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Editor's Comment



COULD trams be set to make a return to the roads of Warrington?

Well with at least four tram companies expressing an interest, they certainly think it is a financially viable proposition, even though the town's last tram system ground to a halt in the 1930s due to competition from cars and buses and lack of investment.

With an urgent need to do something to resolve the town's chronic highway issues trams could indeed be the future - but it would have to be a pretty impressive system to meet needs and would take some huge investment.

It would also need to be quickly linked in with the Local Plan, which has quite rightly caused a huge outcry across the town, with up to 9,000 homes earmarked for Green Belt Land.

Like many of those opposing Green Belt development I also believe not enough has been done to examine alternative brown field

and town centre sites for new housing.

Our Green Belt must be protected at all cost and only ever be developed as a "last resort."

Meanwhile if a tram system is going to be of any real benefit it must be well connected to our outer communities or it will do little to alleviate the near daily traffic issues commuters face.

But what Warrington Borough Council must do is ensure all the

infrastructure is in place to cope with the town's additional needs BEFORE pressing ahead with any development.

Warrington simply can not cope with more than 20,000 new homes, which could bring up to 40,000 additional cars onto our local highways, without huge improvements to our infrastructure.

Whether trams could be part of the answer, only time will tell.

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Three great pubs - one great team!

JUST 12 months after taking on their first pub in Warrington Mujdat and Joanna Karatus are celebrating after taking on their third premises in the town.

Last year they moved into the Rams Head pub in old Grappenhall village, where it has been business as usual with the same team, followed by the Rope and Anchor at Woolston and now the historic Saracens Head on Wilderspool Causeway.

They have big plans for the pub which still includes the former Greenall's boardroom, including a brand new gin and prosecco bar which they aim to have open before Christmas.

They have already got the place rocking with regular live band nights and they are also looking

to engage with the business community, making use of the former Greenall's boardroom.

"This pub has great potential," said Mujdat. "Nearly everyone in Warrington knows the Saracens Head but just walk or drive passed it.

"We are looking to get involved in the local community like we have at Grappenhall and will ensure the food is high quality and good value, using our tried and trusted suppliers."

Mujdat and his wife Joanna have made their home upstairs at the Ram's Head which is next door to

the primary school where she used to work as a teacher.

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.

"We have developed lots of great relationships in Warrington and love it here" 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 manager and went into the pub trade in 1995, starting his own 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. We have kept pretty much the same teams in each pub as they know their customers," added Mujdat.

New Chamber directors appointed



Paul and Gary are pictured with Chamber Chief Executive Colin Daniels following their appointment at the International Business Centre.

WARRINGTON & Vale Royal Chamber of Commerce and Industry has appointed two new directors.

Paul Taylor, MD of Taylor Business Park and Gary Skentelbery, MD of Orbit News Ltd, publishers of warrington-worldwide, were both elected to the board prior to the Chamber's AGM.

A vote of thanks was given to retiring directors Bill Spiegelberg and Chris Reston following many years service.

Meanwhile Nigel Schofield was unanimously re-elected as President.





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SARACENS HEAD

Tram firms have their eyes on Warrington

AT least two and possibly up to four organisations are eying Warrington as a suitable location for a tram system that would help solve the town's chronic traffic problems.

Two have made approaches to the borough council – including Trampower, the group behind the £25 million Preston Guild tramway, which is being funded privately.

They have prepared a pre-feasibility study report which claims Warrington could have a tram network at no cost to the public purse.

More than 80 per cent of Warrington people are dependant on car travel, with only 7.6 per cent using buses. But the report claims a tram system would attract about 25 per cent of the car users.

Warrington-based Light Rail UK is also urging the council to look seriously at a tram system.

Managing director James Harkins has lodged an objection to the council's controversial Local Plan proposals recently announced road and housing plans.

He has dismissed the proposals as "yesterday's planning" and believes Warrington's congestion and transport problems can be best be tackled to provision of high quality public transport – particularly a tramway.

Warrington resident Ian Buttress, former principal transportation officer with Greater Manchester Council and leader of the team that developed the highly successful Metrolink tram system, is also championing the cause.

He has written to the council, enclosing a copy of Trampower's pre-feasibility study report, which suggests that private funding would be available for a Warrington system.

Mr Buttress said generally, he was not against the extra housing proposed for Warrington, most of which was proposed in the original Warrington New Town plans. But they would have to be linked into adequate infrastructure improvements.

The tramway system proposed was in the form of a cross, with tramlines going north-south and east-west, but it could be extended to serve the proposed "garden city suburb" and other major developments, such as Grappenhall.

Mr Buttress hopes the Trampower

report will be considered by the council.

But Mr Harkins says he has been disappointed with the lack of interest shown by the council after several years of trying to get his ideas examined.

He says he knows of other consortiums interested in tram systems for Warrington but does not see any of them as rivals.

"They are more complementary," he said.

