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Issue No. 220 January 2018 FREE EVERY MONTH



New year, new fight!

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Annual Report
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Editor's Comment



WELL the good news is, as we reported LAST January, no libraries are to close in Warrington.

Now for the bad news, Warrington Borough Council, while investing in the libraries' infrastructures, is insisting operators LiveWire still make £300,000 in savings to meet budget demands.

This whole sorry saga has now been rumbling on for 18 months and one wonders how much it has cost in staff and officer time, setting up public consultations and a working party to review the future of our libraries?

On a positive note it was refreshing to hear a councillor apologise to LiveWire for some of the unfair criticism which has been levelled at them.

If anyone is still in any doubt it was Warrington Borough Council who asked LiveWire to make the savings, which initially put some libraries under threat - and it is

Warrington Borough Council who are still insisting on "robust business cases" to keep the libraries open.

With further austerity measures on the horizon one wonders what other cuts could be looming?

But while the belt gets tighter and tighter due to Government cuts in local government budgets, Warrington Borough Council should be congratulated on their endeavours to generate new income streams, particular their investment

in places like Birchwood Park.

Warrington is still continuing to buck the trend with all the investment taking place in the town centre and it is good to see new residential developments springing up in former office spaces - much better than developing our precious green belt, although I fear that pressure will be looming on the horizon in the not too distant future!

Watch this space!

**Deadline for the
February issue
of Warrington
Worldwide
is January 9**

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Peel Hall campaigners unveil new battle plans

RESIDENTS fighting to save the "last green space" in North Warrington have unveiled a new campaign in a bid to bolster their New Year battle to save Peel Hall.

Campaigners are hoping their latest move will set the pace for one of their most challenging years yet.

Campaigner Wendy Johnson-Taylor said: "We've been monitoring what's been going on around our town. 2017 was very much a waiting game for us. We have been planning for the right moment to launch this. We all feel the start of 2018 is the right time. We have designed a fantastic campaign logo and our mission statement simply says: 'Too Late When it's Gone' which is very appropriate."

"We've felt the need to push things forward, especially in the light of an appeal set for this April."

Wendy added: "Sadly, with every resident fighting their own corners we felt we had to up our game and start 2018 as we mean

to, with a New Year and New Fight attitude."

Landowner Satnam Millennium and Warrington Borough Council now face a Government Appeal following the council's refusal to grant a major development which includes 1,200 new homes. The appeal will now take place on Monday, April 23 at The Orford Jubilee Hub.

The original appeal was postponed, to allow Satnam and Warrington Borough Council extra facility to discuss additional information in a preliminary "common ground" set for March.

Wendy said: "Residents were fuming when we heard about this and we certainly do not think this move is a fair. Satnam should only be allowed to appeal against refusal of the original application

with information submitted at that time and nothing more. We are hoping the Inspector will agree that Peel Hall is a land-locked site, not suitable for development, is completely unsustainable with zero infrastructure. There's a long list of serious concerns attached to Satnam's application."

MP Helen Jones and her North Warrington councillors are backing the residents' New Year determination to stop Satnam's development.

At the campaign's unveiling she told the crowd: "We have everyone here from pensioners to young, united against this development."

"We know we have a difficult fight ahead of us. We are not frightened of Satnam, we have defeated Satnam before and we can defeat them again."

"We have enough brownfield in our town to build the houses we need - without destroying residents' quality of life. Together I am convinced we can defeat Satnam," added Helen.

The campaign group is now planning their biggest event to date in the form of a community rally which will take place just before the appeal. Wendy urged all residents to attend.



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Students secure places at university to study nursing

FOUR health and social care students from Warrington & Vale Royal College are celebrating after securing places to study nursing at some of the country's most prestigious universities.

Elisha Harding, Megan Williams, Jessica Bridge and Sophie Wills – who are all in the final year of their level 3 qualification at the college – will continue their studies at a variety of universities in September 2018.

Former Beumont Collegiate Academy pupil Megan has been offered places at the University of Chester, Liverpool John Moores University and the University of Salford.

Jessica, a former Hope Academy pupil, will choose between the University of Salford and the University of Central Lancashire.

Former Great Sankey High School pupil Elisha has been offered places at Chester and Salford, while Sophie – a former Penketh High School pupil – will be choosing from Chester and King's College London.

The group say they owe their success to the college's tutors, who have supported them every step of the way during their course to ensure they reach their goals.

Megan said: "It doesn't quite feel real that we've got these university offers – it's a fantastic feeling. Having our university options sorted is a huge weight off our shoulders."

Sophie added: "The health and

social care course at Warrington & Vale Royal College is the most amazing course. The opportunities and experiences we have had, thanks to the college, have given us such an edge that will really benefit us in the future, especially the work placements we have been able to take part in."

Jessica said: "We would never have been able to get these university places if it wasn't for our tutors at the college. They are so supportive and as well as obviously helping us with the course, they have given us advice on so many things and have helped with our personal statements."

Elisha added: "I have absolutely loved my time at Warrington & Vale Royal College and cannot wait to go on to university."

Warrington & Vale Royal College has a fantastic record of helping health and social care students to obtain places at their chosen university to study a variety of topics, including in-demand nursing and midwifery courses.

Amanda MacKinnon, Curriculum Manager for Health, Social & Childcare, said: "Elisha, Megan, Jessica and Sophie should be so incredibly proud of themselves for securing places at university,

especially in such a competitive industry as nursing.

"At Warrington & Vale Royal College, we pride ourselves on giving our students the best opportunities to help them succeed in life. In industries like health, social and childcare, having real-life work experience is extremely important and something that the girls have all taken part in. This experience will have surely helped in their university applications.

"Elisa, Meg, Sophie and Jess have worked so hard during their time at the college and this shows in both their assignments and predicted grades. I am positive they will make fantastic nurses in the future."

To find out more about the courses and opportunities available in the health, social and childcare industry, visit wvr.ac.uk or visit their open evening on Monday February 12, 5pm-7pm.



From left to right: Health and social care students Sophie Wills, Jessica Bridge, Elisha Harding and Megan Williams.

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Another great year of growth

By Steve Park

2017 was another busy year and it has been great to see such progress in the town.

Warrington's framework for growth, Warrington Means Business, sets out the growth ambitions and plans for the town. Each year end is a good opportunity for reflection and with the speed of progress it is easy to forget that Omega was an unoccupied, disused former airfield only three and a half years ago. The commercial elements of the site are now almost full in fact work will commence in building three units on the final plot early next year. By March 2018 almost 7000 people will be working on the site, on a further 12 months that figure could be nearing 10,000.

The residential element is also underway with Miller Homes on site and planning permission having been approved for Redrow Homes for the next element. Work will also be starting next year on the new 35 acre public park; the Green Heart.

There has been good progress too in the Town Centre with the Time Square project rapidly taking shape. The temporary market opened in August and the new Multi-Storey car park opened in November. Work is underway in earnest on the main build phase and we'll be announcing the first of the restaurants who will be taking up space early in the New Year along with a major leisure operator.

One of the main objectives of

the Warrington Means Business framework is the repopulation of Warrington Town Centre in terms of people working and living in the centre. It is exciting for me that the business and property market is starting to react to the potential of the town and the regeneration underway. Barely a day goes by when I don't receive a call from an investor.

It is great to see the independent businesses over in the cultural quarter doing so well, with independent shops, food outlets and bars popping up. Next year will see more bar/restaurants open adding to the night-time economy in the showpiece Old Treasury building and the opening in February of a new bar on Bold Street by the owners of 9 Gallon and Hop & Co. Warrington Borough

Council's pedestrianisation of parts of the Cultural Quarter, being led by Warrington & Co. commencing early next year will complement to the attraction of the area. I'm looking forward too to the opening of the planned Italian restaurant in the old school building on Cairo Street.

Encouragingly property developers are investing in the town centre, particularly in residential projects. There have been over 200 residential conversions and upgrades of properties in the last 12 months and applications submitted for nearly 400 more. I recently visited the £5 million conversion of former offices at Kings Court into 32 luxury apartments and undertaken by local developer Emerald Bay. The apartments have been completed to a very high standard and subject to planning permission Emerald Bay are planning to build more.



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Steve Park
MD of Warrington & Co.

