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Young heroes praised

Page 3



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Editor's Comment



TOO often young people attract negative publicity in the media - so it was refreshing to meet the four young heroes who came to the rescue of a distressed male who was considering jumping off a motorway bridge at Winwick.

After hearing about their exploits I made it my mission to track them down and ensure they got the recognition they fully deserved which you can read about on the opposite page.

It certainly showed the power of social media as I was able to trace the young men within a few hours of putting out an appeal on our **warrington-worldwide** facebook page.

It really is rewarding reporting on positive news stories which we have made our mission since launching warrington-worldwide.

There is so much negative news out there, which we sadly have to also report on, we believe it is important to report on the good news stories as much as possible.

So a big congratulations to Kaileb Walters, Nathan Kenyon, James Barnshaw and Connor O'Hara. You are all outstanding

citizens and fully deserve the recognition you have received from Cheshire Police.

You have made your families, friends, college and Warrington proud!

Meanwhile 2018 is a big year for our publishers Orbit News who are celebrating 50 years of business in Warrington.

During the year we will be supporting a number of community events - watch this space.

Finally it is with much sadness that Warrington has lost two former Mayors in the space of a couple of weeks, Roy Humphreys and Sheila Woodyatt.

I worked with both during their terms of office and know they will be sadly missed by their families, friends and former colleagues

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Young heroes praised after helping save distressed man

FOUR young heroes who helped save a man's life have been presented with special "Good Citizen" citations by Police who described them as "pillars of the community."

Without any concerns for their own safety the four youngsters put themselves between a distressed man who was considering jumping off a motorway bridge and kept him talking and safe until police arrived at the scene.

The drama was captured on motorway CCTV with police later praising the actions of the young men on social media.

warrington-worldwide launched an appeal via social media to trace the youngsters and within a matter of hours they were identified as Warrington and Vale Royal College Public Service students, Kaileb Walters, James Barnshave and Connor O'Hara, all aged 18 and Nathan Kenyon, 17.

Presenting special Certificates of Appreciation and Good Citizen citations Inspector Hannah Friend said: "Police received multiple calls from members of the public reporting concern for the welfare and safety of a man who was standing on the motorway bridge at junction 9 of the M62 at Winwick."

"Police patrols were deployed to find the male but initial information had given the wrong location leading to a short delay in police attendance."

"Fortunately four members of

the public had seen the male who was vulnerable and distressed; they approached the man and spoke with him until patrols arrived.

"Motorway CCTV showed that they made great efforts to communicate with the male and prevented him from approaching the edge of the bridge, maintaining his safety."

"Without their intervention, it is possible the male may have come to harm in his distressed state."

"These individuals have acted with compassion, bravery and selflessness. They have demonstrated the best qualities of community spirit and have rightly been described as "pillars of the community" for their outstanding assistance during this incident."

"This citation is to recognise and thank these individuals for their excellent support to Cheshire police and the Warrington community."

The students, who are all good friends and considering careers with the police, had been walking home from college when they became aware of the distressed

male looking over the side of the motorway bridge at Junction nine of the M62.

Kaileb said: "He was clearly distressed so we just tried to keep him calm by talking about things in general like football. He was a really nice guy who had obviously been through a tough time and we were just happy to help."

All four students were congratulated by College Principal Nichola Newton who said: "The college is extremely proud of the actions of these four young students, they are a credit to the college and the town."



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Travel students land dream jobs

WARRINGTON based high flying travel and aviation students **Hollie Clayton** and **Louis Price** will be jetting off around the globe next year when they start their dream jobs as part of Jet2.com's cabin crew.

The duo, who are in the final year of their level 3 course at Warrington & Vale Royal College, are the latest travel and tourism students to secure prestigious roles within the industry.

They will take off on their new adventure in April, after going through a rigorous recruitment process with the airline company.

Hollie, 17, from Great Sankey, enthused: "This is my dream job. I have wanted this since I was seven years old – it's just a dream come true."

The former Great Sankey High School pupil added: "We get to travel the world as a job – it's insane. We could end up flying to New York, Cyprus, Spain, Rome anywhere! It's just so exciting."

Louis, a former Cardinal Newman Catholic High School pupil, added: "Not knowing where we will end up makes it even more exciting. Getting this job is a dream come true for me and something I would never have been able to achieve was it not for the course and my tutors at Warrington & Vale Royal College."