The Liberal Democrat Group on the borough council says it is "extremely interested" in the proposals and hopes to set up talks with the tramway organisations.

Local party chairman Cllr Ian Marks said: "It is certainly worth looking into because it offers cost savings and environmental benefits."

Until 1935, Warrington had a five-line tramway service linking the town centre with Stockton Heath, Sankey Bridges, Latchford and Bruche. It was a victim of competition from cars and buses and under-investment.

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Warrington could be the next digital 'Supertown'

By Steve Park

Encouragingly almost every month another independent report cites the strength and potential of Warrington's economy.

Last month it was good to see a report produced by Vodafone which cited Warrington as having the potential to become Britain's next digital "Supertown" and see massive digital growth in the next few years.

The report looked for towns with populations of over 40,000 (Warrington's has 207,000) with strong existing digital sectors and the potential to grow still further. It rated them in three sectors – economy, skills and infrastructure – as either high-performing "pacesetters", solid "pillars" or early "prospects".

Warrington was praised as a "pacesetter, with huge potential" in all three areas in the report written by Steve Hughes, a former Bank of England economist.

Warrington's economy is nationally outstanding and Warrington's framework for economic growth 'Warrington Means Business' is designed to maintain and grow that economic position. Warrington & Co. exists to implement and enact Warrington Means Business.

A digital economy is the modern enabler for business and recognised

within Warrington Means Business. It is an essential element required for Warrington's future growth.

Four years ago the Connecting Cheshire Partnership was established to deliver fibre broadband to

areas outside the commercial deployment of fibre broadband. It is a partnership with BT and the four local authorities across Cheshire; Warrington, Cheshire East, Cheshire West and Chester and Halton. It will see an additional 96,000 premises reached with fibre by summer 2018.

MP continues to back small businesses

WARRINGTON North MP Helen Jones is promoting Small Business Saturday which is entering its fifth year with the event taking place on December 2.

Small Business Saturday UK is a not-for-profit campaign, which highlights small business success and encourages the UK to support small businesses.

Helen said: "Over the past four years hundreds of thousands of small businesses have participated in the campaign with many running special discounts and offers to encourage consumer spending on the day.

"Small independent businesses here in Warrington make an enormous contribution to our community and are one of the things that make our town unique. People really value the choice they get from smaller shops which add to the character of the area.

"Running a small business can be really hard work with long working hours and, in these difficult times, great uncertainty about the future. That's why I want to help promote Small Business Saturday on December 2 and encourage people to shop locally and support businesses in their local communities."

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Steve Park
MD of Warrington & Co.

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Slydigs coming home



WARRINGTON rock 'n' roll band **Slydigs** are set to headline their first ever gig at the town's Parr Hall to help celebrate five years of local music promotion via WarringtonMusic.co.uk

The show next March is the first to be booked at the Parr Hall with a Warrington band headlining since Viola Beach, who were scheduled to play in October 2016 before being tragically killed while on tour in Sweden.

The announcement comes on the back of months of planning and bringing different groups of people together by WarringtonMusic.co.uk founder Lee Harman. As far back as the Warrington Music Festival at the end of May, a big birthday show at the Parr Hall was spoken about with [Warrington Worldwide](http://WarringtonWorldwide) Editor Gary Skentelbery gave Lee the push he needed.

Lee said: "This is the first event announced to celebrate five years of WarringtonMusic.co.uk, but I am looking forward to many more!"

As part of celebrations for the 5th year of WarringtonMusic.co.uk, [WAM] a showcase of music from the town will be taking place at the Parr Hall on Friday, March 16.

Joining headline act Slydigs are special guests, Funk Rock Soul Collective, The Winachi Tribe, Psychadelic Rockers, Psyblings and Fuzz Pop four piece, The K's.

Last year saw Slydigs embark on a 19 date North American & European arena tour supporting The Who, earning themselves rave reviews. In 2017, the band released their latest EP, 'How Animal Are You' supporting it with a headline tour across UK & Europe proving that Slydigs have a thriving and ever growing fan base.

The show will also be filmed and broadcast at a later date by the local University and College media students from the town, as well as being broadcast live on Radio Warrington. The show is the first to be announced by [WAM] since May 2015.

WarringtonMusic.co.uk has spent the past 8 months establishing partnerships with local organisations including Warrington Wolves, which has led to local artists having their tracks played in front of over 10,000 Rugby League fans at half time. Over the years, as well as hosting gigs across the town including two in the Bus Interchange, over 6000 tracks have also been downloaded from the WarringtonMusic.co.uk website with 125,000 cumulative views on over 400 Youtube videos produced since [WAM] formed.

Lee founder of WarringtonMusic.co.uk said: "It is a great honour to be putting on such a great showcase of local artists in the Parr Hall. I have always wanted to host a gig in the venue, and it is great that I get to do that with Slydigs, who were headliners of our first ever [WAM] showcase. They went on to tour across the world with The Who and

I know they're going to be great in front of their biggest headline show.

