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Editor's Comment



CONGRATULATIONS to Warrington Town manager Shaun Reid for his fantastic fund-raising efforts for local schoolgirl Georgia Rankin which has so far raised around £5,000 to send her on a dream holiday (see page 18).

Shaun has something of a reputation of being a hard man in the game but it is clear he has got a big heart and no one can doubt his passion and enthusiasm.

It was fantastic to see so many people support his fund-raising for Georgia - and now it would be great to see the whole town get behind Warrington's push for promotion.

Warrington are having their best ever season in the Northern Premier League and it would be great to see them move up a level as they continue on their journey towards the eventual goal of bringing a Football League team to the town.

Having been involved at various levels over the past seven years I know first hand the amount of hard work going on behind the scenes to deliver the club's 2020 vision.

Although I recently stood down as Chairman to focus on my business - my passion for the club has never been greater and promotion, at long last, is within

touching distance.

But to make the dream come true we need sports fans in the town to rally behind us. It offers great value and excitement - so check out the club's fixtures and get yourself down to the HG Driver Recruitment Stadium to make the dream become reality. Visit www.warringtontownfc.co.uk to check out the fixtures.



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Tom and Naomi are 'faces of the future'

TWO young people who have overcome challenging times in their lives have been heralded as the "faces of the future" at Warrington Disability Partnership (WDP).

Former soldier Tom Coleridge, 22, who was seriously injured in Afghanistan in July 2010 and Naomi Cheetham, 24, who graduated last year with a degree in social work despite battling discrimination due to cerebral palsy, are now both employed by the charity after previously taking on voluntary roles.

Tom, who works as a Disability Information Officer, helping update the Warrington Access Guide and Naomi, who works as an administrator, both won awards at the charity's annual general meeting.

Tom was voted "Best Newcomer" while Naomi came runner up for the personal development award.

Congratulating them on their awards WDP Chairman Dave Thompson said: "I see these two outstanding young people as the faces of the future of our organisation."

Tom who lives at Chapelford, was just 18 when he signed up to the 1st Duke of Lancaster's Regiment in June 2009. Just over a year later he was part of a patrol which was attacked and he was shot through his

abdomen, stomach and spine.

Despite being seriously injured Tom continued to return fire ensuring the safety of his colleagues.

Although he was lucky to survive, his life changed forever.

He underwent a series of life saving surgeries to repair the damage to his vital organs but lost his right kidney, his spleen, and suffered severe liver damage. The bullet also caused irreversible damage to his spinal cord.

He said: "Getting a job at WDP has changed my life and given me a reason for getting up every day. I feel really honoured and overwhelmed to

have won an award and been told that I am a face for the future of such a great organisation."

Meanwhile Naomi, who first started as a volunteer with WDP in 2006, is keen to raise awareness about the help and support on offer after suffering discrimination because of her condition.

"Working for WDP gives me a great deal of satisfaction. I faced a lot of barriers while going through university because of my cerebral palsy but I was determined to pass, even though I had to study for an extra year.

"I want to make sure people with disabilities are not discriminated against when they have so much to give back to society."

If you would like to volunteer for WDP or find out more about the organisation call 01925 240064 or visit www.disabilitypartnership.org.uk



Tom and Naomi with their awards.

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Hello and welcome to my monthly column . . .

Hypnotes

by Michael Mahoney

Renewal

As the winter months roll on, if we are observant, we will start to notice the signs of new life emerging in the undergrowth and on the trees. There may be snow and frosts but underneath that, life is ready to burst forth. No matter how difficult the winter months may seem, there is hope of spring and all it brings is right around the corner.

People find being optimistic more and more difficult with the stresses and strains of life, and they look for quick fixes to help them cope with life. However, this only serves as a sticking plaster on a small wound, when the bigger wounds and hurts are deep within, causing emotions to be blocked.

Expressing emotion is fearful for most people, however, what we fear is usually a lot more painful than actually expressing it, if it is released under 'safe conditions', i.e. with a supportive and understanding person. This is still difficult to achieve for many people, as they may feel they cannot trust people enough to even allow themselves to start the process of letting go of any emotion with another person, or they may worry about what someone else thinks of them. If they were to get angry or upset in

front of another person, they imagine the other person may think they are 'going mad' or 'losing the plot'.

As human beings we naturally feel emotion, a whole range of different emotions, and this is normal. However, it is how our expression of emotion has been viewed by our parents and other caregivers as children, and how we have observed the adults around us managing their behaviour and emotions, that has influenced the way we cope with life.

It is important to encourage children to express themselves, with safe boundaries in place. Encouraging self respect and respect for others, doesn't mean they cannot express their feelings openly. The great thing is that adults can learn to do this too, if they have a safe, supportive partner or friend, or they learn to do this on their own within a safe environment.

