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Issue No. 150

April 2012

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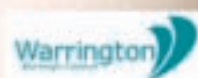
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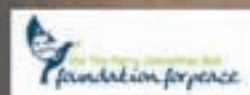
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At a time of austerity when our council is cutting jobs and salaries it does appear a little insensitive to send a party of officers to London to take part in an awards ceremony at a five star luxury hotel.

Yes it is great to celebrate success but is it really necessary to send a party of 10 including Chief Executive Diana Terris (pictured below) and other senior officers, to a lavish reception at the Grosvenor House Hotel on Park Lane, Mayfair, a total cost of £3,250?

They joined 1200 senior local government officers, many of whom have overseen redundancies and deep cuts to services, at the black tie awards ceremony after being nominated for the most improved council of the year - for which they came runners up.

This is after previously receiving three red flags from the Audit



Commission for financial mismanagement and child protection failings!

I know politicians ducked out of attending the event because they realised it would not go down well with the voting public.

Surely people in senior positions must understand the risk of a public backlash from such use of public money?

Is there no place for common sense in our society any more? Could the event organisers not have had a less lavish location?

Was there really a need to send 10 people? Is an award you have to pay to receive really worth having?

I'm all for celebrating success but when it involves the public purse it needs to be done with some common sense!

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Amy doesn't want the X-Factor

UNLIKE many young singers Amy Rose doesn't want the X-Factor - she just wants to sing!

Having auditioned for the TV programme once she describes it as a 'complete joke' with the judging panel more interested in people embarrassing themselves than people who can actually sing.

Amy aged 21, from Great Sankey, is now working as a self employed singer, taking work on the local club and pub scene so she can achieve her dream.

She has been singing since the age of seven and has had vocal training since the age of 12 and is currently teaching herself to play guitar.

"I don't want to be known as the girl who was on the X-Factor," said Amy. "I just want to be known as the girl who can sing."

She has already had one of her songs played on national radio and regular features on Radio Warrington.

She also uses her talents in the local community and has already done a charity concert for Help for Heroes as well as a Christmas party for OAPs at her local community centre.


Amy says her main influences are

Jessie Jay and Pink and she is also a big fan of Tina Turner.

"I'm not really bothered about fame, I just want to sing and I am happy to do that in my local community," she added

She can be seen performing at Mojoes Tapas Bar on Sunday evenings and also has regular slots at the Bridge Bar in Latchford and The Venue in Lymm.

Amy's work can be viewed on facebook and youtube simply by searching Amy Rose, Warrington.



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Hello and welcome to my monthly column . . .

Hypnotes

by Michael Mahoney

New Developments and Expansions

Are you ruled by stress and anxiety and want to overcome it? Have you been trying to conceive for years and about to give up?

It is with great pride that I can announce that I am now an adopted "Granddad" for the seventh time! Let me explain.

Out of frustration, difficulties and disappointment, sometimes even after consultation with natal specialists have failed, healthy, yet unsuccessful 'prospective mothers' have consulted with me regarding fertility issues.

Using my original specific hypnotherapeutic techniques developed for successful conception, I am now proud to say that I have been adopted as a "Granddad to the seventh baby conceived after using these techniques! Of course, prior to therapy, we make sure that there are no physical problems, and that the future mothers have consulted with their medical professional, so that we are only concerned with previous difficulties in conceiving. What a joy be a part of these little miracles! It is amazing to know that the power of the subconscious mind can overcome past obstacles and result in aiding new life! If this is an area of concern for you, do not be discouraged, because there is hope.

Another announcement to share with you is that I have expanded my practice and services to the Woolston Neighbourhood Hub off Manchester road, situated in the new modern and friendly medical centre of Dr Reynolds and partners within the hub. The Hub is a wonderful sport and social centre, with very professional and welcoming staff.

While I work with individuals who have many health, emotional or self-improvement concerns, I am always available to help and provide insights where I can.

Some readers may have concerns with stress and anxiety. Do you ever find yourself wanting to attend a social gathering, only to be overcome with panic and fear? Have you had to cancel appointments – whether social or work-related due to overwhelming emotions? Do you worry or stress over the least of things, knowing intellectually that the worry is unfounded, but yet you are not able to overcome the feeling no matter how hard you try?

Well, I see people all the time with these questions and worries and much more. All of these fearful and worrisome responses were learned – we may not want to have learned them, but over time, patterns of panic and anxiety, stress and self-limiting beliefs can



Michael Mahoney is a Clinical Hypnotherapist. He has research, and patient trials experience. He is a member of the Hypnotherapy Association, an associate of the Primary Care Society for Gastroenterology, he is a non NHS service provider and Private Health Service Provider

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www.michaelmahoneyhypnotherapist.com

become well-established. Removing these issues is about changing thoughts and perceptions and also about developing greater self-confidence, to take away the importance of the negative mind set, and to recognise that by thinking differently physical responses will also be different.

These responses can be replaced with appropriate feelings and responses. Your whole world can open up again – attending parties, making appointments on time, taking part in life – all without worry or concern! You can become a renewed person – the person you were meant to be that you knew all along was inside.

So whether it's worry, stress, the desire to become a mother, anxiety, panic or anything that concerns your well-being and happiness, know that there is help and it is only a phone call, or a click of a mouse away! With the promise of spring and new beginnings, you too can find a new beginning to be your best self ever!



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Wolves stars get their kit off!

WARRINGTON Wolves' stars Ryan Atkins and Ben Harrison have bared all in a naked photo shoot to support Sport Relief.

Prop Harrison and centre Atkins braved the elements to pose in the cold, wearing nothing but a smile and specially made rugby Sport Relief socks.

They are inspiring the people of Warrington to enter the Manchester Sainsbury's Sport Relief Mile, or one of dozens of Miles across the North West, on Sunday March 25 and support the Rugby Football League's partnership with Sport Relief.

The boys got their kit off to encourage local supporters to enter the Sport Relief Mile later this month where thousands of people are expected to do one, three or six miles to raise money for disadvantaged people in the North West, across the UK and the world's poorest countries. The players had to man up and strip off before posing in the buff, with only a strategically placed rugby ball to cover their modesty.

Teams taking part in the Stobart Super League, the top-level professional Rugby League competition in Europe, have also agreed to do their bit for Sport Relief. Round Eight of this year's competition is dedicated to Sport Relief, which means every game will be played with an official Sport Relief branded ball and players from the 14 participating clubs will be wearing

Sport Relief socks.

Warrington Wolves was one of 11 clubs from the Super League who have gone the extra mile to get people from all over the country to participate in the hundreds of Mile events happening across the length and breadth of the country.

Ryan said: "I'm not in the habit of taking my clothes off but I'm making an exception for Sport Relief. I've played some really fierce rugby and have been involved in some really tough tackles, but nothing compares with the terror of bearing all in the buff! Still, Ben and I have really enjoyed today and hope that we can encourage everyone from Warrington to take part in a Sport Relief Mile and the Super League themed round later in the month."