Hollie said: "Everything we have learned during the course has given us a competitive edge. During the recruitment process, we were asked questions and put in role play situations. A lot of it related to confrontation, something we had covered in detail in college. The

course definitely played a massive part in helping us to secure these amazing jobs – we can't thank the college enough!"

Both Hollie and Louis – who has also dreamed of working as part of cabin crew since being a child – had interviewed for other airline companies before securing their place with Jet2.com. But Hollie said despite this, she never gave up on her dream and urged others to follow in her footsteps.

To find out more about the opportunities available at Warrington & Vale Royal College, visit our website wvr.ac.uk or visit our open evening on Monday 12th February, 5pm-7pm.



Louis Price and Hollie Clayton.

Residents urged to pay for green bin collection again

RESIDENTS are again being urged to buy licences to have their green waste bins emptied by the borough council.

Collections will start in March and continue, fortnightly, until November – but only those who have paid the licence fee will have their bins collected.

Cllr Judith Guthrie, the council's lead member for the environment, said: "Our collection service was very popular last year and helped us to recycle 9,500 tonnes of garden waste. We hope that residents will choose to use our

service again in 2018."

A total of 39,552 licences were issued for green bins across the borough which means the council collected almost exactly half the green bins in the borough. Prior to the introduction of charges last year, 79,000 green bins were collected.

There was an uproar when the charge was first announced, with many residents saying they were not prepared to pay.

This year, the licences will cost slightly more, with a £1 increase.

They will now be £34 if bought

at Contact Warrington or over the phone but only £31 if bought online.

Householders can pay for more than one green bin if they need to. They can also share a bin with a neighbour(s) if they don't produce much garden waste.

They can also compost green waste or take it to a community recycling centres if they prefer.

For more information about the garden waste service and for full terms and conditions visit warrington.gov.uk/gardenwaste

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Town centre regeneration gathers momentum

By Steve Park

You will have no doubt noticed that there is a lot of scaffolding around Bridge Street at the moment and more recently around the Cabinet Works building as the Town Centre regeneration continues.

The beautiful façade of Howard Building (locally and more recently remembered as the former Boots building) is scaffold protected whilst demolition takes place of the 1970's building behind and to allow the construction of the new, permanent market to commence. Conservation works will be undertaken on this fascia to clean, repair and protect it for the future. Behind it the rest of the site is clear. The old market hall has gone and the rubble is being cleared.

The precarious and dangerous state of the Cabinet Works building requires careful hand demolition - a process that will take until this Summer to complete. The site itself is key in the regeneration and the future vibrancy of the Town centre. It provides a direct link from what will be a new leisure destination in Time Square into the continually improving Cultural Quarter. The future use of the Cabinets Works site is still to be determined but developer interest is very high and the site is earmarked in Warrington Means

Business, Warrington's framework for growth for residential use.

Elsewhere in the Town Centre the proposal as to whether the Town Centre should create a Business Improvement District has taken a major step forward with the business ballot now underway. Following the

consultation, Town Centre businesses are now being balloted as to whether they would wish to be a part of a Business Improvement District. As previously mentioned in the column Business Improvement Districts are very successful in many other towns and cities and empower businesses as to the management and direction as to how their town centre should be run. I would encourage all Town Centre Businesses to look out for their ballot paper and vote'.



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Steve Park
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Irish star drops in for St Patrick's weekend

ONE of Ireland's best-known singers, Damien Dempsey, is to appear in Warrington to celebrate the St Patrick's Day weekend.

He will be at the Parr Hall on Sunday, March 18 with a collection of songs from the Great Irish Songbook.

Bringing a modern-day twist to traditional Irish folk song, Dempsey's unique style has won the acclaim of fans and critics alike, leading him to claim multiple Meteor awards including Best Folk/Traditional Act and Best Irish Country/Root Artist.

Dempsey's performances are always a refreshingly uplifting experience, earning him praise and admiration from across the board.

His concert offers a collection of well-loved Irish classics, including songs from celebrated bands such as The Pogues and The Dubliners.