"I set up [WAM] in 2012 to support live, grassroots music in my town because I believed that Warrington bands could thrive as long as they have a platform and the right help. There is so much talent and we are starting to see others take note.

"Balancing it between my work and home life [WAM] has had some ups and downs but I've been delighted at how far it's come.

"Slydigs, The Winachi Tribe, Psyblings and The K's are all very different bands in their own right – but the things that connect them is their talent, dedication to their craft and love of Warrington."

Commenting on the bands biggest headline show, Slydigs Front man Dean Fairhurst said: "This gig is a milestone for us and signifies just how far we have come from starting out in Warrington many years ago., not just for us but for the community and organisations like [WAM] who have backed us all the way. It's the community and organisations like [WAM] who are the back bone of the music scene in Warrington, they are the ones that keep it alive. We hope to involve as much of the community as possible for this.

"The band and I started off many years ago in Warrington playing small pubs to 50 odd people. Striving, fighting with every tooth and nail to get the recognition we believe we deserve for the music we create. Being banned from playing in anywhere in the Warrington area all together, to being accepted back to most recently headlining the Warrington Music Festival.

"It's been a long road and there's still a long way to go for us. It will be our biggest Headline show to date and for it to be in our home town is incredible. It's our true home coming. Now to announcing this very special headline show at the biggest, most prestigious music venue in the town is, for me such an special occasion.

"With the help of the community and organisations like [WAM] who are the back bone of the music scene, we are honoured to have the opportunity to announce this gig which we hold very close to our hearts. The 16th March 2018 at the Parr hall is a milestone in the bands career but also it's our way of giving back to the town that has given us so much over the years

"There's a great supporting line up also on the bill of all local acts so you can understand why this is event is not to be missed. We are planning something very special for this so buy your ticket and we'll see you down the front. Peace and love."

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Culture Warrington

Impressive turn out for 65th Regimental Sunday

By Paul Jackson

DIGNITARIES and officials from far and wide gathered in Warrington to pay their respects to fallen soldiers at St. Elphins Church at the 65th Regimental Sunday service and parade.

The tradition of the service dates back to 1938 when the 1914-1918 Memorial of the South Lancashire Regiment was dedicated in St Elphin's Parish Church.

Since then, a service to commemorate this has been held on the first Sunday of October. This year saw 20 Mayors and three Lord Mayors, their deputies and consorts gather in the town with representation from as far afield as Carlisle. The retinue included the Mayor of Warrington, Cllr. Les Morgan, the Deputy Mayor Cllr. Karen Mundy, Leader of the Council Cllr. Terry O'Neill and W.B.C. Chief Executive Steven Broomhead. The Lord Mayors of Liverpool, Chester and Lancaster were also in attendance.

The Service of Remembrance and March Past is a joint Warrington Borough Council and The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment event. It is a

major date in both the North West Civic and Regimental Calendars.

The aim of the Service of Remembrance and March Past is to bring together all elements of the Regiment surrounding Warrington to remember former members of the Regiment, affirm their current links to the Regiment and enjoy each other's company. It also confirms the Regiment's historic and emotional links with Warrington.

After a poignant service in the Parish Church conducted by the Rector of Warrington, St. Elphin's, The Reverend Paul D Wilson the officials assembled on Church Street to welcome the march past led by the 4th. Battalion The Duke of Lancaster Regimental band, including former servicemen and the Penketh and Warrington ACF. After the ceremony the participants withdrew to the church for refreshments.



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Mike Cooper looks to the future

Warrington Wolves' home grown forward Mike Cooper is looking to the future during the off-season by keeping himself busy at his off-field business the Bubble Clothing Company.

Mike, who runs the Bubble Clothing Company in Warrington, with his business partner and "best mate" Sam Wareing, is building his business for life after rugby.

While he still has a two year deal at the Wolves, having experienced a life threatening injury during his first spell at the club where he started as a 16-year-old, he is very much focused on the future.

Having suffered some serious injuries, Mike, who has just turned 29, doesn't know how many more years his body can take after the end of his current deal, so is working hard to make sure he has a business career when his playing days are over.

But he is also keen to use the pain of a terrible season for the Wolves to ensure things are put right next season.

"We shouldn't have been waving farewell to Kurt Gidley at that stage of the season, we should have been looking forward to winning the Grand Final," said Mike, who had a successful three year spell living the dream playing down under in the NRL.

But Warrington is his home and where he aims to make a successful business career at the Bubble Clothing Company providing embroidery and printing services on all kinds of clothing, from sports kits to corporate clothing.





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For many of us, the highlight of our last day of school consisted of signing each others shirts and preparing to face the world of work.

However, in the last ten years that has changed dramatically across schools in the UK..... now, the end of school is marked by the highlight of the school social calendar – PROM!