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Parr Hall Panto promises to be full of beans

WARRINGTON Parr Hall's annual Panto promises to be full of beans when it kicks off on January 5 with Jack and the Beanstalk.

Characters "Sill Billy" and "Jill" got a taste for Warrington when they joined popular CBBC characters Dick and Dom, children's favourite Justin Fletcher, Warrington Wolves players and the man of the moment, Father Christmas, for the town's Christmas lights switch on.

'Silly Billy', played by Mike Carnell, kicked off the show with a rendition of Can't Stop the Feeling, followed by Lori Kellett, aka 'Jill', singing Hold My Hand, and were delighted by the warm response they received from the Warrington crowd.

The visit also allowed the pair, and Jack's cow, the poor animal which is exchanged for the all-important magic beans, a chance to explore Parr Hall, where the panto will be entertaining audiences in January.

Mike said: "After the friendly reception we got in Warrington, we can't wait to return in the New Year to perform Jack and the Beanstalk."

Lori added: "The lights switch-on

was so much fun; a great event to be part of.

"It was lovely to meet some of the boys and girls who will hopefully be coming along to Parr Hall in January to see our fantastic panto."

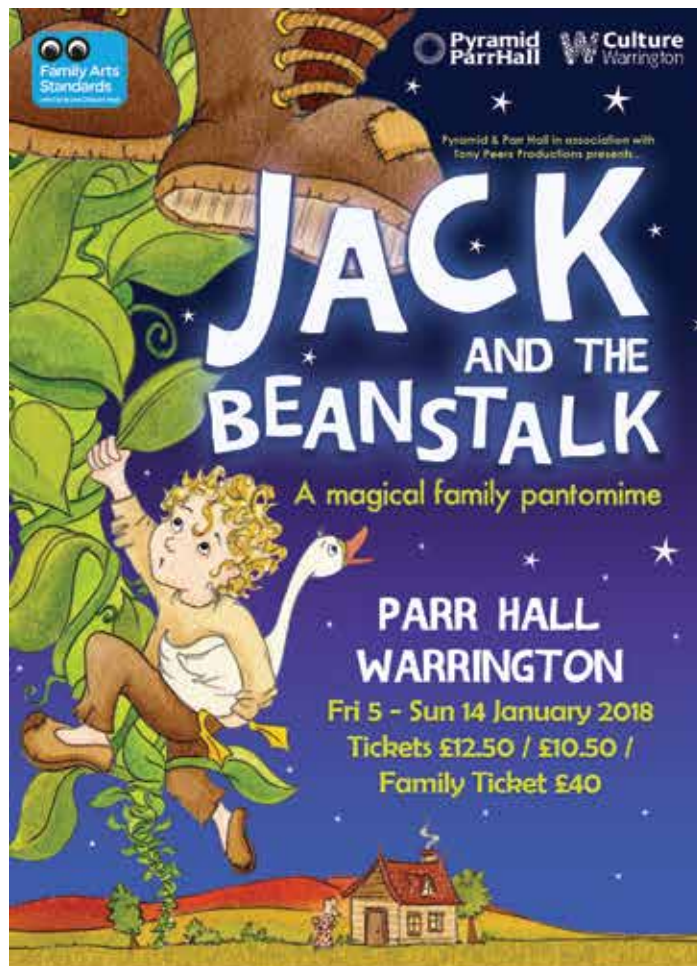
Jack and the Beanstalk promises to be a giant of a pantomime, full of beans and packed with "fee, fi, fo, fun"!

After getting into big trouble with his mother for selling their cow for a handful of beans, Jack's dreams come true when they start to grow.

Tony Peers, of Tony Peers Productions which produces the panto, said: "Join Jack on the adventure of a lifetime as he outwits the giant and makes his fortune."

"This is a timeless tale which continues to capture the imagination of children of all ages."

Tickets for Jack and the Beanstalk are on sale now, with special offers available. Call the box office on 01925 442345 or visit www.pyramidparrhall.com for tickets.



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College restaurant achieves highest accolade

CHRISTMAS came early for Warrington & Vale Royal College's hospitality and catering department after it received a prestigious AA College Rosette from People 1st.

Buckley's restaurant, located at the college's Warrington Campus, was visited during October by Andy Doyle, membership operations manager at People 1st and Ewan Davidson from AA Hotel Services, to see if it was worthy of the accreditation.

The hard work and dedication of staff and students paid off, with the restaurant receiving a Silver People 1st Award and a Gold Highly

Commended AA College Rosette – the maximum that can be awarded to a college.

Andrew Macleod, Curriculum Manager for Hospitality & Catering and Travel & Tourism, said: "Receiving an AA College Rosette is an incredible achievement and something we as a department are extremely proud of. It really shows how much work we are putting in here at the college to ensure our

learners are getting the skills and knowledge they need to succeed in industry.

"Buckley's is not just a place for students to come and learn about hospitality and catering – it is a state-of-the-art commercial restaurant, one which they leave as qualified chefs and front-of house professionals.

"Receiving this award just shows all of the hard work, dedication and commitment the department has demonstrated to get us to this point – onwards and upwards for another great year!"

The AA College Rosette Scheme aims to recognise students – both front and back of house – who are the future of the hospitality industry. The college accreditation process, provided by People 1st, also recognises colleges offering exceptional hospitality training.

In his report, inspector Ewan Davidson described food at the restaurant as having "the wow factor" and said level 3 students showed good leadership and mentoring skills.

He added that the food style is "modern, uses contemporary techniques and investment in crockery etc has given everything a professional sheen". Mr Davidson said that in industry, the meal he was served would have benchmarked easily at one Rosette, and would not have been out of place as a two Rosette.

The AA Rosette is the latest in a host of awards for Buckley's, with the exceptional standard of teaching and training within the catering department previously awarded a prestigious Medal for

Excellence from City & Guilds.

Poppy-Jay Nash, a former Winsford E-ACT Academy pupil, said: "I feel really proud to be a student here and to be a part of this department."

Poppy, who travels to Warrington for the Level 2 Culinary Skills and Level 2 Professional Food & Beverage Service courses, added: "I absolutely love the course and everything about it. Last year, before the colleges merged, I did my first year of the course at the Winsford Campus but now I'm able to benefit from the industry-standard facilities that we have here at Warrington. I'm learning so much stuff that will be invaluable should I choose to make a career as a chef."

The AA College Rosette is the icing on the cake for chef lecturer Scott Surtees, who vowed to help the college achieve the award when he joined three years ago.

Scott said: "We have worked incredibly hard to increase the reputation of the department and to make Warrington & Vale Royal College the go to place for hospitality and catering courses. Receiving this accreditation just proves how far we push our students and that we are doing at the college, and what we are teaching these budding young chefs, is right."

"It was my five year plan to get an AA Rosette for Buckley's and we've managed to do it in three! For us to receive this in the same year as winning a Medal for Excellence and taking home silver at the Welsh International Culinary Championships is just incredible."



Hospitality and catering students Jasmine Wright, David Peterken, chef lecturer Scott Surtees, Poppy-Jay Nash and Nathan Hughes with the AA College Rosette.

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New look for family friendly Ring O' Bells pub

THE historic Ring o' Bells pub in Warrington has a fresh new look following a £100,000 investment.

While retaining its historic charm the pub has been modernised, serving fine cask ales and good quality food - and welcomes family dining at lunch times and evenings, including Sunday lunches.

Free car parking is also available across the road on Sainsbury's car park, as long as you register your car number plate when you arrive at the bar.

Father and son, John and Chris Catelani, and Michael Atkinson have relaunched the venue as a 'family friendly' venue with an emphasis on home-cooked food after launching Same Again pubs.

New manager is David Fox, who has previously worked at Antrobus Golf Club, while head chef is Stephen Melton, formerly of Caffé Caruso, who Chris went to school with at Padgate High.

Chris said: "We are serving pub classics like steak and ale pies, fish and chips and curries. Everything is made fresh and locally based Coach House brewery have made an exclusive beer for us called Bellringer."

John, Chris and Michael took on The Ring o' Bells after working on other pubs in the area including the Barley Mow, Black Swan in Hollins Green, The Rams Head in Grappenhall and The Red Lion in Stockton Heath through their Warrington based design company.

