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Issue No. 148 February 2012 FREE EVERY MONTH

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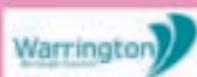
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WARRINGTON Borough Council says it is operating an "open and honest policy" on its budget consultation which is indeed refreshing to hear.

Unfortunately the savings required will result in a total of 227 job losses which isn't the kind of news we want to hear at the start of a new year.

But, like every other business, the council is having to cut its cloth accordingly. I hope the cuts can be made without too much impact on services.

The council is also pledging to give as much of its business as possible to the local economy, which is good news, although a lot of work still needs to be done on making the procurement process a lot easier for small and medium sized organisations. The last procurement document I received involved so much "red tape" it appeared to be more trouble than it was worth!

But the noises I am hearing as part of a business consultation panel which regularly meets with the council via our local Chamber of Commerce, are encouraging ones, so lets make sure that now the council has put procedures in place to consult the public and business community - we use it.

The full budget consultation document is available online at www.warrington.gov.uk/budget and follow the 'quick links' to the budget consultation or pick up a paper copy at Contact Warrington on Horsemarket Street or simply email

your views on a particular topic to budgetconsultation@warrington.gov.uk

You can also join the debate on the council Facebook site www.facebook.com/warringtonbc

The consultation period will close on January 31 and all the ideas and views put forward will go before councillors to consider when they debate the budget for next year.

The final budget will be presented

to Full Council on Monday March 5 - Please make sure your voice is heard - it is no good complaining after the event!

Finally I would like to congratulate Warrington Wolves's captain fantastic Adrian Morley on being awarded a three month testimonial by the Rugby Football League which starts in March - Adrian is a great ambassador for the sport and to the town of Warrington.

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New dance craze sweeping town

THE latest dance craze is sweeping town thanks to a new dance academy based in the town centre launched by former community police officer Lauren Kenealy.

Lauren, aged 24, has launched the LaKiTa Dance Academy in Museum Street, offering new classes based on acrobatic skills used for working with poles, aerial hoops and silks.

With a BA Hons Dance Drama

Physical Theatre, Lauren and her team are helping dance enthusiasts get into shape with the specialist dance skills.

"When I started teaching two years ago there was a lot of stigma surrounding this kind of dancing due to lap dancing and pole dancing, but thanks to popular TV shows like 'Got to Dance' it has become much more popular and is fitness related.

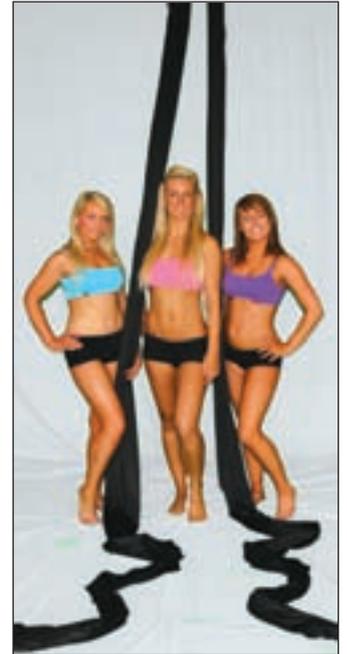
"The best work out you can give

yourself is by lifting your own bodyweight.

"There is even a campaign for it to become an Olympic Sport!"

Lauren came up with the name LaKiTa from her own name and that of her fellow instructors Kirsty and Tanya.

"Our aim is to become the best aerial dance and arts fitness studio in the north west," added Lauren.



Council search for better broadband

WARRINGTON Borough Council is working closely with a community interest company which promotes a wireless solution to areas suffering from poor broadband services.

NextGenUS has developed a system that normally benefits rural areas but can also be effective in semi-rural and urban areas. It involves broadcasting a strong wireless signal from a source that is connected to fibre broadband.

Each property would have a receiver installed on the chimney or gable end, similar to a TV aerial.

Installation costs are generally between £100-£150

depending upon the take up in the area, and monthly costs are around £25. This can often provide a minimum of 10Mb broadband and regularly above 40Mb.

Cllr Faisal Rashid, who represents the Whittle Hall area, said: "The council has conducted a test from the roof of the Town Hall and broadcast a signal over Burtonwood and Winwick. This was partially successfully as some residents could receive a signal in these areas and some could not, generally because of signal strength and line of sight issues. These will be resolved as the set-up is fine tuned."

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Hello and welcome to my monthly column . . .

Hypnotes

by Michael Mahoney

A method to change Interpersonal Dynamics

Have you ever tried talking with someone and no matter what you say, you have difficulty communicating? You can change your voice tone, your words, your manner, the time of day you communicate with them, and still, there is just no connection there. Has this happened to you at some time in your life? Does it happen in social situations or business? All the time, or just with some people? Is it you or is it them?

If this seems to happen all the time, with most people, then perhaps it is your communication. If it happens only with certain people, it can be either you or them!

We all know how it can be. We all have various thoughts that can change from second to second from the topic at hand, to what the person is wearing, to disagreeing or agreeing with them, to formulating what you will say next – and all this at the same time you may or may not be listening to them!

So even though your words may say one thing, your thoughts may be transmitting quite something else. With over 60,000 thoughts per day, you can see how we have many options!

Try this experiment over time and see what happens.

Consider one particular person with whom you wish to improve communication between you. This can be a family member, a neighbour, close friend or a distant business associate, it doesn't matter.

Think of that person in a kind and positive way and simply visualise how you want them to communicate with you – there is no need to actually speak to them, or even be near that person.

Over time, just picture them in your mind of how you wish the communication to go – rehearse it in your mind. Athletes many times do this before competitions and there is scientific research showing that the mind does not distinguish between thought or the actual

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 an NHS service provider and Private Health Service Provider

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www.michaelmahoneyhypnotherapist.com

activity. The mind is a powerful tool and it can work both for you or against you. If you have less than kind thoughts towards someone, you may get the same in return!

By changing the way you think about that person on an optimistic, constructive and affirmative level, over time, your dynamic with all people will change towards those attributes too. As a result of altering your own thoughts about a person, that person will respond to you differently because you have changed and ultimately, they will have changed too for that interpersonal dynamic between you. By changing the way you think and feel about someone with positive, caring, loving and generous thoughts, you can have tremendous power and happiness. I have found this in my own life, and can help you to find this too!

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Half term fun for everyone!

FOR people looking for fun, activities and entertainment to keep the little (and big) ones busy this half term, then you'll find that It's All Going On In Warrington!

There are a whole host of activities to get stuck into across the town providing fun for all the family.

Warrington Museum has a jam-packed week of fun, so join in making your very own Egyptian wig, necklace, heart-filled Valentine's Day card or Egyptian Canopic jar (dates and times below).

On Tuesday, February 14 between 10am & 2pm it's Art Day at Pyramid. Come along and make some personalised giant Olympic flags. Ages 7+ £5. Please bring a packed lunch.

On Wednesday, February 15, join us for a walk on the wild with Bee Happy. Why not find out more about the bee community in Warrington by popping into Pyramid to learn how to make life easier for our bees and even design a habitat for them to live in!

Despite being a largely urban environment, Warrington has a



surprising number of green spaces and a surprising amount of wildlife. Did you know that even Golden Square has beehives on its roof?

With music and dance workshops, arts and crafts activities, mural making, candle rolling, face painting, mini sports Olympic village, cook and taste sessions, and much more to help you get you in touch with your wild side.

There will also be a free advanced screening ahead of its national premier of Queen of the Sun at 6.30pm.

Please note whilst the event is free to attend and there are many free activities there may be small charges for some activities and refreshments.

Art and Dance Workshops at Pyramid

Wednesday, February 15 10 - 11:30am. Drumming workshop for young people aged 5-18 with additional needs. £2.