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3 Feb, 3 Mar, 7 Apr & 5 May	Comedy Store
Sat 10 Feb	Jimeoin - Ridiculous
Sat 17 Feb	Fastlove - A Tribute to George Michael
Sun 18 Feb	Don't Dribble on the Dragon
Fri 23 Feb	Menopause The Musical
Thu 1 Mar	Tim Vine - Sunset Milk Idiot
Thu 8 Mar	Rob Brydon - I Am Standing Up
Fri 9 Mar	Bill Bailey - Larks in Transit
Thu 15 Mar	An Evening with Ant Middleton
Fri 16 Mar	SlyDigs plus Special Guests
Sun 18 Mar	Damien Dempsey
Wed 21 Mar	Circus of Horrors - Voodoo
Thu 29 Mar	Icons of the 80s - Go West, Nik Kershaw & Cutting Crew
Sat 31 Mar	Tom Stace - I Swear
Sun 8 Apr	You Win Again
Wed 11 Apr	Jason Manford - Muddle Class
Sat 14 Apr	Whitney - Queen of the Night
Sat 21 Apr	Absolute Bowie presents 50 Years of Bowie
Sun 13 May	Sleeping Beauty - Vienna Festival Ballet
Sat 19 May	Thank You For The Music presents ABBA
Thu 7 Jun	Ruby Wax - Frazzled
Fri 8 Jun	The Dreamboys



Dining Out with **Warrington - worldwide**

at The Ring O'Bells

Editor Gary Skentelbery checks out the new look Ring O'Bells

If you are looking for a traditional family friendly olde worlde English pub for a meal out you won't go far wrong at the historic Ring o' Bells pub in Warrington.

Under new ownership and management the pub which is situated right in the heart of Warrington outside St Elphin's Parish Church, has a fresh new look following a £100,000 investment.

While retaining its historic character the pub has been modernised and welcomes family dining at lunch times and evenings (Not Mondays), including Sunday lunches.

There is a fairly extensive menu featuring many pub classics and a bar which serves fine ales and wines.

For my starters I went for the juicy garlic mushrooms cooked in white wine and herbs served with a salad garnish - other choices included Soup of the day, Breaded Mozzarella sticks, Chicken Liver pate, Cheese/Garlic bread, Nachos, Calamari rings, Potato skins or Bells sticky ribs.

For mains I went for the traditional Sirloin steak, which was cooked to my liking and came with chunky chips, washed down with a very palatable bottle of Marques Del Afrio.

But there were plenty of other options including pub favourites

gammon eggs and chips, Lamb chops, various burgers and the Bells Belly Buster, which would satisfy even the largest appetite.

There is even an All day Breakfast option!

The diet went out the window as I was tempted by Sticky Toffee pudding with lashings of treacle sauce!

There is a big choice of Gluten free food and the pub is happy to cater for vegetarians and vegans.

All in all a very satisfying meal and a great night out. If you are worried about parking don't - the pub has an agreement to use Sainsbury's car park opposite.



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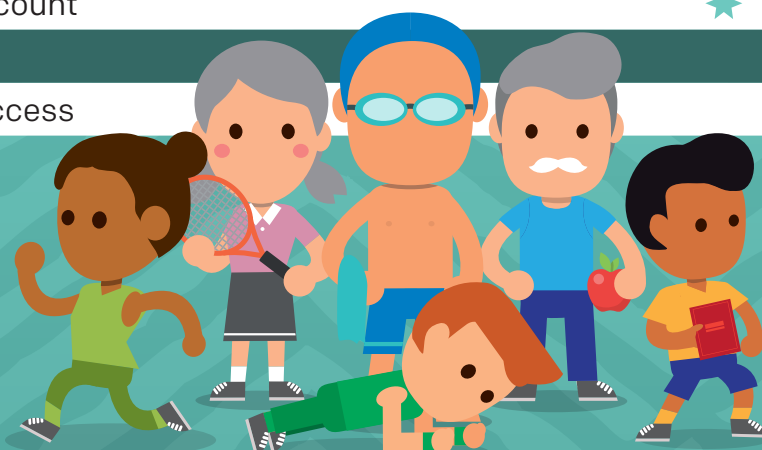
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Residents angered by deforestation at Omega South development

ANGRY residents have hit out at the "deforestation" of land at Omega South, Warrington, as part of a proposed new housing development by Redrow Homes.

Children walking to a nearby primary school were left in tears by the devastation and impact on local wildlife.

Local resident Nigel Catlow said: "Lots of trees have been cut down when the original masterplan said about retaining trees."