They hope the Ring O Bells will be the first of many pubs.



Manager David Fox pulling a pint of the exclusive Bell Ringer

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Strictly St Rocco's r

THE annual Strictly St. Rocco's event raised a sparkling £60,000 towards patient care at the Warrington based hospice as 10 amateur dancers took to the floor.

More than 400 guests packed out the James Braid Suite at the Mere Golf Resort and Spa to watch the 10 amateurs take to the floor, accompanied by professional partners from Cadmans Dance School who helped them to show off their newly acquired dance skills.

As well as putting on a dazzling display of dance the volunteers, all drawn from local Warrington businesses and organisations, were encouraged to raise as much sponsorship as possible towards patient care at St. Rocco's.

This year the audience was

able to hear first-hand about the difference that support makes to patients and families when Chris Patino, whose wife was cared for by staff at St. Rocco's last year, spoke about his family's experience. Guests responded generously and over £64,000 was pledged, the highest amount ever for the event.

The dancers had worked incredibly hard and the high standard impressed the judges including Cadman's new Principal, Victoria Bennett, Ralph Casson, Wayne Newhouse and last year's winner, Rob Foden.




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Warrington Disability Partnership

Annual Report

2017



Giving Disabled People
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Introduction

Chairman and Chief Executive's Report

During 2016, our 25th Anniversary Year, Warrington Disability Partnership and our social enterprise the Disability Trading Company continue to make a positive difference to the lives of tens of thousands of disabled people, locally, regionally, nationally and internationally.

Our performance against contracts have continued to receive excellent outcome results, but due to a reduction in funding in a number of areas, and the realignment of some grant payments, our financial position has suffered in year. This has resulted in us reviewing our services, and we feel confident that we will redress the position during our next trading year.

Throughout our 25th year we have highlighted the selfless involvement of hundreds of people, especially our volunteers. Together we have laid down a number of milestone achievements that have helped to shape the organisation we have and helped influence disability services worldwide. Today, WDP has an excellent team of 50 staff, 230 volunteers and 14 trustees, as well as a substantial following of supporters and loyal customers.

This support has been evident as individuals, community groups and businesses got behind our Legacy Appeal, raising funds that will help to continue our work into the future. Thirty-one staff from Birchwood based Claremont, endured a 42 miles Canoe Challenge down the river Wye, whilst staff from Solvay climbed Mount Snowdon and the Today Team walked over hot coals. Nearly a dozen organisations chose us as their Charity of the Year including our Mayor and Mayoress of Warrington and the Royal Mail at Omega. Individual efforts also stood out, with Lindsey Mapp's sponsored walk, Dominic Hall's sale of woodwork, and our biggest thanks go to St George Healthcare and St Mark Universal Copts Care, joint sponsors our Legacy Fund.

One of our biggest milestones was our 25th Disability Awareness Day that was principally sponsored by Your Housing Group. David Briggs MBE, Lord Lieutenant of Cheshire presented certificates of appreciation to a number of individuals and organisations that have supported each of our annual events. DAD25 also influenced other DAD events around the world including India, Cameroon and Uganda.

Further milestones saw the launch of our Accessible Warrington Pledge; with sixteen leading statutory, private and 3rd sector organisations promising to involve disabled people at the pre-design stage of all new build and major refurbishment schemes. In partnership with St Mark Universal

Copts Care; we launched the Phoenix Project which aims to provide refurbished mobility aides to disabled people living in the Middle East. Our world record tombola attempt brought together 70 people from a dozen organisations including Lions and Rotary Clubs.

Sadly, during the year, we lost several members of our team; Audrey Rogers, Vivienne Jones, Dorothy Gatley and Andrew Carmen MBE. Their passing has been felt by everyone at WDP.

Last year we made reference to future challenges, and the climate of continuing funding pressures and strong competition for corporate support. We make no apologies for repeating this call, as we strive to continue to develop a commercial/social enterprise approach, albeit, we will stay consistent with our values and vision: "To be the leading user-led organisation in the UK providing mobility and independent living solutions".

Finally, we would like to thank everyone involved in 'Team WDP', our partners, our funders, supporters, service users and customers.

Thank you.

John Gartside OBE DL JP

Dave Thompson MBE DL

Chairman, Co-founder and Chief Executive



Warrington Disability Partnership
'Supporting Independence throughout Life and Work'

Centre for Independent Living
Beaufort Street, Warrington WA5 1BA
01925 240064

www.disabilitypartnership.org.uk
www.disabilitytradingcompany.co.uk
www.disabilityawarenessday.org.uk
info@disabilitypartnership.org.uk

disability
trading
company

Who we are and what we do

Warrington Disability Partnership (WDP) is an internationally acclaimed user-led charity. With over 26 years' experience of developing and delivering mobility and independent living services, our aim is to support disabled people and people living with long-term health conditions. We are proud of our wide-ranging services, which include:

Promoting Independent Living

Our popular Disability Helpline (01925 240064) offers advice and support around local support groups and services. The 'OUCH Pain Management' and 'Beyond the Scars' support groups support local disabled people around self-management.

Our Shopmobility Scheme - located in Legh Street Car Park - offers both scooters and wheelchairs for use within the Town Centre. They are available for hire Monday to Saturday from 9am to 5pm. A six-month membership costs just £10 or £20 for a full year. In addition our Scoota Safe Campaign was launched earlier this year to improve the safety of mobility scooters within Warrington.

Visit our Centre for Independent Living (CIL) - located on Beaufort Street, the Disabled Living Centre at the Lifehouse on Brunswick Dock, Liverpool or our Mobility and Independent Living Solutions Store in Golden Square, Warrington to see all the latest equipment from baths, showers and kitchens to beds, wheelchairs and stair lifts, plus so much more!

WDP's trading arm - Disability Trading Company (DTC) - offers high-quality independent living products at competitive prices. In addition, the Mobility Workshop provides servicing, repairs and maintenance support for mobility equipment; alongside the Phoenix Project providing mobility aids to those in need. All profits from DTC services are gifted to WDP to support the work of the charity.

Support with Employment and Money

Our award-winning Employment Team is proud to specialise in supporting local disabled people with a health condition (including mental health); ESA claimants and those in receipt of incapacity-related benefits. The team support individuals throughout all stages of the employment process; enabling everyone to make more effective choices about skills, careers, work and life.

Our Independent Living Team specifically provides a support service for Warrington residents who use the Direct Payments scheme from Warrington Borough Council, assisting with all aspects of employing a Personal Assistant (including support from our Payroll team).

Learning and Development

Visit the Discover IT Suite at Marjorie Griffiths Learning Centre on Beaufort Street to take part in a host of educational and inspiring IT courses including 'Computers for the Terrified' and pre-employment IT.

Additional training including 'Disability Equality Training' and 'Disability and Sex Matters' training are regularly available for health and social care providers, voluntary organisations and

Over 220 active volunteers support our WDP services (including Disability Awareness Day)

individuals.

Accessible Holidays & Days Out

Our fully accessible holiday homes in North Wales and our adapted, wheelchair-accessible narrow boat 'The Wizard', are available for hire at competitive rates - leaving you to enjoy a bargain break or day out on the water!

Sports for Children and Young People

The Children's and Young People's Leisure, Recreation and Sports Team deliver a number of targeted sessions. They actively promote inclusion and integration to ensure that children can achieve in a safe and fun environment. Our clubs and activities welcome people of all abilities and include The Disability Inclusive Sports Club, and in conjunction with local partners Wolf Club and the Planet Blue Youth Club. The team regularly attend events at local schools and organisations to promote disability awareness.

Opportunities to Socialise

We run a variety of Luncheon Clubs for individuals who are looking for friendship, activities, fun and - of course - lunch! Our over 55's clubs meet every Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 10am to 2pm (come as often as you like). New for 2017 our Monday Club caters for the Under 55's. Attendees enjoy playing bingo; games; quizzes; taking part in arts and crafts and chair-based exercises, and listening guest speakers.

Our Galleries Community Café offers a wide range of hot and cold meals, snacks and drinks in a warm and friendly atmosphere. The Café is open to members of the public and visitors to the Centre. The CIL and MGLC's well-equipped meeting and training rooms are also available for hire, with catering facilities available.