Canvas painting with Bee-inspired. In conjunction with the 'Bee Happy' event taking place at Pyramid Arts centre this drop in art session is all about creating a collection of individual paintings inspired by Bees! FREE for ages 5+.

Thursday February 16. 10am - 3pm. Fusion and Fused mixed Dance workshops. £7 all day for ages 7+

Library Activities

Why not drop into your local



library over the half term break where you can enjoy a wide range of exciting free activities?

Rhymetime is a special music and rhyme session for under 5s and takes place at - Penketh Library Thursdays 9.45 - 10.30am, Westbrook Library Thursday 2pm - 2.45pm and Storytime at Birchwood Library Tuesdays from 2pm.

This is just a taster of the events that are taking place across the town, make sure you check local press and www.warrington.gov.uk for the latest information and times for fun for all!

Upcoming Events

Whilst enjoying the exciting array



of events at Pyramid, don't forget to visit the box office to get your tickets for the Chris & Pui Roadshow 2012!

CBeebies' favourite double-act Chris and Pui are back due to popular demand on Saturday, February 25, fresh from their hit show Show Me Show Me! And you're invited to join them at Parr Hall.

Chris Jarvis and Pui Fan Lee have been the main faces on CBeebies since it began and remain top of the tots with their new high - rating show, which is shown every weekday on CBeebies.

Now you can finally meet them and have a giggle with their fabulous new roadshow packed with fantastic songs, games and a few surprises along the way.

Looking ahead to March, Pyramid will play host to the Olympic Posters Exhibition.

This collaborative exhibition between The Gallery at Bank Quay House and Pyramid showcases artwork spanning the complete history of the summer & winter Olympic Games. Obtained from the Olympic Foundation in Lausanne the exhibition features changing graphic styles and social context of different host cities and the cultures they represent.

For more fun and frolics this half term season see Pyramid Parr Hall www.pyramidparrhall.com or call Warrington Museum & Art Gallery 01925 442345, museum.warrington.gov.uk/ or call 01925 442733.

Family Friendly Fun This Half Term!

11 - 25 February 2012

It's all going on in Warrington

Sat 11

Make a Valentine's Card

Warrington Museum,
2pm-3pm, Free, All ages!

Tue 14

Make an Egyptian Wig!

Warrington Museum
10am-3pm, Free, Ages 3-12

Art Day

Pyramid
10am-2pm, £5, Ages 7+

Tue 14

Supporters & Reporters

Wed 15

Halliwell Jones Stadium
10am-2pm, Age 14-19

Wed 15

Drumming

Pyramid
10am-11:30am, Age *5-18
(*with additional needs)

Wed 15

Canvas Painting - 'Bee-Inspired'

Pyramid
2am-4pm, FREE, Ages 5+

Thu 16

Make a Canopic Jar!

Warrington Museum
10am-3pm, Free, Ages 3-12

Fusion and Fused

Pyramid
10am-3pm, £7, Ages 7+

Sat 18

Egyptian Necklace Craft

Warrington Museum
2pm-3pm, Free, All ages

Sat 25

Chris & Pui Roadshow

Parr Hall
11am & 2pm, £12/£10, All ages

Healthier workforce is a happy one!

WARRINGTON based Sharples Group has led its workforce into a more healthy lifestyle.

The introduction of showers and changing rooms at the group's offices, together with signing-up to the Government's Cycle Scheme, has resulted in 50% of the workforce taking part in exercise. People are now regularly cycling to and from work, others have taken up lunch time activities, such as swimming at the local pool or running; either outside or on the treadmill which has been installed at the offices in Warrington.

In the last month alone Sharples Group estimate that they have replaced more than 90 car journeys with cycling to work, contributing to their aim to reduce their impact on the environment and burn calories and improve the health of their workforce.

Buzz

Mark Brocklehurst, Managing Director Sharples Group, said; "Everyone has good intention to get fitter and do more exercise but when you are working it is easy to keep putting it off. We estimate a total of 264 pounds in weight has been lost, over the last year, by those taking part in simple exercise at lunch time or cycling to and from work. I believe by far the biggest benefit is how the new fitness regime is affecting the way people are feeling; there is a buzz about the place with people obviously energised and more relaxed.

"It's true that a healthier workforce is definitely a happier more productive workforce and we are proud to know that Sharples Group is contributing to the physical health and well-being of our employees whilst reducing our carbon footprint by cutting back on the need to use our cars to drive to work."



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A quick way to deal with itinerant travellers

YOU go into work one morning and find to your surprise, shock and horror, that itinerant travellers/gypsies have occupied your land, car park, roadway, development land, loading bays, grass verges etc. or other private location. There before your eyes are several caravans, cars, lorry's, dogs, horses etc. who have settled on your 'patch' upsetting your employees, customers and members of the public.

Further examination and you may find that they have cut through locks, have broken open gates, doors, destroyed fences, trashed buildings, threatened and abused your employees and are leaving a filthy mess. You call the police thinking they will sort it, but to your surprise they tell you that it's a civil trespass therefore it's your problem not theirs. The gypsies will tell you they will be leaving the next day but inevitably they don't.

You may well be aware of the problems associated with itinerant trespass and those I have mentioned are just a few of the many. It's coming spring again and this is when the travellers are becoming more active after the seasonal break.

One major factor you will have to face is the cost of having the trespassers evicted the reparations that will be required to your land and buildings and if they are there for any length of time, the utter mess that is left for you to clear up. Often the land has been used as a toilet and may have to be sterilised. You may find you have a need to have security on your site to ensure that everything stays in place. So what is the best way of dealing with this problem you are faced with?

There are two main methods of

evicting travellers from sites and they are as follows:

1. Court procedure which involves using a solicitor to prepare papers and seeking a Repossession Order through the courts.

2. Using your rights in Common Law to remove trespassers from your land or property.

Going through the courts can be expensive and long winded. Using a Common Law method can mean that your travellers have gone within 24 hours of contact with the Trespass Managers.

Every landowner has a right to remove trespassers from their land or property under Common Law. This right can be delegated to an agent/representative.

Using Common Law to evict trespassers from your land is a quick and cost effective method of solving the very difficult problem of trespass by itinerant travellers and reducing the terrible mess, damage and losses that can result from the trespass. Please use the professionals who have a vast amount of experience in these matters. What may seem a simple process can turn out to be a really serious problem.

An experienced and professional company will act promptly and professionally to manage your

trespass situation and proceed with initiating and actioning the process, legally and normally within few hours of the receipt of your instruction. They will advise you on the appropriate means to effect the earliest termination of the occupation of your land.

They will provide experienced, undeterred security personnel, to protect your property and if necessary whilst the trespassers are in occupation.

In the aftermath of trespass they can clear your land of excrement and other small or large waste problems that have been left for you. They can ensure your land is secure against further incursions with temporary concrete barriers and other means and if required follow up with more permanent perimeter defences.

One of the priorities of a professional company should be to ensure that in representing you as a client you are not embarrassed in any way and that your organisational image is not tarnished. The experienced Trespass Manager knows how to deal with and avoid any serious confrontation and this is paramount. The eviction can be carried out within the boundaries of

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For more information contact Cliff Unwin M.D for Uniqwin Security on 01925 286100

the law and without any embarrassment or difficulties to the landowner

There are many kinds of trespass from travellers with caravans to motor cyclists causing a nuisance and many others. Trespass Managers can deal with all of them and can keep the cost down by use of appropriate management skills.

Your Trespass Manager should be fully insured against public liability and personal indemnity and all possible issues. Don't be afraid to ask for proof of insurance.

For more information visit <http://www.uniqwin.co.uk>

Historic club welcomes first female member

THE last male bastion in Warrington has welcomed its first female member in 136 years!

