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# Warrington Worldwide

Issue No. 174

April 2014

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**Editor**  
Gary Skentelbery

**Production**  
Paul Walker

**Advertising**  
James Balme  
Nick White  
Tony Record  
Freephone  
0800 955 5247

**Editorial**  
01925 623631

**Email**  
info@warrington-  
worldwide.co.uk

**Websites**  
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**IN recent months we have been reporting on all the positive news coming out of Warrington which is being seen as an economic powerhouse and THE place to do business.**

There is certainly still a long way to go and I am sure there are plenty of business people out there still feeling the pinch – but Warrington as a town certainly appears to be well on the right track.

With all the development taking place on the Omega site at Burtonwood, various new housing developments under construction and now the new £19.5 million Belong community retirement village on Loushers Lane well under way, there certainly seems plenty to be positive about.

Meanwhile there is also lots of great work being done by the various charities we can be proud of, from the Warrington Wolves Foundation, The Foundation for Peace and Warrington Youth Club based at the Peace Centre, St Rocco's Hospice, Warrington Disability Partnership and the various other charity organisations, who all contribute to the local economy.

Hardly a day passes without us reporting on some great work being done by one of our local charities. So not only is Warrington a boom town – it is one with a big heart!

On the downside the road network continues to struggle, with any motorway accidents often bringing the whole town to

gridlock.

If our town is to continue to expand and prosper the road network needs to be able to cope and not come to a complete standstill at the first sign of trouble.

Finally I would like to pass on my condolences to the family and friends of Valerie Pritchard, the 72-year-old grandmother who tragically died when her car plunged into the Manchester Ship

Canal at Stockton Heath.

With the police investigation still underway as we went to press I am sure there will be questions over safety issues alongside the canal, in particular regarding the road side fencing.

**Deadline for  
the May issue  
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# Abi on the road to success!

**WARRINGTON athlete Abi Fitzpatrick hopes to be on the road to success after securing a sponsorship deal with local elite car dealership Vanrooyen.**

Martin Rylands, Managing Director of the elite, prestige and supercars specialist was so impressed by 20-year-old Abi's drive and enthusiasm to represent Great Britain at the Commonwealth Games in Scotland this July, he agreed to donate a Mercedes C220 to help her on her journey.

**Ambition**

"It is clear that Abi shares the same drive and ambition as we do as a company as well as the same values of working hard to be successful," said Martin, who had dreamed of owning his own supercars business since the age of 11.

Martin met Abi "by chance at a car meet" but when he heard of her

ambition he was delighted to help out by providing a sponsor car.

Abi, from Great Sankey, a former student at Priestley college, is currently in the final year of a sports science degree at Liverpool John Moores University and competes in the 400m hurdles event.

She travels an average of 80 miles a day just to go training, so transport is key to her being successful.

She previously had to rely on her parents to provide her transport but now has the freedom to go training whenever she wants.

"Having my own transport is a massive help - and the fact that it is a Mercedes sports car makes it that bit extra special," said Abi.

Abi competed in the 2010 youth

Olympics and 2011 European Juniors, coming first in her age group.

She suffered a set back in 2012 when she tore a ham string returning to fitness last year when

she came first in the UK Under 23s.

Her goal now is to represent Great Britain in the 400 metres hurdles at the Commonwealth Games and then hopefully in the 2016 Olympics in Rio.



Abi receiving the keys to her Mercedes from Martin

## Funding boost for historic Sankey Canal

WARRINGTON'S historic Sankey Canal, the first canal built in England in 1757, has been awarded a £654,000 improvement grant from the Coastal Communities Fund.

The money has been awarded jointly to Warrington Borough Council and Halton Borough Councils in order to sustain and facilitate economic growth on the section of the Sankey Canal that exists between Widnes and Warrington.

The successful partnership funding bid was made by the two local authorities in conjunction with the Sankey Canal Restoration Society (SCARS).

It will finance a new, permanent Marsh House Bridge for the Riverside Trading Estate, create apprenticeships and training opportunities and improve marketing, signage and branding in order to protect and grow existing businesses and help create

new ones along the Sankey Canal.

Twelve apprenticeships will be created with two direct jobs and, it is anticipated, up to a further 23 indirect jobs.

The council is also contributing £225,000 capital funding to the grant sum to enable a high quality bridge to be installed.

More information about the canal can be found at [www.scars.org.uk](http://www.scars.org.uk)

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Hello and welcome to my monthly column . . .

# Hypnotes

by Michael Mahoney

## Time to reflect

**As the months roll on and we start to put winter behind us, many of us start to plan ahead for holidays and other life events.**

The spring time which brings new growth, also helps us to reflect on what matters most to us, and we may feel energised to become fitter, healthier of body and mind and more resolute in our plans and goals for the future.

It is also important when reflecting on our lives to take the focus inwards towards our own self belief, level of confidence in our skills and abilities, which are often the things that hold us back in being successful in life.