Our large team of volunteers work across all our services, including supporting our team at many of our weekend fundraising activities (see our website for our 2018 events).

For further information on any of these services, including how you can be involved, please contact the team on 01925 240064.



Volunteer Spotlight:

Dave Williams

Dave and his wife Janis joined WDP as Disability Awareness Day Stewards in 2011 after meeting our Chief Executive, Dave Thompson and his wife, and Honorary President, Pam on holiday in Egypt. Since then, Dave's involvement has continued to grow, joining the WDP Board of Trustees in December 2011. Dave currently holds the roles of Executive Member of the WDP Board, WDP Secretary, DTC Board Member and Chair of the Fundraising and Community Engagement Sub Group, amongst a range of other roles.

Dave has a long history of volunteering stemming back over forty years. He has worked for local government for the past eight years; previously holding senior management positions in public and private engineering companies. His skills and knowledge, including extensive Health and Safety knowledge, have helped to support and develop our Trading Arm, the Disability Trading Company, which has exceeded expectations since its' creation in 2011.

Dave explains one of the ways that he looks at volunteering 'It is like an insurance policy, I would much prefer to be paying in rather than having to make a claim because something has gone wrong. I'm just in a fortunate position that I can continue to pay in every year and have so far not needed to make a claim. I hope to continue volunteering for many years to support disabled people, their families and friends who because of no fault of their own need WDP's support and services.'



Nowadays, volunteering for WDP and DAD takes up all of Dave's spare time, as he believes in the work that we do. Whilst there are many worthwhile charities in Warrington, he feels that no other cover such a broad spectrum; reaching out to so many local people in need; irrelevant of their disability or situation. As a carer for his elderly parent, he has first-hand experiences of the need for the services that WDP provide. He also understands the importance to raise vital funds to continue and develop our work and enjoys the challenges that this brings. However, he jokes that he has learnt his lesson; never to speak to strangers on holiday again!

'Everytime I come here (to WDP), I feel happier as I am achieving things that I've been trying to do for years.....I can't thank you and the team enough'

Employment Team client.

Over 80% of our staff members began their WDP journey as a volunteer.

'Within the last three weeks Nick has been able to turn a forgetful novice into someone who can now say he can use 'Microsoft Word' and use his own computer effectively. He is patient, caring, knowledgeable and delivers high quality training. He is a big man, who's already got a big place in my heart'

Learning Centre User.

In 2017, Disability Awareness Day has been held in 10 countries worldwide.

Information, Advice & Guidance



- Support groups & services
- Employment & Volunteering
- Accessible Holidays & Days out
- Computer & IT courses
- Wheelchair & Equipment Hire
- Shopmobility (Warrington Town Centre)
- Café & Luncheon Clubs
- Direct Payments Support
- Leisure Recreation & Sport





01925 240064

Visit our website disabilitypartnership.org.uk

Centre for Independent Living
Beaufort Street (off Evelyn Street)
Warrington
WA5 1BA



Development of WDP's trading arm - The Disability Trading Company

In April 2011, with the encouragement and support of local and national leaders from health & social care providers WDP established a trading arm 'the Disability Trading Company'. DTC's first retail service was launched from the Warrington Centre for Independent Living. In October 2011 WDP opened the Mobility & Independent Living Store (MILS) in the Golden Square Shopping Centre in Warrington Town Centre. This was achieved in a partnership with the shopping centres management team.

During 2012 Liverpool City Council and Liverpool Community NHS negotiated a contract that has led to DTC operating their independent living showrooms and a retail area at the Disabled Living Centre at the Lifehouse in Liverpool.

In early 2013 DTC opened a full scale Mobility Workshop & Service Centre which has seen rapid expansion in its customer base of individuals and businesses including Warrington and Halton Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, nursing homes and voluntary sector organisations including Shopmobility Schemes.

In late 2013 DTC launched 'Remobilise' a service aimed at recycling mobility equipment which is sold from WDP's Shopmobility service located in Warrington Town Centre.

In October 2016 WDP and DTC, in partnership with St Mark Universal Copts Care, launched 'the Phoenix Project', shipping wheelchairs and other mobility aids, that were previously scrapped, to countries including Egypt and Thailand. The service is supported by a number of leading equipment suppliers including NRS Healthcare and NHS home loans services in Warrington and Knowsley.

Over the last few years, the DTC team evaluated the mobility market and quickly realised that our sector only had a small number of specialist equipment suppliers. In our area there was only one company who stood out from the rest. WDP's Commercial Director started to talk to new suppliers and the necessary training was completed with Team Members.

DTC now prides itself on the bespoke, made to measure equipment that it can supply to meet needs of clients where many other mobility shops can't. DTC continues to develop relationships with NHS Trusts and Councils to supply tailor-made seating, specialist wheelchairs and modular ramp systems. All these products are helping DTC stay ahead of the competition. We now have two assessors on hand to undertake home visits and talk to our customers about our specialist products and services.

What makes DTC unique?

- DTC has no private shareholders, 100% of its profits go to support the work of Warrington Disability Partnership, all staff receive a salary and not incentive bonuses,
- DTC is a user led social enterprise; many staff and all volunteers have used their experience of living with a disability or long-term health condition to develop the services and ensure they sell the right products,
- Free impartial home and work assessments based on the philosophy of information, advice and guidance, not just sales,
- Hundreds of volunteer hours contribute to reducing DTC overheads, which result in savings that are passed on to the customers.




Mobility & Independent Living

The Disability Trading Company is owned and operated by WDP. We offer high quality, mobility & independent daily living aids, backed up by an extensive range of support services.

WHAT WE OFFER:

- **Equipment Sales**
- **Equipment Servicing & Repairs**
- **Continence Products**
- **Daily Living Aids**
- **Fully Trained Staff**
- **Free assessments on site or at home**
- **Situated at the Centre for Independent Living**
- **Bespoke Tailor Made Products**

WARRINGTON SHOWROOM

Tel: 01925 240 064

email: showroom@disabilitypartnership.org.uk

GOLDEN SQUARE SHOWROOM

Tel: 01925 416 624

email: mils@disabilitypartnership.org.uk

LIVERPOOL SHOWROOM

Tel: 0151 709 0121

email: liverpoolmils@disabilitypartnership.org.uk

Don't just buy a product... buy the right product

for more information visit w: disabilitytradingcompany.co.uk






2017 highlights

The year in pictures



WDP Team Member, Tommy Hammond took part in a sponsored 15,000 foot Tandem Sky Dive.



Over 1300 pieces of mobility equipment have been shipped to other countries in need (including Egypt, Thailand and Syria) during the first year of the Phoenix Project in partnership with St Mark Universal Copts Care charity.



Successful launch of the Scoota Safe Campaign in partnership with Network Warrington, Warrington Borough Council and the Cheshire Police and Crime Commissioner.



Successful Golf Day organised by Dave Owens, captain of Sutton Hall Golf Club, raising over £1800.



Pennington Choices complete the Three Peaks Challenge raising over £4,000. The team was led by CEO of Pennington Choices and DTC board member, Mark Seaborn



Members of the WDP Team were invited to a cheque presentation at Warrington Town Hall by former Mayor of Warrington, Faisal Rashid who raised £10,000 for WDP during his Mayoral year.



The team at Royal Mail raised over £3,000 through a variety of events.



Brunhilde Munslow received a 'Pass on Your Passion' award from Active Cheshire.



Successful Launch of our new 'Monday Club' for the under 55's. Thanks to the West Area Board for funding some of the activities.



WDP Chairman, John Gartside is awarded the Warrington Guardian 'Lifetime Achievement Award' at the 2017 Lifetime Achievement Awards. Ellen Houghton was awarded 'Teenager of the Year'.



WDP Financial Position 2016-17

Income £1,476,502



■ Donations and Legacies (£92.5k) ■ Trading Activities (£896.5k)
■ Charitable Activities (£497.5k)

Expenditure £1,444,040



■ Raising Funds (£540k) ■ Charitable Activities (£904k)

The above information has been taken from the audited consolidated accounts for the financial period 1st April 2016 – 31st March 2017, as reported by the Charities Commission.

The figures relate to the consolidated accounts for Warrington Disability Partnership and its Subsidiary Company (The Disability Trading Company). The cost of raising funds includes the purchase of stock for resale.