Bank manager Lesley Cozens has become the first fully paid up female member of the Warrington "gentleman's" Club.

Founded in 1876 by Warrington's leading Victorian industrialists the establishment has retained all the characteristics of the traditional gentleman's club, including a full size snooker table, a traditional dining room and a pleasant bar/lounge area.

Lesley, who is branch manager at the local Handelsbanken bank says she feels "very honoured" at becoming the first female member.

"I appreciate some of the older more established members may not be overly keen on me joining but they will find I am not a brash person and looking forward to meeting members of the local business community."

While the rules of the club don't mention women it was "unthinkable" that a woman would join back in Victorian days, says current Chairman, local optician Richard Shaw.

"It raised a few eyebrows on the committee when we received Lesley's application," said Richard.

"But the club is currently on a recruitment drive and we were delighted to receive Lesley's application."

The club still operates a ballot system although it is not known by the current committee when any one was last "black balled."

Founder members included great Liberal industrialist Frederick Monks (1834-1912) who gifted Warrington its Golden Gates and the Cromwell statue.

Meanwhile Lesley has over 27 years' experience since she started her career with the prestigious Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation and she has an excellent track record as a banking professional.



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Advertiser's announcement

Business park invests in Green future

TAYLOR Business Park at Risley, Warrington, has taken a Responsible and Green step by investing in a <50kWp Solar Photovoltaic System. Their system has been installed by local MCS Accredited company National Solar Services part of the Roofing Consultants Group.

Photovoltaics is a process of generating direct current electricity (DC) to be used either on site, off grid or assisting the national grid through an inverter converting the DC electricity to AC. Through the governments 25 year Feed-in-Tariff Scheme (FiTS), the government and

supplier pay the investor for generating their own electricity. The level of payment is determined on the size of the system and tariff levels for that year. The FiT Scheme is also RPI Index Linked and goes up every year for 25 years once investors are on the scheme; 2011 RPI increase for those

already on the scheme was 4.8%. In addition, the investor can use the energy generated and therefore gain a further saving and reduction in their energy bill.

Taylor's first had the existing roof over cladded to ensure the integrity of it for the life of the FiT Scheme. Then 263 panels of 190 Watt output were fitted to the new roof providing 49.97kWp, generating an estimated 42894.25kWh annually, a 25350.5 kgCO2 carbon saving per annum and with the roof the entire project paying back in 7.3 years.

National Solar Services, who design and install domestic and commercial Solar PV systems and Solar Thermal, divided the system into 5x 10kWp systems (as shown in the pictures) for Health & Safety and future maintenance purposes. In



addition, Taylor Business Park's Solar system benefits from a remote and online monitoring service and records the systems performance.

Tim Bridle from National Solar Services shared, "Solar PV is still the leading renewable investment solution not just because of the FiTS or rising energy prices but because the generation is more consistent than other options, the diversity of the energy it generates and the property value it adds." For further information on the FiT Scheme and opportunities for Solar PV you can contact National

Solar Services on www.nationalsolarservices.com

Paul Taylor, managing director of Taylor Business Park said, "It's a great return for the investment and our tenant, Jungheinrich UK, gets to reduce their overall global footprint and at the same time it saves them money."

National Solar Services did a great job and as soon as this is paid off we'll be looking at putting another one on a different roof but I'll be getting one fitted at home myself first!"



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annual costs

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Students celebrate success

ANOTHER year of continued success was celebrated at Priestley College's annual awards ceremony as A-Level pass rates remained above 99% for the seventh successive year.

Former students celebrated both their own success and that of the College at the special event which also was an ideal opportunity for those returning to be reunited with old friends and tutors.

The academic year saw the College's A-Level pass rates remain above 99% for the seventh successive year, whilst 73% of students obtained A*-C grades and there was a 100% pass rate in all BTEC National Diplomas.

Inspiration

Keynote speaker was Martin Bell OBE who spoke about a life time of experiences in the field of Journalism which was an inspiration to many.

A large number of individual prizes were handed out to highlight the broad range of courses on offer at Priestley and throughout the College's nine different curriculum areas.

Musical accompaniment was provided by the College's own Choral Ensemble "Breathe."

College Principal, Mike Southworth, said, "Presentation Evening is always such as special occasion as we unite as a community to celebrate the achievements of all staff and students."

He added: "It was really pleasing

that so many people made the extra special effort to attend and I place on record my thanks to everybody who contributed to an excellent evening, especially those local companies who sponsored many of the awards."



Above and below: Students who were awarded prizes on the night including those who received awards for endeavour, academic excellence and contribution to College life.



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Town honours champion jockey

WARRINGTON born Paul Hanagan has been honoured by his home town following his unique distinction of being crowned 'Champion Jockey' for a second consecutive year – but it could have been all so different if he had followed his first love of football.



Hanagan, aged 31, who grew up in Latchford and watched his dad play for Warrington Town at Wembley in the 1987 FA Vase Final, was honoured during a special

reception at Warrington Town Hall.

He was presented with a special commemorative plaque by the Mayor of Warrington Cllr Mike Biggin. Leader of the Council Cllr Terry

O'Neill congratulated Hanagan on his "amazing achievement" which involved taking part in more than 1200 races during the flat racing season for the second consecutive year.

On receiving his award Hanagan admitted that his first love had been football, but he was deemed as not being big enough to make it as a professional.

His dad, who had played for Warrington Town, including the club's historic Wembley appearance, took him along to horse riding - and the rest is history.

After being crowned Champion Jockey for the second time Hanagan initially said he would not be attempting a hat-trick of successes - but he may now be having second thoughts!

Paul is pictured receiving a shield from the mayor watched by Council Leader Cllr Terry O'Neill.

Bus company sees opportunities

FOLLOWING on from Warrington's success in gaining host town status for the 2013 Rugby League World Cup, bus company Network Warrington has become a corporate member of Marketing Cheshire.

David Squire, managing director explained: "The company sees a great deal of opportunity with both the Olympics Legacy development at Orford Park opening this year and the arrival of world class Rugby League next year and sees this measure as strengthening its position to maximise the opportunities that these exciting projects will bring to the town".

Barrie Kelly, director of marketing at

Marketing Cheshire said: "Warrington is currently one of the fastest growing economies in the North West, with a 4bn economy and over 8,000 businesses including 25 of the top 500 companies in the region.

Delighted

"High quality public transport is essential to the town's continued development, and we're delighted to be working with Network Warrington to promote this excellent service."

Membership also benefits the company in access to inward investment and leisure market opportunities, together with training and other resources.

Website offers help to pupils

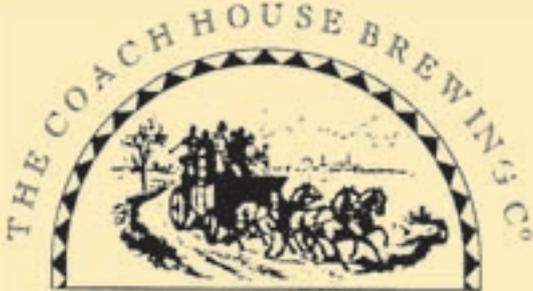
A NEW website aims to help all Year 11 pupils in Warrington to prepare for the next stage of their education.

The site – www.wayahead-warrington.co.uk – has been developed by Warrington Borough Council, in partnership with local colleges and schools.

It aims to equip young people with the right information so that they can make the right choice for their post-16 education.