Lack of self belief and confidence creates negative energy within us, which ultimately develops into stress and anxiety, reinforcing our thoughts and feelings of being unable to make a difference in our own life plan and how we interact with others. This can also lead to physical health problems. Irritable Bowel Syndrome (IBS) is one well known condition that affects many people which is often aggravated by stress and anxiety. For readers who suffer with IBS, they may be interested to know that April, is national IBS awareness month, and further information can be found at the links below.

Physical symptoms of stress and anxiety are numerous, but in most of the population will at some level cause some form of pain i.e. headaches, muscle or joint pain, sleepless nights, upset stomachs, fatigue, infections and potential diseases, caused by a low immune system.

The immune system is affected by chemicals in the brain. If there is overstimulation by irrational fear and stress responses, the chemicals released will flood the body and suppress the immune system. If this carries on for a long period of time, even when there is no real, only perceived threats occurring, potentially causing chronic illness and disease to develop.

It is important to build in time as a matter of course for self reflection. Many people who suffer from chronic illness are learning mindfulness techniques in order to get well again. However, it is important to become mindful and creative in ways of thinking and being, in order to maintain health and emotional wellbeing.

When offering Hypnotherapy to people, the intention is to help that person to heal on all levels, and to become more mindful of their own self beliefs and limitations, which cause longer term damage emotionally,

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, based at Woolston Surgery, Neighbourhood Hub, Warrington WA1 4PN.



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psychological and physically. We teach people to become more responsible for themselves and to learn new skills in order to create positive change for themselves, no matter what the problem is they present with. At the end of the day we are helping people to heal themselves.

If you feel now is the right time for you to make the necessary changes in your life, turn your self reflections into action, and we can discuss with you in a 1 to 1 consultation your options for making life better for yourself. We offer individual Hypnotherapy sessions, and also offer Hypnotherapy Diploma Training for those interested in becoming Hypnotherapists. Please contact either myself or Cate Todd on 01925 658322 or visit our website [www.thecch.com](http://www.thecch.com). If you are suffering from IBS or any other conditions please contact us on the number above or at [www.michaelmahoneyhypnotherapist.com](http://www.michaelmahoneyhypnotherapist.com)



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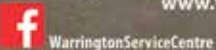
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# Sophie offers tattoo art to raise funds for cancer charity

A NEW tattooist who has joined the team at Forever Ink in Warrington town centre is helping raise funds for cancer research on National Cancer Survivors Day on June 1.



Sophie Brown, aged 20, who has teamed up with Danny Edwards at Forever Ink based in Callaghan Hairdressing on Sankey Street, will donate all proceeds from a full day of tattooing to charity.

Her brother Ben Hardman, aged 23, is a survivor of cancer after being treated for testicular cancer.

Sophie a former pupil at Bridgewater High School, Appleton, has been doing tattoos for more than 18 months and says it was something she has always wanted to do. She enjoys doing floral designs.

### Donate

On National Cancer Survivors day she will donate all proceeds from a full days tattooing to charity and is offering to design cancer ribbon tattoos as part of the event.

To make an appointment for the event call 07590 100100 or check out the Forever Ink facebook page.

Meanwhile winner of the recent Forever Ink competition was Simon Ward, who won a full day of tattooing.

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Business

# Stobart in management buy-out

**A MAJORITY stake in the Warrington-based Eddie Stobart truck business has been bought by a management team led by William Stobart - third son of the legendary founder of the business, Eddie Stobart.**

But it will be "business as usual" with no redundancies or depot closures planned.

The £280 million deal is backed by Isle of Man investment manager DBay Capital.

William Stobart has left the Group board to become chief executive of Eddie Stobart Logistics, which becomes a private company.

He will continue to lead the business along with David Pickering and David Meir and the existing board.

Stobart Group has sold 51 per cent of Eddie Stobart Logistics for £195.6m cash and £44.1m in shares. Around £41.1m in debt has been taken on by the buyers.

The Group now plans to focus on its infrastructure and support services divisions but will retain the famous Eddie Stobart brand through a licence agreement and also the majority of the freehold properties used by the logistics division.

Andrew Tinkler, Stobart Group chief executive, said: "This is a further stage in delivering our strategy of creating and realising value for our shareholders. Moving forward, we are focused on capitalising on the opportunities in our infrastructure and support services divisions, enhanced by investment in Stobart Green Energy."

William Stobart said: "I really

welcome this investment from DBay and look forward to heading up the new partnership as chief executive. DBay have a strong track record of working with existing management teams within businesses, as they will do with us, to help drive growth.

"We already have an extremely loyal customer base who we look forward to continuing to work with. It is an exciting time for us to grow this business and I am looking forward to this next stage and the opportunities that it will bring for our employees and customers."

Eddie Stobart Logistics generated earnings before interest and tax of £25.6m on revenues of £475.7m in the year ending February 28 2013.

Iain Ferguson, chairman of Stobart

Group, said: "This transaction represents an important step in the realisation of value for shareholders.

"We have found a strong partner to take Eddie Stobart Logistics to the next stage of its development, increasing the scope of the powerful 'Eddie Stobart' brand and allowing the Group to focus on its Infrastructure and Support Services Divisions.

