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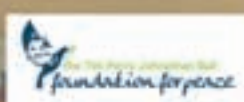
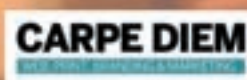
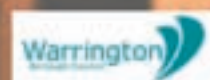
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Editor's Comment



THE season of goodwill certainly was lacking between the unions and the leadership of Warrington Borough Council.

I never thought I would see the day when a Labour council was at loggerheads with union officials - I suppose it just goes to show what difficult times we are living in - although some would say there is a hidden political agenda somewhere.

Whatever the outcome of contract talks and moving council staff over to a charitable leisure trust - one thing is certain - changes need to take place.

Putting politics aside, if there is no money to spend, we cannot afford to increase debt. Many small, medium and even large businesses have been changing the way they operate for years - now the public sector is having to do the same. Welcome to the real

world!

As part of a media industry which has been revolutionised over the past 20 years we know better than most the impact of change. Twenty years ago websites, facebook, twitter and the various other social media networks did not exist - neither did text and emails!! During these periods of change there has been a lot of pain, particularly in the publishing industry.

But we cut our cloth accordingly and battle on.

More and more businesses are disappearing off our local high streets including big names like TJ Hughes

while century old local jewellers A Baker & Sons has also sadly gone to the wall. But there is still plenty to be positive about in Warrington, like the Orford Park Project, the Rugby League World Cup next year and the redevelopment of the Time Square/Bridge Street area.

Let us look to the future with confidence and most importantly work together as one town, rather than get bogged down by hidden political agendas.

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Gym club is victim of own success

A LOCAL gymnastics club is becoming a victim of its own success after out growing its current venue.

Penketh Gymnastics Club has achieved 21 gold, 54 silver and 54 bronze medals in Cheshire and

Merseyside competitions and been awarded Gym Mark and Club Mark accreditations.

Celebrating its fifth birthday, the club - based at Penketh High School - is proud of its gymnasts, some of

whom have been selected to represent the Cheshire and Merseyside Team over the years.

One member of the club, nine-year-old Eloise Hicks from Great Sankey, is being tipped for a bright future after being chosen to represent Cheshire and Merseyside.

Head Coach Sarah Muddimer says she has "high hopes" of Eloise having a bright future as a gymnast as she prepares to do her Grade 12.

Eloise is currently training three or four times a week and recently competed in the Inter County 4 Piece Competition in Liverpool, doing the floor, vault, bars and beams.

With more than 80 gymnasts and a waiting list of more than 100 children, the club relies on parents and local businesses to help raise funds.

To date they have managed to raise £6,000 which has been used to purchase much needed equipment.

However, the club is looking for



sponsorship to accommodate more budding gymnasts and is looking for new premises to lease or rent and is recruiting more coaches for the club.

To find out more about volunteering or sponsorship, contact Karen Curry on 01925 633332.

Pictures show Eloise and youngsters celebrating their 5th anniversary.



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Hello and welcome to my monthly column . . .

Hypnotes

by Michael Mahoney

Our readers respond - Why bother with New Year's Resolutions - no one really keeps them anyway

Certainly this reader has an honest concern. It has been estimated that around 75% of people who make a New Year's resolution fail.

So why bother making a resolution if you almost 'know' you won't be keeping it? Perhaps these are goals such as weight loss, or to quit smoking, or procrastinating. There may be an element there of making the resolution as a result of obligation or guilt.

The only way a resolution should be made is for your own benefit. There is a pull between doing what we know we should be doing – or not doing – and just continuing in the path of least resistance because it is easier and though unwanted, it is familiar.

If you feel the same way as our reader, don't despair. Everyone who is honest with themselves can think of an area in their lives – or two or three – that needs improvement. So instead of making a resolution which has connotations of failure, think of your goals in a different way. Don't label your goals as resolutions. For many, I believe that the connotation of 'broken New Year's resolutions' is hard-wired

into our mind-sets.

Instead, look into an area of your life that you know you want to change. And you don't have to do this at the New Year – any time will do! In fact, give yourself some time to recover from the hectic holidays first!

If you have times when you slip, this doesn't mean you have to give up. It takes at least 21 days for new activities or thoughts to become a habit, and even 6 months for them to become second nature. If you know that going into it, you can be gentle with yourself. Don't get upset with yourself. Just as a young toddler learns to walk – falling down and picking themselves up again – you can too.

Break your goal up into sections if you can, rather than looking at the whole goal. This works especially well for weight loss. Set a realistic goal of 5 pounds, and just repeat it until you are at your goal weight. This helps you to see progress more clearly than looking at the larger amount!

But there are some other suggestions that may be beneficial for you to achieve your goal.