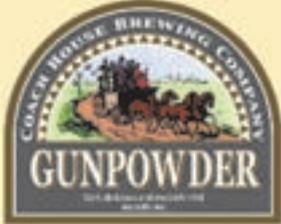
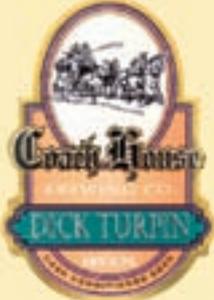
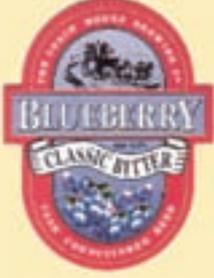
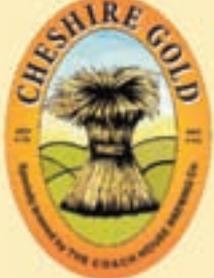
Cllr Colin Froggatt, the borough council's executive member for children and young people's services, said: "Young people should have access to all the information they need to make the decision that is right for them for their education beyond Year 11. The new Wayahead-Warrington website offers all this in one place."

The website also gives information on financial support, transport and links to other useful websites which offer further career advice and guidance.



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Forthcoming Events 2012

March

11th Adidas Half Marathon

22nd Hot Pot Supper & Quiz Night at Statham Lodge Hotel

April

22nd The London Marathon

28th Dinner Dance at the Park Royal Hotel, Stretton

May

18th Singer Victor Michael at The Parr Hall, Warrington

20th Great Manchester Run - FREE places available

TBC Yellow Week

June

22nd Starlight Ladies Walk from the NEW Orford Park

28th - 8th July Lymm Festival Lymm Garden Walks

July

14th/15th Culcheth Garden Walks

18th Proms in the Park at The Peninsula Barracks

22nd Cheshire Plains & Peaks Cycle Sportive Challenge

Aug

5th St. Rocco's Dragon Boat Race at Warrington Rowing Club

16th St. Rocco's Day

Sept

TBC St. Rocco's Golf Day

28th Dinner Dance at Daresbury Park Hotel in aid of St. Rocco's Hospice and Clatterbridge Hospital

30th Macclesfield Marathon

For more information on any of the above events, please call the Appeals Team on 01925 575780

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ST. ROCCO'S HOSPICE

news

Starlight LADIES WALK 2012

Friday 22nd June, 2012. from the Brand New Orford Park!

Join us for a fabulous night of fitness, fun and fundraising under the stars! Now in its seventh year, The St. Rocco's Hospice Starlight Walk is the biggest ladies event in Warrington. The Walk starts at midnight on 22nd June 2012 and will be the first charity event to take place in Orford Park - which is currently receiving a £30million transformation to commemorate the 2012 Olympics and the Queen's Diamond Jubilee!

Over the last 6 years, more than 8000 women have taken part in the Starlight Walk and raised over £1 million for St. Rocco's Hospice.

The Starlight Walk is a sponsored, ladies - only walk in aid of St. Rocco's. Ladies can choose to walk a 6.5 or 13 mile circuit of a well-marshalled route through Warrington Town Centre, Latchford, Padgate and Orford. Places are limited and are allocated on a first come, first served basis.

Caroline Kay - Day Unit Sister at St. Rocco's Hospice, takes part in the Walk each year.

She said "I'm really looking forward to being part of the Walk from Orford Park. It's great to be one of hundreds of ladies all walking to raise funds for St. Rocco's. The money raised from Starlight 2012 will go towards caring for St. Rocco's patients and families; all of whom are living with life threatening conditions like cancer. The hospice needs to raise £2.6 million each year just to keep running, so all the ladies are doing a tremendous job in raising so much for us".



Places for the Starlight Walk are limited so if you would like to be part of this fabulous night please visit www.starlightladieswalk.co.uk to sign up online, or complete the enclosed application form.

Text ROC33 to 70070 to donate £3 to St. Rocco's Hospice



A day in the life...

Jean Lloyd - Hospice Receptionist

Receptionist Jean Lloyd has been with St. Rocco's for over 20 years. Here she reflects on a working life on the frontline of the Hospice.

"I joined the St. Rocco's team in the summer of 1990 as a part time typist/receptionist. Back then, the hospice was still based in what used to be the Old Vicarage in Orford, before it moved to it's current, beautiful, purpose - built facility in Bewsey.

"My working day begins at 8.30 am when, after collecting the signing in sheets from the staff entrance, I open up the front doors of the Hospice and return the reception phones to "Day service". Patient's families can ring anytime of the day or night so after 8pm the calls are directed to the Nurse's station on the Inpatient Unit. It gets busy almost straight away - luckily I have a volunteer that comes in to help me from 9.30am."

"The mornings are always exceptionally busy, and no two are ever the same. At 10am the Day Unit patients start to arrive and I look forward to having a little chat with them as they sign in. I enjoy getting to know the patients and their families and it's really the reason why I have stayed here so long." says Jean.

The reception is a little quieter after lunch, but there's still plenty to do – "There is usually a raffle in reception so we sell tickets for that as well as serving customers in the Hospice Gift Shop."

Jean has met a number of celebrities and Royal visitors at the Hospice over the years. "I met HRH the (then) Duchess of York - Sarah Ferguson - in 1991 when she came to open the Day Unit at the old Hospice in Orford. I remember she was wearing a beautiful chocolate brown coat dress and superb shoes. She was so nice and spent a long time with the nurses and patients. I also remember Terry Waite's visit to the hospice back in 2001. He arrived half an hour early and the welcome committee wasn't ready - it was lovely as I got him all to myself!"

"Then there was ex world middleweight champion boxer - Nigel Benn, who arrived intending to spend half an hour with us but ended up spending over two and half hours! He missed his train to London and everything! He came round the reception desk to give me a great big hug when he arrived - I know how a nut must feel when squeezed by a nutcracker - gosh he's a strong man!"



Jean on reception with volunteer Ronnie

Jean remembers her time at the old Hospice building at St. Annes Vicarage in Orford fondly, and says it had a wonderful comfortable and cozy atmosphere. "I think we've managed to transfer that feeling to the current building in Bewsey really well; it's so important for our patients and their families to feel at home here."

In addition to her reception role, Jean volunteers at both of the "Light up a Life" services held at the Hospice and the local parish church.

"I love my work at St. Rocco's, it's so rewarding - the patients and families are so inspirational"

Part of the family

Walter and Anne Broomfield have been coming to St. Rocco's off and on since early 2011. Anne is a patient at the hospice and at the point in her diagnosis when she needed its care, staff at St. Rocco's were there to help.

Anne's husband Walter describes their experience: "The first time Anne came to St. Rocco's, she was very apprehensive; as the idea of going to a hospice was quite frightening. But that soon changed; as Anne got used to the staff and became familiar with the surroundings it became a place that we liked to think of as a home from home".

"Anne came to St. Rocco's Day Care Unit each week where she took part in the relaxation sessions and had a massage; something which made her feel wonderful and really helped her to cope with some of the symptoms she has had to go through since her diagnosis. The nurses who came to pick her up in the morning also got her dressed and ready to go, and did the same when they brought her back. It saved me having to struggle as I have a bad back.

It's not just 'care' for Anne that the Hospice gives us – its support for me too... If I'm feeling a bit down, or need someone to talk to, there is always someone there. I just have to pick up the phone. The same if I have any questions. Everyone calls me by my first name, it's so personal and friendly, it really makes us feel cared for, yet at the same time, we can also have as much privacy as we want."

Walter cannot speak highly enough of the care and dedication he has witnessed at St. Rocco's. "Staff at St. Rocco's are so caring. Nothing is too much trouble for the nurses or volunteers; they always put us at ease. Everyone is so dedicated and committed and always there to help.

The experience of the Broomfield family is one which is typical of anyone first coming to St. Rocco's - where initial apprehension soon gives way to a feeling of being 'at home'. Walter is quick to dispel any myths about the hospice being a sad place – as in his words - "The hospice is absolutely lovely. I can really sympathise with anyone about to make the decision to come to St. Rocco's for the first time; but you shouldn't be frightened of going, or of having a relative there."



"We both feel like we're part of the family".