"In the space of a week there has been total deforestation of the area. A lot of local school children have been concerned."

He said he was now considering resurrecting the Whittle Residents Association to campaign against what was taking place in the area.

A statement issued on behalf of Omega Warrington Limited and Warrington Borough Council said: "There are currently two neighbouring residential plots on Omega South, one which is being developed by Miller Homes and the other by Redrow. In both cases, to enable the sites to be developed, tree removal works have been or are envisaged to be undertaken by the housebuilders."

"These works were only carried out where essential in order to construct infrastructure in these areas, either road accesses or flood attenuation ponds. There are no Tree Protection Orders on the site and all tree removal works were undertaken within the terms of the planning permissions, following extensive arboricultural studies. The activity on site at the moment is partly because all tree removal has to happen before the end of February to avoid bird nesting season."

"Insofar as the attenuation ponds are concerned, these are vital to ensure that all rain water run-off from the sites can be collected and redistributed slowly into water courses to prevent localised flooding. However whilst being practical drainage solutions, these ponds will also evolve over time to become wildlife habitats to all sorts of animal, insect and plant species, supporting the biodiversity of the area."

"In terms of land outside of existing and future residential and commercial development plots,

as of summer this year, some fifty acres of land at Omega has been handed over to the Land Trust, a national land management charity. This means that existing trees within the landscape buffer zones are now owned and controlled by the Land Trust. A planning consent is also now in place which includes a comprehensive landscaping scheme to bolster planting in these buffer zones, once the infrastructure works are complete."

"As regards the 50 acres as a whole, the role of the Land Trust at Omega will be the remodelling of these spaces, over the coming years, to create a 35 acres central park, called the Green Heart, and a network of connected green corridors around the Omega development. When completed, these spaces will include wetland and woodland habitats, building on the established Great Crested Newt community already present, along with public footpaths and cycle ways providing attractive and wildlife diverse routes through the site."

"Omega Warrington Ltd and Warrington Borough Council are very aware that some of these tree removal works look dramatic. However, both parties want to reassure all the communities surrounding Omega that this is a short-term, transitory situation; we have significant medium to long-term plans, in partnership with the Land Trust, which are being put into place now to create some very special, vibrant, wildlife-rich spaces for the future."

"As well as re-providing the visual buffers previously enjoyed by neighbouring residents, these spaces will also create new leisure opportunities and educational, biodiverse pockets of interest on large swathes of land that will, for the first time, be open to the community as a whole."

"In relation to both applications 2017/30837 & 2017/31105 the impact on ecology and residential amenity was assessed as set out in the Case Officer's Reports. This considered that the proposals would

be unlikely to have a detrimental impact on residential amenity given that there are no residential properties near the site(s). In terms of the impact on general amenity/ecology it was considered that whilst the proposals would have an impact it would be adequately mitigated/controlled in accordance with Policy QE 5 / QE 6 (as appropriate) of the Warrington Local Plan Core Strategy."

Meanwhile, work is set to start on building 158 new homes on Omega South early in the New Year following detailed planning approval with more planned on adjoining land.

Omega Warrington Limited

(OWL) and Redrow Homes Ltd have been granted Reserved Matters (detailed) planning approval for Redrow to build a mix of 158 new homes on Omega South.

Meanwhile plans for a further 86 new Redrow homes on neighbouring land are still under consideration.

The Redrow scheme will become phase two of a residential development on Omega South that will, through multiple housebuilders, delivering up to 1,100 much-needed homes for local people over the next ten years.

Construction for phase one of 200 homes is already underway by Miller Homes.





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Hilda celebrates 107th birthday

A FORMER hostess at the Burtonwood Airbase has celebrated her 107th birthday at a Warrington care home.

Hilda Lightfoot celebrated with family, friends and staff at the Heathercroft Nursing Home at Woolston.

Believed to be one of the oldest people in Cheshire, Hilda loved to travel and has been to the United States, Australia and Europe – travelling to Spain twice a year until she was 95.

In her younger days she was also keen on cycling, walking and jogging.



School wins award for keeping pupils active

A WARRINGTON primary school has been given a prestigious award for the work it does with leisure and lifestyles group LiveWire to keep pupils active.

Great Sankey Primary has been accredited with the AfPE (Association for Physical Education) Quality Mark.