Events Calendar 2018

February

WDP Quiz Night – 2nd February

March

Sponsored Swim

April

WDP Quiz Night – 6th April

May

Walk in the Park • Scoota Safe Event

June

WDP Quiz Night – 1st June

Launch of Disability Awareness Week – 30th June

July

DAD Week Events

DAD BBQ in the Park – 13th July

Disability Awareness Day 2018 – 15th July

August

WDP Quiz Night – 3rd August

September

Scoota Safe Event

October

WDP Quiz Night – 5th October

WDP Charity Dinner • Scuba Challenge

December

WDP Quiz Night – 7th December

Santa Experience

For further details, or to sign up for any of these events, please contact the WDP Fundraising Team on

**01925
240064**



WDP provides a payroll service for over 350 Direct Payments users to support them to employ over 500 employees.

During the past 12 months, 40 young people have gained valuable Work Experience placements within WDP

During the past 12 months, over 17,000 people have visited our Equipment Showrooms.

Over 65,000 calls have been received through our Disability Helpline during the past 12 months

Our teams have engaged with over 220,000 people during the last 12 months.

Our team has presented Disability Awareness talks to over 5,000 local children and young people during the past 12 months.



Disability Awareness Day 2017

DAD 26 - Sunday, 16th July, 2017

Over 24,000 people attended this year's annual Disability Awareness Day (DAD26) recognised internationally as the largest annual voluntary-led, pan-disability Independent Living Exhibition in the world. The event, held at Walton Gardens attracted over 250 exhibitors showcasing a wide range of equipment, mobility products, transport solutions, employment support, education, health and social care, leisure activities, plus over 100 support groups. The aim of the event, as always, was to promote all aspects of independent living through the promotion of what disabled people "can do".

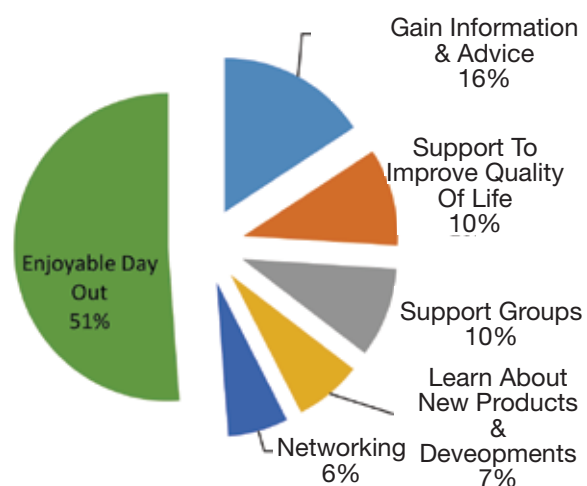
DAD26 engaged a wide range of the community, with a further 5,000 people involved in activities starting the week prior to the big day. These included:

- Promotional event in Warrington Town Centre.
- Positive Action Disability Awareness Event attended by over 120 students from local schools and colleges.
- Frogstastic Party for people who have a Learning Disability.
- Health & Well-Being for Mental Health Service Users event.
- Ella Summertime Special.
- Tea-dance in a Tent.
- Party in the Park for disabled children and young disabled people.

Most of this year's exhibitors were housed in a huge tented village of marquees, supported by a 'have-a-go' sports zone, a Centre Arena, a huge Performing Arts Marquee and a children's play area.



The reason visitors attended DAD 2017



'DAD offers lots of support to help people stay well mentally. Things that can help our confidence, distract us from things that make us unwell (Anxiety, depression, loneliness) and help us find positive things to do with our lives.'

DAD 2017 Visitor

On the day, visitors were able to "have a go" at sports activities including archery, shooting, basketball, fencing, football, rugby, boxing, karate, tennis and scuba diving in the on-site pool. For those looking for a more relaxed day, there was a fantastic line-up of talent in the Arts Marquee with some of the UK's leading disabled artists and a Main Arena featuring Dog Display Teams, Birds of Prey and a Samba Band.

Once again, DAD26 continued the international theme: the MESSAGE Institute based in Jaipur India ran their 9th Annual Disability Awareness Day on the 16th July, and 'Closing the Gap', based in Cameroon and the Centre for Disability and Rehabilitation in Uganda also held their own versions of DAD. The Step1 - Step 2 Charity in Thailand also made celebratory DAD bunting at a party held for severely disabled youngsters.

On behalf of the DAD Management Team, we would like to thank everyone who supported this year's event; sponsors, supporters, DAD Stewards, exhibitors and visitors. In particular, our joint principal sponsors St George Healthcare Group and St Mark Universal Copts Care.

Next years' event will be held on Sunday 15th July, 2018

Continuing the legacy::

Laura Atkinson

During 2016, our 25th Anniversary year, WDP launched our Legacy Appeal to provide supported employment opportunities for young, disabled people. Over £70,000 was raised through a combined effort of local businesses, organisations and individuals. Our latest recruit, Laura Atkinson has recently started an apprenticeship in Social Media and Communications, joining our Fundraising and Community Engagement Teams.

When Laura first started high school in 2010 she was diagnosed with Dyslexia and was told she would have to work harder than everyone. At first, Laura found this difficult to come to terms with. Two years later she was diagnosed with Dyspraxia and visual stress. During this time, her classmates began to make negative comments. Laura began to doubt herself and felt her confidence levels dropping. She began to struggle with her mental health, using music and art as an outlet.

In 2015, a week before her GCSE exams she was diagnosed with attention deficit disorder. At this time, Laura felt that things began to change in a more positive way. However, Laura explained that she felt that there were still a number of questions left unanswered "I saw a quote that's stuck with me that said 'ADD/ADHD is like having a Ferrari engine brain with bicycle brakes' and it felt like everything was starting to make sense". In 2016, halfway through her photography course at college, Laura was also diagnosed with Autistic spectrum disorder.

Around this time Laura first began volunteering with WDP. She really enjoyed her initial experience, as she felt that WDP showed her that her disabilities don't have to hold her back and she's just as capable as everyone else with some extra support. Since then, she has been a regular volunteer

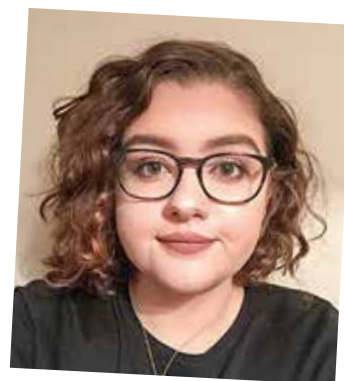
at a variety of events, as well as supporting the Administration Team with a variety of projects, following the completion of her photography course in June 2017.

'I wanted to join Team WDP because of how understanding they are of disabled people with disabilities, how welcoming everyone is no matter who you are or your disability and every day there's something new and interesting happening.

Through doing this apprenticeship I've done things I never thought I'd be able to do, met lots of new people, answer phones, talk in front of people at meetings, be more vocal and speak up. I really enjoy it and feel part of the team. I feel like I get all the support I need here and if I have any problems I feel like you can talk openly. I am able to be creative and still do what I love as well as learn new skills and face new challenges. I feel like I'm beginning to feel more confident in myself and my ability here. I feel like since August I've already learnt a lot and I'm looking forward to 2018 with WDP.'

Laura Atkinson –WDP Social Media and Communications Apprentice

Laura is the 5th young disabled person to benefit from the WDP Legacy Appeal. To support the Appeal during 2018 and beyond, please contact the team on 01925 240064.



85% of Team WDP have a Disability or Long-Term Health Condition. Research shows that 'Disabled people are in the best position to provide information to other disabled people' (Barnes and Mercer 2006)

Relaunched earlier this year!