This year, over one million people are expected to pull up their Sport Relief socks and take part in the Sainsbury's Sport Relief Mile across the country. The money raised will support people living unimaginably tough lives, both on our doorsteps in the UK and across the world's poorest countries. Enter the flagship Manchester Mile, or one of dozens of Mile events happening across the North West, right now at www.sportrelief.com. Or go the extra mile in a pair of Sport Relief socks available from Sainsbury's in store and online at Sainsburys.co.uk and in Fitness First clubs.



Morley kick starts testimonial



WARRINGTON Wolves' skipper kick started his testimonial with a highly successful launch dinner at the Park Royal Hotel, Stretton.

Adrian was joined by family, friends and sporting colleagues at the event which also helped raise funds for his chosen charities, the Royal Manchester Children's Hospital and the Wooden Spoon, children's charity of rugby.

Adrian is pictured with Wolves' Chairman Steven Broomhead and Head of Coaching Tony Smith and (right) with his partner, Clare.

For details of forthcoming events visit www.adrianmorley.co.uk



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It's not just the money

LOCAL businessman Mark Brocklehurst set himself a number of physical challenging in 2011 to prove that although he was turning 50 he was not yet finished.

Mark a Director at Warrington based Sharples Group, said; "Together with our business sponsorship, fundraising and charitable giving we were involved in reaching an impressive overall value of charitable giving close to £50,000 in 2011. I was amazed when I took a look back over the year and did some quick

calculations; that as our organisation (together with the help of our people, friends and families) we had raised such an impressive amount for charitable organisations.

During 2011 Mark was personally involved in a number of charity cycle rides, including cycling from John O'Groats to Lands End, the Lakeland Challenge and a Triathlon, whilst other members of the Sharples Group and their families and friends have climbed Snowdon, Kilimanjaro, taken part

in the Great North Run and the Dragon's Den cycle challenge. The business also became Patron's of Warrington Wolves Foundation and has provided business equipment and support to a number of local charities and not-for-profit organisations.

In 2012 Sharples Group has pledged that throughout the year their chosen charity will be the Warrington Wolves Foundation and they will channel all the money they raise during the year to this one charity.



Sharples Group is an, award winning, independent office equipment company based in the North West of England and takes seriously its corporate responsibility working with and in the community in which it operates.

College seeks 'Dragons' of the future

A WARRINGTON college is looking for "dragons" of the future at a new academy created by TV's Dragon's Den star Peter Jones CBE.

Warrington Collegiate is launching a new Peter Jones Enterprise Academy, a first for Warrington and Cheshire and only the third in the North West.

"Entrepreneurs are not born, they're made," is the belief of Peter who created the Enterprise Academy to be a catalyst for cultural change, unleashing entrepreneurial talent and creating opportunities for young people to realise their ambitions and turn their business dreams into reality.

He added: "Young people play a major role in the future success of the economy. I passionately believe in their potential. I am delighted to be opening an Enterprise Academy at Warrington Collegiate, a fantastic location in an area which has great potential for business growth and development."

Paul Hafren, Principal at Warrington Collegiate welcomed the news saying, "Our aim at Warrington Collegiate is to develop students who are enterprising, professional and skilled. The Enterprise Academy will take this to a new level, creating exciting new opportunities for students to become the entrepreneurs of the future."

The college already has several businesses run by staff and students including InterCollegiate Flowers, Buckley's Restaurant and Scissor Sisters and now hopes that the new partnership will be a catalyst for greater entrepreneurial ambition.

Students starting the BTEC in Enterprise and Entrepreneurship in September 2012 will undertake real-life business challenges, starting up their own business and growing and developing this through mentoring, master classes and networking events. Work placements, giving first-hand experience of the business world are an essential part of the course allowing young people to test themselves in real-life situations.

Warrington Collegiate wants to hear from young people who want to turn their dreams into reality and believe that they have what it takes to be a successful entrepreneur at a special event on Wednesday April 25, 4-8pm

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THIS is a very exciting time for me having recently become a Partner of a leading business development and consulting firm, The Alchemy Network.

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I am a highly successful, results driven, adaptable professional with over 20 years of business experience gained across various sectors, with a proven track record of growing business's turnover and profitability. These experiences, both highs and the lows, have enabled me to gain a wealth of real

business experience that I can share with business owners and operators.

As a Partner, I use tested, proven, innovative and advanced strategies designed to help businesses expand customer bases to achieve higher profits and grow in all-new ways. This systemisation of the business enables business owners to work on their business, rather than in the business.

What's really thrilling about working with Alchemy techniques is not just how well they work, but because Alchemy finds ways to do things no one else has thought of before. It's a perfect combination of development strategies we know work and produce results, with proven ideas that can adapt to the unique needs of clients.

Over the next 12 months I will be sharing proven techniques such as "Three Golden Rules for Keeping Customers", "Marketing Mistakes to



For more information contact
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Chamber hosts export workshop

WARRINGTON Chamber of Commerce is running a special workshop to help businesses make the leap from national to international sales.

Sponsored by the UK Trade & Investment (UKTI), the event is aimed at SMEs who are not yet exporting but considering the option to help expand and grow their business overseas.

Taking place on March 30 at the International Business Centre in Warrington, up to 25 companies will be given expert advice and learn about the assistance available while also hearing first hand experience from a local business on their decision to follow up overseas enquiries. The UK has always had a reputation for being a strong trading nation with many examples of an "export-led recovery".

Chamber Chief Executive Colin Daniels says the case for exporting is a compelling one. "It is not only good for the economy but makes good business sense," he said.

"Exporters open their doors to a vast number of potential customers, reducing their dependence on a single market or small number of markets. Research also shows that exporting firms see their productivity

increase, achieve stronger financial performance and are more likely to stay in business than those that don't. Put simply, exporters enjoy levels of growth and economies of scale not possible domestically. In fact, for many, it is the crucial difference between surviving and thriving."

Many UK companies, no matter what their size or sector, have products and services that are in demand globally. Yet, despite all these advantages, relatively few UK companies export - just one in 25, according to recent statistics. A key part of the role of the UKTI, the government department that helps British companies succeed in the global economy, is to help firms navigate the issues that come with accessing new markets, so that they can achieve their export potential.

The above findings are from the UKTI "From Surviving to Thriving: Doing Business Overseas" report based on a survey conducted in conjunction with Director magazine as well as UKTI's own surveys. Small and medium-sized enterprises were the main respondents and came from all sectors.

To express an interest email info@warrington-chamber.co.uk.

Nick joins the team

FORMER Warrington town centre manager Nick White has joined the team at Orbit News publishers of warrington-worldwide and various community magazines including Lymm Life, Culcheth Life and Village Life.

Editor Gary Skentelbery said: "We are delighted to welcome Nick on board as a member of our team."

"His experience of working alongside many town centre businesses fits perfectly within our organisation."

Nick said: "I have been busy reacquainting myself with a number of previous contacts and look forward to helping local businesses and organisations raise their profiles in and around the town."