It follows in the footsteps of nine other schools in Warrington that LiveWire has supported to achieve the accreditation.

The award is given to schools that show continuous development, outstanding practise and innovation in high quality physical education and sport.

Great Sankey Primary completed a rigorous assessment process with LiveWire's PE and School Sports team to achieve the accreditation, which is a benchmark and industry standard for high quality.

The award will raise the profile of the subject and the school on a local and national level and will promote the high quality work that is being undertaken on a day-to-day basis.



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City mayors to speak at business awards launch

THIS year's Warrington Business Awards will launch with a unique event – with the Mayors of Greater Manchester and Liverpool City Region as guest speakers.

Andy Burnham (Greater Manchester) and Steve Rotherham (Liverpool) will be speaking on Thursday, February 1 at a ticket-only dinner at Warrington's Peace Centre.

The event will see the launch of 12 awards with the winners announced at the Warrington Business Awards 2018 on June 8 – again to be hosted at Lymm Rugby Club.

Limited tickets for the launch dinner can be purchased at £25 per head by emailing wendy.parry@foundation4peace.org.

Danny Hudson, partner at Watsons Solicitors and member of the Warrington Business Awards Organising Committee, said:

"Warrington represents the third largest economy in the North West of England and we are delighted that the town's significance is appreciated by both Mayors of our larger neighbours who have accepted our invitation to officially launch the Warrington Business Awards 2018.

"Warrington is half way between two economic and cultural powerhouses, so to have Andy Burnham and Steve Rotherham both in Warrington and sharing their thoughts on the prosperity and future economic growth of the North West region is extremely exciting. Both Mayors are passionate about the region as a whole as

well as Manchester and Liverpool respectively and we look forward to welcoming them to Warrington."

Jennifer McGuinness, solicitor at FDR Law and member of the Warrington Business Awards Organising Committee, added: "The Warrington Business Awards 2018 promises to be bigger and better than ever. Since we hosted the 2015 and 2016 awards we have been delighted with the feedback from winners who have shared their stories of how winning an award has had a positive impact on their businesses.

"We are also delighted to be launching the Warrington Business Awards 2018 at the Peace Centre as this year the awards will be supporting the Tim Parry Johnathan Ball Peace Foundation's Unique Achievement campaign, which

marks the 25th anniversary of the Warrington bombings and the unique work the foundation has undertaken since."

Further information can be found at www.warringtonbusinessawards.co.uk



Andy Burnham.

Warning over battery blazes



RESIDENTS have been warned to be careful how they recycle batteries after a battery caused a fire in bin lorry for the second time in a year in Warrington.

Warrington Borough Council is urging people to make sure they recycle batteries correctly and only put the correct items in the blue recycling bins.

Cheshire Fire and Rescue were called to fires in bin lorries in April and December last year. In each case, a wrongly discarded battery was found to be the cause.

All Warrington's community recycling centres will accept batteries for recycling; some libraries have battery collection boxes as do many shops that sell batteries.

To find out what you can and can't recycle in the blue bins see: www.warrington.gov.uk/info/201079/bins_recycling_and_waste/2216/which_bin

The council is also asking people to take precautions against arson attacks on their bins after reports of a series of fires.

These fires can have very serious consequences and the council says residents should store bins away to avoid them becoming a target for arsonists and only place them out on collection days.

Introducing Callum of Morgan Branding...

Meet Callum Morgan, who founded Morgan Branding in June 2017 with the objective of providing start-up companies and SMEs with the ability to professionally market themselves without huge marketing budgets.

Warrington resident Callum, 26, attended Culcheth High School and went onto study a BSc Maths at Sheffield Hallam University. Upon completion of his degree Callum returned to Warrington and joined his father's business – Morgan Williams, with a remit of supporting the development and modernisation of the business.

Morgan Williams is an independent firm of chartered surveyors and valuers, specialising in commercial property in Warrington and surrounding areas. Over time Callum's role at Morgan Williams developed into a marketing and business development role, with many clients enlisting Callum's skills and knowledge of sales and marketing within their own

businesses.

Initially, the inception of Morgan Branding came from this client work, as Callum realised that he had a lot to offer businesses looking to develop themselves and increase profitability. Additionally, he was aware there was a gap in the market for a marketing agency who took the time to understand the needs and budgets of a start-up business or SME without the capability of having a marketing specialist within their team, nor a marketing budget to speak of.