Prom is no longer something that we only hear of when we watch the American movies.... It's now bigger than ever for schools in Britain. For parents of students (particularly those with daughters!) who have recently left school, they will confirm the importance that prom played in their final year of school. Many now see prom as a rite of passage, centring on fun, dressing up and shared memories – many of the students will have been at school together since Year 7 and so, they have a lot of history together; prom is a celebration of their time together and at the school.

Many see prom as a social opportunity, a chance to open up the mystical world of formal dining. There are very few occasions when people are given the opportunity to attend a formal occasion like this and so, it is a lifetime experience for them.

For those with daughters, it is

highly likely that by the time they reach Year 11, you will have heard them utter the words 'prom dress shopping.' This was once something that would have been a chore, finding a shop with a selection of more than a couple of evening gowns was near impossible. However, The Dress Studio (located in Culcheth, Warrington) changed this. The store opened in 2012 and was inspired by the American Prom Dress and Evening Gown stores that have hundreds of dress options all under one roof. With over 1000 dresses instock and over 30 luxury, fitting rooms, The Dress Studio has become the 'go-to' place for a prom dress or evening gown.

The store caters for all price points, with long dresses starting from £50 and so, there is a dress for all budgets. The Dress Studio are stockists of some of the leading prom dress designers including Sherri Hill, Jovani, Forever Unique and more. Their team are dedicated to having a style for everyone and they travel across America meeting the designers, to ensure they bring the best dresses to Warrington.

Holly Pirrie from The Dress Studio said: "Since opening, we

have seen the increasing popularity in prom in Warrington and beyond. Our customers travel from across the UK – from Edinburgh to Essex, in order to visit our store, as we really are one of a kind.

"We have been selling prom dresses for 2018 throughout the summer and now the schools are back, it gets busier each week with prom customers. Our main advice is to try and visit the store before January, many wait until after Christmas and so, January becomes a little busier – between September and December, our new prom styles are arriving & so we have the 2018 dresses, but the shopping experience will be a lot more relaxed.

The weekends in January can be a little like boxing day sales, with everyone coming at once!"

With The Dress Studio on Warrington's doorstep, everyone will be ready for their next glamorous event!



St. Rocco's say thanks to retiring Chair Norman Banner

AFTER nearly ten years on the Board of Trustees at St. Rocco's Hospice and seven as Chair, Norman Banner has completed his term of office.

His last official event was at the recent Annual General Meeting where he typically paid tribute to the hard work and dedication of everyone else at St. Rocco's, including staff, volunteers, fellow trustees, members and patrons.

Fortunately, there were many on hand who were quick to recognise the important role that Norman has played over the last ten years at St. Rocco's and that he has been a great champion for those people and their families in the Warrington area with terminal or life-limiting illness. This included the Venerable Roger Preece, Archdeacon of Warrington, the incoming Chair of

the Board of Trustees.

Basil Mitchell, Vice President of St. Rocco's, described how over the years Norman has given freely of his time and expertise and done his level best to attend every event in the St. Rocco's calendar.

Mike Coates, also a Vice President stated that, as Chair of the organisation, Norman had displayed 'dedication, determination and a large dash of humour'.

Chief Executive Officer, Pam Massey, also thanked Norman for his support, "Not a week has gone by without Norman touching base with us here at the hospice and popping round to catch up with staff and volunteers," she said. There was only one word to describe him, she added, and that was, "awesome!"

"It has been a pleasure to work with all the teams in every area at St. Rocco's," said Norman, "They do a terrific job, offering a high level of service in care and commitment and working hard to make that experience the best it can be for patients and their families. This is backed up by a terrific body of volunteers doing an amazing job in every way. I am also very proud of everything that is done inside and outside of the hospice to increase the understanding in the community of everything that St. Rocco's has to offer."

Although Norman has said farewell to being Chair of the Board, he is not saying goodbye as he will be continuing his association with the charity as a Vice President.



Norman Banner with Inpatient Health Care Assistants Andrea Crowley & Jo Paget with a special cake created for Norman by the catering team.

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Historic Sankey Canal receives partnership pledge

RESTORATION of the historic Sankey Canal, Britain's first industrial canal, has been given a major boost thanks to a new Sankey Canal Partnership.

The Sankey Canal Restoration Society, the Canal & River Trust, plus St Helens, Warrington and Halton borough councils, all came together at the St Helens World of Glass, to pledge their support for the regeneration of the 14 mile Sankey Canal corridor.

The man-made waterway begins in St Helens and runs through Newton-le-Willows, Winwick, Warrington and ends at Spike Island in Widnes, where it connects into the River Mersey.

Opened in 1757, the Sankey pre-dates the Bridgewater Canal by four years and was built primarily to carry coal from the Lancashire coalfields to the growing port of Liverpool. Its construction and later extensions led to the birth of the chemical industry on the banks of

the Mersey at Widnes.