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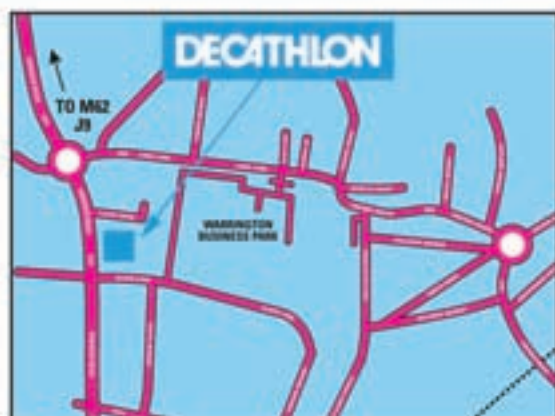
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Euro MP on the buses

WARRINGTON'S Euro MP Brian Simpson took a look behind the scenes at the town's award winning bus company Network Warrington.

Brian, who is Chair of the EU Transport and Tourism Committee visited the bus company to hear about its modernisation programme and future developments.

David Squire, Managing Director commented: "It was wonderful to meet Brian, his interest and depth of knowledge of transport in general and public transport in particular is impressive and he enjoyed his visit immensely, particularly when he saw our heritage double-decker which we hire out for wedding parties".

During his visit he met Chair Maureen Banner and the executive directors, and inspected a brand new Wright Streetlife demonstration bus that had just arrived from Northern Ireland.

He was presented with a model of a Network Warrington bus as a memento of the occasion.



L to R: Charlie Shannon (Operations Director), David Squire (Managing Director), Maureen Banner (Chair), Brian Simpson MEP and Ann Marie Slavin (Finance Director).

Choir hits the right notes



Pictured with the Majestic trophy are, left to right, Rob Waterhouse, (baritone), George Hill, (Torquay Tour organiser) Joe Cainen (chairman), Russell Paterson (musical director) and Tony Whittaker (accompanist).

WARRINGTON Male Voice Choir hit all the right notes when they won the prestigious Majestic male voice choir competition in Torquay.

The victory earned them £3,000 in prize money and a magnificent Waterford Crystal style trophy.

Head adjudicator Peter Davies described the choir as one of the top four male voice choirs in the country.

It was a true team effort against still opposition from all over the country. But special credit goes to musical director Russell Paterson and accompanist Tony Whittaker.

A registered charity, the choir, formed in 1900, helps raise tens of thousands of pounds each year for local good causes.

The choir will be singing in Warrington town centre when the Olympic torch arrives on May 31 and are performing at the Parr Hall on Saturday April 21.

When the Queen visits Warrington in May, the choir will be singing at a Royal occasion.

Community fun day

A COMMUNITY Fun Day for Latchford West will take place on Saturday May 26 at Causeway Park, off Gainsborough Road.

Shops and businesses are being asked to support the day and further information is available by calling Michelle on 01925 572072.



New charity celebrates top award

A WARRINGTON based charity backed by Wolves rugby league star Lee Briers has been voted "Best new charity" of the year at a national awards ceremony in London.

Rett Syndrome Research Trust UK was presented with the Best New Charity Award at the Just Giving Awards 2012 at Shoreditch Town Hall, London.

Father of two Briers, aged 33, decided to back the new charity Rett Syndrome Research Trust UK, because of his longtime friendship with Andy Stevenson, fellow dad and father of daughter, Beth aged 12, who suffers from the condition, which is a devastating childhood neurological disorder for which there is no cure.

Andy said: "We are naturally delighted to receive this award. Lee has been a massive help in getting Rett Syndrome known in the wider community and a great support to me personally. Nothing has been to much trouble for him."

The condition first strikes previously healthy little girls between the ages of 6-36 months and robs them of their speech, normal movement and the ability to use their hands.

Then begins the long regression that may leave her in a wheelchair. Extreme anxiety, Parkinson-like tremours, seizures and orthopaedic problems are common. Although many girls live into adulthood, all are at increased risk of sudden unexplained death.

But researchers know that Rett Syndrome is caused by mutations in a gene called MECP2. This gene makes a protein which is required for proper maintenance of brain function. Recent research has demonstrated that if proper levels of the protein are restored, the symptoms of Rett Syndrome are reversed in laboratory models of even late-stage disease.

Rett Syndrome Research Trust UK was established in July 2010 as a grassroots effort by Andy and other families of daughters with Rett Syndrome.

Any one who would like to know more about supporting the charity contact Andy at andy@reverserett.org.uk or on 07921 123452.

Picture shows Andy and Lee with the New Charity of the Year award.



the Tim Parry Johnathan Ball
foundation for peace

PeaceTALKS

In this issue...



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praises the
work of the
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Chairman's Report Review of 2011

As Co-founder of the Foundation, I decided a long time ago to adopt a hands off approach to the day to day operation of the Foundation by becoming its Chairman, and tough though it is to delegate and entrust the running of the Foundation to Clare and the team, it has proved many times over, to have been right thing for me to do.

I best serve the Foundation by monitoring our present activity, and contemplating our future direction . . . a direction which must always take full account of our founding principles, by remaining true to our origins, so, for me in reviewing 2011, I have to say that one of the year's key events was our re-affirmation of the most fundamental objective of all, that of placing victims at the heart of everything we do. This is our USP and why we created the Foundation.

Other notable decisions in 2011 include the decision to establish a social



enterprise business in the form of the Resolution Training Co, which aims to generate income and to offer our expertise to the public and commercial sectors.

I am also delighted that we have added to our fundraising and marketing/PR capacity with the addition of Sarah Klaveness and Sue West to the team. I know that Wendy and Clare have

benefitted from their arrival and their contribution.

I would also like to thank every member of the team. Each person we employ is not simply an employee, because they invest so much more than just their time, so to me, they are members of the Foundation family!!

Lastly, so far as 2011 is concerned, I want to place on record my thanks and gratitude to those members of staff who are no longer with us . . . Anne Marie, Phil, Carrissa and, if I may single her out for very special and heartfelt thanks, Val Barlow . . . our first employed member of staff who joined us back in the late 1990's. Val may no longer be on the books, but she continues to give her time in a number of ways and will always be in the Foundation's Hall of Fame.

Colin Parry
Chairman

The 20th Anniversary Commemoration

March 20th 2013 will mark the 20th anniversary of the IRA bombing of Warrington, the day when Tim and Johnathan lost their lives and many people's lives were changed forever.

To help remember Tim, Johnathan and others affected on and by that day, Warrington Borough Council and the Foundation will be



holding a service on Bridge Street on Saturday 16th March at 12.27pm.

This event will allow the people of Warrington to remember the victims, the survivors and their families and the good which came out of such a terrible incident.

If you were affected by the Warrington bombing and would like to talk to a member of the Foundation team, please call 01925 581231.

EU Day for Remembrance for Victims of Terrorism

EURO MEP Brian Simpson has been praising the work of the Peace Centre before the remembrance of victims of terrorism day on Sunday, 11th March.

The Labour MEP said the 'needless deaths' of Tim Parry and Johnathan Ball during the IRA town centre bombing should never be forgotten.

He added: "The bombings had a profound impact upon the local community, and ripped two young children from their families and friends. The Foundation has become an important force not only in condemning terrorism but also in encouraging reconciliation and it continues to welcome visitors from across the world to its Warrington headquarters."

The Foundation's chief executive Clare White will visit the European Commission in Brussels this week to speak at a conference examining the role that victims can play in the fight against terrorism.