DISC

Disability Inclusive Sports Club

Sports, Fun games, Arts & crafts
For ages 10 - 18

Every Wednesday
6:30pm - 8:30pm

£2 per session

Evelyn Street Primary School, WA5 1BD

Contact Tom Walsh on 01925 240064 ex 204
or email irs@disabilitypartnership.org.uk

Supported by





Working in Partnership

A Big Thank You

Warrington Disability Partnership would like to thank everyone that has supported, donated and worked alongside us during the past 12 months - including:

- Warrington Borough Council
- NHS Warrington Clinical Commissioning Group
- St Mark Universal Copts Care
- St George Healthcare Group
- NHS Halton Clinical Commissioning Group
- Golden Gates Housing Trust
- Liverpool City Council
- BBC Children in Need
- The Holroyd Foundation
- North West Boroughs Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust
- Livewire Warrington
- University of Chester - Warrington Campus
- Gladstone Brookes
- Culture Warrington
- BAS (NW) Ltd
- NRS Healthcare
- United Utilities
- BT
- Active Cheshire
- Warrington & Halton Hospital NHS Foundation Trust



The Mayor, Les Morgan, is pictured lighting the the fire, and right with Jamie Boyd, MD of Today Team.



'After meeting Dave and the team in 2015 it was inspiring to see all the amazing work they do in the local community and beyond. It's great for me and the team to be able to help support such a good cause.'

Jamie Boyd,
Managing Director,
Today Team

- Warrington & Vale Royal College
- Bridgewater Community Healthcare NHS Trust
- Francois & Cynthia Salluys
- Barclays Bank PLC
- Network Warrington
- University of Chester - Warrington Campus
- People Plus
- Cheshire Police and Crime Commisser
- Voisey & Co
- Warrington & Co
- Lymm Rotary Club
- Royal Mail
- Stockton Heath Primary School
- Ravenbank School
- Enterprise Foundation Trust
- Warrington Running Club
- Chapelford Farm

- Golden Square Shopping Centre
- Round Table
- Shiptons Jewellers
- Ikea Warrington
- Sainsburys Chapelford
- Warrington Retail Market
- The Northern Dive Show
- Lions Clubs International
- Styles & Co
- Warrington Worldwide
- Flextronics
- Sutton Hall Golf Club
- Today Team
- Pennington Choices
- Liverpool Community Healthcare NHS Trust
- Protive
- Cheshire Scuba Academy
- Thorn Marine
- Barn Owl Inn
- Warrington Guardian

- MKM Building Supplies
- Warrington Sea Cadets TS Obdurate
- Skillzone Ltd
- Leonard Cheshire
- Warrington Youth Club
- Oculus Studios
- Warrington Wolves Foundation
- Fairview Windows
- Anthony Green
- Norman Spencer
- Lillian Smith
- Tommy Hammond
- St Oswald's Club
- In memory of Mary Sephton
- In memory of John Michael Shields
- Mr Holland
- Mayor of Warrington
- Helen Black's Family

WDP Trustees & DTC Directors:

WDP Trustee Board:

John Gartside
OBE DL JP – Chair
Pat Kitto – Vice Chair
Dave Williams - Secretary
Graeme Hindley – Treasurer
Jan Pritchard
Cynthia Salluys
Gary Skentelbery
Mike Dawbarn
Eileen McDonald
Latham Parry
Maureen McLaughlin
Nick Richardson (co-opted)
Dave Kelsall (co-opted)
Sue Bentley MBE – retired August 2017
Mark Wilson OBE – retired December 2017
Adrian Derbyshire - retired December 2017

DTC Directors:

David Jones – Chair
Mark Seaborn
Jamie Boyd
Bill Bradley
Pat Kitto
Dave Williams

Lord Doug Hoyle
Dr Naser Fouad
Hala Fouad
Pete Pinnington
Peter Ives
Mike Hannon
Ryan Atkinson

WDP Honorary President:

Pam Thompson

WDP Honorary Vice Presidents:

Terry Wadsworth
Karen Beaton

WDP Patrons:

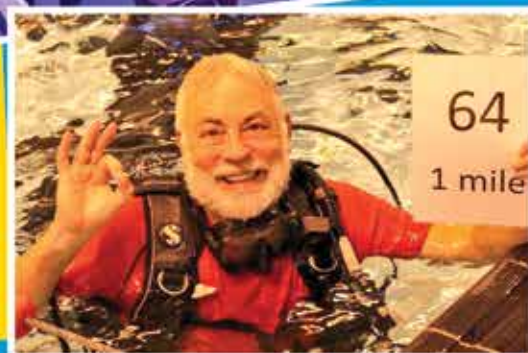
Prof Steven Broomhead
Dr Sarah Baker
Kathy Cowell OBE DL
Liz Smith

WDP is probably the most actively engaged charity in Warrington, attending over 150 events during the past 12 months.

"Pennington Choices are delighted to continue our support for WDP this year. Every single one of us knows someone living with some sort of disability, physical or not. We are proud to be able to collaborate with WDP and thrilled that the money we raised this year has gone towards their 25 year Legacy Appeal."

Mark Seaborn, Managing Director,
Pennington Choices

Help us to help others



- ✓ **Make a donation**
- ✓ **Join Team WDP**
- ✓ **Take on a new challenge**
- ✓ **Attend our events**
- ✓ **Organise your own event**
- ✓ **Leave a Legacy**
- ✓ **Join our sponsored events (swim, scuba, walks)**



Supporting Independence Throughout Life and Work



@disabilitypartnership



@WDPcomms

raises £64,000 towards patient care

All the dancers achieved high scores but it was Chris Downey, General Manager at Catherine Street Motors and his professional partner, Holly Hewitt, who secured four tens for their exhilarating Charleston. It was down to the audience vote, however, combined with the judges' scores, to determine who lifted the coveted glitterball trophy. In the event, the crowd agreed with the judges and Chris and Holly were crowned Strictly St. Rocco's champions 2017.

Celebrations continued as the dancers were joined by the audience on the dance floor for a mass Merengue lesson led by Wayne Newhouse before dancing the night away to the sounds of the Chris O'Grady Roadshow.

"We're over the moon with

the response at this year's Strictly St. Rocco's," said Fundraising Manager Lauren Tilston, "The dancers must be congratulated for their commitment and dedication, not only to learning to dance, but also for the fantastic amount they have raised through their sponsorship efforts. The audience has been incredibly generous and it is wonderful that we have raised more than ever before to help our patients and families. We are so grateful to everyone who has supported us in whatever way for this year's event."

As always, thoughts are already turning towards next year's event so keep an eye out to see who will be in the Strictly St. Rocco's spotlight in 2018!



Belong at home... Support for when you need it

Belong at Home™ is a bespoke service supporting you to stay at home, designed around you, your lifestyle and your needs. We bring this award winning service to you directly from your local community village.

We're always here for you.

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- Providing expert dementia care
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- The same friendly faces
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- A 'nothing is too much trouble' approach

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Belong at Home

Swan Solutions go from strength to strength at new Base

WARRINGTON is once again proving to be a magnet for wealth and prosperity for small businesses.

A shining example of this is the ongoing success of Swan Network Solutions, a computer services company providing IT support and advice to businesses in Warrington and throughout the region.

In September Swan Solutions relocated to The Base, one of Warrington's most prestigious new office buildings. This five-story office building is home to several growing companies and is the perfect location for any small business looking to improve their productivity

and increase profitability.

Swan Solutions have demonstrated this perfectly as they recently landed one of their biggest contracts with a respected legal firm in Liverpool employing over 63 people.

Commercial Director Andrew Horrocks stated: "We have been providing full-back expertise and support to their in-house IT engineer for about 18 months, but following an audit of their infrastructure and due to our impressive service the partners decided to fully outsource support and management of their IT systems to Swan". It appears that the agreement was sealed following the legal firms visit to The Base which they found to be very impressive and after meeting with one of Swans larger clients who replaced their in-house IT team with Swan several years ago.

Andrew added "Seeing where we operate, meeting our support team and talking to an existing client of a similar size provided them with confidence that we are a perfect fit for them, especially as IT is so critical to their business operations. We are very proud to be selected as their trusted technology partner".

In addition, since moving into The Base Swan have won 4 new clients in Warrington and Widnes,

including a fellow tenant who decided to switch providers to obtain more responsiveness when they place a support call.

As a result of this and other successes Swan are looking to employ additional staff, including another Senior IT Engineer. Anyone interested in a job can view more details and apply by visiting www.swan-solutions.com/jobs.

Swan Solutions topped off the year by winning The Base Annual

Christmas competition, open to all tenants in The Base. Participants were Directors Andrew Horrocks and Steve Nicholls and this year it was a 9 hole mini-golf competition organised by Langtree and run by Putting Edge.