"These proposals allow us to repay debt, make a return of capital to shareholders, stimulate the growth of our Biomass business and bring the Group's businesses together in a coherent, medium-term value creation plan."

No redundancies are planned arising from the changes, nor any depot closures.



## Belong Warrington appoint general manager

BELONG Warrington, a new state-of-the-art care village being built in Warrington have appointed a general manager ahead of their summer opening.

Janine Curwell, former general manager of Belong Macclesfield has been appointed as the new Warrington general manager ahead of the opening of the facility being built on Loushers Lane.

During her time at Belong Macclesfield, where she held the post from May 2010, Janine developed a reputation for harnessing the individual skills of staff to develop a village that stands out in the community as providing the very best of care.

Commenting on her appointment

Janine said: "We provide such a wide range of services at Belong villages, from independent living apartments and specialist nursing and dementia care in private households down to the village facilities open to members of the public, such as the hair and beauty salon and the bistro. I'll need a great team in Belong Warrington to help me offer the level of choice, independence and activity that Belong is known for, and I can't wait to start putting that team together. The village will create around 100 jobs in the local area, and we have already began recruiting for some of these positions."



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# Dramatic Anti-smoking street performance

A DRAMATIC street performance in the centre of Warrington highlighted the devastating impact smoking and tobacco industry tactics have on people who smoke and their families.

Five performances – featuring 12 dancers and a street poet who delivered a powerful anti-tobacco rap titled “Last Man Standing” – finished with a sinister twist.

Half the performers “died” during the piece, falling to the ground. The finale highlighted the stark fact that half of all long-term smokers will die from their addiction. Hundreds of people witnessed the performance.

Passer-by and current smoker Gawain Williams, 18, of Bewsey, said “I started smoking at 14 and I can’t quit. My dad smoked and I thought it was cool.

“I find it really expensive, it costs me around £10-15 a week. All my money goes on cigarettes. If I could go back to 14 I wouldn’t have started then. I think this event will help young people who haven’t started yet. They smoke because they think it’s cool so this would definitely help them think again.”

Each performance, was filmed, and will be promoted to young people online as part of a 60 second viral campaign, and will help increase understanding of the tactics the tobacco industry use to recruit new young smokers.

Warrington Borough Council’s lead member for health and wellbeing, Cllr Pat Wright, said: “We are committed to reducing

smoking and dependence on tobacco. Just like everywhere, one in two of Warrington’s long-term smokers will die from smoking.

“It’s great to engage young people using a visual performance like this. This is a medium they can relate to, understand and discuss with their friends. Hopefully they will get the messages that tobacco is dangerous, and it will make them think twice before potentially entering a lifetime of expensive addiction to cigarettes, which has devastating consequences for their health.”

For help to stop smoking call 0300 003 0818 or visit [www.livewirewarrington.co.uk/stop-smoking](http://www.livewirewarrington.co.uk/stop-smoking)



## Poet to headline literary festival

POET, comic and singer-songwriter John Hegley will be hitting town on Friday May 2 to launch Warrington’s Literary Weekender event, as part of the town’s second annual Lifest event.

This year’s festival has been organised by Culture Warrington. It runs from April 23 until May 9, with a Literary Weekender taking place during the first May bank holiday weekend.

The festival features sessions in flash fiction, erotic writings, blogging, book sculptures and e-publishing. Lovers of literature can also look forward to talks by local wordsmiths including Helen Walsh - awarding-winning author of Brass and Once Upon A Time In England - and author and illustrator Curtis Joblin, best-known as the designer of BAFTA winning show Bob The Builder.

The celebration of words gets underway on World Book Night, Wednesday April, 23 with book gifting taking place at Pyramid and Orford Park Library, plus a

range of other sites across Warrington.

Friday April 25 sees a talk by Gill Hoffs in association with Wire Writers about her book, The Sinking of RMS Tayleur – The Lost Story of the Victorian Titanic.

Warrington’s rich industrial history will be explored by local author Janice Hayes who’ll tell local history stories using Bewsey as a case study on April 29 and Philip Jeffs explores Poetry, Plays, and Prose: A look at intriguing items in Warrington’s Archives relating to literature at Stockton Heath Library on May 1.

The Lifest Weekender kicks off with John Hegley’s appearance at Pyramid on Friday May 2. John will read an extract from his new book New And Selected Potatoes, which is a compilation of some of his best work. Budding writers are in for a treat on Saturday May 3 when Pyramid will be buzzing with activity for all ages. The jam-packed festival reaches its finale on Friday May 9 with The Paper Cut poetry slam at Pyramid.

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# New Centre for Reproductive Health brings treatment to the North West

**THE Reproductive Health Group are delighted to announce the opening of their state of the art clinic, the Centre for Reproductive Health, at Daresbury Park, Cheshire. The Reproductive Health Group was formed by merging the practices of two of the regions leading fertility consultants, James Armatage and Luciano Nardo.**

Using the very latest technologies and techniques, including genetic testing and EEVA embryo selection, the Centre for Reproductive Health is the only clinic in the region to have been designed by fertility consultants and embryologists to create the highest standards in patient care. The Centre also boasts a fully-equipped operating facility in which to carry out day case surgical procedures.