As therapists, we encourage people of all ages to express themselves openly with safe boundaries in place. By offering time, comfortable surroundings, and being accepting of the person, and the thoughts, feelings and behaviours they present with, allows them to gradually release repressed and inappropriate feelings they often hold deep inside.

Releasing the pain and hurt, then leaves space for hope, happiness

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.



Tel: 01925-658322 email timelineservices@aol.com
www.michaelmahoneyhypnotherapist.com

and joy. Within this process it is also important to encourage the person to be more optimistic and positive about themselves and to learn new coping skills.

Anger, is the scariest of emotions, but offers the most powerful healing, if it is expressed in the right way. However, most people have learned to either repress it or be aggressive towards others. We often hear about being assertive, but generally this is difficult to maintain. Thinking about being respectful to oneself and others, is the best way to look at expressing anger, and other emotions appropriately.

To learn how to express your emotions more freely and safely, you can either attend one of our workshops, or make an appointment for a 1-1 consultation. Please contact either myself or Cate Todd on 01925 658322 or visit our website www.theccch.com.

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Family firm scoops national award

WARRINGTON based family business Davies Car Sales Ltd based on Manchester Road has won a prestigious honour - the highly commended used car sales team of the year.

The event sponsored by Black Horse motor finance was held in the Old Brewery Chiswell Lane London.

MD Mark Davies is pictured receiving the award from TV's Mike Brewer.

Davies Car Sales was formed in

1927 and is now a third generation family business that now also includes Greenapple leasing, a bespoke motor finance and leasing division specializing in new and nearly new finance facilities for business on all makes and models.

Mark, Paul and the sales team won the award through hard work and an enthusiastic knowledge of the motor industry declared Mike Brewer and is an excellent place to buy your next car. The specialist

advice on finance products particularly stand's out.

Director Paul Davies added: "In today's tough economy now more than ever it is important that you cover every base and give the customer what they want. With nationwide sales and sales into europe we would never have believed when we first started out that we would be supplying cars to such a wide audience."

English Half Marathon nominated for top award



THE Warrington based 2013 English Half Marathon has been nominated for the Best UK Half Marathon at the Running Awards that are to be held over the London Marathon weekend in April.

Event director Rob Griffiths said: "It is a huge honour to be nominated alongside some very large and successful events - a true sign that the English Half is finally making waves in the running industry."

"To ensure that we give it our best shot at making the final we now need the people of Warrington to get behind us."

"It only takes a couple of minute to vote for us and every vote will help us!" To vote visit <http://therunningawards.com/vote/30/32#vote>

Rob added: "Making the final of this Award Category or even winning it will take the EHM Festival of Run to the next level - so please vote if you feel that we deserve the recognition."

The English Half Marathon starts and finishes on Victoria Park each year, following a route through the south of the town.



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Business

Jobs Fair will offer over 300 vacancies

A jobs fair being held at Warrington Parr Hall in February will have over 300 vacancies on offer.

The event has been organised by Warrington South MP, David Mowat and it will run from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. on Friday, February 7 with free admission to all job seekers.

"With the Economy growing

again, firms are now looking to start hiring more staff. Introducing those looking to hire to those looking to work is the best way to drive down Warrington's unemployment rate even further." Said David.

He added: "Last year we had

people queuing round much of the stadium 15 minutes before the doors were due to open. People are keen to get back into work and, as a Member of Parliament, I consider it my duty to help them.

"There are now fewer young people out of work than there were at the time of the election, but with

1,000 young people still out of a job, there is much more to do. The fair won't solve all those problems overnight, but I believe it will make a real difference to many people's lives."



More success for Jobs Club

A Jobs Club set up by Warrington South MP David Mowat has helped another 15 people back into employment.

Founded in 2009, the Jobs Club has now completed its 9th season, with more than 160 people having been helped. Participants complete an ILM Level 2 Team Leadership Qualification and also receive mentoring from local business people.

Mr Mowat was on hand to present the prizes recently and the graduates were also able to hear from guest speaker Susan Kemp, herself a former Jobs Club graduate, who went on to found Appleton Baby Massage.

Meanwhile Mr Mowat is also hosting a Jobs Fair at the Parr Hall on Friday, February 7 where more local people will be able to meet with local employers. For more information visit www.warringtonjobsfair.com

Mr Mowat said: "Having had a career in business, I see it as part of my role as an MP to use my experience to help create jobs for people in Warrington.

"We've been fortunate that the number of people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance has been falling steadily for several months but we can't afford to be complacent. That's why I'm bringing back the hugely successful Warrington Jobs Fair and why I'll be running another season of the Jobs Club in 2014."