Welcome

Last year was another interesting year for the Foundation with new developments and progression on many fronts. We rebranded at the beginning of the year with a new logo and website and focussed on moving the organisation forward based on our vision of 'supporting others affected by conflict to build Peace'.

In April we launched our social enterprise, The Resolution Training Company, aimed at using the experience we have gained over the last decade to provide training to professionals, corporate bodies and Government agencies. To date we've trained people working in housing associations, the British Army, the Police and emergency responders.



Our links with academia continued and Foundation staff have given seminars and lectures at Universities both in the U.K and further afield. And we've hosted two conferences ourselves, which were attended by professionals

and government officials both from the U.K and abroad.

We continue our work to support veterans and during the year have expanded our services to include working with the Army's Casualty Notifying Officers.

While the economic climate is still uncertain, the Foundation's quality of work is evident and we now need to raise our profile and ask communities to come on board to help us help others. To that end the Foundation will launch a community fundraising campaign this year and more on this can be found at www.foundation4peace.org.

Clare White

Chief Executive

Leaders for Peace

In February, the Foundation launched its new Leadership for Peace programme working with adults. Its an accredited leadership development programme exploring issues of conflict, self awareness and identity. The programme brought together people from across the UK who have been affected by conflict and terrorism that wanted to do something positive with their experience.

The programme was designed to enable participants to increase their own awareness and understanding of conflict as well as providing tools to assist them in transforming their own situations of conflict.

As part of the programme, participants are encouraged to take an active leadership role within their community to educate others about conflict and promote non-violent conflict resolution skills. Participants will also be given the opportunity to support and contribute to the Foundation's own peace education programmes with schools and communities later in the year.



'Thanks for your well presented and practical skills-equipped leadership and conflict resolution training, which I have been searching for. I can say that I have been trained by your team, to confidently analyse and resolve conflicts and gained immense self awareness and leadership skills.'

My highest regards to your team and most especially the founders of the Peace Centre for their noble vision which has benefited us magnificently.

I must not forget the nutritional value of your Families Living With Trauma day in August. You will never know how helpful that has been in strengthening individuals, families and societies in general.

'Thank you for inviting me to participate in the course. I was impressed with the professionalism, expertise and depth of knowledge on the subject exhibited by the facilitators.'

Thank You
Jude Obichere



Sharing Experiences residential



Back in October, the Foundation held a 'Sharing Experiences' residential. These residential bring together people affected by conflict and terrorist incidents. Creating a safe and supportive environment, people are able to reflect on their experiences in relation to conflict by providing an opportunity to tell their story. Participants are able to identify with others with similar backgrounds to gain mutual support and growth.

Written by Jenny McMahon who participated in October's event:

The Peace Centre is a haven for peace and tranquility, a time for reflection and the opportunity to meet others and share experiences. It is also a place of fun and laughter, and making new friends. It is an ideal meeting place, a special place for all those affected by conflict and terrorism. It is unique in how it functions and the care and professional attitude to individual needs is paramount.

// You can guarantee a very warm welcome, friendly atmosphere and kind hospitality. //

You can guarantee a very warm welcome, friendly atmosphere and kind hospitality. You feel part of a family once you have attended this event, you are given the opportunity to tell your own personal story and listen to others, some very inspiring, others very tragic, but all with a common theme.

Everyone affected by terrorist activity or conflict either as a survivor, bereaved family member, loss of a colleague or friend, witness or a member of the emergency services, is encouraged to attend this event.

The weekend is well structured into small groups, with the opportunity to participate in various sessions. All participants are encouraged to join in the activities and discussions, or just join in whatever they are comfortable with. Nothing is compulsory.

// It is important to have your voice heard. //

The professional staff are aware that telling your own story can sometimes open up old wounds as physical and mental scars can often be deep rooted. For many it can be difficult to discuss past events with family, friends or colleagues, or they don't want to listen or do not understand your feelings. It is important to have your voice heard and sharing your personal experience can help to release the burden you have carried for years or even decades.

This is an ideal opportunity not to be missed, with time to gather your thoughts, tell your own personal story in your own words in a safe friendly environment, without intimidation or criticism.

I thought I would be nervous talking to others but I felt confident in telling my story, it helps to talk about past events. Fears are dispelled. It is non-intimidating, non-invasive, non-threatening. All members of the group are respected, confidentiality is maintained throughout and support amongst the group is overwhelming and encouraging. Hearing other people's stories from a different perspective is most inspiring. It helps to boost your own confidence. I can highly recommend attendance at the Sharing Experiences Residential.



Look after the people who look after us by completing the standing order and making a monthly donation.

The REACH Nonference

The 'Nonference' was the REACH participants' interpretation of what a conference should be; a gathering of individuals for fun, interactive and participative workshops. The event was a celebration and showcase of all the excellent work achieved throughout the two years of the REACH Project and was the final fanfare. Aimed primarily at professionals and those with an interest in working with young people – the event saw the sharing of experience and best practice. True to REACH and our approaches as a Foundation - the Nonference was designed and delivered by REACH participants, 19 young people playing a role on the day varying from presenting to delivering activities to the attendees.

The Nonference was kick started by REACH's Theatre production of 'Sticks and Stones,' a powerful and moving dance based performance told the tale of two teens, Chap and Stacey and the daily conflicts that they face. This allowed the audience to instantly start to identify with some of the challenges and issues facing young people and the struggle to deal with these.

Following on from the performance the 'Jeremy Vyle Show' took place. This was a participatory exploration of the conflicts affecting young people in the performance. 'Jeremy' interviewed Chap and his parents. This allowed attendees to interact and contribute their ideas as to what was underlying the conflict – as well as to offer ideas about how these two parties might be able to increase their understanding of one another and heal their fractured relationship. Whilst the 'show' had a very serious side to it – it was an entertaining and interactive opportunity for the audience to get involved with and explore the issues contained in the performance.

During the Nonference, attendees had the opportunity to experience some of the unique ways in which the Foundation worked on REACH; by taking part in one of the two workshops exploring conflict and leadership.

Demonstrating how the learning happens –



it was the young people themselves who led and delivered the two workshops to provide attendees with a flavour of what they had been doing on REACH!

Each Delegate got the choice to participate in one of the following workshops:

'Inspiring Leadership'

This workshop explored how leadership and teamwork was embedded into the REACH programme, through varied and innovative opportunities for young people. The workshop was interactive with activities allowing participants to experience some of the methodology used in the sessions.

'Doing Things Differently – working with conflict'

This workshop was an introduction to key topics relating to conflict and conflict resolution, through practical and engaging activities the young people delivered. The young people also shared their responses to conflict with the group and discussed how with training, they are better able to manage their own conflicts.

Walk Through Exhibition

The start of the REACH project was the beginning of a rich, creative, supportive, varied and nonstop journey that the young people were to embark on. They felt that this was an important aspect of their project and wanted attendees to gain greater insight and understanding about this.

There was a variety of creative stands, exhibitions and stalls, where attendees were able to experience the different topics as the young people delivered presentations, gave demonstrations, speeches and explanations about the displays of work. With a little help from members of the Fire Service and Professional Mentors, the stands provided a flavour of what the project was all about.



