royal College of Midwives National Awards which was held in London.**

The service beat off stiff competition from Barking, Havering and Redbridge University Hospitals, Lancashire Teaching Hospitals and NHS Highland in this category, which was sponsored by Kellogg's All-Bran.

The national award comes shortly after the Trust's own annual 'Thank You' staff awards held at the Parr Hall where Maternity won Team of the Year. Earlier in the year the service reached the finals of the national HSI Awards in the Patient Safety category.

The team developed the 'YOUR PREGNANCY, YOUR BIRTH, YOUR CHOICE' campaign which became the driver for change, using a bottom-up approach and working closely with patients and

former patients to achieve a best-in-class service. The final part of the recovery journey saw the new Midwifery Led Unit open in May 2016 – a real platform for the future of midwifery and childbirth at WHH.

Chief Executive Mel Pickup said "We couldn't be more proud of our Maternity team who so deserve this national, independent recognition. Two years of sustained focus and energy has seen the whole team work together to rebuild their unit, restore patient and public confidence and the pride and passion of its workforce."

Our team delivers quality, safe and compassionate maternity care and our ladies and their families consistently highly recommend this

Trust as a place to give birth and enjoy a superior patient experience.

This award is a testament to the team's sheer hard work and determination to turn their service around and make things better for patients, families and staff."

In a separate category Katherine Conquest was 'highly commended' in the Excellence in Maternity Care category for her maternity acupuncture service – WHH is the only Trust in the country to bring this midwife-led service.



## Sharing the Love at Warrington Market



THE #LoveWarrington team celebrated their second birthday by sharing the love at Warrington Market on Valentine's Day.

Launched two years ago on Valentine's Day the group is made up of local businesses and residents who care passionately about the town.

The group decided to celebrate their second anniversary at the heart of Warrington in the town's retail market, which is still open for business, while works are taking place to provide it with a new home.

A special cake, cut by warrington-worldwide Editor Gary Skentelbery, was created by stall holder "Alison loves to Bake Cakes."

To find out more about #LoveWarrington check out the group's facebook and twitter pages or email [garys@warrington-worldwide.co.uk](mailto:garys@warrington-worldwide.co.uk).

The group holds regular networking events on the third Wednesday of each month for breakfast and the last Thursday of each month for lunch.

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# Freemasons celebrate 300 years of tradition

**FREEMASONS from all parts of the North West attended a special church service at Warrington celebrating the creation 300 years ago of the first Grand Lodge in the world.**

The Province of West Lancashire holds a unique place in the chronicled history of English Freemasonry as the earliest known record of anyone being initiated into an English lodge appears in the diary of Elias Ashmole, of Lichfield.

In an entry for October 1646 he wrote: "1646, Oct: 16, 4.30 P.M. I was made a Free Mason at Warrington in Lancashire, with Colonel Henry Mainwaring of Karnicham in Cheshire. The names of those that were then of the Lodge (were) Mr Rich. Penketh, Warden, Mr James Collier, Mr Rich. Sankey, Henry Littler, John Ellam, Rich. Ellam and Hugh Brewer."

Freemasonry in Warrington is still very strong today with 14 lodges meeting at the Masonic Hall in Winmarleigh Street. The oldest lodge still meeting in Warrington – the Lodge of Lights No 148 was founded in 1765, while the youngest was founded as recently

as 1990.

The celebration at St Elphin's Church, Warrington of the creation 300 years ago of the first Grand Lodge was attended by the Provincial Grand Master Tony Harrison and his wife Maureen, the Deputy Provincial Grand Master Philip Gunning and nine Assistant Provincial Grand Masters, and many hundreds of Masons and their families from Warrington, Wigan, Widnes, Liverpool and other towns across the region.

From its earliest days, Freemasonry has been concerned with the care of orphans, the sick and the aged. This work continues today and in Warrington more than £30,000 is raised annually for charities such as St Rocco's Hospice, the Elderly Persons' Unit at Warrington Hospital and to the Warrington Crossroads Carers' Scheme, Warrington Disability Partnership, British Heart Foundation and many others.



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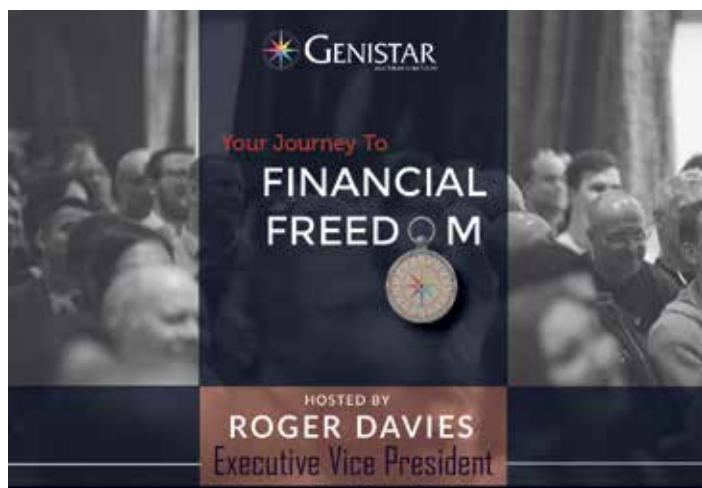
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By David Watkinson

## Tax rise, tax lies

The verbal contortions exercised by our politicians make a corkscrew appear straight. The self-employed are facing a tax increase from April 2018 despite previous promises made to gain electoral favours. But significantly, the government is lying through its teeth about it.