The Reproductive Health Group have recruited a team of highly experienced embryologists and healthcare professionals who share their commitment to quality, and will offer treatments that include gynaecology, obstetrics, fertility and

IVF.

Free advisory consultations on fertility are available at the Centre for Reproductive Health. For more information or to book one of

these consultations with a fertility specialist, please contact info@reproductivehealthgroup.co.uk or see [www.reproductivehealthgroup.co.uk](http://www.reproductivehealthgroup.co.uk)



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# Impact Report

## 2013-2014



The Warrington Wolves  
Charitable **Foundation**

Building a stronger community through sport



# Who we are

The Warrington Wolves Charitable Foundation is an established registered charity working with the Warrington community for the benefit of the town.

Closely affiliated with the town's rugby club, The Foundation harnesses the power of sport to make a lasting, positive impact on the lives of the people of Warrington.



## Our mission and values

We are passionate about providing opportunities through Sport, Education, Health and the Arts to enrich, inspire and celebrate our community.



### Creativity and Innovation

are the backbone of the Wolves Foundation



We

### Respect

each other and the community we engage with

We

### Empower

our staff to promote our values at all times

### We embrace Diversity and Inclusion



We

### Challenge and Motivate

our staff to ensure fun, enjoyment and high quality experience

# Engage

April 2013 saw the launch of the Wire2Wolves Heritage Timeline at The Halliwell Jones Stadium. Following a successful funding bid from the Heritage Lottery Fund, a timeline was designed and installed into the South Stand Concourse at the Stadium to celebrate the rich heritage of Warrington Rugby League Club.

Sponsored by Central Self Drive and designed by Fuzzy Duck Creative, the timeline is 100 metres long and features the names and heritage numbers of the 1,099 players that have played for the Club. The timeline was unveiled with over 50 past and present players and their families in attendance to share their own memories of their much-loved Club.

Since the launch of the project, there has been interest from a wide range of community groups, schools and individuals who have visited the timeline and used it as an extremely effective educational tool. The project has also proved to be an extremely useful tool for engaging with fans in local residential homes and helping them to revive their own remarkable memories.



The timeline is

**100m long**

and features the names  
and heritage numbers of

**1,099 players**



Wire2Wolves

# Educate

## Head and Feed

The Head and Feed project is an innovative programme of sport and education supported by Sport Relief designed to raise awareness of mental health and emotional well-being within the local community.

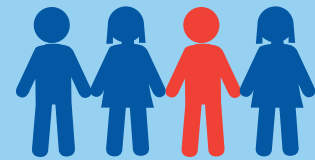
The impact of sport on mental health cannot be underestimated on an individual's physical, social and emotional well-being. By educating youngsters in schools and offering structured physical activity sessions to adults within Warrington, The Wolves Foundation has begun to tackle(!) stigma and raise awareness.

Physical activity relieves  
**stress**

Research has highlighted that regular participation in physical activity helps reduce muscle tension, relieve stress and provide relaxation, all of which are highly beneficial for people with mental health issues.

The Foundation has also delivered programmes in Risley Prison to 31 male participants. Supported by State of Mind, Rugby League Cares, and Warrington Borough Council, the educational workshops and sport sessions have seen significant increases in confidence and self-esteem.

1 in 4



in the UK will  
experience a **mental**  
**health** issue this year.

## Wolf it Up

Wolf it Up is a community based cooking skills programme designed to encourage people to initiate and sustain positive lifestyle choices.

We engaged  
**22** families  
with  
**Wolf it Up.**

By educating families about the benefits of healthy eating and regular physical activity, the course engages up to 5 families at a time to make nutritious and affordable meals and embed the Change4Life principles into their daily life.

Wolf it Up was delivered at five community venues in the town (Birchwood, Oakwood, Orford, Longford, Westy, Whitecross) engaging a total of 22 families to;

- Increase awareness of Change4Life
- Increase confidence in basic food preparation and cooking skills
- Improve food hygiene behaviours
- Recognise the benefits of regular physical activity
- Prepare and cook Change4Life friendly meals and snacks

Working with local housing associations and health agencies, the families participated in six, 80 minute weekly sessions and through ongoing support have continued to access sport and physical activity as well as lifestyle services including Stop Smoking and Weight Management programmes.

Delivered six  
**80** minute  
weekly  
sessions.

# Challenge

## Total:Sport

Total:Sport is a community based project that allows Young People with additional needs and/or impairments and their friends to access a fully inclusive Sports Club.

Over the past 12 months the project has engaged with over 500 young people, 12 education establishments, 7 Sports Clubs, and has provided over £4,000 worth of free inclusive activities. Total:Sport has also worked with four Local Businesses creating awareness around inclusion which has contributed to over £12,000 in staff costs. The PANDAs Disability Football Club came 2nd out of 6,800 Clubs across the UK for the FA Charter Standard Club of the Year Award in 2013, and has provided 126 hours of free football sessions for young people with additional needs.