"After two years of hard work – it really was a fitting tribute to all the hard work of the young people themselves. They really did design and lead the way in putting this together and worked hard to make sure something different was delivered and they did so with great success!"

Gemma- Project worker

"The young people were very clear, helped us to think of our place within conflict"

"Very good day, one of the best conferences I've been on in a long while (they are usually very academic and boring!)"

"I could see the process of growth and understanding that the youth have attained through this process."

"Thought it was all fantastic-encouraging and challenging and it has given me lots of ideas to go back home with. Such great work- your young people show your success as workers. Well done!"

"It was great to get so involved with the Nonference, I felt such a part of the day and I loved being able to share what we've done by getting everybody involved. I thought it was really important to pass on our learning and help others. I had a great day!"

Peace of Cake



Pinnies at the ready, we need your Victoria Sponge!!

The Foundation is launching the most scrumptious way for you to support our work with veterans, and victims of conflict and it's a 'Peace of Cake'.

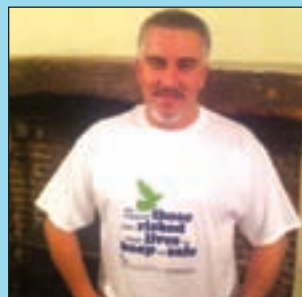
We are asking every aspiring baker, school, company and community group to get out your pinnies and help to raise funds for our vital work to support those affected by conflict.

Peace of Cake is a cake bake – it's that simple. All we ask is that you pour bags of enthusiasm into your next bake and get together your friends, family or colleagues to proudly share your baking success.

Why are we doing this? Well, if we can bring people together from all different backgrounds to support those brave people who keep us safe, then we move forward to a more peaceful world without conflict or terrorism . . . not bad for a slice of Victoria Sponge.



Actress & Patron Emma Thompson with husband, actor Greg Wise.



Paul Hollywood
Celebrity Baker & Judge on the BBC
Great British Bake Off



Paul Crone
Granada TV Presenter

Celebrities supporting the campaign

How to take part

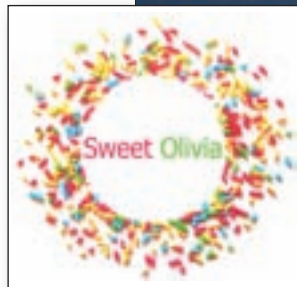
- 1** Choose your recipe – Paul Hollywood, Celebrity Baker and judge on the BBC's Great British Bake Off has donated a recipe in this pack to get you started.
- 2** Roll your sleeves up and get baking – proud in the knowledge that you are helping a very worthy cause. Have fun!
- 3** Grin with pride as you share your culinary creation with friends, family and colleagues. This can be at a cake sale at your school or workplace, or you could even host an afternoon tea and ask friends and family to make a donation to join in. We have made it easy for you to gain support by enclosing a sponsorship form in this pack which is particularly good for use in schools
- 4** Tweet us photographs of your baking creation to @peacecentre or email them to us at peacebaker@foundation4peace.org and we will post them on our website and facebook page.
- 5** Tell us about your great bake, how you all enjoyed your Peace of Cake, and how much money you raised. With your permission we are then able to use your cake bake for local press coverage and to help us recruit even more bakers! Just complete the 'I am a peace baker, and I want to shout about it' form at the back of this pack or email us at peacebaker@foundation4peace.org
- 6** Collect your cake sale and sponsorship money together and post a cheque made payable to 'Tim Parry Johnathan Ball Foundation for Peace' to the Peace Centre, Peace Drive, Great Sankey, Warrington, WA5 1HQ. Don't forget to include a note with your name and address details so we can write and say thank you!
- 7** Sit back and feel very smug at your baking and fundraising success. Well done!



Sweet Olivia

The Foundation would like to thank Carole Broughton-Milby from Sweet Olivia for the help she gave the Foundation to launch our Peace of Cake campaign. Carole made three fantastic giant cup cakes free of charge which were used to promote the fundraising cake sale to help the Foundation continue its work here in the North West.

Carole Broughton-Milby, founder and owner of Sweet Olivia, grew up in Great Sankey, Warrington, but on finishing University, a desire to travel led her to move to Canada . . . then Tokyo . . . and finally New York . It was while living in New York, the cupcake capital of the world, and tasting the delights of cupcakes from such places as the Magnolia Bakery (of Sex and the City fame), that Carole developed her love for baking and cake decorating. From the first cake she 'created' for her son Charlie's 1st birthday in 1997, Carole realised she had a passion and a talent and soon established herself as the official baker for family and friends. On returning home to the UK in 2003 to have her daughter, Olivia, Carole's love of all things cakes continued and she spent her free time perfecting recipes and honing her modeling and sugar crafting skills. In July 2010, with the help of a very supportive husband and family, Carole finally realised the dream of turning her hobby into a business and opened Sweet Olivia.





Paul Hollywood's Gruyere Biscuits

Peace of Cake is about sharing great food with your friends, having fun and raising money for our vital work. You can bake anything you like - your Aunty Joan's favourite Apple Pie, your best brownies, scones, or even savoury biscuits. Paul Hollywood, judge on the BBC Great British Bake Off, has donated a fantastic recipe to inspire you!

MAKES:

About 20

PREP:

40 minutes

COOK:

10 minutes

YOU WILL NEED:

- 75g plain flour
- Large pinch of salt
- 75g cold, unsalted butter, cut into small cubes
- 75g gruyere cheese, grated

Heat the oven to 200C and lightly butter two baking sheets or line with baking parchment.

Sift the flour and salt into a bowl or food processor. Add the butter and rub in lightly with your fingertips until the mix resembles breadcrumbs - or blitz in the food processor. Add the cheese, then bring the mixture together with your hands or process into a soft dough. Wrap in clingfilm and chill for 30 minutes.

Put the dough onto a lightly floured surface and roll it out to 5mm thick. Using a 5cm cookie cutter, cut out rounds and put them on the baking sheets, about 10 to a sheet, leaving plenty of room for spreading.

Bake the biscuits for 10 minutes or so, until spread out and browned lightly round (watch them because they colour very quickly). Slide them onto a rack to cool and then store them between layers of baking parchment in an airtight container.

Enjoy! These biscuits are gorgeous, but more importantly will help to raise vital funds for our work with veterans, victims of terrorism and young people.



I am delighted to support the 'Peace of Cake' campaign, and to be helping the Foundation for Peace to provide services for those veterans who have faced active conflict. Join me in getting stuck in to some baking for a very important cause.