The main concept behind Morgan Branding's

philosophy offers clients a strong brand identity, quality website and social media attributes. This has led to them attracting customers from a variety of sectors including: hotels, holiday lets, bars and restaurants, estate agents and retail across the country over the last 8 months.

In addition to their branding and digital services Morgan Branding offer 360° virtual tours using a Matterport system, which collects accurate visual and spatial data to map entire areas in 4k quality. Once scanned, viewers can choose to see a floor plan, a dolls house view or take a virtual tour of the property or space. This service has proved extremely popular so far within the

hospitality and commercial property sectors, with enquires now coming in from the education, residential care and commercial accommodation sectors too.

360° tours provide a great tool for businesses who offer their customers tours of their facilities, as it means that customers can essentially view premises, venues or properties at their leisure from the comfort of their own home or office. A fantastic marketing tool, which is sure to grow in demand in 2018.



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Editor helps inspire students on reading challenge

STUDENTS at Warrington & Vale Royal College were given an insight into the importance of reading and the impact it can have on their future careers, thanks to an inspiring visit from warrington-worldwide Editor, Gary Skentelbery.

Organised as part of the college's reading campaign and English strategy, Gary spoke to students about his experiences of reading as a child and how his passion for both reading and writing led him to a successful journalism career, which has seen him develop the **warrington-worldwide** brand from one magazine to six.

Gary then delivered a reading session from his favourite childhood books – Swallows and Amazons by Arthur Ransome – before presenting awards to three students who have shown outstanding progress in their reading this term.

Kieron Richings-Jones, Reece Forrester and Sophie Daniels were all named as reading champions and presented with a certificate and an Amazon voucher.

warrington-worldwide is one of the sponsors of the college's reading campaign, which aims to get every student reading regularly, as well as improving their reading ability.

Gary said: "Reading is an important part of our lives and something I enjoyed as a child, although sadly due to the pressures of work is something I don't do often enough now. You never stop

learning by reading from books.

"When I heard about the reading campaign at the college I felt it was important to support and hopefully help inspire more young people to read more books. I would also encourage all parents and guardians to encourage young people to read, especially bedtime stories."

Gary added: "2018 is the 50th anniversary of our publishing company Orbit News Ltd and we are supporting a number of events like the reading challenge."

Elizabeth Draper, Director for English at Warrington & Vale Royal College, said: "We are really appreciative of Gary and **warrington-worldwide** for sponsoring our reading campaign this year, and for all of the help and support he has provided so far."

"Events like pop-up storytelling and 'Reading Elevenses' – which Gary led this term – are vitally important to not just encouraging our students to read, but also recognising their success in doing so. We will be continuing to hold such events throughout the academic year to further build on our impressive success in English over the past two years."



Volunteers fly through the air to help Visually Impaired People

VOLUNTEERS flew through the air on a Zip Wire Challenge helping raise £4,600 for Warrington Visually Impaired People (WVIP).

A dozen Warrington Visually Impaired People (WVIP) volunteers and staff literally put their good hearts in their mouths and leapt into the Snowdon abyss to face their fears and the Zip Wire Challenge.

Howard who co-ordinated the fund-raising event said "Many people have asked how much was raised by the recent zip wire challenge. I am proud to announce that to date £4,600 has been raised by our intrepid team."

"Well done and thank you to everyone who sponsored them. All the proceeds will go towards the purchase of a new minibus."

Maintenance and running costs for the mini bus fleet have been very high in recent years as the stock has aged. The running costs have been half their total annual

expenditure.

The charity has dug into their reserves to bring the current stock up to a reliable standard as a short-term policy but in the long-term they are going to fund raise more to buy new ones that they will replace every 3 to 5 years.

The WVIP have learnt the hard way that buying second-hand buses is a very hit and miss affair.

Transport manager Damian said: "We believe that this is the most cost-effective way. We need mini buses that are reliable and low maintenance. Many of our members are elderly and frail with an average age of 80 and we must pick them and take them back home on time."

"Recently one of our volunteer drivers Paul completed a 10km run in London and raised enough money for us to brand and enhance the exterior of our fleet that creates a consistent and

improved appearance. We are now very visible and look very professional. Several of our drivers have commented that motorists now know who we are and let us into the busy traffic flows of Warrington roads and elsewhere with a smile and a wave."