Landscape gardener Steve Kelly was one of those to benefit from the opportunity after three redundancies.

He said: "I have over 12 years experience in garden maintenance, hard and soft landscaping and also 4 years in countryside management from working for the National Trust and Adactus Housing. After being made redundant in 2009 for the

3rd time, I founded Traditional Landscaping a company specialising in landscaping, based in Trafford.

"After my third redundancy, I realised I had to start working for myself in order to be in secure employment. I sat down and wrote two lists: things I was good at and things I enjoyed doing. Landscaping was at the top of both lists.

"Now I am aiming to re-establish the company after a two year break following a relationship breakdown where I had to take a back seat at my business in order to bring up my young daughter.

I was lucky enough to be able to attend Enterprise Club founded by David Mowat and directed by Karen Gould. This has given me an excellent insight to ensure success for my company."

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Warrington jobs fair

I will be holding a Jobs Fair on **Friday 7th February 2014** at The Parr Hall.

"This is a fantastic opportunity for employers to meet talented, local people looking for jobs."

David Mowat - MP for Warrington South

If you are a business that would like a stand at the Jobs Fair, please call **01424 441833** or email: terri@eventsoffice.co.uk

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Time capsule will be 'buried' for 30 years

A TIME capsule is to be 'buried' in the floor of the reception area of a new office building nearing completion in Warrington.

The time capsule will contain drawings by pupils at St Barnabas Primary School and will be placed in the new head office being built for Golden Gates Housing Trust overlooking Bank Park.

Children at the school took part in a drawing competition with the theme "Warrington in 30 years' time, "Homes and Inventions in 30 years" and "Me in 30 years."

Pupils have also made suggestions for what other objects should be placed in the capsule.

Winners of the competition were Layton Evans (Year 5) with his drawing of "himself in 30 years" and Megan Corlett (Year 6) with

her drawing of "Warrington in 30 years" which depicted a "cleaner greener" Warrington, which is a major objective of the Trust.

Special Recognition also went to six runners up; Jay Pine, Lily Hunter, Grace Allen, Andrew Riley, Malikah Liyaqat and Kian Moran.

The Trust will move into Bank Park House in the spring and the time capsule will be placed during a special ceremony. It will be buried for 30 years, running parallel with the Trusts Thirty Year Investment Programme which sees £530 million being invested in homes and communities.



Angela Perry (GGHT Director of Property Services) and the competition winners.



Law firm unifies as FDR

WARRINGTON based law firm Forshaws Davies Ridgway (FDR) has decided to rebrand all its private client legal services under one unified 'FDR' brand.

The decision has been prompted by the arrival of a new chief executive, Oliver Burton, who has carried out a thorough review of the business, which has offices in Warrington, Stockton Heath and Frodsham.

He and the firm's 16 partners have decided that the future interests of the law firm and its

many loyal clients will be best served by trading under a single brand for all services.

From February 1, all solicitor services dealing with wills, probate, family, litigation, conveyancing, criminal and personal injury law will re-join the commercial department under the FDR banner, with one website www.fdrllaw.co.uk serving the entire firm.

Mr Burton said: "We have decided our future strategic direction lies in consolidating all our legal services under a

single name. FDR has a long established history and excellent reputation in north Cheshire. We believe we offer a first class, professional service in all departments and are confident we have sufficient expertise in-house to respond to today's challenging markets."

All the previous branding and signage will be replaced by FDR's distinctive bright blue in readiness for the firm's re-launch at the beginning of February."

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Mum's 'Divvy' brings Lotto happiness



A WARRINGTON couple have won £585,956 on the national lottery Lotto draw with their luck coming from a dividend number – more commonly known as 'divvy' – used to choose the winning line.

Michael and Margaret Sampson are still in shock since discovering they matched five numbers plus the bonus ball in the Lotto Quadruple Rollover draw and can't wait to start planning their future, with a house move to a bungalow and a holiday top of their list.

Michael (55), a Plant Operator with PQ Corporation said: "I can't believe the membership number the Co-op gave to my mum years ago, to help her save money off her shopping, has also brought us this good fortune – not only that, we bought the winning lottery ticket from the Co-op as well! When I buy a ticket I always use a selection of digits from her number – 44, 11, 8 – to make up my six."

"We decided to have a Chinese for dinner so I went to get a take-away. There was quite a long queue, so I decided to go to the Co-op first to get a lottery ticket before returning. At the till, I stood at the side of someone and watched them fill in the playslip and buy the ticket before I did mine – looking back I'm not sure why I did this as there was no queue and I could have gone straight to the till – maybe my whole visit to buy the ticket was fate!