Have a heart for St. Rocco's



St. Rocco's Day Unit nurse Julie McKenzie has come up with a new way of raising funds for the hospice and she needs Warrington brides to get involved and "Have a heart for St. Rocco's".

Julie has been busy making and selling an array of beautiful wooden hearts

throughout 2011 and has recently come up with the idea to make personalised wedding hearts for couples to give to their guests as wedding favours.

"Our Rocco's hearts are ideal for weddings as they are so versatile" says Julie "We can make them in any colour, design or style, and they can be inscribed with the date of the wedding and the names of the bride and groom. The idea is that they will be personal to the couple and created to fit in with the style of their special day."

Julie first had the idea to make these beautiful wedding keepsakes in March, when she and a band of volunteers painted and decorated shaped wood to sell within the Hospice for Mother's Day. The hearts, which sold in an organza bag together with a little silk flower, were fantastically popular and Julie decided to sell them outside the Hospice at local craft fairs.

"We have had a fantastic response from the public" says Julie "- the hearts sell amazingly well wherever we take them"

Julie is now looking for new outlets from which to sell her wooden wares. "We would love it if bridal shops, florists and wedding venues would help to promote our idea. All of the proceeds will go directly to St. Rocco's to help provide care and support to our patients and their families. I know lots of couples like to include a charitable donation in their wedding budget; we hope this will be a personal way for them to help St. Rocco's on their special day."

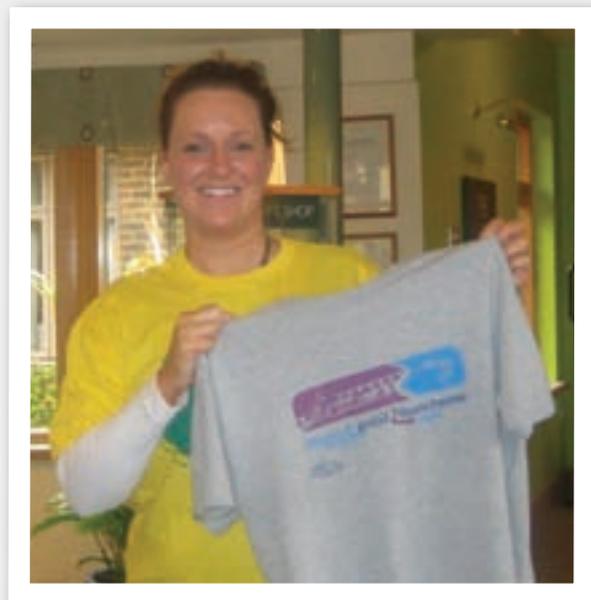
The hearts will be available to order from January by contacting enquiries@stroccos.org.uk or the Fundraising Team on 01925 575780.

Run for Rocco's

In this 'Year of the London' many are inspired to undertake their own. Here are the tales of

The BUPA Great Manchester Run - 10k

Helen Latham, now working as Events Fundraiser for St. Rocco's, undertook the Great Manchester Run in 2008 for her former charity "The Five Stars Appeal!"



"I took part in the Great Manchester Run in 2008 after deciding I needed a challenge to help with my "Wedding Dress Diet". After much cajoling I managed to convince my two best friends that it would be a great way for us all to tone up before the big day.

Whilst we were all moderately fit and active, none of us were particularly athletic so we began by walking 2 or 3 kilometres twice a week, adding another kilometre every fortnight until we were comfortably walking 10k. We then started to add short bursts of running which we tried to increase each time we went out.

Fundraising was easy; we got lots of support from the Great Run team and the charity we ran for. We set up an online sponsorship page and linked it through our Facebook profile. I took a paper sponsor form into work and most of my colleagues were happy to donate a couple of pounds. Our online total was over £500 in the end with an extra £120 in cash.

We were all slightly nervous on the big day. We had registered to go out in the pink wave which is really for novice runners. After warming up with about 15,000 other people, we made our way down to the start line. The atmosphere was amazing; the length of Portland Street was jammed with people, many in elaborate fancy dress costumes. We crossed the start line with a group of Oompa Loompa's (complete with green curly wigs and chocolate coloured dungarees) and passed many pieces of fruit, various animals, superheroes and villains along the way. The route took us out of the city centre, down the Mancunian Way and up to Old Trafford before circling back across Trafford Road and ending on Deansgate.

Along the way there were live bands and photo areas, as well as water stations and "run through" showers. We stuck to our plan and alternated between 10 minutes of running and 10 minutes of walking, chatting and listening to our iPods as we went. The first 5k was relatively easy but by 8k as the heavens opened, we were all seriously flagging. Luckily by that point we were well on our way back in to Manchester City Centre and the crowds were still out in force, cheering, clapping and waving their banners. We were tired and cold and very wet by the time we crossed the finish line almost exactly one hour and fifteen minutes after we had set off but we really felt a huge sense of achievement as we collected our goody bags complete with medals and t-shirts. All of the evening training and weekend walks had been completely worth it - not only had we stuck with our training, dropped a dress size and increased our fitness levels - but we had a great time doing it!"

St. Rocco's has FREE places in the Manchester 10k. If you feel inspired to half marathon or Marathon, please contact the Fundraising Team on 01924

London Olympics 2012' - it's no surprise that
undertake a fitness challenge of their
of two runners' personal challenges...

New York New York...



Owner and manager of 2lips Florist in Stockton Heath – Anne Reece has supported St. Rocco's for a number of years. 2lips opened around 9 years ago in Fairfield Street, Stockton Heath and Anne started to do flower demonstrations at the Park Royal Hotel to raise funds in aid of St. Rocco's a few years ago. In 2011, she held her most successful

fundraiser yet: raising over £2300. All this in the same year as she did the New York Marathon in aid of the Hospice.

"I started running on Christmas Day 2009 and in two years I've managed 3 half marathons and lots of short runs, but the New York Marathon has been the 'biggy'. I flew over to the States for the race on 4th November 2011. I was well prepared, having trained for months. The experience was amazing, not just of the race itself but also of the city - New York is an awesome place. It still doesn't feel real; the fact that I did a Marathon is so incredible that it doesn't even feel as though it's me who did it. But I've got the medal and photos to prove it so... it must be!

"People say to me, 'what you did was remarkable', running a marathon in aid of St. Rocco's is such an achievement. But I feel it's nothing really; nothing compared with what hospice patients have to go through and the care that is given by staff at St. Rocco's - that's the truly remarkable thing for me. To be a small part of that, to raise funds to help support that care - is a very humbling experience"

to Run for Rocco's in a 10k,
025 575780 for more information.

Will Week

14th - 20th May 2012



Have you been thinking of making a Will and keep putting it off? Want to make provision for your family but not sure how?

Why not take advantage of St. Rocco's Will Week. Each year on a specified date, supporting solicitors in Warrington agree to waive their normal fee for writing a Will in return for a donation to St. Rocco's Hospice.

On making a Will, many people consider how best to provide for their family or how they will prepare for the future and often consider leaving a gift to a worthwhile charity. Every year, generous legacy gifts are left to St. Rocco's in wills made by supporters; gifts which really help in providing the care and support to hospice patients and their families for which St. Rocco's is renowned.

A legacy gift to St. Rocco's can support the work of the Hospice and safeguard hospice care in Warrington for future generations.

How does Will Week work?

- Solicitors donate their time to support St. Rocco's Hospice.
- Instead of paying them a fee for writing a basic Will, you are invited to make a donation.
- Suggested minimum donations are £40 for a codicil, £75 for a single Will or £110 for a pair of mirror Wills.

For more information about St. Rocco's Will Week, please contact the Hospice Fundraising Team on 01925 575780.