"We are and always have been a service for local people funded by

local people and proud to display the Warrington Visually Impaired People badge on our journeys."

For more details on the charity visit their facebook page www.facebook.com/Warrington-Visually-Impaired-People-aka-Warrington-Blind-Society-576573205847318/



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Bus fares frozen



BUS company Network Warrington have announced they are freezing bus fares.

The company issued a statement as a result of a number of passenger enquiries about ticket prices in the light of fare increases announced by other public transport providers.

A spokesman said: "We are seeking to clarify that our existing ticket prices will continue to be honoured across our entire network. We will also continue with our recently reduced fares on some routes."

"Network Warrington operates

an extensive number of bus routes across the borough, including early mornings, evenings and weekends."

The company's last fares increase was in August 2015.

For more information regarding Network Warrington tickets and fares, visit www.networkwarrington.co.uk/tickets-fares or follow @WarringtonBuses on Twitter.

Bus company wants to enlist "Concessionary Tsar"

BUS company Network Warrington is to enlist a "Concessionary Tsar" to give a voice to concessionary fare passengers.

They want to recruit, on a voluntary basis, a concessionary (or other free) pass holder to help support and represent the views of fellow concessionary travellers.

The volunteer, dubbed a "Concessionary Tsar", will offer advice on issues affecting free pass holders to Network Warrington's senior managers.

They will help the company to overcome any barriers for people using the free pass scheme and will also organise social outings using the bus network.

The company is looking for someone outgoing, pro-active and willing to meet with stakeholders, to act as the voice of fellow passengers and to promote the free pass scheme on offer to all concessionary pass holders.

Network Warrington managing director Ben Wakerley said: "We want to ensure we're doing all we can to provide a service that is fit for purpose and to help promote

independent travel for all.

"The Concessionary Tsar title, although a little tongue-in-cheek, will be critical to ensuring we are there for passengers who may need more support than others."

"We'd love to hear from anyone who wants to support Warrington and its transport offer."

Cllr Cathy Mitchell, chairman of Network Warrington, added: "We are committed to seeking feedback from our passengers and the views of our concessionary pass holders are essential."

"We want to be a bus company that works for all of Warrington's communities and a volunteer who can champion the views of our concessionary and free pass holders will be important to ensure we continue to offer a suitable service for them."

For more information about the Concessionary Tsar role, read the role description online (at www.reed.co.uk/jobs/concessionary-tsar/34108339?source=searchResults#/jobs/network-warrington/o575693) or call 01925 634296.

Council seek to cut cost of waste disposal – in two years

WARRINGTON'S current household waste disposal arrangements look set to carry on for another two years while council chiefs seek ways to cut costs.

Members of the council's executive board have agreed to extend the current contract with FCC Environment on new terms reflecting current market conditions, until January 2020.

This will mean the current black, blue and green bin collections of household waste will continue, with waste being delivered to a third party waste transfer site at Widnes where it is bulked to different facilities operated by FCC Environment for end treatment.

Cllr Judith Guthrie, lead member for environment and public protection, said the council's waste service is already investigating potential waste strategy/disposal options which could potentially see substantial cost reductions but this work will require current disposal contracts to be extended two years.

Currently, some 50,000 tonnes of residual waste is disposed of annually through the FCC contract which allows for an annual uplift in cost in line with the retail price index.

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By David Watkinson

Don't fall foul to the scams

Now that the January tax return deadline has passed then a very quick reminder that any tax due in respect of the last fiscal year must be paid by 28th February to avoid a 5% surcharge.

It is also time to remind you that, however bad you feel when you pay your tax, you will feel infinitely worse if you fall foul of a scam, and rest assured that scams are getting more and more frequent. In one week recently one client posted on facebook about being approached within days of another client contacting us for advice. Our own staff have also been approached!

There are a number of tell-tale features that apply to most or all of them:

1. Firstly, and most obviously, they will either ask you to provide personal details or to make some form of untraceable payment, such as with i-tune vouchers. The tax office have stated that they will never ask for personal details by email, and will certainly never accept payment of a tax liability with i-tune vouchers. Heck! They won't even accept payment by credit card after 13th January!
2. Secondly, they will often be addressed impersonally, such as "Dear Taxpayer", or addressed to your email address.
3. Thirdly, the web address from which they originate will not be a genuine UK government website. If you hover your cursor above the address showing in the email then the real address will be shown.
4. Fourthly, HMRC do not issue arrest warrants, or contact the police, in respect of tax liabilities.