"On Saturday night, I went to check my numbers on the computer upstairs as Margaret was watching 'Take Me Out' on TV and I didn't want to watch it. I couldn't believe it when they were our numbers and I thought I had got the wrong date, so I shouted to Margaret to come upstairs – I made her sit in the chair and check the numbers too. We are still in shock – it just doesn't feel real yet!"

The couple have two grown up children and three grandchildren and excitedly told them their good news first. "They are made up for us", said Margaret (55), who is a part-time domestic at an NHS clinic. A holiday could be on the cards but they have both decided they will continue to work for the time being – "I'm not ready to be a lady of leisure just yet", said Margaret.

When Lotto reaches a Quadruple Rollover then the jackpot has to be won. If no one matches all six numbers in the draw then the jackpot prize will be shared between the winners in the next winning prize level. No ticket-holder matched all six main numbers in the draw on 4 January, so each of the 23 winners who matched five main numbers and the bonus ball banked a stunning £585,956.

In addition a quadruple rollover sees the number of winners in the Lotto Raffle boosted to 250. For every Lotto line bought the player will receive a unique code - match the code and £20,000 is won instantly.

The ticket was bought from Co-op, Padgate Lane, Orford and the Lotto numbers from the draw on 4 January 2014 were 4, 11, 18, 28, 41, 44 and the Bonus Ball was 8.

HS2: 'We want the best deal'

WARRINGTON Borough Council's executive board has agreed to finalise a detailed response to the HS2 high speed rail consultation and is determined to get the best deal for Warrington.

The council supports the principle of high speed rail but will be making strong representations to high speed rail developers HS2 Ltd about certain aspects of the proposals - particularly relating to the route to ensure that Warrington benefits from the multi-billion pound development. At the moment the Government's preferred route by-passes central Warrington but cuts through the eastern part of the borough, having a substantial impact in the Culcheth area.

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Advertiser's announcement

Reproductive Health Group plan Open Evenings

REPRODUCTIVE Health Group, a leading, innovative and comprehensive healthcare service for women and couples, committed to the highest quality care in gynaecology, fertility, IVF, reproductive medicine and surgery are planning to hold regular Open Evenings.

Their clinics are conveniently located throughout the North West including Manchester, Nantwich and their brand new facility at Daresbury Park, the Centre for Reproductive Health.

They are strongly committed to keeping patients up to date with the latest treatments and techniques available and offer regular opportunities to meet with members of their specialist team before deciding on a course of treatment.

For couples and individuals contemplating fertility treatment, they offer free mini-consultations with their fertility specialists. Simply call 0845 600 9997 to book or alternatively book online at www.reproductivehealthgroup.co.uk.

They also hold regular Open

Evenings for patients to come along and meet their team in an informal atmosphere, with question and answer sessions and informal discussion.

The first Open Evening of 2014 will take place on Wednesday March 19, from 6.30pm – 8.30pm, at the Centre for Reproductive Health, Daresbury Park.

The Open Evening will be held in conjunction with Cheshire Natural Health who share the philosophy of combining conventional care with complementary therapy to achieve optimum outcomes. All are welcome to come along and meet the team of clinicians, embryologists and nurses along with therapists from Cheshire Natural Health including nutritionists, acupuncturists and reflexologists.

The programme will be as follows:

6.30pm – 7.30pm General Gynaecology, 7.30pm – 8.30pm Fertility.

Light refreshments will be provided and there is ample free parking. The evening is free to attend however as places are limited these should be reserved. To book your place please contact Annette Eckersley at aekersley@reproductivehealthgroup.co.uk



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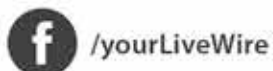


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Super head has positive impact

THE appointment of a 'super head' with an outstanding track record of turning round problem schools is having a 'positive impact' in all areas at Lymm High School according to the latest Ofsted report.

Executive principal Tarun Kapur CBE was drafted in following the suspension of controversial Principal Angela Walsh last September.

Previously an outstanding school there were fears in the local community that it could be put in special measures following a large turnover of staff and poor morale.

But the latest Ofsted says the school is good with the recently appointed executive principal's vision for success and determination to drive the academy forward "having a positive impact in all areas."

The school converted to become an academy from September 2012.

The report says the school is a good school where the quality of teaching is good overall and much is outstanding, leading to students making good and outstanding

progress in the majority of lessons.

Students' attainment is consistently well above the national average and achievement in mathematics is consistently outstanding.

The sixth form is good. The diverse curriculum and high-quality enrichment experiences in the sixth form results in students' good success rates. Students with specific needs are also supported extremely well.