Community Fundraising

with Malcolm Kindon

As ever at this time of year, people are recovering from the busy 'Christmas activities' - and although we may not have space to thank everyone, if you supported St. Rocco's in any way over the past few months - thank you so much!

Christmas Raffle 2011

We are pleased to announce the winners of our 2011 Christmas Raffle. The 1st prize (Christmas Bundle to the value of £500) was won by Mrs. C of Woolston. The 2nd prize (Flowers for a Year) was won by Mrs. S of Warrington, with the 3rd prize winner (a case of wine) being won by Mr. S of Lymm. Thank you to MCC Ltd., Apple Centre, Gemini, Warrington for donating the Apple iPod Touch, to Beaverbrooks, for donating a £100 gift voucher and to 2Lips of Stockton Heath for donating the monthly bouquets. Congratulations to the winners and a very big thank you to all who bought tickets.

Christmas Activities

A very big thank you to all the volunteers and companies who gave their time to run the shop in Golden Square this year, and also to all the customers who found us! We had to move shop half way through our trading period, so thanks also to the volunteers who helped with the move at very short notice and also to the Lend Lease Management Team at Golden Square for once again providing us with a shop for Christmas which raised over £10,000 in 5 weeks!

As ever, St. Rocco's had fantastic support from schools, shops and businesses throughout Warrington and further afield selling Christmas beanies. Again, thank you to all who delivered them and all who sold and bought them.

Warrington Market Information Desk once again sold St. Rocco's calendars throughout the festive period. We really appreciate their continued support throughout the year.

Loose Change Boxes

Are you tired of loose change bulking up your pockets and purses? We can help - take one of our loose change boxes and it will solve all of your problems! Since April 2011, St. Rocco's has raised over **£6000** from loose change boxes. A big thank you to all!

Crown Green Bowling

Two Bowling Mains have been held for the Hospice this year. At the beginning of September, the annual Mike Roach Memorial Bowls was held at the Royal British Legion at Woolston, raising £1,356.



Also in September was the first Mavis Horton Memorial Bowls competition held at Monks Sports Club, Woolston, which raised over £1000. Pictured left are the winning

team and organisers. A very big thank you to the friends and families who generously organised these events for us.

Sponsored Dog Walk



2011 saw our first annual sponsored Dog Walk, organised by Peta Brandwood. This picture is of Willis, the Babbacombe Road dog, who raised £235 - an amount not to be sniffed at!

Coffee Mornings

Since our last newsletter, two coffee mornings have been held, raising in excess of £1200.00. Many thanks to Ronnie and her team for organising their annual coffee morning at Woolston and to Sandra, Chris and their team at Glazebury Methodist Church.

Bag Packs / Collection Days

We have been offered dates at various supermarkets throughout Warrington for bucket collections and bag packs, raising over £4,000.

Christmas Money Tree



The Economic Regulation Team at United Utilities held varied fund raising activities for St. Rocco's; mostly involving cakes! This picture shows the team's Christmas Money Tree; a tree decorated with charitable donations from employees! The ERT have raised over £1000 throughout the year- a very big thank you to all!

Foreign Money, old pennies, old/broken jewellery.

Our regular reminder! We can turn your old money, coins, broken jewellery into cash. We have a special collection box at the Hospice just waiting to be filled.

Community Events Galore!

Other community events organised in the last few months include: Gordon & Marjorie Lawless's Quiz Night at St. Oswald's Club, Padgate (£616.50), Russ Smith and his Line Dancing Marathon (£1764.00). Race Night held at Padgate Community Centre and songsters 'Stepping Out' performed a concert at the Daten Club in Culcheth - to name but a few. St. Rocco's also benefitted from donations from the Warrington Rotary Club annual beer festival, the Warrington BSA Club and from Keith Thomson's Bonfire Night.

If you would like more information on how you can help in the Community, please contact Malcolm Kindon at St. Rocco's on 01925 579230 or email malcolmkindon@stroccos.org.uk



St. Rocco's Dragon Boat Race

Sunday 5th August 2012

Last year, over £20,000 was raised in sponsorship in the 2011 St. Rocco's Dragon Boat race. An amazing day was had by all; with winning team - 'The A Team' from Warrington Borough Council - rowing to victory in the final. Second place went to 'Protec' and third to 'Slimloaders' - (another WBC team), with 'Kristy's Crew' winning the prize for the best dressed team.

The fundraising stars of the show were two brothers Nigel and Stuart Dearden, who rowed on competing teams 'A Team' and 'Slimloaders' and collectively raised a fantastic £7174!

St. Rocco's Dragon Boat Race 2012 will be held on Sunday August 5th and will be hosted by Warrington Rowing Club on the River Mersey. The event is a fantastic opportunity to gather friends, family and colleagues together for a fun day out or a team-building opportunity. For more information or to register your team, contact the St. Rocco's Fundraising Team on 01925 575780 or visit www.stroccos.org.uk

Who can take part?

Anyone can take part. Dragon Boat races are fantastic events which can also be great teambuilding opportunities, with everyone having fun - spectators and crew alike! All boats and equipment are provided, training is given and no previous experience or particular level of fitness is required. The race is open to all - men and women alike. It's a wonderful way to raise money for St. Rocco's Hospice, and at the same time have an action packed day!



Places are limited; so if you would like to take part, please visit www.stroccos.org.uk/events or contact the Fundraising Team on 01925 575780.

Dragon Boat Racing has established itself as one of the country's fastest growing water sports; so if you have not tried it - now is your chance!



Pump up your tyres for St. Rocco's

Cheshire Plains and Peaks Cycling Sportive – 22nd July 2012

This ever popular event is set to be a sell out in Olympic Year! This year, the St. Rocco's Cheshire Plains and Peaks Cycle challenge takes place on Sunday 22nd July 2012. There are two potential routes; one over 60 miles and the longer over 100 miles, both of which start at the Broomfields Leisure Centre in Appleton. The 60 mile route takes riders through the rolling Cheshire countryside on minor roads, whilst the 100 mile route tackles some of the more challenging climbs of the Peak District- around Mam Tor, the Goyt Valley and over the Cat and Fiddle before rejoining the 60 mile route and looping back to Appleton.

The event is fully supported with refreshment stops, mobile assistance and a welcome sports therapy massage back at Broomfields Leisure Centre, for an additional small donation. The entry fee is £30 and all proceeds go to St. Rocco's Hospice.

Last year's event rased over £10,000 for St. Rocco's Hospice and was featured in national cycling journal Cycle Active. The event was commended for its quality and event management, none of which would be possible without the valuable support of its organisers Paul Woodrow and Ian Jerams.

If you would like to take part or would like to sponsor riders, full details can be found on the Hospice website at www.stroccos.org.uk/events or contact the Fundraising Team on 01925 575780.



Focus on... St. Rocco's Lottery

St. Rocco's Lottery raised £170,000 last year towards caring for patients at the Hospice. This fantastic amount helped to pay for the Hospice day therapy service - something which is a lifeline to patients and families alike. If you play St Rocco's Lottery each week, you've helped to fund this service, but if you don't play already or would like to help further, here's how...

Frequently asked questions

1 How does it work?

St. Rocco's Lottery has almost 11,000 members; who each pay £1 per week to enter the draw taking place every Friday morning. Members are issued with their own unique five-digit number, which they keep for as long as they are a member. Each week, the Lottery office team record which members have paid for entry into the draw that week and submit all numbers to an independent lottery company, who carry out the draw and produce a winners list on behalf of St. Rocco's.

2 How do I play?

Around 4,000 St. Rocco's Lottery members choose to pay by Standing Order on a monthly, quarterly or annual basis. There is also a large team of dedicated Lottery collectors who call on some players to collect their 'cash' subscriptions. Paying by Standing order is by far the easiest and most cost effective method of payment- enabling more of St. Rocco's Lottery profits to be directed straight to patient care at the Hospice.