Michael Mahoney is a Clinical Hypnotherapist. He has research, and patient trials experience.



He is a member of the Hypnotherapy Association, an associate of the Primary Care Society for Gastroenterology, he is a non NHS service provider and Private Health Service Provider

Tel: 01925-658322 email
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www.michaelmahoneyhypnotherapist.com

First, make a list of all the positive ways your life will change when you accomplish your goal – and put the focus there, rather than the focus on the efforts needed to achieve it. For a weight loss goal, for example, you can list that you will feel better, your feet won't hurt, you can buy new clothes, you can run with your child and anything that you can list that will be a benefit to you. Try to avoid listing reasons such as, you will be liked by others, or you are doing it for someone else, as these may sabotage your efforts.

Secondly, feel and act as if you are already at your goal, and visualise how you will feel, look, act once it has happened. Keep that image in your mind as often as you can.

So instead of resolutions, make life improvements! And you will see those improvements happen! Need help visualising your goals? Feel free to call me any time of year! Wishing you a very happy and successful New Year!



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Housing Trust's first birthday

WARRINGTON'S Golden Gates Housing Trust (GGHT) celebrated its first anniversary with a new service and a review of its successes.

Chief executive Peter Mercer launched the trust's new digital television and Smartphone site to kick start the day. He then visited a tenant who had a new bathroom installed as part of its capital investment Programme.

Ballot

GGHT launched last year following a successful ballot in which 91.9 per cent of tenants voted in favour of transfer from Warrington Borough Council.

Since then the trust has started work on a massive investment programme and plans to spend £105 million over five years, improving homes and

neighbourhoods to "the Warrington Standard".

Work in the first year includes fitting new energy efficient doors and windows to 1,420 properties, installing 223 new kitchens, 136 new bathrooms and completing fencing at 124 of their properties. New energy efficient boilers, cavity wall insulation, loft insulation and solar panels have also been installed.

The trust has cleared its backlog of Aids and Adaptations and has recruited two new handypersons to help improve homes. It has also worked to tackle anti-social behaviour. On transfer the trust made a commitment to support local



The Mayor and Dave Thompson with Network Warrington MD David Squiare and board members and invited guests at the official ribbon cutting.

employment and in the first 12 months has filled 26 jobs with local people, including the recruitment of 10 apprentices to work in all areas of the business.

Mr Mercer said: "It is hard to believe that it is only 12 months since we launched as GGHT. We

recognise that there is still plenty of work to be done as we aim to improve our neighbourhoods but I am extremely proud of what we have achieved in such a short period of time. I am looking forward to building on our successes and achievements over the next 12 months."



Charity celebrates 20 years on the buses

LOCAL bus company Network Warrington is once again working in partnership with Warrington Disability Partnership, following the unveiling of a bus in a new livery to promote the charity's excellent work spanning 20 years.

This is the third bus to carry a promotional livery for the charity and the company has also worked with the WDP over the years to improve access for disabled passengers, awareness training for staff and also provides a free shuttle bus to the annual Disability Awareness Day.

All buses used on the local bus services by Network Warrington are now fully DDA accessible, well ahead of Government legislation.

The launch ceremony was held at Warrington Town Hall when a ribbon was cut by the Mayor Cllr Mike Biggin.

WDP Chairman Dave Thompson DL MBE thanked the company for its on-going support.

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Typically professional firms such as accountants and solicitors can make initial savings of up to 40% on their printing and photocopying bills. By choosing Sharples, customers can ensure their printing and copying costs are controlled effectively and requirements keep pace with the latest technology.

Dave Watkinson, from Watkinson Black, said: "Sharples have

delivered real benefits for our business. They came along at a time when our business was growing quickly and we needed to update all the technology that supported it. Sharples provided us with innovative and cost effective solutions replacing numerous desk top inkjet printers with just two of the latest all-in-one photocopying, scanning and printing machines. The solution gave us access to more functionality great print quality and cost benefits. Regular servicing and maintenance reduces downtime and if there is a glitch with a machine Sharples' engineers are with us within an hour. This all results in a no hassle service which allows us to focus on what is important and not have to complain that the photocopier is down again!

"The documents we produce for our clients are a reflection on our company and our professionalism; they need to be printed or copied to the highest standards. Sharples has helped us meet our exacting needs



for the last ten years."