Paul Hollywood, *Celebrity Baker and judge of BBC Great British Bake Off*




 the Weather Lottery
 foundation for peace

Charity Golf Day

Wednesday
 23rd May 2012
 at
 Warrington Golf Club

A great way to reward or
 attract clients, acknowledge
 staff commitment or treat
 yourself to a day off and
 just simply relax and enjoy
 the occasion

Contact Wendy on
 01925 581234

Clothes **4** Peace

There are a number of ways you can support the Foundation

**BUT WHAT COULD BE SIMPLER THAN
DONATING YOUR
UNWANTED CLOTHES?**

So sort out your wardrobe ... fill up those bags and place them in the bin provided at the Peace Centre



**The more bags we get
the more people we help!**

**We can take Clothes, hats, gloves, shoes, belts
(NB Not bedding and no soiled clothes)**

The Peace Centre Summer Ball 2012

Saturday 16th June

**£400 per table of 10 / £45 individual ticket
includes**

**Welcoming Champagne
 Cocktails & Canapés, 4 course meal
 Entertainment with the fabulous
 JK as Robbie Williams
 and Disco**

A Great Night Not To Be Missed

Contact Wendy on 01925 581234



THE WEATHER LOTTERY

Support us and Win



£4.5M prizes paid to date

With The Weather Lottery plc

Support the Foundation
and you could

**win up to
£10,000**

We are always grateful for help with supporting the work of the Foundation so we are delighted to introduce a great way of raising funds which also gives you the chance to win cash prizes too. The Weather Lottery gives you much better odds of winning than other lotteries but more importantly, gives you the chance to support a worthwhile cause.

How does it work?

To play, you simply select six single numbers 0-9 for 6 six locations around the world – Corfu, Istanbul, Tenerife, Innsbruck, Edinburgh and Stockholm. If your numbers match the last digit of the daily Fahrenheit temperatures you are a winner.

Match 3 numbers and you win £2.00, 4 numbers £20.00, 5 numbers £200.00 and 6 numbers for the £10,000 jackpot.

Corfu	Istanbul	Tenerife	Innsbruck	Edinburgh	Stockholm
83°	96°	81°	77°	62°	64°
3	6	1	7	2	4

In the example above, the winning combination based on those temperatures is:

3 - 6 - 1 - 7 - 2 - 4

How much does it cost?

Each entry line i.e. each set of 6 numbers, costs £1 per week (£4.35 per calendar month). The draw takes place every Monday for the Sunshine Lottery or every Friday for the Lightening lottery.

How do I know if I've won?

You can check your numbers in the Daily Telegraph or at www.theweatherlottery.com. However, there is no need for you to check them, as all prizes are guaranteed and sent out automatically.

The Foundation would like to thank everyone who has supported us throughout 2011/12. Guests who have attended our events, event sponsors, participants attending Conferences, supporters who help us on a monthly bases through gift aid and Trusts, Foundations and the Big Lottery who support our programmes and make it possible for us to change so many lives.

Forshaw Davis Ridgway Solicitors
Tim Roberts – I-COM International
Paul Crone
Emma Thompson & Greg Wise
Paul Hollywood
David Mowat MP
John Culleton – Steels Solicitors
Carl Marsh & Vici Cook – L'Oreal
Audi – Warrington
Paul Gallon - The Park Royal Hotel
Paul Beswick, Dawn Conlon & Colleagues
Tailormade Group
The Rt Hon Sir John Major KG CH
Andrew Collier Photography

M&S Money
JK Rowling
Handelsbanken
Brian Simpson
Jonathan Ford Accountants
John Smith –ICS
Colin Clayton – Corporate Entertainment
Hilary Sanders
Tricia Peters
Alan Burton – TwentyFourSeven Printing
Alan & Ann Robinson - TaylorShaw
Anne Bateson & Barbara Leech
TPB Butchers - Bolton

Freshfare Foods
Gary Skentelbery & Colleagues
Geoff & Nikki Griffiths – The Design Project
Network Warrington
Barclays Bank
Steels Solicitors
Brian New
Estate of the late John Miles
Sir John Zochonis
Rank Foundation
Lloyds TSB Foundation
Carol Broughton-Milby - Sweet Olivia
Adele Atkinson

The Foundation Charity Valentine's Ball

Dancing the night away

On Saturday 11th February, the Foundation hosted its annual Charity Ball at the Park Royal Hotel, Stretton, raising funds to help continue its work throughout the UK.

220 guests attended the event and MC Paul Crone from Granada TV, Mississippi Soul Man, DJ Dave McNichol and Colin Clayton from Corporate Entertainment made sure everyone had a night to remember.

Wendy Parry said: "Everyone had a



fantastic evening and some have already booked for next year's event which will be our 20th Anniversary Ball. It was also a great night to raise awareness of our work and an opportunity to thank everyone for their support throughout 2011.



"Times are really hard for everyone but without the generosity of our supporters we would be unable to achieve all that we do and there is no doubt the work of the Foundation is vitally important. Ninety pence in every pound we raise is used to deliver our work so everyone who supports the Foundation knows their money is making a big difference to many people's lives".

'Festive Season started at The Peace Centre'

A great time was had by all at the Foundation's Charity Christmas Party held at the Peace Centre on Saturday 4th December 2011.

Sponsored by Forshaws Davies Ridgway Solicitors and Jonathan Ford Accountants, 200 guests were treated to a fantastic four-course meal, entertainment by Groovy Revolutions and disco.

Wendy Parry said, "Our Christmas parties have been a great success with excellent comments after every event. I think people want value for money and they certainly get that at our events."



Standing Order Form

To the Manager.....

Bank/Building Society.....

Address.....

.....Post Code.....

I wish to make a MONTHLY /ANNUAL * Delete as applicable payment from my account in accordance with the details below.

Name of account.....

Account No.....

Sort Code.....

For the account of –

The Tim Parry Johnathan Ball Foundation for Peace.

Account No **40098493** Sort Code **20-91-48**

Amount (figures) £.....

Date of first Payment.....

Signature.....

Home address.....

.....Post Code.....

When complete please return this form to:
The Tim Parry Johnathan Ball Foundation for Peace
The Peace Centre, Peace Drive, Great Sankey,
Warrington, WA5 1HQ
Email: info@foundation4peace.org

Single Donation Form

£10 £20 £50 £100 Your own amount £.....

I enclose a cheque/PO/CAF voucher made payable to: The Tim Parry Johnathan Ball Foundation for Peace

We would like to keep you informed of our work and future events. If you dont want us to contact you please tick here.

Thank you for your donation.

Giftaid it (Applicable for either form)
For individuals: YES, I want all donations for the past 4 years and all future donations to qualify for GIFT AID until notify you otherwise.

Signature.....

Date.....

In order for the scheme to apply, you must ensure that you pay a total amount of income and/or Capital Gains Tax for each tax year (6 April one to 5th April the next) equal to that we reclaim – TPJBF can claim Gift Aid tax relief of 25p on each pound you donate.

Please send me information for the following:

Annual Events

Valentines Ball Christmas Party Golf Tournament Marathon

Challenging Events

Great Wall of China Midnight Bike Ride in London All Events

Other Information

Newsletters The Weather Lottery Fundraising Pack

Please tick the appropriate box/s and return to: The Tim Parry Johnathan Ball Foundation for Peace, The Peace Centre, Peace Drive, Great Sankey, Warrington, WA5 1HQ

THE TIM PARRY JOHNATHAN BALL FOUNDATION FOR PEACE
THE PEACE CENTRE, PEACE DRIVE, WARRINGTON, CHESHIRE WA5 1HQ
TEL: 01925 581231
Email: info@foundation4peace.org Web: www.foundation4peace.org
CHARITY No: 1048990



WM widdows mason
WM SOLICITORS
 Established since 1878

Widdows Mason... the approachable solicitors

Summer is the busiest season for moving home. If it is your first time selling your home the process can be a daunting experience. Our Property Team offer a efficient, reliable and friendly service to help your transaction flow as seamlessly and smoothly as possible helping to minimise this potentially stressful experience.