The government has published guidance on how to spot scams and avoid being taken in. This guidance can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/phishing-and-bogus-emails-hm-revenue-and-customs-examples/phishing-emails-and-bogus-contact-hm-revenue-and-customs-examples#bogus-phone-calls>.

HMRC's advice is to never give out personal information in response to an approach purporting to be from them, nor to open any attachments contained in an email. If you have any doubts then you should forward the email to HMRC for verification to phishing@hmrc.gsi.gov.uk.

Of course, scam HMRC emails are just the tip of the iceberg. The Nigerian unclaimed estate, or the large foreign lottery win are other examples. Just remember, if you are not in it you cannot win it, and if it seems too good to be true then it probably is.

As Kojak used to say "Let's be careful out there!"

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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David Watkinson and Margaret Black

Former student wows judges on The Voice UK

A FORMER Bridgewater High School and Priestley College Student from Warrington gave the biggest performance of her life as she sang on the stage of The Voice UK.

Chloe Jones was one of the first singers to audition on the ITV show, in front of new judge Olly Murs, who has joined recurring mentors Sir Tom Jones, Will.i.am and Jennifer Hudson on the talent show.

The 22-year-old, who works in Manchester as a barista in a coffee shop, impressed the judges with her version of Corinne Bailey Rae's

'Just Like A Star'.

Chloe chose Sir Tom Jones to be her mentor to take her forward in to the next stage of the show, with him turning his chair within a few moments of her singing her song.

Others to turn their chairs were Will.i.am and Olly Murs.

Will.i.am said 'You've done Warrington Proud.'



Death of former Liverpool goalkeeper Tommy Lawrence



Picture: Eddie Whitham

FORMER Liverpool and Scotland goalkeeper Tommy Lawrence, who was brought up in Warrington, has died, aged 77.

Nicknamed "The Flying Pig" he made 390 appearances for The Reds including winning two league titles and the famous first FA Cup in 1965 under legendary manager Bill Shankly.

He had been ill for some time.

Tommy was born in Scotland but moved to Warrington as a child and was brought up in Culcheth, attending Culcheth High School.

He started his soccer career with Stockton Heath – now Warrington Town and worked at Rylands wire factory.

But he was signed by Liverpool when he was 17.

He won three caps for Scotland.

After his playing career ended he return to Rylands as a quality controller – continuing to live in Culcheth.

He earned his nickname through his surprising agility despite weighing more than 14 stone.

Record 539 runners take part in Warrington's Park Run



Former Mayor Geoff Settle.

A RECORD-breaking 539 runners took part in Warrington's popular Park Run as the event prepared to celebrate its fourth anniversary.

They all followed in the wake of Louisa Thompson, who scorched around the 5km course in Victoria Park 19 minutes and eight seconds.

The run has grown in popularity year on year and the fourth anniversary run will be on Saturday, January 27, at 9am.

Former Mayor of Warrington Geoff Settle is a volunteer marshal – and race organisers have named the first corner, where he stands, "Mayor's Corner."

He said: "This is a brilliant event and one that I get a great deal of satisfaction from by marshalling."

Geoff has just completed his 64th event as a volunteer – which is apt as he celebrated his 64th birthday in October.

He said "I'm always impressed by the number of marshals who stand out in the cold for up to an hour making sure that everyone is safe. We even have a Tail Walker who stays with and encourages those at the back of the field."

"Gone are my days of running fast for Warrington Athletic Club such as in 1986 when I ran a 14.45 in the Cheshire champs and still only finished 5th. My memories have been replaced by aching bones but hopefully running the parkrun will rejuvenate them and I'll be back running in my red WAC vest soon."

Geoff added: "What I see in fast parkrun participants is the determination and pleasure that I used to get when running well. However, it's the beaming smiley faces at the back of the field that now give me most pleasure. These people are working just as hard as I ever did and thanks to the parkrun are experiencing the satisfaction and benefits of improving their wellbeing whilst also developing new friendships."

The parkrun is a free, fun way to exercise.

To take part you need to register by visiting www.parkrun.org.uk/warrington

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