The project has engaged with over

**500** young people,

12 education establishments, 7 Sports Clubs, and has provided over £4,000 worth of free inclusive activities



# Motivate

## TRY HARD

The objective of TRY HARD Warrington, supported by Goodman and Wooden Spoon, is to help 16 to 19 year olds who are not in education, employment or training (NEET) to get back into work, training or education.



The project utilises sport as an engagement tool and the values that sport instils in young people keeps them engaged in the educational aspects of the project.

In the past year, we have engaged with over 40 NEET young people aged 16-19 and 10 young people at risk of becoming NEET when they leave high school.

The young people have completed over 80 QCF qualifications, and donated over 500 hours to Voluntary work in the Warrington community, working with St Josephs Family Centre, John Holt Cancer centre, and several Primary Schools.

With a strong focus on progression to employment or higher education, TRY HARD has seen 15 young people move into employment, apprenticeships or college, representing a saving to taxpayers of £1.5 million. (DWP Figures, Aug 2013)

Donated

500

volunteering hours.



# Inspire

## Passport to Learning

Children's University is a national initiative that aims to raise the aspirations of children by encouraging them to attend extra-curricular learning activities at accredited Learning Destinations.

Students are encouraged to attend these sessions, which have an educational benefit, to receive a stamp in their 'Passport to Learning'. Once a particular number of stamps have been gained, they are invited to attend the Graduation Ceremony.

Over 60 pupils graduated in 2013 at the University of Chester, and were presented with their certificates by Professor Steven Broomhead. Following funding from Cheshire Community Foundation and local business and Community Business Patrons, Flextronics, Children's University staff are now working with students from Dallam and Bewsey Lodge Primary Schools.

The project launch was held at The Halliwell Jones Stadium, where pupils were able to hear stories from staff members at Flextronics, and also from Wolves local star Chris Riley, who showed that dreams really could come true!

There are currently 12 Schools signed up and over 30 validated Learning Destinations.

# 12 Schools signed up



## Window on Warrington

In October and November of last year the Rugby League World Cup brought excitement and entertainment to the streets of Warrington in the form of a large scale dance performance; Window on Warrington!

Dancers from ages 3-87 told the tale of two teams; looking at themes crossing the geographic elements and cultures between Samoa and Warrington.

The 40 minute performance piece started at Market Gate and invited the audience to travel with the performers down Horsemarket Street towards the stadium as they continue with their march to the match!

Window on Warrington was a partnership project between the Wolves Foundation and Culture Warrington with financial support from the Arts Council England and Warrington Borough Council.

The team have worked with local schools, colleges, universities and community groups, engaging with over 600 participants since March 2013. In addition to this 6 professional dancers performed alongside the groups.

Window on Warrington was unforgettable and unique performance that showcased the talent, creativity and passion within the town whilst celebrating the Rugby League World Cup!

# 600 participants since March 2013

# Get Involved!

Whether you are a local business looking to give something back to your community, or an individual wanting to challenge yourself and raise some funds – we need you!



As a registered charity, we rely heavily on goodwill and donations in order to continue our fantastic work!

Our Community Business Patron Scheme involves local and national businesses who want to contribute something to their community and also a local charity. The Patrons hold quarterly meetings and we use this as an opportunity to present on what we have achieved, forthcoming activities and also allow the businesses to network and make much needed connections.

2013-2014 has seen the customers of Sainsbury's Church Street customers select The Foundation as their Charity of the Year. Not only have their staff been involved in raising funds for the organisation, they have also contributed their time voluntarily to assist with a variety of projects and events.

From crazy challenges to silly sports, we are always looking for people who want to go that extra mile and we guarantee that your support is invaluable!

## For more information please contact:

Warrington Wolves Charitable Foundation  
Halliwell Jones Stadium  
Mike Gregory Way  
Warrington  
WA2 7NE

☎ 01925 248894  
✉ [community@wolvesfoundation.com](mailto:community@wolvesfoundation.com)  
🌐 [www.wolvesfoundation.com](http://www.wolvesfoundation.com)

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**The Warrington Wolves  
Charitable Foundation**  
Building a stronger community through sport

# Family threesome in puppet musical



Some of the cast – human and furry!

THREE members of a Warrington family who have been performing on stage since an early age are to appear together for the first time.

Sarah Dunn, her brother Andrew and his wife, Kirsten Dunn will all appear in the Frodsham-based Zodiac Operatic Society's production of "Avenue Q" at the Brindley Theatre, Runcorn on April 1-5.

The Zodiac are one of the first society's in the country to be given the right to perform the award-winning musical, which features puppets as well as human characters.

New mum Sarah, from Stockton Heath, said: "This has certainly

been a new challenge for us all. It's not your traditional type of musical. In addition to learning lines and songs, we have also had to master puppetry skills, which is no easy feat. It's often been like rubbing your tummy and patting your head at the same time!"