Our easy guide to a sale transaction will help give you an understanding of the conveyancing process:-

- The first step will be for us to make contact will all parties involved in your transaction e.g. estate agents, financial advisors and the buyer's solicitors.
- You will be asked to complete questionnaires in relation to the property replying to questions such as who owns the boundaries to the property, whether there have been any alterations to the property and what fittings and contents are to be included within the sale.
- We will then prepare the Contract documentation and send the same to the buyers solicitors.
- You will then be asked to reply to any further questions raised by the buyers solicitors.
- The next step will be for you to sign the

necessary Contract documentation and discuss a date for completion, this will be the day which all parties will move.

- We will then exchange Contracts. Exchange of Contracts takes place between the sellers and buyers solicitors. Once Contracts are exchanged both the seller and buyer are legal bound to complete the sale.
- On the day of completion the sale is finalised and all monies are passed over. On completion we will pay off any mortgage or charges against the property together with fees payable to the estate agents.
- Throughout the process we will provide you with regulation update.

Our aim to make your transaction flow as seamlessly and smoothly as possible.

Our Property Team also deals with residential sales and purchases, 28 day exchanges, Right to Buy, Shared Ownership/Staircasing and Remortgages/ Transfer of Equity.

Call, email or arrange a appointment with one of our experienced conveyancers Carla Savory or Stacey Finney today for a no obligation quotation: Tel: 01925 632267 Email: csavory@widdows.co.uk or sfinney@widdows.co.uk



Paul Ireland is a Senior Solicitor and Partner at Widdows Mason Solicitors and specialises in all aspects of family work.



widdows mason

Incorporating Campbells and Linkers

SOLICITORS

- Family: Divorce, children, financial disputes
Contact Paul Ireland, Kenny Ip
- Property: Buying, selling, remortgage, auctions
Contact Carla Savory or Stacey Boland
- Commercial: Employment advice, landlord and tenant
Contact Jim Edwards
- Wills and Probate: Equity release etc
Contact Su Wilson or Geoff Stokes
- Accidents: Slipping and tripping, accidents at work
Contact Michael Stockton
- Crime/Police Station Attendance: (Legal Aid available)
Contact John Barnes, Guy Dodd or Kenny Ip

FREE initial interview

Local lawyers for the local community

Criminal Defence Service



Arundel House
12 Rylands Street
Warrington

Telephone:
01925 632267

Facsimile:
01925 445148

web:
www.widdows.co.uk

email:
info@widdows.co.uk

Community Legal Service



Kev is bringing home the bacon!

A WARRINGTON dad is embarking on a charity bike ride with his three sons in memory of his teenage daughter who tragically died suddenly from epilepsy.

Kevin Farrell will be joined by his three sons Tan, Alex and Seb when he cycles from Copenhagen in Denmark to Warrington in July covering a distance of more than 1,000 miles.



Main picture shows Kevin limbering up for his marathon bike ride at Cantilever Park, where he helps provide match day commentaries on Warrington Town and inset his daughter Felicity.

Entitled "Bringing Home the Bacon - Charity Cycle Ride for Epilepsy," they will be raising funds for Epilepsy Action in memory of 15 year-old Felicity who died from sudden unexpected epilepsy in 2008. They are riding from Tan's home in Copenhagen to Warrington.



Kevin said: "We are determined to do something for people affected by epilepsy and to try and prevent our family story happening again to others."

"The plan is to raise as much money and awareness for Epilepsy Action as we can by cycling from Copenhagen to Warrington in just 14 days. The European bike ride will take in five different countries, the London 2012 Olympics and over 1,500 kilometres of hard terrain."

Kevin is looking for support from sponsors for bikes, support vehicles and promotion.

"We plan to raise a lot of money for people affected by Epilepsy, if you can help, even in a small way, please get in touch," added Kevin.

Between 600 and 1000 families a year in the UK are affected by sudden death in epilepsy (www.sudep.org).

Setting off on July 27 they are aiming to be in Warrington by August 8, which is the fourth anniversary of Felicity's death.

Their exploits can be tracked on twitter.com/bringingbacon

Donations can be made on line at www.justgiving.com/bringinghometh ebacon

Work starts on new IT suite

WORK has started on a new £35,000 extension to Warrington Disability Partnership's (WDP) popular Learning Centre.

The brand new IT suite which will be named in honour of former disability campaigner Marjorie Griffiths, the town's first ever free woman of the borough, will help cope with increased demand for disabled people to learn new skills at the Centre for Independent Living in Beaufort Street. Users enjoy a full range of IT courses ranging from Computers for the Terrified to Job Search Skills and accredited courses.

Learning Centre Co-ordinator, Maria McPartland said: "Within the first few months of opening the IT suite we realised that it wasn't big enough for the numbers of people wanting to use it. The latest extension will not only allow us to increase the number of people attending each IT class but it will provide space for us to further develop the range of courses we offer."

Once completed the existing IT Suite will be used as an additional classroom. Courses planned include confidence building, a camera club, one-to-one job search sessions, jewellery making and a range of other courses.

Funding for the project has seen contributions from a number of partners including The Griffiths Court Foundation, Warrington Borough Councils Public Service Agreement Fund and WDP's own fundraising efforts. Additional IT equipment has been supplied by Leonard Cheshire Disability and the National Institute for Adult Continuing Education (NIACE).

Main contractors Eyes Construction are carrying out the work at a vastly discounted price to help promote community cohesion.



Dave Thompson with Paul Harrison, former secretary of the Griffiths Court Project, WDP Chief Officer Jayne Horton, Andy Marsh from Eyes Construction and Learning Centre Manager Maria McPartland.

The project is expected to take 12 weeks to complete and should be officially opened by June. On its completion the building will be renamed the Marjorie Griffiths Learning Centre in memory of the late Miss Marjorie Griffiths who championed the needs of disabled

people and carers. She was a founder of the Warrington MS Society and Committee for Disabled People.

By coincidence Marjorie was the former Head Teacher of WDP Chairman Dave Thompson who is pictured during a special lay a brick ceremony to celebrate the work.

Putting health in the picture

THE Well Warrington Network is organising a special photographic competition to help promote its work in the community.

The "not for profit" organisation, that works with deprived groups, such as the chronically ill, disabled people, carers and people with mental health problems, mainly in deprived areas of Warrington, providing complementary therapies to people who would not normally be able to afford them.

The Big Lottery funded organisation has also received funding from Stronger Together Warrington and Warrington Council and been running a successful project in Orford since May 2011, involving more than 30, mainly chronically ill and disabled people having had over 200 treatments.

The service users have reported better sleep patterns, using less sleep and pain medication, feeling more confident in themselves and generally having a better quality of life, due to the work of the Well Warrington Network.

All the profits from the treatments are ploughed back into other community projects,

The photographic competition themed "Bringing Colour to Warrington", is being run to help raise awareness and funds with the winning images being reproduced as greeting cards to be sold.