Both were delighted with Steve saying: "It's a great way to end to a very successful year for Swan, so we hope 2018 will be the same for ourselves and all of the businesses in Warrington"



Andrew (left) and Steve.



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Let Our Friendly Award Winning
Team Support Your Business



What a difference a year makes!

One year on editor Gary Skentelbery completes his third Six Week BPM challenge

For much of my adult life my weight has been an issue - mainly due to eating the wrong foods at the wrong time and not getting enough exercise.

Getting in late at night after a long day at work - the last thing I wanted to do was go to the gym! In fact to be honest the gym has never really been my favourite place.

Then I discovered the Six Week BPM Challenge based at the Park Royal Hotel in Stretton - and my life changed - hopefully forever!

Now one year on, I have completed my third Six Week Challenge, lost around 34 lbs of body weight, mainly body fat and overall improved my posture and fitness.

So what exactly is the BPM Six week challenge? Created by Josh Screawn and Josh Sudlow, both experienced PTs, it is the proven science of heart-rate training, in a group fitness environment where you will be encouraged by like-minded people working towards your own goals.

As well as working from an effective exercise and nutrition program designed by BPM coaches, you learn new ways to exercise safely and how to train towards your specific goal. You will also be introduced to a new approach to nutrition, so you can finally stop feeling like you're on a never ending diet.

Utilising a heart rate monitor your coach (I was lucky or unlucky enough to have Josh Sudlow) will assess your current fitness levels, the efficiency in which you recover, how hard you are working which allows him to give you accurate feedback of when to push you or ease off going from the data provided.

The challenge involves 1 to 1 personal training sessions while the circuit training classes are designed to suit individual fitness levels and are programmed to progress each week.

Previously every diet and exercise regime I have tried in the past has only ever given me a short term weight loss. As soon as I returned to my normal routines the weight gradually crept back on.

Weight issues are generally brought on by your lifestyle, so it was important for me to make some changes to ensure I got the best results, with the aim of keeping the weight off permanently, without the need of any silly dieting.

In the grand scheme of things six weeks is not a long time - and although significant weight loss can be achieved quite quickly, it also needs to be done carefully.

Whatever you do don't cut out of your diet completely. There are healthy fats which your body needs, especially if you are exercising.

Cutting fat out completely in the past cost me my gallbladder at a very young age! If you stop eating fat your gallbladder can stop functioning properly and you could end up with very painful gallstones!

Getting back to the Six Week Challenge I can remember my first PT session left me short of breath, on my knees - and apparently I was quite vocal. My first circuit training, which had filled me with fear, actually turned out to be fun - so much so by the half way stage of the challenge I was keen to do both circuit training sessions at the weekend.

The results of the first challenge were outstanding. In just six short weeks I shed nearly 20lb in body fat, nearly a stone in overall weight, while improving my hydration and resting pulse, which was 67 bpm when I started and can now be as low as 54 bpm.

On the Second Challenge I lost a further 7lb and then a similar amount on my third one - and as you can see from the before and after pictures - quite a transformation!

The key to my success - stepping up my exercise and most importantly watching those all-important calories - as when I had a blast at the weekends - Josh found out pretty quickly when I got on the scales! It's not rocket science, if you put in too many calories and don't burn them off - you will bulge!

The old saying "you are what you eat" is pretty much spot on for most of us! But you can and should still enjoy your food and drink as life is for living!

But the most satisfying thing is if you do some moderate exercise a few times a week - you can have a pretty high calorie goal and eat pretty much what you want in moderation.

It has helped my change my lifestyle - and hopefully I will enjoy the benefits for a long time to come!





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Carers get to know their rights



CARERS in Warrington were urged to "know their rights" at a special event at Wired adult and young carers centre.

Aim of the event was to ensure all residents who are carers are aware of their rights and where to go to get advice and support.

Cllr Pat Wright, the borough council's lead member for statutory health and adult social care said: "If you're a carer, knowing your rights and what you are entitled to is really important as it can make a huge difference to your life when you are looking after someone."

"Many people with a caring responsibility don't identify themselves as carers and can be unaware of the support there is to help them in their role."

"There's a great deal of practical support available, such as respite care to give carers a break and time

for themselves, or help with lifting and bathing and equipment and home adaptations, which all help make life a bit easier and are often vital in protecting their own health."

Lorraine Goude, interim operational director of adult services, said: "It was a pleasure to meet over 50 carers throughout the day who hold such an important role in caring for people of all ages and needs. We want to ensure carers get the right support for their role and that they know about the services that are available to help them."

For further information visit www.carersuk.org or for information about Wired services visit www.wired.me.uk

Council nets £185,000 in bus lane fines

WARRINGTON Borough Council has netted more than £185,000 in bus lane fines since clamping down on motorists illegally using them in July last year – and with a third camera coming into action is set to generate even more revenue.

A total of 6,577 motorists have been fined since bus lanes in the town had an automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) camera installed.

Birchwood Bus Gate went live in July 2016 and has issued 3,811 PCNs with a total income received of £109K.

Knutsford Road Bus Lane went

live in July 2017 and has issued 2,766 PCNs with a total income received of £76K.

Figures are between July 2016 and October 2017:

A third camera went live on Bridge Street Bus Lane with no figures currently available.

Owners of vehicles who use the bus lanes illegally can face a fine of £60, or £30 if paid within 14 days.

Any surplus after expenses from fines is re-invested into traffic related projects in accordance with the Traffic Management Act 2004 and Section 55 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.





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Ex-pat Eric takes trip down memory lane

AN ex-pat who has kept in touch with his home town for more than 15 years through [warrington-worldwide](http://www.warrington-worldwide.co.uk) took a trip down memory lane with a return visit.

Eric Caddy, aged 78, who lived in Woolston, prior to starting a new life in Texas nearly 40 years ago, has kept in touch with his home town as a member of the warrington-worldwide forum.

He was one of many ex-pats who joined the forum in the early days of the website in 2002 and has been a fairly regular contributor every since, joining in some of the hot topics being discussed by fellow members.

During his visit Eric and his wife Beckie, met up with Editor Gary Skentelbery and Forum moderator "Dizzy" to put names to faces, during a festive meal at Shelly's on Bold Street, where hostess Michele Butterworth joined in the fun, modeling a toy Reindeer head!

Eric ran his own successful engineering company in Warrington before deciding to start a new life in America, following in the footsteps of his GI Bride sister.

Now retired, his favourite past time is golf and although he has fond memories of life in Warrington,

he has no regrets about becoming an American citizen and loves life in Texas, despite the humidity and mosquitoes!

He recalled his days as a young child in Warrington, watching the German bombers flying over the town, with their bomb doors open.

"You could literally see the lights inside the planes as they flew about 500 feet overhead," recalled Eric. "Everything would shake in the house!"

Eric also recalled his nights out in Warrington and the arrival of the Americans at the Burtonwood Base. Little did he know he would end up following his sister, who became a GI Bride, to start a new life in Texas.

"I have no regrets about giving up my British citizenship but I still enjoy coming back to my home town – but so much has changed especially the roads with all the roundabouts and traffic lights. I can drive for miles in Texas without seeing a traffic light – and the parking here leaves a little bit to be desired!"



Council making progress – despite seven years of budget cuts

WARRINGTON Borough Council is making good progress on delivering services to its most vulnerable residents, according to the latest figures.

The authority is also pressing ahead with town centre regeneration and local schools are performing better than the regional or national average.

Cllr Hitesh Patel, the council's lead member for personnel and communications, (pictured) said: "We still have plenty of work to do, but the improvements we are making are down to the efforts of council staff who are working hard to overcome the huge financial pressures we are facing, with the Government having cut a third of our budget since 2010."

The good progress is revealed in the council's latest quarterly performance report.

The report shows that 85.1 per cent of older people accessing the council's re-ablement service were at

home 91 days after their discharge from hospital in quarter 2, against a target of 83.5 per cent. Re-ablement is offered to patients where there is hope that they will be able to maintain or increase their independence.

Efforts to reduce the number of children in care are beginning to have an impact, with recent data showing the number of children coming into care in 2016/17 has reduced by 11 per cent on the previous year. The council is providing high levels of intervention for families at risk of breakdown to mitigate family problems before they reach the point of children being taken into care.