Students also behave well in lessons and around the school. They have a positive attitude to learning and make the most of their experiences in the classroom and in the wide range of extra-curricular activities. This contributes well to their good spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

Attendance is above the national average and improving whilst

exclusions are in line with or below the national average, and declining.

But the report highlights that staff turnover has been very high in recent months with 48 new teaching staff appointed to the academy in September 2013.

The academy also works closely with the Dean Trust which is a multi-academy trust and, although Lymm High School is a separate entity, it is part of the Dean Trust Teaching School Alliance.

The school is not yet considered outstanding because although much of the teaching is good or better, a significant minority requires improvement because the activities in lessons do not match the students' needs and abilities sufficiently well.

The marking of books is inconsistent. Not all teachers give students enough information about how they can improve their work.

The gap in achievement between pupils eligible for the pupil premium and their peers in English is not closing rapidly enough.

Inspectors observed 46 teachers in 48 part-lessons including three joint observations with members of the academy's senior team. Inspectors also held meetings with approximately 50 students from all year groups.

Meetings were held with the executive principal, the chair of the Governing Body, a local authority representative, senior and middle leaders, teachers and other academy staff. Informal discussions also took place with staff and students.

Inspectors took account of the 343



responses to the on-line questionnaire (Parent View) and the 97 responses to the staff questionnaire.

Mr Kapur said: "It is five years since the school was inspected and the educational landscape has changed significantly during that time and to achieve a good outcome is a real credit to the school community, particularly the staff and students"

"We can return to the task of ensuring that we are consistently good as we look to further improve examination results and progress of students, as well as developing even greater opportunities for students and staff."

Chair of Governors Kieran Walshe added: "This report is really a tribute to the hard work and professionalism of the school staff, the whole leadership team, and of course the students. The school has made great progress under Mr Kapur's leadership over recent months, as OFSTED observed, though we all recognise there is still more to do."



Congratulations to all students and staff at Lymm High School for their successful Ofsted report.

"The quality of teaching is good... and much is outstanding..." (Ofsted)

For further information please contact the school on 01925 755458 or via email - info@lymmhigh.org.uk

Lymm High School
Oughtrington Lane
Lymm, Cheshire
WA13 0RB



"The diverse curriculum and high-quality enrichment experiences in the sixth form results in students' good success rates." (Ofsted)

"...the governing body has played an important part in strengthening considerably the academy's leadership..." (Ofsted)



Sydney's recipes for winning World War One

WOUNDED First World War soldier Sydney Upton was sent to Warrington to convalesce – and spent the time working at Orford's Peninsula Barracks creating recipes suitable for feeding frontline troops.

Kingsman Upton helped create surprisingly wholesome recipes for feeding troops in the trenches, including baked meat and potatoes, roast beef and Yorkshire pudding, rissoles, sausages and a variety of stews and fish dishes, including eel.

He recorded it all in a special book, kept in immaculate copperplate handwriting.

His reward was to be sent two white feathers – the traditional symbol of cowardice – by some misguided women who wondered why he was at home instead of at war.

The story has been pieced together through Kingsman Upton's possessions given to the Cheshire Record Office by members his family.

It shows that Sydney Upton – a lance corporal – was anything but a coward. He was wounded in action, sent home to recover and later returned to the front to fight in the Battle of Cambrai and twice escaped as a prisoner of war.

It was in 1916, while convalescing from his wounds, that he was sent to the Army's School of Cookery at Warrington.

His immaculate record book shows just how much the Army believed in Napoleon's old maxim that an army marches on its stomach.

Apart from the main courses, it gives details of puddings – from treacle sponge and jam roll to bread and lemon biscuit – together with cakes, caraway seed, currant and coconut, and a variety of gravies, soups and sauces, with brandy and parsley perhaps the most surprising.

Lance Corporal Upton had even compared the cost of baking caraway seed cake for 100 men from ingredients at two shillings, eight pence and three farthings, as opposed to buying the cake readymade at 8 shillings and four pence.

His scrupulously kept notes also detailed water purification and cooking stove-building methods – accompanied by diagrams – and photographs of primitive field cookery in the trenches.

After the war, Sydney later work with the Inland Revenue.

During the Second World War he again answered his country's call by serving as an Air Raid Warden and Special Constable.

His possessions and notes will form part of the exhibitions and events staged by Cheshire Archives and Local Studies to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Great War.



Above: Lance corporal Sydney Upton
Right: A primitive field kitchen

Paralympian shows true Christmas spirit



FORMER Great Britain Paralympic fencing athlete Adrian Derbyshire Visited the Children's Ward, Neonatal, Children's A&E & Outpatients wards as Santa on Christmas day to hand deliver presents to children who were spending their Christmas in hospital. Adrian handed out presents donated by Warrington Disability Partnership, and two special gifts for staff in the Children's and Neonatal wards which were Starbucks Machines donated by local business Gladstone Brookes.