For this reason, St. Rocco's would like to see more of the current 'cash' collection payments convert to paying by standing order in the future and will soon be writing to members to offer them the opportunity to switch their payment method if they wish to. Meanwhile existing Lottery collectors will continue to visit members who wish to pay by cash.

3 How do I know if I've won?

Prize cheques are printed every Friday and are posted out to all winners automatically, with the exception of the £2,000 first prize, which is usually delivered by hand to the lucky winner.

4 What are the future plans?

There are exciting plans to re-launch St. Rocco's Lottery in the Spring, introducing a new increasing Rollover prize, instant win scratchcards, and offering the opportunity to pay by debit or credit card.

If you are not already a member of St. Rocco's Lottery and would like the opportunity to win up to £2,000 each week, please call the Lottery Office on 01925 214916 or visit our website: www.stroccos.org.uk/lottery

Thank You...



St Joseph's Panto Group raised £500 for St. Rocco's - (members are pictured with Malcolm Kinson from St. Rocco's).



Donna Butler of the Co-op Warrington with a cheque for £200 for St. Rocco's.



St. Rocco's nurses Julie McKenzie and Linda Shaw with Eileen Fleming whose talented quilt making was a real bonus to Hospice patients.



Warrington BSA owners Club raised £500 from a members ride and donated proceeds to St Rocco's.



Chris Upham and Phil Williams with St. Rocco's nurse Cath Hamilton raised £500 in memory of colleague Steve Nash.



Staff from The Winwick Quay, who rowed the length of the River Mersey for St. Rocco's - on rowing machines! They also held 'Turkey & Tinsel' Bingo sessions to raise money.



Paul Robinson and Guy Lacey - who with their team of cyclists did the Cork to Galway Bike Ride and raised £5,208!



Tim Howell and colleagues from Flextronics Warrington scaled the Three Peaks and raised £3,020 including matched funding.

What makes Warrington Market the best?

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Steve Pickering wins national award for outstanding contribution to market industry

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Community Contribution

Karen Daniels from the market office wins Wire FM award for charity work

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I usually use this article as an opportunity to advise people about a recent development in law or to provide advice about a particular situation.

However, I wish to take this opportunity to advise you of something entirely different but none the less extremely important.

At the back end of last year we made a decision that we wanted to support a local charity for the year ahead and after much consideration have decided to support the charity Brainwave, whose office is based in Birchwood.

We actually started our fundraising for the year in December 2011 by embracing the Santa Dash organised by Brainwave. 5 members of staff took part in what was a fun filled event.

Families attending a Brainwave Centre are looking for hope. Hope that their child can one day be a little more independent.

Established in 1982, Brainwave now has three Centres: Somerset, Essex and Cheshire with outreach clinics in Ireland and Scotland. These Centres have proven to be a beacon of hope for many families of children who have suffered a brain injury such as Cerebral Palsy, have a genetic condition such as Down's Syndrome or Developmental Delay; sometimes even a combination of all three.

When a child attends Brainwave, they, and their parents, spend a whole two days at one of our Centres. Here they are assessed by our dedicated team of Physiotherapists, Occupation Therapists and Educations Therapists, among many other professionals, who focus on what the child can do, not what they can't. Together, they work with the family

to devise a unique Programme, specifically designed to suit that child's needs which will help and encourage them to unlock the child's potential. This might be anything from feeding themselves or walking to recognising numbers or forming sentences.

Brainwave will supply all necessary equipment at no cost to the family and once back home, the child and their family are supported by our locally based Regional Family Coordinators for as long as the family needs them. Children typically remain on the Programme for two years, during which time they are regularly reassessed and the individual Programmes changed appropriately.

We recently had the privilege of visiting the Centre to enable us to see first hand just how much hard work the people are involved in the charity carry out but the rewards of that hard work and endeavour are plain for all to see for the children who have the benefit of using the centre and benefit from the tremendous hard work and fundraising that the volunteers and other members of staff perform.

Over the course of the coming year we intend to host and support a number of fundraising events in order to raise funds for Brainwave and we will keep you fully informed through these pages of those events and hope that you will support us in them.

Our first event will be held on 23rd February 2012 at the Cotton Mill which is situated on Bardauld Street (back of the old Woolworths and now Poundland). This event is a fun quiz night and entry is £20.00 for a team of four. There will be a number of prizes on offer (not just for the winners). We hope you can join us in support of this very worthwhile cause.



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



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Motoring

Motorists are more prepared - but only just!

MOTORISTS are more prepared to cope with severe weather this winter - but only just.

More than one in three (38 per cent) say they have done nothing to prepare - and if that doesn't seem many it is better than last year when

the figure was 42 per cent.

The last two winters came early and were more severe that we have been accustomed to in recent years, which is probably why 39 per cent of drivers expect local authorities to do a better job with road gritting this year.

But according to an AA Populas survey, while individual drivers expect councils to do better, they are less prepared to do much themselves.

Only four per cent have bought winter tyres - one per cent more than last winter. Seven per cent have

bought all season tyres, compared with four per cent last year.

Four per cent have bought snow chains or snow socks and 42 per cent put a shovel, blankets, in the car. Twenty five per cent have purchased sturdy walking boots and 12 per cent have made plans with friends or colleagues in case the weather turns bad suddenly.

But in spite of the chaos of the last two or three years, 38 per cent have done nothing. However, the survey showed that in Scotland and the North East, motorists had done far more to prepare for the worst!

Seven-seat comfort with more fuel economy

AUDI Q7 drivers can now use fuel more sparingly and savour seven-seat comfort more completely in the new Q7 3.0 TDI 204PS S line Plus.

Taking the lower output V6 TDI engine first seen in the A6 on board the Q7 for the first time, and combining its 39mpg capability with an exceptional new specification, the lavishly appointed newcomer is

available to order now priced at £49,120 OTR.

At the same time, this punchy but remarkably efficient unit also appears in the most attainable lead-in Q7 model to date - the 3.0 TDI 204PS Standard priced at £39,995 OTR.

To strike its impressive balance between performance and economy the timing of the 3.0-litre engine's

camshafts, its turbocharger and its advanced common-rail system (with an injection pressure of 2,000 bar) have been optimized specifically with fuel efficiency in mind. As a result, up to 39.2mpg is possible according to the combined cycle test, equating to CO2 output of 189g/km.

With the help of a super-smooth eight-speed tiptronic transmission, the latest V6 TDI uses its 204PS and its 450Nm torque reserve to power the Q7 to 62mph from rest in 9.1 seconds, and enables it to reach a 127mph top speed where conditions allow.

In common with all Q7 models drive is channelled to all four wheels in a 40 per cent front to 60 per cent rear ratio by the quattro permanent four-wheel-drive system, and both on and off the tarmac the standard five-mode air suspension with its variable ground clearance of between 180mm and 240mm helps to iron out the most imperfect of surfaces.



£6,600 a year to run a car!

It now costs the average motorist more than £6,600 a year to keep a car on the road, according to the RAC.

Over the past 12 months, the annual cost of owning and running a car has soared by 14 per cent to £6,689. This rise is almost three times the current rate of inflation.

Drivers now have to pay on average £128.64 per week, or 55.74 pence per mile, to own and run their vehicle.

This is £1,556 a year more than it was in 2007, before the financial crisis and subsequent recession.




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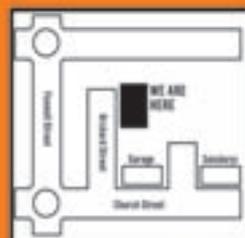
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Ambitious soccer club unveil new partnership



AMBITIOUS Warrington Town Football Club has unveiled a new community partnership with locally based United Utilities as part of plans to help move the non-league club towards their eventual goal of football league status.