The canal is remarkable for featuring Britain's first staircase lock and first viaduct crossing of a canal by a railway – George Stephenson's original line from Liverpool to Manchester.

After canal cargoes declined in the early 20th century, the Sankey was officially closed in 1963. Today much of the canal remains in water but the navigation is now severed by the M62 motorway, several roads, a footbridge and a railway line.

In the 21st century the canal route has been successfully re-invented as the Sankey Valley Trail, converting almost the entire length of the former towpath into a long-distance, off-road footpath suitable for cyclists, walkers, prams and

wheelchairs. Thriving boat clubs operate at the two locks into the River Mersey at Fiddlers Ferry and Spike Island, and the trail is popular with a wide range of groups and individuals from anglers to dog-walkers.

The Sankey Canal Restoration Society (SCARS) was formed in 1985 with the aim of returning the canal to navigation. Since then hundreds of volunteers have donated many hours to renovating locks and bridges, and improving pathways. The borough councils of St Helens, Warrington and Halton have also played a major role delivering improvement projects in their own areas.

Now the Canal & River Trust, the charity which cares for 2,000 miles of the nation's waterways, has joined forces with the three councils and SCARS to form the Sankey Canal Partnership.

For more information about volunteering on the Sankey Canal, please contact SCARS. Email: colin.greenall@btinternet.com or telephone 01744 731746. Website: www.sankeycanal.co.uk



The pledge being signed by: (L to R) seated Dave Smallshaw (SCARS – Sankey Canal Restoration Society), Richard Parry (Canal & River Trust chief executive). Standing David Parr (Halton Council chief executive), David Boyer (Warrington Council assistant director transport), Mike Palin (St Helens chief executive).

Winter Wonderland is back!

MANCHESTER'S biggest Indoor Christmas attraction, the award-winning Winter Wonderland Manchester is back for 2017!

The magic of Christmas will take over EventCity next to the Intu Trafford Centre from Saturday 9th December 2017 to Monday 1st January 2018.

Legendary children's TV show, Rainbow will be the star attraction of this year's Christmas extravaganza, plus over 50 family rides and attractions all under one roof - including new rides for 2017, and all included in one ticket price.

As well as the rides and the bright lights, there will be a

dazzling array of colourful shows which this year includes Zippy and George from Rainbow who will no doubt bring lots of magic, mayhem and comedy capers!

The spectacular Christmas Circus also makes a welcome return delivering the finest collection of circus acts that will leave everyone marvelled and amazed with daily performances.

Of course, Christmas wouldn't be Christmas without a visit from Santa Claus complete with real reindeers, who will be taking time out of his busy schedule for meet and greets with all the children, every day up to and including Christmas

Eve. Fairies and Elves will also fly around to play and chat and have 'selfies' with the children.

There will also be a whole host of games stalls and a vast array of food and drinks stalls to purchase refreshments including hot snacks and sweet treats.

Winter Wonderland operates on a session basis to ensure visitors can enjoy the experience without overcrowding, offering families four hours of non-stop fun and entertainment.

Group, family and individual tickets are on sale now for the magical festive family adventure which is guaranteed to create that

enchancing Christmas spirit.

Book your tickets now at www.winterwonderlandmanchester.com or by calling 0843 208 1842, for Group Booking please call 0843 208 6003.



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Warrington shines with English Half Marathon sell out success

Pictures: Tony Wallbank

WARRINGTON'S English Half Marathon was a sell out success for the third consecutive year with plans already in the pipeline for next year's 10th anniversary event.

The event organisers were overwhelmed with the crowd support of runners in the 9th showing of the ever-popular race which attracted 7,500 entrants with the highlight of the event finishing at the town's iconic Golden Gates.

Rob Griffiths, race director, says: "Warrington really shone. The feedback we have had from runners about the support and energy on the route is amazing. The town is really starting to take this race to its heart and showing great civic pride".

Setting off at 9am, the Half Marathon and 10k races took in all the landmarks of Warrington, ending once again in a spectacular finish through the iconic Golden Gates. The event attracted entrants from 12 countries and over 4000 runners from out of the town.

The WireFM Family Mile saw runners of all ages take on a one-mile circuit of the town centre, with the budding runners of tomorrow also enjoying the red-carpet finish through the Golden Gates.

That half marathon was won

by Matthew Lalor of Barlick Fell Runners in a time of 1:13:14. With Kate Knox crossing the line as the first lady in a time of 1:27:09

Kevin Usher of Northern Masters AC took the 10k victory with 35.04. But was pushed all the way by 15-year-old Ben Batho of Stockport Harriers with a time of 35.25. Kirsty Longley took the female win, with a time of 37.23.

With all race distances selling out well in advance of race day, the popularity continues to grow.

"It is great to welcome all of these wonderful runners to our town. The council and I have a vision to make this event not just a highlight in the global running calendar but a truly amazing day for Warrington. It's a community asset we should be proud of", added Rob.