Her brother Andy and his wife Kirsten, from Bewsey, have been practicing their lines and puppetry skills at home in front of their one-year-old daughter Jasmine who hasn't been quite sure what to make of them when they are in character.

The show is far removed from the traditional musical like "Oklahoma" and "Guys and Dolls" which the Zodiac have staged in the past.

Advertiser's announcement

## Solve that conservatory roof problem

A REPLACEMENT roof could be the solution for conservatories that are too cold to use in the winter – but too hot in the summer.

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## Lydia is on the road to Oxford



IT'S quite something to be the first person in your family to go to university – but something else when it is Oxford.

Lydia Prescott, from Callands, is hoping to go on to do a degree in Earth Sciences after completing her A Levels at Priestley College.

And she has received an offer from Oxford.

Lydia, 17, said: "At the moment I'm really excited. No one else in my family has been to university so going will be a totally new experience.

"I'll probably get more worried towards summer about finance and accommodation and everything else, but at the moment I'm really looking forward to it."

Lydia, who attended Great Sankey High School, is studying A Levels in Biology, Chemistry, Geology and Maths at Priestley.

She is also on the Graduate, a unique programme that is geared towards helping high achievers at Priestley secure places at the best universities.

Senior tutor Mark Salmon – who last year won O2's Young People's Champion Award – encouraged her to apply for Oxford.

"My confidence has been boosted at Priestley and I have to thank Mark Salmon for all of his help when it came to applying to university and for inspiring me to apply to Oxford," she said.

"To be offered a place at Oxford University studying a subject that I love is incredible," said Lydia. "If I can continue to work in the field of Earth Science after I finish my degree that would be a dream come true."

# Photography Exhibition captures community spirit

**PHOTOGRAPHY** students from the University of Chester's Padgate campus have captured Warrington's community spirit on camera as part of an exhibition at a local community centre.

Cathy Lynn-Jones and Michelle Botham, second year students both aged 20, produced the images as part of their Digital Photography degree. Over the course of five weeks, they spent time taking photographs of some of the activities and events that are held at the Fairfield and Howley Community Project, including dance sessions, games and society meetings.

The two students invited members of the public to come and view the exhibition at the Fairfield and Howley Community centre and visitors were invited to make a donation with all proceeds going towards the centre and helping to improve facilities there.

Cathy said: "The exhibition was a collection of our final work from our Digital photography course. We really tried to capture on camera, the enjoyment and excitement of all who have enjoyed

using the community centre, and decided to run the exhibition as a thank you to all who work there. Everyone was fantastic in allowing us to photograph as many of the

activities as possible."

Michelle added: "The Fairfield and Howley Community Project is a wonderful place full of lovely people. The exhibition and the money we helped raise was our way of giving, something back to the community."



Left to right: Photography students, Cathy Lynn-Jones and Michelle Botham and some of the students' work on exhibition.

## Music students take up the beat



Pictured: Music students Callum Willcock, James Harvey and Oliver Llewellyn with Vinnie Pearson

TALENTED students at Warrington Collegiate welcomed drum and percussion specialist, Vinnie Pearson into their class in order to experience a taste of African hand drumming culture.

Drum teacher Vinnie, has over thirty years' experience of the music industry, performing with live bands and on recording sessions both in the UK and USA, led the students in a one hour percussion workshop, focusing on the basic techniques of hand drumming including rhythm patterns and dynamics. The session finished with an exciting and energetic ensemble performance.

The significance of the workshop stems from the students studying Graceland, the chart topping

1986 album by Paul Simon which was strongly influenced by South African musicians.

Vinnie, who has taught drumming at Warrington Collegiate in the past, spoke about his passion for African percussion saying, "My aim is to make drumming accessible to anyone, I run drum circles within the community in an attempt to get more people involved. There is a therapeutic power to hand drumming which makes it a relaxing and enjoyable hobby."

Music student Oliver Llewellyn, 18 enthused, "I absolutely loved it! I'm not usually one for percussion but after this I am definitely going to try and experiment more. We have an event coming up where we will be able to incorporate the different

hand drumming techniques that we learnt in the session."

Fellow student, 17 year old James Havey, from Orford was equally enthusiastic, saying, "It was a lot of fun, and we learnt new techniques which are going to come in handy for the upcoming event. I usually play the guitar so it was a good opportunity to try out something new and exciting."

Lecturer in Music, Austin Fitzsimmons, added, "I think the workshop was a real success, most of the students within the group are rock or metal musicians so it was a good opportunity to expose them to world music and attempt to broaden their horizons."

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# Youth club team conquer Kilimanjaro

**A TEAM from Warrington Youth Club has conquered the world's tallest freestanding mountain, Mount Kilimanjaro, helping raise thousands of pounds for the charity.**

Chief Executive Dave McNicholl and Chair Nick Hopkinson, and nine business supporters, including three from Vimto, who have adopted the organisation as their charity of the year, conquered the 5988 metres mountain in Tanzania.