With the help of Sharples Watkinson Black and many other businesses in the North West are able to keep pace with technology improvements. By taking the time to understand the businesses they work with Sharples can ensure that the market leading printing and copying solutions are always available to businesses when they need it; solutions which provide excellent value and ensure costs

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Distribution centres – a target for criminality

NOT too long again I was asked to investigate a major burglary at an International Distribution Centre. My first port of call was the CCTV system that was in place in the Centre. However I was told by management that the CCTV system had been closed down on the night of the crime and there was no recording. A little further investigation showed that the system in the guard house had been switched off and the thieves believed by doing this that the camera was not recording. Surprise Surprise, the CCTV cameras had been recording and guess what, the pictures clearly showed that the security guards on site had taken a part in the whole burglary ably assisted by outside offenders. This was a clear example of collusive theft and conspiracy.

The site security officers thought that they had control of the CCTV system and they knew exactly when the theft could take place and how easy it was to do it. Luckily they were caught on that occasion because a little forethought and planning ensured they did not know all the risks that they were taking.

When we are considering the security risk related to Distribution Centres we have to consider the main overall control of shrinkage due to internal as well as external criminal activity. This is not to discount in any way shrinkage due to accidental or malicious damage or accounting error.

Through specialising in the security of Distribution Centres, Uniqwin have been proactive in developing planned systems and procedures that can be adapted quickly to deal with all the security risks of Distribution Centres.

One of the most difficult types of loss to prevent is in Distribution Centres, typical is a catalogue warehouse, a perfect environment for theft to take place where there is a significant throughput every day at a fast pace, an ideal smokescreen to camouflage criminal acts.

Collusion can take place by linking internal theft with a goods driver, admin/accuracy errors can be leading sources of shrinkage. Such theft can often go unreported and in some places there may be little in the way of audits to highlight the problem. Complacency can be a major reason that theft can occur in the first place. Managers and company bosses never imagine that they could lose so much in quantity or value from under their noses and that trusted long term employees could be involved. However developing companies have taken on quite sophisticated systems to identify any loss as it occurs. Intelligence awareness and prevention can impact on these losses. Simply enacting proper checks and balances from beginning to end will go a long way to keeping shrinkage to a minimum. It may not mean allocating a lot of money but simply how effectively and strategically you spend it.

Here are some tips on reducing the risks:

1) Accurately assess the risk. Where is the centre located? Do the goods have a high street value, what processes, policies and technologies and guarding is in place and, are they all working? How long is it since the last security audit was carried out (recommended every three years)

2.) Start your loss prevention

activity at the point of entry. This is where a lot can happen. This is not just about the goods but employees as well. Vetting for instance should be carried out on employees. As well as quality check quantity checks of items continuously.

3) Ensure that there is a traceable chain of possession, and separate duties tight inventory control, frequent cycle counts random audits and two or even three party sign off of documents for high value goods, to act as a deterrent and provide you with a authentic paper trail. Preferably have an automated goods tracker system.

4) Control access to the centre restricting it to people who need to be there. Vehicle drivers should not be allowed into the centre and should have a separate waiting area. Visitors should be badged /verified with a picture ID and escorted at all times. Access controls should limit employee movements to designated areas.

5) Identify systematic problems and unusual activities to see if there are patterns of loss. Have regular checks carried out on waste bins.

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6) Consider undercover investigators where loss problems occur and provide whistle blowing facilities.

7) Provide technology solutions where you can and ensure that access to controls particularly historical evidence is limited.

8) Use a layered comprehensive approach to your security ensuring that it does not impede production but is effective.

Integrating your security systems can prove most effective but they do need proper coordination to ensure they are not in conflict or that you are duplicating unnecessarily.

Technology challenge for design students

GRAPHIC design students at Warrington's Priestley College are being set the challenge of developing assets for use in an "app" that will play on a popular range of Apple products - thanks to an award-winning creative agency.

Working with Peter Caddock from Studio Liddell, the students will research, develop and design assets connected with the theme of popular nursery rhymes and produce illustrations to appeal visually to children aged two to five years. As well as giving the students key industry experience, the project is one of the core modules that makes up the BTEC Extended Diploma in Graphic Design qualification at Priestley College.

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Fashion students stage charity catwalk

FASHION students at Warrington Collegiate took to the stage to lend their support to the Amy Winehouse Foundation in aid of former student, Serena Harding, 16, who tragically died last August.

Shocked by Serena's death, students were determined to show support for her family who were very

positive about the show, wishing the students well for the evening.

Students showcased their talents with clothing lines and design collections inspired by the 1920s look to Avant-Garde with hairdressing and make-up creating the catwalk looks to complement the clothing.

Fashion student, Philippa Carney, aged 17 from Great Sankey,

designed a Patchwork Cape, modeled barefoot on the night, explaining "My inspiration was the the music of the 1970s and the hippy movement."

"The students organised everything, explained, Becky Rogers, Lecturer in Art and Design and Fashion, from music and food to sponsorship and the raffle. The event provides a platform for second year students who are planning to go onto University or into industry and for the first year students it will be an insight into the fashion industry."