Staff at Golden Square Starbucks got involved by donating bags of coffee for the cause to which staff were overjoyed. Adrian, who is a Trustee at WDP, said: "Christmas is a very special time of year but for those who are in hospital, it can be very traumatic not only for the patients but for their families to. Handing out presents as Father Christmas and seeing sick children and their families smile at a very difficult time is something I will never forget."

Community officers brought festive cheer

LOCAL residents were treated to a three course Christmas dinner at St Werburgh's community hub on Boswell Avenue thanks to three police community support officers based at Stockton Heath police station.

Nearly 40 residents from the Gainsborough Road area attended the hub where ex chefs, P.C.S.O's Tom Reid and Daren Dennis, prepared and cooked the meal with ingredients kindly donated by Co-operative food stores.

Before dinner residents were entertained by Co-op store manager David Appleton's stand up comedy routine and P.C.S.O Tony Spruce called games of bingo.

Hub chairman Les Morgan said: 'It was nice to see so many local people enjoying themselves, the P.C.S.O's worked extremely hard to ensure the day was a success and the donation from the Co-operative was greatly appreciated.'

The community hub, that recently celebrated its 1st birthday, holds a coffee morning each Thursday, 'Little Werby's' parent and child group on a Wednesday and several other community activities throughout the year.



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Soccer boss raises £5k to send brave Georgia on dream holiday

A teenage girl who suffers from a rare condition which means she will never grow can now look forward to a dream holiday thanks to Warrington Town boss Shaun Reid and the non league football community.

Thanks to a generous donation of £1,400 from club sponsor Carl Stairs, the £4,000 appeal target to send 15-year-old Georgia Rankin on a holiday of a lifetime to swim with Dolphins in Florida has been smashed - raising around £5,000.

Reid, who grew a moustache and beard for "Movember" to raise funds for men's health, decided to continue with fund-raising after being inspired by Georgia's bravery and happy smile, despite being in constant pain.

He heard about her through his cousin's wife Allison Reid who looks after Georgia during school time alongside fellow teaching assistant Leonie Gallagher.

Club sponsor Carl, who runs the Logistics People recruitment company, was touched by the fund-raising appeal, after experiencing something similar with his own daughter 20 years ago.

When his daughter was born totally blind Carl embarked on a marathon £500,000 fund-raising campaign to send his daughter to America for an operation.

Unfortunately the operation was not successful.

"I know how hard the fund-raising can be and had to re-mortgage my

home and rely on the generosity of others to send my daughter to America.

"I am fortunate to now have a successful business and wanted to help with this fund-raising appeal."

Directors, players, sponsors, supporters and footballing rivals also rallied to the cause.

Although in constant pain caused by Skeletal Dysplasia, which has caused her bones to prematurely fuse, brave Georgia, who is only the size of an average 18 month old child, attends Great Sankey High School and remains positive and cheerful.

She needs to use her electric wheelchair at all times and recently underwent surgery to help improve her pain but unfortunately it didn't go to plan and she is still suffering and requires morphine every 4 hours.

A delighted Reid said: "I can't thank Carl enough for his generosity - it is a fantastic gesture.

"The money will be spent on a holiday so Georgia can experience something many of us take for granted. With the funds raised she will go to Florida and visit Discovery Cove where she could swim with dolphins, this would be

the best therapy ever!

Georgia's mum Andrea said: "We are just so touched by Shaun's thoughtful fundraising idea and the generosity of everyone who has donated especially at this expensive time of year!

"This will give Georgia something positive to look forward to, especially as she faces more major surgery this year. To swim with dolphins has always been a dream of Georgia's, this will now be turned into reality thanks to the

generous supporters of Shaun's campaign. We can't thank them enough!"

Meanwhile Georgia is delighted that she can look forward to the trip as it has always been her dream to swim with dolphins.

But first she must undergo more surgery on her hips in a bid to make her pain free, which means she will miss her GCSE exams this summer.

It will be next year before she can enjoy her dream holiday - hopefully pain free.



(L-R) Shaun Reid, Leonie Gallagher and Allison Reid with Georgia.

Wolves bid farewell to Ockher

WARRINGTON Wolves have bid a fond farewell to their legendary former kitman and groundsman Roy "Ockher" Aspinall who died in Warrington General Hospital aged 76.

Roy was known by everybody as Ockher and was one of life's most colourful characters. Although he hailed from St Helens he had been connected with Warrington Rugby League Club for 42 years.