The team set off on the seven day trek and walked between five and 18 hours per day generally in the blistering heat. Camping on the edge of the mountain each night posed challenges because of the rough terrain and temperatures which dropped to minus 20. Along with the pressure of living in close proximity with 10 other adults, sharing basic meals and poor sanitation, the trekkers had to contend with day five which comprised of a trek starting at 7am,

walking most of the day and then, following a short rest, ascending to the summit from 11pm until 10am the following morning.

Other than one member of the group who had to leave the trek on health grounds on day four, the rest of the group reached the summit at 6.15am on Saturday March 8 to be greeted by an astounding sunrise.

Dave said: "The trek was a massive challenge and required a massive amount of stamina to reach the summit.

"It provided a great opportunity for Warrington Youth Club to both raise funds to support the work we undertake with children and young people from across Warrington whilst developing strong relationships with members of local

businesses including Vimto."

There is still an opportunity to support the efforts by donating at the following website:

[www.virginmoneygiving.com/vimto4wyc](http://www.virginmoneygiving.com/vimto4wyc)

The full team was made up of;

James Nichols, Vimto

Tim Spur, Vimto

David Perkins, Vimto

Steven Watt, Rose Confectionery  
Bin Donaldson, Cobell  
Paul Heesterman, Sensient Flavors  
Nick Hopkinson, chair of Warrington Youth Club  
Dave McNicholl, chief executive of Warrington Youth Club  
Nick Byrne – WYC supporter  
Steve Clayton – WYC supporter  
Gron Foulkes- Davies, WYC supporter



*Dave at the Summit of Kilimanjaro*



*Left Dave McNicholl, Nick Hopkinson MBE and James Nichols – Vimto*

## Urban help build solid foundations for Blue Apple Heroes

WARRINGTON based residential and commercial building specialists Urban Building Projects teamed up with Warrington Wolves' wingers past and present to show their support for a new armed services charity which is setting up base in Warrington.

MD Carl Palmer, was joined by Wolves' legend Mark Forster, who now works for the company as a joiner and current winger Chris Riley, to welcome Blue Apple Heroes to a new centre for the charity being renovated on an industrial site off Old Liverpool Road.

As well as helping renovate the building Urban have donated various items of office furniture, beds and computers to the charity.

The Blue Apples charity, which supports the armed forces community and their families past and present, was set up in 2010 by Ex Gunner/Paratrooper Mark Smith, who was undergoing treatment, at Combat Stress for Complex PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder), and combat stress.

While being treated, he wrote a simple poem called 'Blue Apples.' Those few scribbled lines went

on to touch many hundreds of Ex Servicemen and Women.

From this grew the Blue Apple Heroes Charity, that he founded in 2012, to help others who were suffering.

Blue Apple Heroes Charity supports and helps veterans, and their families, in the community with combat stress related illness

and issues.

By meeting with veterans and their families in their own home they look at what their needs are, and then we work on a plan how best to support them.

This might be anything from housing, to assisting them with counselling, employment, or just day to day living.

With a drop in centre at the

Gateway they offer arts and crafts on a daily basis, with a fortnightly day out.

They also have a gardening programme, where able veterans go and do other disabled veterans' gardens, or retired people's gardens.

For more information visit [www.blueappleheroes.org.uk](http://www.blueappleheroes.org.uk)



*(L-R) Carl Palmer from Urban Building, Mark Smith from Blue Apple Heroes, Chris Riley and Mark Forster.*



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# Warrington Town flying the flag in Africa



**HIGH flying Warrington Town can now be seen playing in Africa thanks to their community partnership with community sponsor Gullivers theme park.**

Gullivers sales manager Sharon Blake and her husband Glenn, support a family in the Gambia, sending money and presents and putting the children through School and college.

They visit every year and a football team has been formed called "Glenn's Team."

Following a request from Sharon, Warrington agreed to donate last season's kit which is now being proudly worn by "Glenn's Team," who are flying the flag for Warrington Town in the Gambia.

## New super HQ for gymnastics club

PLANNERS have finally given the go-ahead for a super new headquarters for the award-winning Warrington Gymnastics Club.

Agreement has been reached between borough council planning officers and the club over parking arrangements at the new centre in Wharf Street, Warrington.

Cllr Sheila Woodyatt told the council's planning committee: "I am sure we are all delighted to be able to approve this development for a club which will bring benefit to so many young people from Warrington and further afield."

The development involves the conversion of four industrial units. There will be no external alterations to the buildings, but inside, a large gymnasium will be provided, along with changing rooms, office and storage space, toilets and a café and waiting area on the ground floor and a dance studio and viewing gallery and toilets on the first floor.

The club - which currently operates from Evans House, off Orford Lane, will provide 25 part time jobs and will open seven days a week.

It has more than 300 members and a waiting list of more than 250 children.

## Leisure centre's £4m expansion

A WARRINGTON leisure centre is to be re-developed as a "neighbourhood hub" at a cost of £4 million.

Great Sankey Leisure Centre - formerly known as Sankey Forum - and linked to Great Sankey High School, will offer new and better facilities to cater for a growing population.