The race returns on the weekend of the 14-16th September 2018 for its 10th Anniversary Race.

Full race results and 2018 entry details are available online at www.run-ehm.com



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Mayor visits Masonic Hall for the return of Elias Ashmole

WARRINGTON'S Mayor Les Morgan was on hand to see the return of Elias Ashmole to his home of Freemasonry during a heritage weekend at the town's Masonic Hall.

Elias Ashmole was the first recorded speculative Freemason to be initiated during a ceremony which took place in Warrington in 1646.

As part of the planned events held by the Warrington Group for the Warrington Heritage Weekend and part of the tercentenary celebrations of Freemasonry, a timeline drama and pageant was organised which covered the period 1646 to 1813 and was enacted by the St Helens and Prescott Group. The timeline started with the initiation of Elias Ashmole and culminated in the formation of the Grand Lodge of England.

Visitors to the hall were invited to attend one of the two drama presentations and both were well supported. The first presentation was also visited by The Mayor and Mayoress of Warrington, Councillor Les Morgan and his wife Gwen.

The presentations were light hearted and humorous, and when looking at the smiling faces, all who attended enjoyed the enactment.

Other attractions on the heritage event included a display of Masonic banners, various embroidery and craft items brought by the Embroiderers Guild and the Craft Workers Guild and there was

also a teddy bear hunt.

Dignitaries visiting the hall over the two days included Faisal Rashid, MP for Warrington South

and Kevin Poynton, Assistant Provincial Grand Master and his wife Susan.

Before the Mayor left, he along with Andy Barton the Warrington Group Chairman, unveiled a plaque to commemorate the life of two Warrington Masons who died

in the First World War.

They were Lance Corporal William Haddock Robinson, a member of Lodge of Friendship No 2963 and Lieutenant Percy Carter who was a member of Gilbert Greenall Lodge No 1250.



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FDR Law appoint new Business Development Manager

WARRINGTON based legal firm FDR Law has appointed Steve Maloret as their new Business Development Manager to further develop their growing portfolio of local clients and partners.

Steve has moved to FDR Law from the RBS group where he was Regional Development Manager delivering HR, Employment Law and Health & Safety advice to SME's.

Steve joins as the new Business Development Manager, to continue FDR Law's recent growth by working with Head of Department's to build an infrastructure that will drive business development across the whole firm.

Steve comments "I am looking forward to working with such an amazing collection of legal experts

at FDR and the challenge of helping to grow an already fantastic firm and building relationships with the community and business leaders in the area."

Oliver Burton, CEO of FDR Law, who have offices in Warrington, Stockton Heath and Frodsham, said "Steve is hugely important to our plans for growth. His wealth of experience will help us to further develop our business strategies, and to help develop relationships with new clients. We are all excited about Steve playing a key role in the future of the company."



Warrington Lions induct first lady President

WARRINGTON Lions Club has inducted their first woman President – Chris McDermott from Penketh.

Chris, a long standing member of the club, was officially inducted during a special meeting at the Riverside, Warrington, by outgoing President Tony Gandy, who held the post for the past two years.

The Lions Club was formed in Warrington in 1968 and has

served its community with great distinction since that time.

The club currently has 24 members and have service projects throughout the year. Their main event of the year is Christmas when they bring out a spectacular Santa Sleigh onto the streets of Warrington.

Many thousands of pounds are raised all of which goes to needy causes.

The club is always on the look

out for new members, both men and women. So if you have a few hours to spare and would like to offer your time and skills to those less fortunate than yourself then the Lions Club is for you.

Please ring Tony on 07880 801629 and arrangements can be made for you to meet the Lions.

They meet on 1st & 3rd Monday at 7pm at Woolston British Legion, 50, Manchester Road, Woolston, Warrington, WA14PU.

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All change at Making Space with new CEO and brand

IT is all change at Warrington-based national adult health and social care charity Making Space which is celebrating 35 years with a new logo and CEO.

After working for the past three years as director of development Rachel Peacock has been announced as the charity's new chief executive officer – and with the appointment comes a fresh logo and brand for Making Space, to reflect the significant changes the charity has seen over the last few years.

Liverpool-born Rachel's appointment comes at a time of growth for Making Space, which she oversaw in her role as director of development. The charity, which was established in 1991 to support people with schizophrenia and their families, saw a major shift in 2012 when it opened up its services to all people who are in need of care and support, including mental health conditions, older adults and people with learning disabilities and dementia, and their carers.

Rachel said: "I applied for the role because, after being with the organisation for over three years, I felt that I understood its complexities in depth. Every day I learn something new about a service we are delivering or hear about a great success of one of our service users or volunteers. I wanted to continue the legacy of an organisation that is fearless in the face of change and determined to be uncompromising on delivering high quality services."

With responsibility for overseeing the brand makeover Rachel was very keen to ensure that it symbolised the evolution of Making Space and what it now stands for.