The club which played host to Liverpool and England legend Roger Hunt in his early career, is reaching out into the community in its efforts to build a footballing legacy within the largest town in the UK without a Football League team.

The new community partnership is aimed at increasing participation in sports, and in particular football within the wider Warrington community, with an emphasis on how sport can assist in the quest for an improved healthy lifestyle. On the back of this partnership the club has appointed its first full time employee, a community development officer. The post has been created thanks to sponsorship from United Utilities, who have their regional HQ in the town, together with Sports Match funding.

The club's new community development officer James Standing has already forged links with the town's many junior teams and local schools, who have all been benefiting from a new 3G training facility which opened at the club last year, thanks to a £50,000 grant from landfill waste charity WREN.

In the coming year James will be rolling out, after school and Saturday morning clubs, disability tournaments, a United Utilities community cup, as well as helping volunteers achieve coaching qualifications. There will also be a community newsletter going to print every quarter.

The partnership will also involve volunteers from the water company helping out on ground improvement schemes and various other projects aimed at encouraging young people to participate in healthy activities.

Plans are also in the pipeline to mark the 25th anniversary of the club's one and only appearance at Wembley in 1987 when they played St Helens Town in the FA Vase final.

Club Chairman Gary Skentelbery said: "These are exciting times at Warrington Town and this support from United Utilities and Sports Match is a major step forward for our club. Hopefully this will be another piece in the jigsaw on helping move the football club forward, providing a boost for the whole community."

Steve Fraser, Managing Director at United Utilities, added: "We're delighted to be partnering with Warrington Town FC to help accelerate and expand its community development work. Together, we hope to use sport as a means of tackling some of the more difficult social issues facing young people in Warrington, through encouraging healthy lifestyles and by providing mentoring and volunteering opportunities".

Any schools or community groups who would like to engage with the football club or find out about making use of the club's facilities including a brand new floodlit state of the art 3G pitch should contact James Standing on 07714571452 or email james@warringtowntownfc.co.uk

Students prepare for African mission

EIGHT students from Penketh High School are preparing to embark on an exchange mission to Sowetto in South Africa baring gifts - including football shirts donated by Warrington Town Football Club.

As well as the shirts collected by Thomas Gibbons, 17, the club also donated a large number of Warrington Town pens to be handed out to youngsters at Kwadeda High School during the visit which takes place from February 7-15.

The youngsters will be helping out teaching various skills as part of a cultural exchange which will also be part of a feature film being created by the school, based around the Olympics.

The film will be premiered at the Odeon cinema, Westbrook, next May and it is hoped the South African students will be able to visit for the premier.

Thanking Warrington Town for the shirts Thomas said: "It will be great to see some of the African youngsters running around in our town's colours!"



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Financially yours

By David Watkinson

Spot checks from HMRC

We are certain that our clients are honest and do their best to comply with their tax obligations. They do not ask for favours from the tax office, but expect to be treated fairly. Recent revelations suggest, however, that this expectation is very badly misplaced.

The tax office has recently been accused of double standards over plans to target thousands of small businesses with spot checks on their paperwork. Officials from HM Revenue and Customs with powers to fine small businesses £3,000 intend to inspect up to 20,000 firms to see if they have adequate proof of expenses and income dating back years in a new drive set to begin in April. At the same time they have agreed to let large companies such as Goldman Sachs off millions of pounds in tax.

The move was condemned by business groups who warned it risked bankrupting some businesses and harming the already depressed economy. "Despite the worsening economy, HMRC is launching this scheme regardless of the consequences," said John Walker, national chairman of the Federation of Small Businesses.

During a pilot exercise last year, 12 per cent of the businesses examined were judged by the tax office to have record-keeping practices that were significantly sub-standard. If the same percentage was found to be at fault in the full checks then total fines could reach £15m. At the same time, the Permanent Secretary of HM Revenue & Customs, David Hartnett, supervised and signed off a deal that saved Goldman Sachs around £10m in tax. This revelation only came to light after a whistle-blower exposed the "sweetheart" deal. Similarly, Vodafone settled a long-running dispute with the tax office by paying £1.25bn, when a Commons committee heard allegations that the tax bill should have been £6bn or more, a saving in tax of at least £4.75bn!!

One MP said "The attitude of HMRC to small businesses is frankly disgraceful when they are blatantly doing deals with large firms which have allowed them to escape millions of pounds in tax liabilities. It seems as though HMRC sees small businesses as low-lying fruit to meet their targets. That kind of persecution is outrageous."

David Hartnett, head of the tax office,



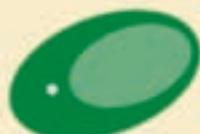
David Watkinson and Margaret Black

has been described as Britain's most 'wined and dined' civil servant. We note, without suggesting any connection, that these benefits were provided wholly by large companies! I am certain that our clients would also be interested to know whether these benefits were declared on his own tax return, and the appropriate amount of tax paid!

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. We also offer a very cost effective insurance against the cost of protecting yourself against these tax office fishing trips. 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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Warrington Wolves
The Foundation

Job Vacancy Heritage Officer – Part Time

The Warrington Wolves Charitable Foundation has been successful in attracting funding from the Heritage Lottery to employ a Part Time Heritage Officer. This exciting new role will inspire and educate the local community, by showing how the Warrington Wolves Rugby League Club imbedded itself into Warrington Culture as well as the key historical moments that have shaped the town.

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Closing date for Applications: 13th February 2012
Interviews: 17th February 2012

For a job description and further details on how to apply please email with Heritage Officer in the subject header to:

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Wolves Foundation gain grant for Wire2Wolves project

THE Warrington Wolves Foundation has been awarded a grant from the Heritage Lottery for their proposed Wire2Wolves project.

The funding will allow the charity to employ a part time Heritage Officer, who will work with local community groups to educate them on the history of the club and the impact it has had on Warrington.

One of the main roles of the officer will be to coordinate the implementation of an interactive timeline that will be based within the South Stand at the Halliwell Jones Stadium. Local volunteers will deliver tours so that everyone has the opportunity to see the new structure, and not just those who attend match days.

Neil Kelly the Foundation Director for the Wolves Foundation said; "The project has been in the pipeline for a few years and we are thrilled to have been awarded the funding. It will enable us to not only create the timeline, but also to really involve our local community by listening to their stories and capturing this information so it can forever be on record and not lost."

The Wolves Foundation would like to thank all those who contributed to the Survey Monkey, as well as the Warrington Museum, Cheshire Record Office, Warrington Wolves RLFC, Warrington Borough Council, Thorn Cross YO1, Fuzzy Duck, Sir Thomas Boteler, St Barnabas and the following individuals who gave up their time to be involved: Matthew Wilkinson, Bernie Lenihan, George Thornton and Ben Selwood.

For more information on the development of the project and future activities please visit: www.wolvesfoundation.com

Mayoress' invitation to women

THE Mayoress of Warrington, Mrs Patricia Biggin, is inviting women in the town to join her for a prestige fundraising evening.

This year's Mayoress' Ladies Dinner in aid of the Mayor's Charity Appeal will be held at Warrington Town Hall on Friday February 17.

It will begin with a drinks reception at 7.30pm followed by a three course meal and after dinner speaker.

The money raised will be donated to the Mayor's charities - The Firefighters Charity, St Joseph's Family Centre and Claire House Hospice.

Tickets are £25 and they can be reserved by calling the Civic Office on 01925 442144.

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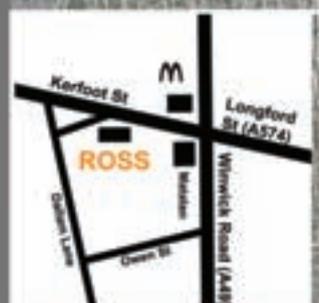
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