Ockher tells the tale of his early teenage years: "Me and Alex Murphy grew up together in Thatto Heath in the 1950s. He went to the Catholic School and I went to the C of E School. We used to wait for them after school and knock the stuffing out of them. Alex came to see me about it and we have been friends ever since."

He left school at 15, and being a tough kid led a wild lifestyle. He got involved at Mac Moran's boxing booths that used to travel round with Silcocks Fairground.

He became friends with the "Big Four" Silcock brothers, Ted, Arthur, Laurence and Herbert and travelled around with the fairground.

Ockher became head doorman at Wigan Casino, before being brought to Wilderspool in 1971 by his good friend Alex Murphy.

As well as head doorman at the Wilderspool Leisure Centre he used to help Jackie Hamblett with ground maintenance.

He took over as groundsman in 1979 and also was responsible for the kit. He carried on with these duties for the next 20 years.

Ockher was also the kitman on England's World Cup tour of Australia and New Zealand in 1975 when Murphy was the coach.

He held a weekly card school at his house on a Saturday night with Les Boyd, Brian Johnson, Bob Jackson and Kevin Tamati, and he never lost. Ockher was a great friend to all the players and staff at Warrington.

One of the highlights of his life was travelling over to Australia and New Zealand in 1997 with the Warrington team that played in the World Club Championship. He came back with shirts from all the Australian clubs to boost his massive collection of rugby league memorabilia.

Rugby league was always close to Ockher; his sister was mother to the Cunningham brothers Eddie, Tommy and Kieron.

He was well known throughout the rugby league world. Former players visiting Warrington would often pop into Ockher's house, next to Wilderspool Stadium to talk about old times.

He always said that Silcocks and Warrington Rugby League Club were the saving of him. He did not like to think what would have happened to him without them.

In later life Ockher was a great reader, he devoured autobiographies. He also travelled a great deal with his family and friends around Europe and visited America. He was regularly seen whizzing around Warrington on his mobility scooter OCK1, which

gave him the freedom to get about.

Ockher was a family man, who leaves a wife Sue, sons and grandchildren who he adored. He was one of those colourful characters who could always tell a good story and will be fondly remembered.

Ockher at the opening of the club's Heritage Wall and on the open top bus with Alex Murphy and the Cup winning team in 1974.





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College extends United partnership



WARRINGTON Collegiate has helped Manchester United Soccer Schools to launch a BTEC football excellence course at Northern Regional College, Ballymena.

The course has been running for almost two years in Warrington, and the first students are set to progress onto university or the football industry in July 2014.

Graham Murphy, Curriculum Manager for Sport and Leisure at Warrington Collegiate, joined

Mike Walsh, Course Leader for the BTEC Level 3 Football Excellence with MUSS Development through Coaching, at the launch event in Ballymena to mark the extension of the partnership, alongside Manchester United Academy Manager and former player Brian

McClair.

McClair (pictured above with students) said: "This is going to be a great course and a fantastic opportunity for anyone lucky enough to be selected for a place. I know how important a good coach is. They can be inspirational and get the very best out of their players. This course will not only provide an opportunity for students to further

their education, they will also have the platform to obtain new skills and enhance their coaching techniques and skills within practical working environments."

The two-year course is aimed at 16-24 year olds, and helps students prepare, manage, deliver and evaluate the MUSS coaching programme for participants of all ages, nationalities and abilities.

Talented trio give winnings to charity

THE TRIO who won the recent Priestley's Got Talent contest have given their money to charity.

Georgia Kilshaw, Anna Probert and Andrew Procter – all 17 – were voted winners of the annual talent competition by fellow students.

They won £120 and decided to



give the money to a college fund for underprivileged and orphaned children in Moldova.

"We decided to donate the money because we feel that it's for a great cause and we are behind the Production Arts department and their charity," said former Lysander High School pupil Georgia, who lives in Padgate.

Every year talented students from across college take part in the talent show in front of other students.

This year there were singers and dancers performing for their peers' votes with the talented trio securing the most support.

Last year's winner Joey Firth, who has an EP coming out early this year, performed three tracks to bring the curtain down on the contest.

Tutor Mark Edgington said Priestley's Got Talent was an annual opportunity for all college students to show off their skills.

"Every year there's a lot of interest in the event and an incredible array of talent on show," he said.

"It is always a great showcase and we are really proud of the platform it has given some really talented young people."

Boyhood dream becomes reality at Fish Cove

PAUL Mannion's boyhood dream of owning an aquarist centre is now a reality - at the Fish Cove in Orford, Warrington.