"Our new logo is inspired by a petal – a positive symbol of prosperity, growth and development," she said.

"It's made-up of three different coloured petals, representing the diverse people we work with and support, and the variety of services we deliver. As the petals come together they create a heart, which represents how we are stronger for our differences. At the heart of everything we do is our shared ambition of making a difference to people's lives."

As CEO, Rachel plans to ensure that Making Space continues to respond to the changing social care environment and ensure that the principles of the Care Act, in providing choice and control in care needs, are prioritised in service delivery.

"I'll ensure we do so with the passion and professionalism for the people we support that we have always had," she said. "We need to keep listening to what the people we support tell us they want from our organisation, as well as take every opportunity to be innovative in how we deliver services."

The new CEO intends to channel her significant experience into achieving "phenomenal outcomes" at Making Space. "I want to create a culture where our workforce can bring new ideas to the table and we can try new ways of working together," she said. "We need to share in the successes and share in the learning when things don't go to plan."

"I want to lead an organisation where the people we support and our employees know they can approach me and give me honest feedback about what we do well and what we can improve."



An evening to remember the fallen

WARRINGTON residents are being invited to the Parr Hall on November 4, to remember and honour all those who have lost their lives in military conflicts.

Being staged by Warrington Male Voice Choir, and starting at 7pm, Festival of Remembrance 2017 will feature the Male Voice Choir, the Combined Bands of The Lancashire Artillery & The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment, Service Cadet contingents, an audience sing-along and a Drumhead Service of Remembrance & Reflection led by The Revd Canon Paul Wilson.

Hosted by Bob Williams the evening will help raise money for the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal 2017 and ssafa – the Armed Forces charity.

Commenting, Vice-Chairman of Warrington Male Voice Choir, George Hill said, "This will be the fourth year that the choir have staged what is always an emotional, yet enjoyable evening. We hope that people of all ages will again join us to remember and honour those who have made the ultimate sacrifice and, at the same time, raise money for two very worthy and vital charities."

Tickets are £10 (Under 16s – £5) and can be bought by ringing 01925 442345, visiting www.pyramidparrhall.com or www.ticketmaster.com or in person from the Pyramid/Parr Hall ticket office.

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By David Watkinson

Rental income and company cars

This month there are a couple of changes or expected changes. The first affects people with rental income and the other affecting people with a company car who pay for their own fuel.

In last year's budget the Chancellor announced the introduction of a £1,000 tax free property allowance. This proposal was dropped in advance of the general election, but is expected to be introduced again in the November budget in the same terms. It will apply from last April as originally intended.

Provided only that it is introduced in this way the allowance cannot be used for letting income which is eligible for Rent-A-Room relief, even if that relief is not claimed. Also, it cannot be claimed where the restriction on tax deductible loan interest applies. Other than that, it applies to any form of letting income such as renting out your driveway for parking.

If the income is less than £1,000 in the tax year then the exemption applies automatically. There is no need to claim it. If income exceeds £1,000 then it will be possible to claim a deduction of £1,000 against that income instead of the actual costs incurred. Of course, this is a choice that will only be made if costs are lower than £1,000. The allowance is a per person and not per property, so can only be claimed once in the year.

The second change is that HMRC has updated its advisory fuel rates (AFRs), which can be used to claim back the cost of fuel purchased privately but used for eligible business travel in a company car, with effect from 1 September 2017. The rates are worked out using average pump prices over the previous quarter, which saw fuel prices reducing slightly. The trouble is that prices began to rise in late August and so the new AFR's don't reflect this. In fact, they have been reduced for some of cars.

To mitigate the effect of the new rates somewhat, you can continue to use the old rates (shown in brackets in the table below) until the end of September 2017. Alternatively, you can work out your own rates and use them instead. If you do, keep a good record of how you calculated them in case HMRC queries them.

Engine size	Petrol per mile	LPG per mile	Diesel per mile
Up to 1,400cc	11p (11p)	7p (7p)	-
1,401cc to 2,000cc	13p (14p)	8p (9p)	-
Up to 1,600cc	-	-	9p (9p)
1,601cc to 2,000cc	-	-	11p (11p)
Over 2,000cc	21p (21p)	13p (14p)	12p (13p)

WatkinsonBlack 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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New deal for Yellows boss



WARRINGTON Town manager Paul Carden has signed a new two and a half year deal at Cantilever Park.

Carden had been subject of an approach from National League side Chester recently, but has committed his future to the Yellows until at least the end of the 2019/20 season.

He said: "I'm delighted to sign. Me and Toby (Macormac, club chairman) had an agreement when I came in, and the commitment shown from the club to me and the same back I think was important.

"Toby wanted to get it done as much as I did, so we've agreed it and hopefully we can take the club forward and have a longer spell and bring in success together."

Carden celebrated his new deal by watching his team thump Lancaster City 5-1, lifting them to second in the league table.