Entry forms can be downloaded from the website wellwarringtonnetwork.co.uk

Baby of the Year photo competition

TRADERS in Warrington Market are on the lookout for cute babies for a photo competition with a chance of winning a £1,000 cash prize.

Babies and toddlers under the age of three can be entered by their parents or guardians free in the Baby of the Year competition.

Photo sittings will take place in the market between 10am and 3pm from Mondays to Saturdays until March 31.

The pictures will be put on display and the public will vote for their favourite between Tuesday April 10 and Saturday April 14.

A £1,000 cash prize will go to the winner and traders are offering a variety of runners-up prizes including a bouquet of flowers, vouchers, a christening cake and more.

Further details are available from the market customer information desk.

Warrington Market



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- A bouquet of flowers for overall winners Mother **from Flower Centre**
- Baby mobile **from Fair 4 All**
- Childrens Rug **from The Carpet Shop**
- 2 free drinks per week for 1 month **from Dreamshakes**
- 8gb memory stick for photos and 7 packs of 7x5 photo paper **from Direct Home supplies**
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(The studio can be found in shop 12, opposite Latif & sons childrens wear.)

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Motoring

Another notch on the awards post

THE Audi A1 has earned another notch on its awards post by being named Best Luxury Small Car of the Year by CarBuyer's expert panel of road testers and reviewers.

Editor-in-chief of CarBuyer, Steve Fowler, explained: "The Audi A1 continues to be the best luxury small car for CarBuyer users. It's posh, but not too pricey, while running costs are super low. We love the way it looks, the way it drives and the quality for the cash is unbeatable."

The judges also highlighted the A1's "sleek good looks and an incredibly upmarket cabin" and build quality. The arrival of the more versatile five-door Sportback version means the A1 is now as practical as it is desirable.

It's the A1's second award this year and also its second consecutive CarBuyer award.

Prices for the A1 start from £13,420 OTR (1.2 TFSI 86PS SE model) and go to £21,810 OTR for the top of the range 1.4 TFSI 185PS Black Edition model.





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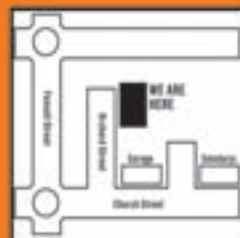
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Housing improvements to be speeded-up

MAJOR improvements to thousands of homes in Warrington are to be brought forward - in some cases by as much as two years.

Golden Gates Housing Trust (GGHT) have announced plans to accelerate its multi-million £ investment programme for homes and neighbourhoods.

The Trust, which celebrated its first anniversary at the end of last year, says it will:

- * Complete the installation of all new double glazed windows, security lights and Upvc front and rear doors in two years rather than four - benefiting 1,920 customers.

- * Replace bathrooms where identified in three years rather than four, with an additional 1,402 tenants now added to the programme.

- * Complete the installation of 1,980 new A rated central heating systems to properties in two years rather than four, with 753 systems replaced sooner than promised.

- * Replace kitchens in 3,348 properties with an additional 855 homes dealt with sooner than promised.

The improvements mean the properties will be of a new, higher standard - "The Warrington Standard"

GGHT's board of directors say they are committed to ensuring tenants benefit from increased income that will be generated by this year's rent increases, along with efficiency savings made over the last 12 months.

As a result, up to 30 new jobs will be created, along with 20 trainee and apprenticeship positions.

Tenants are also benefiting from savings on their energy bills as a result of a renewable energy project between GGHT and Warrington Borough Council. By the end of this month, more than 600 properties will have received solar panel installations, generating electricity from sunlight and giving customers a saving on their energy bills of between £70 and £120 a year.

GGHT chairman Roy Smith, said: "It is great news to be able to announce that we will be bringing forward these improvements for our tenants. We recognise that it is a difficult time for many people financially at present and we have targeted improvements that will help our customers to save money on their energy and water bills."

The Trust will be investing about £105 million in tenants' homes and neighbourhoods over the first five years and £530 million over 30 years to deliver the "Warrington Standard."

The revised GGHT programme is available on the Trust's website www.gght.org.uk

Friends embark on new business venture



TWO friends have embarked on a new business venture in Warrington town centre with the aim of helping women find the perfect dress which makes them feel beautiful like a butterfly.

Business partners Maria Shaw and Marilyn McCormick have opened "Butterfly House" on Suez Street, specialising in wedding dresses which are all priced under £800.

They also stock prom, christening and flower girl dresses as well as current seasons gowns.

Marilyn has been garment making for over 30 years. Her passion is to design, as well as make bespoke dresses.

They had the idea of setting up the bridal business after personal experience of being unable to find the perfect fitting dress.

The Butterfly House also specialises in curvy brides, as they believe every bride should feel special and beautiful on their special day.

Maria has worked with people of all ages through out her career and as a busy working mum with a teenage daughter always has her eye on the latest fashion.

They decided to name the boutique the Butterfly House as they want their brides to be beautiful just like a butterfly!

Maria said: "The butterfly house is all about style, quality and satisfaction. You can relax and try on your dream dress in the privacy of our bridal boudoir reserved just for you. Why not pop in and have a chat to us and together we will make the dress of your dreams."

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Financially yours

By David Watkinson

Avoiding errors and unnecessary tax charges

Understanding the relationship that a director/shareholder has with his/her company is critical if errors in operating the business, and unnecessary tax charges, are to be avoided. The main things to keep in mind are as follows.

The company's cash belongs to the company.

Some people operating their business fail to understand that they must not spend company's cash on personal items, and this is especially true if they are the only person involved. Unfortunately, to do so could amount to a loan from the company to the director. Not only is this illegal under the Companies Act but may also:

- Amount to a distribution, resulting in a Corporation Tax charge on the overdrawn amount.
- Result in a Income Tax being payable on the benefit-in-kind unless interest is paid by the director
- Erode the protection of limited liability, resulting in the director incurring a personal liability for the company's debts

To avoid this, the company can pay

some mix of salary and dividend to the director/shareholder, although the company must always consider the legality of any dividend paid.

The company's assets belong to the company.

If the director/shareholder uses company's assets for their personal use then they may incur an Income Tax charge on the resulting benefit-in-kind. The most common and expensive example of this is the provision of a company car and fuel. There are published rates which set the taxable benefit if a car and/or fuel is available for private use, and in most cases these are at a punitive level. Another example is the provision of a residence to the director/shareholder. However, personal use of any asset will, with minor exceptions, result in a benefit-in-kind.

The director's personal liabilities belong to the director.

If the company pays a bill which belongs legally to the director then this is not charged to Income Tax as a benefit. Instead, it is the company meeting a



David Watkinson and Margaret Black

"pecuniary liability" of the director. This is specifically subject to PAYE, and gives rise to a charge not only to Income Tax but also to National Insurance. The most common example of this happening is the cost of telephones, especially if the company operates from the director's home. The contract is often between the telephone provider and the director. Even if the telephone is used for company business, however, this results in a potential problem if the company pays the bill.

WatkinsonBlack are pleased to advise on these and other matters. They have considerable experience in these and other matters, 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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