Cllr Russ Bowden, Warrington Borough Council's lead member for finance said: "The new development will build on the very successful model of our neighbourhood hubs at Orford and Woolston."

"GP services and a health centre will be provided alongside sports and leisure facilities, a police office and a modernised library, with a café, a crèche, meeting spaces and dance studios all on the same site."

"The current leisure centre serves a local population of 52,000, but new housing projects will increase this significantly over the next few years. Also the proportion of older people is rising, so we need to make sure we provide primary care services and doctors' surgeries for a bigger and changing population."

Cllr Kate Hannon, lead member for leisure, community and culture, said: "The new facilities will be fantastic."

They will include two swimming pools, a large sports hall, a full-size third-generation artificial football pitch and a fitness suite big enough for more than a hundred people. The new hub will meet Warrington's vision of a healthier, happier and more active population."

The new hub will, like the existing leisure centre, be run by leisure services provider LiveWire.

Managing director Jan Souness said: "LiveWire has meticulously researched what local people want and need, ranging from a local GP surgery and health and wellbeing services in a convenient place to sport pitches and a state-of-the-art library that will meet local people's needs for the digital era."

"Also thanks to this development, more local children will learn to swim, more community groups will find convenient meeting space and more young people will have places to go and things to do."

The development will be funded through a loan to LiveWire, to be brokered by the council on favourable terms, with the cash ultimately coming from the Public Works Loan Board.

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# Financially yours

By David Watkinson

## 'Cutting red tape'

**We hear a lot from the government about "cutting red tape" for businesses. You might be forgiven for thinking that you had not seen much evidence of this happening in practice, but do not worry.**

Because the European Commission has now joined in, and has already made its first recommendation. As a first step in cutting red tape, and after a year-long consultation process, they have now recommended that from January 2017 UK businesses should be required to submit monthly VAT returns. As most businesses currently submit quarterly returns this cutting of red tape represents a fourfold increase in their reporting requirements. Perhaps we should be thankful that they have not followed the example of PAYE and required a "real time" return every time a business charges or incurs VAT!

Whilst on the subject of VAT there are a number of circumstances when a business may incorrectly fail to account for this properly. These arise when the transaction is unusual and the business fails to raise a normal VAT invoice. Examples may include:

- Disposals, eg to staff, of surplus or sub-standard goods or business assets
- Receipts for scrapped equipment
- Vending machine or canteen receipts

A further source of error is where there are two businesses which are separate entities for VAT purposes, and one business makes a "Management Charge" to the other, normally where certain overheads are shared between the two. Frequently, the amount of these recharges is not known until draft accounts are prepared and a provision is made in each set of accounts for the recharge. If a proper invoice is raised then VAT becomes payable in the normal course of events, otherwise it becomes due when the accounts are formerly approved by the directors.

A similar situation can arise where one business employs all of the staff, and runs the payroll, for a number of businesses and then recharges the wages as appropriate. Again, this recharge represents a supply for VAT purposes, and VAT is payable on the income.

In the case of the last two examples then the business making the payment can claim the VAT back provided that



they are, themselves, VAT registered and receive a proper VAT invoice. The situation can also be avoided by forming a VAT group, but this can only be done if one company controls the other, eg holds a majority of the shares.

The above shows once again that whilst it is theoretically a very simple tax, VAT has been sufficiently complicated by the bureaucrats and their red tape to catch out the unwary and cost them unexpected tax, interest and penalties!

WatkinsonBlack are pleased to advise on these as well as 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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A26

# Crosfields celebrate new pitch opening



**CROSFIELDS ARLFC** celebrated the opening of their brand new pitch with an 84-4 thumping of Peterlee Pumas.

The new pitch was made possible after the club was issued an award by the RFL under the "Grass Remediation Programme", a programme which has helped several amateur clubs make the move to summer rugby.

For Crosfields, this meant a drainage programme which would reclaim areas of the recreation club which were no longer able to facilitate sports on a regular basis.

The work started in June 2013 and included a full installation of drainage and a complete new playing surface built from scratch.

Life President Colin Webb was in attendance to cut the ribbon and open up a new era for the club in style.

# Prolific goal scorer joins Warrington Town

WARRINGTON Town have signed prolific goal scorer Shaun Tuck from Conference North side Vauxhall Motors.

The 27-year-old former Skelmersdale and Witton marksmen, has been signed to strengthen Warrington's striking options as they push for promotion.

Tuck initially arrived at Skelmersdale midway through the 2011/12 season from Cammell Laird and ended the campaign as the NPL First Division North's top scorer.

He joined Witton where he averaged a goal every other game, scoring 26 in 53 appearances, before re-joining Skelmersdale. He has also played for Marine.

Warrington MD Toby Macormac said: "I've been tracking Shaun since he departed Witton and once I knew he may be available I didn't waste anytime. He is a proven goal scorer at this level and above and will provide us with further fire power up front as we enter the business end of the season."

Manager Shaun Reid added: "I have admired Shaun's ability as a footballer for some time and I am delighted that he has decided to join Warrington Town as we continue our push for promotion."

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