We do not necessarily object to an increase in Class 4 NIC of 2% over the next two years and many readers will feel the same. Firstly, we accept that employees pay NIC contributions of 12% whilst the self-employed currently only pay 9%. Secondly, whilst the self-employed do not enjoy the benefits of Statutory Maternity Pay or unemployment benefits, we also accept that the state pensions received by employees and the self-employed have been equalised. There is, therefore, a valid argument that the amounts paid should be brought closer. Thirdly, whilst this equality of benefits has been achieved primarily by reducing employees' pensions down to the level received by the self-employed, only the most optimistic (or deluded) taxpayer would expect the deductions to follow the same route.

We do, however, object to the contempt shown to the taxpayers by the Chancellor. Our message to him is that we can all recognise blatant lies when we hear them.

Lie one. This increase does not break the manifesto promise made by the Conservatives that they would not increase Income Tax, National Insurance or VAT during the course of this Parliament. Their justification is that the small print in the subsequent Act of Parliament, which for reasons known only to themselves at the time they felt was needed to make themselves keep their promise, narrowed these promises somewhat. Now we know that the purpose of that Act was to give them a "get out" clause.

Lie two. This increase in the rates of NIC will lead to a reduction in the NIC paid by self-employed taxpayers earning £16k or less. Well, we don't think Einstein could make that work. OK, last year the Chancellor reduced Class 2 NIC payable from 2018. Very good, but the praise and accolade earned by that reduction has already been heaped upon the government. It also created the new, reduced, level from which future movements should be measured. Mr Chancellor, the simple fact is that an increase in NIC is an increase in NIC!

Respect can both be described in many ways and also must be earned. Any respect earned by the Chancellor this week equates to the respect that is shown by an OAP on a dark night in a back street towards a gang of muggers!

To all politicians, if an increase in taxation is required then tell the truth and admit it! You might then begin to get back some proper respect!

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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## Boxing club aims to reduce anti-social behaviour

**OLYMPIC and Commonwealth boxer Courtney Fry and Cheshire's Police and Crime Commissioner David Keane have helped launch a new boxing club to tackle anti-social behaviour (ASB) at Chapelford, Warrington.**

Chapelford Boxing Club was officially opened at Chapelford Village Primary School to provide a base for young people to exercise, learn new skills and socialise.

It has been set up by LiveWire following a spate of ASB incidents in the area and is funded by the Police and Crime Commissioner.

At the launch event, the Commonwealth gold medallist encouraged the young people to take part in a range of activities including boxing workouts and team building exercises.

Courtney, who also represented Great Britain at the 2000 Sydney Olympics, has worked with young people for a number of years and has gained his Level 3 in Sports Mentoring.

It's hoped that the activities on offer will help promote community cohesion and deter young people from causing trouble on the streets

in west Warrington.

Paul Flannery, neighbourhood engagement officer at LiveWire, is leading the project. He said: "It was fantastic to see so many young people turn up for the first session we've held in Chapelford."

"This is the second boxing club we've launched across the town to help tackle ASB, and we hope to see a reduction in calls out in Chapelford – just like we've seen in Westy, where we launched a club back in 2015."

David Keane said: "It gives me great pride to be able to fund community focused projects such as the Chapelford Boxing Club which aim to tackle ASB and promote community cohesion."

The club will run every Friday night between 7pm-9pm with young people aged seven to 16 years welcome.



## Residents get ready for fun day

THE annual community fun day organised by Longbarn Residents' Association takes place on Saturday, May 20 on the playing field at the New Horizons School.

Starting at 12 noon at the Fallowfield Grove school, the event continues until 5pm and offers a wide range of activities and entertainment.

Already booked at the Trinity Girls Brass Band, Hawkeye Falconry, traditional Morris Dancers, Cheshire Police and Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service, children's entertainer Uncle Chris, an inflatable slide and bouncy castle and variety of stalls, including tombola, cake stall, craft stall, St Rocco's and Warrington Disability Partnership.

Refreshments will be available, including burgers provided and cooked by staff from Greencore Foods.



## 300 attend canal heritage group open day

**THREE** hundred people attended an open day organised by the New Cut Heritage and Ecology Group at Woolston.

The event at the Paddington House Hotel enabled the group to showcase the progress that has been made during three years by volunteers working in partnership with the local authority.

A number of environmental and heritage groups attended, focussing on the wildlife of Paddington Meadows and the New Cut Canal.

These included the Daniel Adamson Preservation Society telling the story of the restoration of a Mersey steam tug and the Friends of Warrington Transporter Bridge promoting the restoration of the unique transporter bridge over the Mersey at Bank Quay.

The Environment Agency, who were a key event sponsor, had a major presence with a senior team available to talk to residents especially on the issue of flood defence, while ornithologists spoke with authority on the bird life on the meadows.

Highlight of the day was a presentation by Mike Kenwright on the origins and development of the Mersey and Irwell navigation, the waterway that preceded the Manchester Ship Canal and a part of which was the New Cut Canal.

Well-known as an expert on the history of the Mersey and Irwell, Mike illustrated his talk with many old pictures and maps, especially of the system around Warrington and highlighting the town's importance as a major river port.

Group chairman Ian Johnson said: "We were delighted with the numbers of local people who showed such a keen interest in the work of the group and the support that local sponsors gave us." The group has worked well over the past few years with the local authorities, other partners and the Environment Agency to create an excellent facility in the locality for all to enjoy and an environment rich in flora and fauna and transport heritage.

Anyone interested in joining the group or in the history of the area should email [newcuthandetrailgroup@gmail.com](mailto:newcuthandetrailgroup@gmail.com)



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