Paul, who has set up the business with his partner Sandie has been interested in fish for over 40 years and remembers fondly saving up his pocket money and made many frequent trips to Mr Nadins shop in Orford where he purchased his first fish.

He made many return visits to buy bits and bobs and pick Mr Nadins brains for advice.

He progressed from his first tanks to building his first fish set up at the rear of his home. From there he built up a good selection of tanks filling them with all the different species he could lay his hands on - whether from local dealers or from the trips he made to wholesalers in Holland.

As his love of fish grew so did his knowledge and soon he earned a great reputation as "a good and honest fish keeper".

Paul said: "We are a small shop, but we are very big on customer service. Quality matters to us - we would rather lose a sale than allow

a customer to purchase a fish that could be incompatible with their set up.

"We want our customers' tanks to be a success, easy to maintain and a pleasure for them to keep. We also sell a superb selection of Tropical plants which we import from Holland on a regular basis.

"We have a good range of tropical fish for all tastes and stock is renewed on a weekly basis so you are always guaranteed a good choice.

"If there are any items not in our stock please do not be afraid to ask as we can often obtain items to order within a reasonably short time - sometimes within hours."

Paul invites fish enthusiasts to pop in for a browse or get some friendly advice.



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Financially yours

By David Watkinson

Law decisions on employment

A number of case law decisions on employment law may have an effect on you.

The first concerned a salesman whose salary was made up of a basic salary and a commission calculated on sales. When he went on holiday his employer calculated his holiday pay based only on his basic salary. The European Court of Justice has decided that holiday pay should put employees in the same position during their holiday as during their normal working week. Therefore, they said that commission should be taken into account when calculating holiday pay, although exactly how this should be done is up to the courts of each individual country.

The second concerns redundancy. An employer was required to make one of two employees redundant. They carried out an exercise to decide which employee should be made redundant. It was designed so that the higher scorer should be made redundant and one scored very slightly higher than the other. The lower scoring employee then offered to take voluntary redundancy but the employer decided that the

redundancy should be made in accordance with the exercise. An Employment Tribunal decided that this was not a reasonable course of action and upheld a claim for unfair dismissal.

The third decision concerned sleeping on the job. A carer was paid a fixed fee of £40 per week for sleeping over for eight hours, when required, and she was invariably required to sleep over on at least two nights per week. This was in addition to her other pay. The Employment Appeal Tribunal ruled that it was irrelevant whether or not she had to do anything during these sleepovers. The job was simply being there and not the level of activity. Therefore, she was being paid below the minimum wage.

Finally, the Home Office has issued new guidelines on preventing illegal workings. The details is beyond the scope of this article but can be found at:

www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk

Strangely, we always thought that border control was the responsibility of the government!

And finally, finally. If you were



employed in the construction industry in the 1970's or 1980's then you may be entitled to a share of over £1m of unclaimed holiday pay. A client of ours made a simple phone call and received over £2,000. Full details are available in our article in "Village Life" and can also be accessed on the "Warrington Worldwide" website.

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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Friends re-united as Wolves team up with Rabbitohs



WARRINGTON Wolves teamed up with new signing Roy Asotasi and former star Matt King when they visited South Sydney Rabbitohs for a training session with the NRL side during their visit down under.

It was the first of several joint training sessions arranged as part of the team's pre-season camp over in Australia with a visit to the Roosters and Sydney Swans, amongst others, also scheduled in.

The teams did a combined warm up, fitness drills and a couple of 13-aside games in 20-minute blocks.

This session saw new Wolves' signing Asotasi return to his old stomping ground and his first full training session with his new team mates.

Roy said: "It was good. I probably wasn't really looking forward to coming to Redfern for my first training session (with Warrington) but it's always great to be here and enjoy the training with the new squad and mix with the old squad, so I had a good time.

"It felt weird walking in and having to turn left in the tunnel. I was waiting for my protein shake - which wasn't there - and I realised I was with Warrington.

"It was good to see some old faces and I enjoyed the training session; you've got to enjoy these moments especially with the sun; you don't get much of that in the UK!"

The training session also served up another reunion as former Wolves' fans favourite King was on hand to welcome his old teammates to his new home at the Rabbitohs.

"I haven't seen the Warrington boys for two years since we played them here at Redfern. It was really great to see them, I had a great time over there (England) - it was a bit of a family affair."

And on the joint training session he added: "I was out in the middle of the field and they were running past me; I was supposed to be helping the Souths but I was giving a few tips to the Warrington boys too. It was awesome to get my two favourite clubs together and watch the boys go head to head.

"The pre-season is really nice but you don't have anyone in front of you, so it's nice to put 13 professional athletes from the other side of the world up against the boys. Both teams played really well."

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