All but one of Warrington's 71 primary schools are now either good or outstanding according to Ofsted. They are performing better than the previous year and better than the North West and England averages.

Almost 50 per cent of disadvantaged children achieved Reading, Writing and Maths

(RWM), a four per cent increase on the previous year. Although this reflects a positive improvement, the percentage increase is not at the same accelerated rate as their peers and the council will work to close the achievement gap.

The council continues to make good progress on key economic investment projects and regeneration programmes across the borough. The "city centre" masterplan, centre link and stadium quarter are progressing. The new temporary market and multi storey car park are also now open and trading well.

Cllr Patel added: "We are making good progress on delivering services which support some of our most vulnerable residents, and I'm pleased to see that we are continuing to support investment in the town centre. I'm also heartened to see our schools performing beyond the North West and national average."



Cllr Hitesh Patel

Entrance exam advice for parents



It is now approaching the time of year when independent schools run entrance examinations for entry into Year 7.

Ian McKenna, director of studies at Withington Girls' School, gives advice on how to approach the examinations so that your child enjoys the challenge:

"Sitting an entrance examination needn't be a stressful experience and schools do all they can to make the day as enjoyable as possible. Encourage your child to think about it as a way of finding the school that best suits them. Responsible schools will look at which children they believe can be both successful and happy at their school and balance their academic work with involvement in activities outside of the classroom. Entrance examinations are just one way in which schools can decide whether a child would flourish there; they would also want to meet as many of the children and parents as possible. At Withington, that plays as much of a part as the entrance exam in the decision of whether to offer a place.

"The most important questions for schools and parents are: Where is the right fit for the child? Where did they feel most comfortable and settled when they visited? Where did they feel they were interested in the activities on visits or Open Days? Where will they make friends? The best way parents can help children to prepare for entrance exams is to encourage their child to take ownership of their learning: read widely, discuss a variety of topics, ask questions and talk about their own ideas. Tutoring may make a small difference to a mark in an exam, but on its own, it is unlikely to foster the curiosity and interest in learning that really makes the difference."

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By David Watkinson

Welcoming the new year

So Christmas is over, the turkey has been consumed, and the decorations have been put away for another year. Hopefully, you all had a festive time and celebrated the arrival of 2018 in a suitable manner. So let's now all come back down to earth and see what the near future has in store for us.

One thing that always raises its head in January is the looming deadline of 31st January for submitting your tax return. If you have been issued with a notice to submit a return then you must send it to the tax office before this date to avoid a penalty. If, exceptionally, you feel that you should not be required to submit a return then you should contact HMRC. They will go through a list of questions to ascertain whether a return is required and if they agree that you do not need to submit one then they will cancel it. Guidance on who needs to submit a return can be found at www.gov.uk/self-assessment-tax-returns/who-must-send-a-tax-return

As usual, everyone in the accountancy profession will have a second "New Year's Day" on 1st February when we will be celebrating getting all of our client's returns in on-time.

This year we can look forward to a further change that will affect the vast majority of people who are employed or who employ other people. Everyone who is employed is now covered by the workplace pension regulations, and all employers need to make this available to their employees. Unless you, the employee, has "opted out" of the pension then you will currently be having 1% deducted from your pay by your employer who will be paying that to the pension company on your behalf. At the same time, your employer will also be contributing a further 1% on your behalf.

These contributions are set to increase from 6th April 2018. From that date, the employees' contribution will increase from 1% to 3%, and the employer contribution will increase from 1% to 2%. These increases are to the minimum contributions that can be made. If you or your employer are paying more than the current minimum, then the increase in your contributions may be less. You should be aware that these rates are going to increase further in April 2019, when you will be required to contribute 5% and your employer will contribute 3%. Again, both employers and employees can find guidance on this at www.gov.uk/workplace-pensions

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World Cup winner Roger Hunt becomes Culture Warrington patron



ENGLAND World Cup winner Roger Hunt MBE has become a Patron at Culture Warrington.

The sporting hero from Culcheth, Warrington, is the latest patron to lend their support to the charitable trust, which manages Parr Hall, Pyramid and Warrington Museum & Art Gallery.

The former Liverpool striker was part of the England team during their historic win at the 1966 World Cup.

Roger enjoyed a long career at Liverpool Football Club - where he became the club's record goalscorer, before his record was surpassed by Ian Rush.

The Warrington legend who started his career at Warrington Town has worked with Culture Warrington previously and put them forward to benefit from £1,966 grant as part of The FA's '66 for 66' programme, set up last year to mark the anniversary of the 1966 success.

Roger said: "I was honoured and privileged to be asked to be a patron for Culture Warrington Charitable Trust.

"I've admired the work of the charity for a number of years and nominated them to receive a grant

from the Football Association last year to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the 1966 world cup win.

"I was pleased to see the donation used to fund a project that helped explore issues which young people face in Warrington today.

"I now look forward to further supporting the fantastic work they carry out to make arts, culture and heritage accessible to the whole community."

Roger is Culture Warrington's second patron to come on board, after the charity welcomed international pianist, Stephen Hough, back in the summer.

Culture Warrington's chair, Maureen Banner, added: "We are delighted to have appointed another patron to the charity.

"Roger is really supportive of the work we do to improve access to the culture and heritage for people across the borough and we are looking forward to working more closely with him in the future."



Roger pictured during his Liverpool days. Picture: Eddie Whitham.

Right time for change as Middleton steps up to Chairman



WARRINGTON Wolves outgoing Chairman Steven Broomhead says it is the right time for change as major investor Stuart Middleton takes over at the helm.

Middleton, who has already ploughed £1million into the club, with a further £1million over the next four years, will take on the role of chairman while Professor Broomhead will revert to vice chairman.

Professor Broomhead said that the "time is right for change" following a number of other changes at the club.

Since taking his place on the club board, Stuart has made substantial financial contributions to the club, having invested over a million pounds since becoming a director, helping in areas such as the funding of transfer fees and stadium renovations. He has shown his commitment to the Warrington club by pledging a further million pounds over the next four years.

Prof Broomhead said: "Stuart and I have worked very closely over the past two years alongside the Board to drive forward the ambitions of the club. After nine years as chairman, I believe it is the right time for Stuart to take on the leadership of the Board and I will continue to support him as his deputy. Stuart is a very astute and successful business person as well as being a lifelong fan and I know his passion for success will be infectious on and off the field within the club."

Stuart added: "I am honoured to become the chairman of Warrington Wolves, the club that I have supported most of my life and that I care passionately about. It's not all about the status but more about making a difference, ensuring that we have financial security, a strong and robust business plan with success ingrained in our culture and ethos. A winning attitude starts at the top and filters down."

Karl Fitzpatrick, Wolves' chief executive, said: "Stuart's business acumen has been a recognisable asset to the club board. The experience he has within the business world has brought a lot to the table and his investment has gone a long way to promoting and building the future of our club."

"As a Warringtonian his passion and drive to make our club successful is clear to see making his progression into the role of chairman the right choice. We would like to thank Steven (Broomhead) for his leadership contribution and support during his long and successful chairmanship, he will continue to play an important role on the Board in his position of vice chairman."

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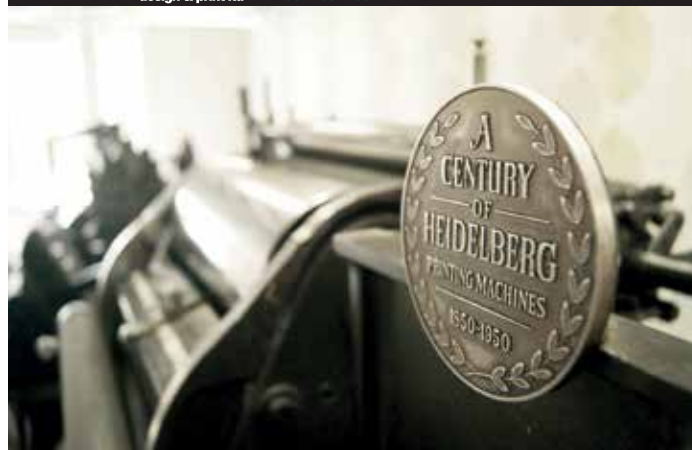
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