He revealed that he had received approaches from clubs at a higher level recently, including from his former club Chester, who recently appointed Marcus

Bignot, who interestingly was at the Yellows recent home game against Stourbridge.

Carden added: "I was at Chester for a long time as a player, I was captain and you do have a think about it, but the main thing for me was that we're starting to build something here now.

"Toby has never once said to me you can't do this or you can't do that, because I think he knows how hard we work as well. It's not just about signing player after player, we work hard to try and get the right balance, and I feel that we're getting somewhere.

"It's important we maintain that. I didn't want to start looking elsewhere and I committed myself, even if it was only verbally at the time. When I said no to Chester for an interview, I think Toby's recognised it and I'd never want to walk away from here, we've got too much to do!"

Flex kick off charity football tournament

A total of 50 junior football teams from across the region competed in the first charity football tournament organised by local design, manufacturing and supply chain company named Flex.

The event was in aid of Warrington Disability Partnership. In addition to the junior teams, Warrington Wolves Foundation and Everton in the Community and Down Syndrome Football Teams competed in a closely fought head to head.

An exhibition of Blind Football and teams from Livewire and Culcheth Walking Football Clubs showed that football is a sport for all abilities and ages.

Livewire provided pitches and access to facilities at Orford Jubilee Hub and members of Birchwood Lions Club, with support from staff and volunteers from Warrington Disability Partnership provided admin support and stewards.

Dave Thompson MBE DL, Co-founder and Chief Executive at Warrington Disability Partnership paid tribute to Flex employees who had organised the event, and Mike Davies from Macron Sportswear in Wrexham, who supported the event.

Over 1,200 people were there including players, coaches and their families; together creating an amazing atmosphere of competition.

Every child that played received a medal and younger players received a voucher from Gulliver's World, and the winners of each age group received a trophy.

The winners included local teams, Woolston Rovers and Appleton Blacks.





Price is right for Warrington Wolves

WARRINGTON Wolves have appointed Steve Price as the club's new head coach on a two-year deal.

Price, 40, takes on the role from departing head of coaching and rugby Tony Smith, making the move from his position as assistant coach with NRL side Cronulla Sharks. He brings with him NRL Grand Final winning experience, having been part of the coaching team at both St George Illawarra Dragons and Cronulla Sharks.

A former player at St George Dragons and Balmain Tigers in the late 1990s he began his coaching career at the Dragons in 2002 with the Jersey Flegg under 20s. He then progressed to the Premier League and Toyota Cup 20s sides before stepping up into the position of NRL assistant coach under Wayne Bennett in 2010, the year they finished the season as Premiers.

Price was promoted to the position of head coach of the Dragons in 2012 at the age of 34, making him one of the youngest head coaches in NRL history. At the end of 2014 he made the move to Cronulla as assistant coach, enjoying another Premier winning season when the Sharks secured the Grand Final win over Melbourne last year.

Chief executive Karl Fitzpatrick said on the appointment: "Following completion of a thorough and extensive search, we firmly believe that in Steve Price we have found the right man to bring success to Warrington Wolves. As a result of his involvement in two NRL Grand Final winning clubs, Steve fully understands what is required to deliver that success; he is regarded as having a major influence on the Sharks' 2016 Grand Final win and he is highly respected by all of their players.

"During our detailed discussions, Steve clearly demonstrated an exceptional understanding of the game in both attack and defence, and he has a great awareness of Super League. Steve has a reputation for attention to detail when it comes to his team's preparation and performance, and he is acutely aware of the high expectations we have here at Warrington.

"Steve was one of the youngest to secure a head coach role in the NRL, and we are certain that this experience will put him in good stead. We received resounding positive feedback at all stages of the recruitment process, with Steve being highly recommended by some of the sport's most successful coaches and influential players."

Price added: "I'm excited to be heading to the UK and being part of the Warrington Wolves for 2018".

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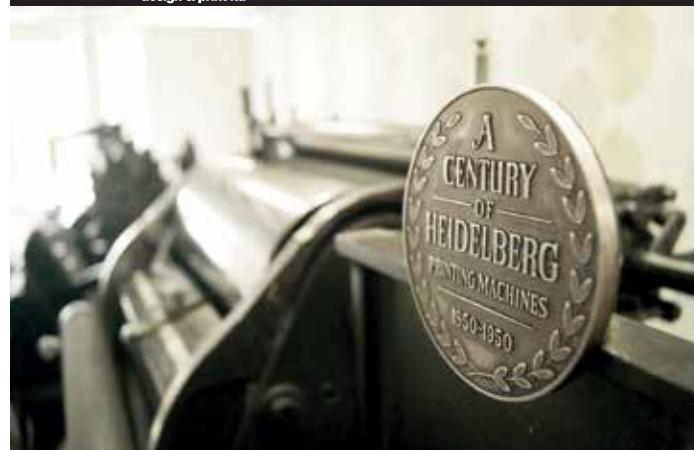
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