The stunning collections were applauded by a packed audience from the college, friends and family with over £160 going to The Amy Winehouse Foundation which supports charitable activities in both the UK and abroad that provide help, support or care for young people, especially those who are in need due to ill health, disability, financial disadvantage or addiction.

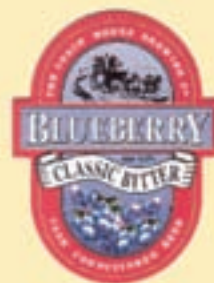
The Fashion and Performing Arts courses at Warrington Collegiate received a Grade 1 in the latest Ofsted inspection 2010.

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Taste of success



WARRINGTON Town Football Club are getting a taste for success after agreeing a mouthwatering sponsorship deal with a top local restaurant.

The town's premier football team has teamed up with the Spirit Restaurant on Victoria Park near to their Loushers Lane ground to sponsor man-of-the-match awards at Cantilever Park.

Restaurant boss Parag Bhatnagar said: "We are delighted to be able to support our local football club who are also near neighbours."

"Hopefully this sponsorship deal will be a recipe for success."

The man-of-the-match prize will be a meal for two off the restaurants ala carte menu.

Parag is pictured presenting a man-of-the-match award to club captain Tom Hardwick (right) who has been re-joined at the club by his brother Rob from local rivals Runcorn Linnets.

The Spirit Restaurant is the latest in a growing list of local businesses and organisations showing their support to Warrington Town.

Others include Warrington Collegiate, TailorMade Group, Network Warrington, Warrington Council, Priestley College and the Environment Agency.



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Charlotte is a 'young ambassador'

CARING for others and helping individuals and local organisations has led to Warrington's Charlotte Smith winning the title of North West Young Ambassador.

She has been nominated to enter the national finals in Birmingham next month.

A pupil of Birchwood Sixth Form College, 17-year-old Charlotte was nominated by Birchwood Lions after several meetings and interviews.

She has travelled to South Africa frequently, assisting with learning facilities for an orphanage as well as helping others in the local community less fortunate than herself.

Winning the competition not only meant that Charlotte received a trophy but she also received a large sum of money to be donated to the needy causes of her choice.

Lions President Ken Whibley said: "Charlotte is one of the most dedicated young persons I have ever met. All too often we hear of negative comments about a minority of young people. In Charlotte, we have a shining example of the good which exists in the majority of our youngsters."



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**Celebrating the
International Day of
Disabled People
3rd December**



Warrington Disability Partnership (WDP)

WDP is a user led voluntary organisation which actively promotes independent living throughout life and work. Based in Warrington; our team consists of 12 trustees / directors, 220 volunteers and just under 50 paid staff who together deliver a range of services directly or in partnership with health and social care providers, education/employment services and a wide range of local support groups and services.

Chair of Trustees & Chief Officer Report

Dave Thompson MBE DL (Chair) & Jayne Horton (Chief Officer)

On behalf of 'Team WDP' we are delighted to welcome you to our 2011 Annual Report.

We thought that 2010 was a great year for WDP but the past twelve months have been even better. However, it didn't start off that way! Last December, whilst the team was working hard to deliver a huge programme of Christmas fundraising activities, work was going on behind the scenes to assess if we could afford to run the 20th Anniversary 'Disability Awareness Day'. In early January we tabled a proposal to the Trustees that included a 20% reduction in the budget and a shortfall of £25,000, an ambitious plan. We are pleased to say that the Trustees voted unanimously to back our proposal to spend the next six months raising the money.

In February we launched the first 'Going the Extra Mile' event titled 'the Scuba Challenge'. Sixty four lengths of Fordton Leisure Centres swimming pool certainly captured everyone's imagination! Over twenty scuba divers and swimmers completed the challenge raising over £18,000. More importantly it raised awareness of our campaign, attracting several individual donors and three new sponsors. Taking the total raised to over £30,000. This proved vital when, in June, two more sponsors pulled out. We would like to thank Terry Woods and his team from Cybaqua for their support.



Also in February Fiona Philips visited the Centre to film a Panorama Special on unemployment, which featured our employment team. Several more TV production teams have expressed interest in our sex and disability project.

News wasn't as good for three local charities, as they announced closure during the year, the Griffiths Court Foundation, Warrington Community Law Centre and the Council for Voluntary Services.

In March we launched the Disability Trading Company (DTC), the trading arm of WDP. This uses a social enterprise model with profits transferred to WDP to help maintain current services and to enable us to develop new services. DTC has already been recognised by the Department of Health and has received interest from other voluntary organisations, local authorities and Primary Care Trusts.

Throughout April fundraising was high on the agenda, with our usual Easter activities, Manchester 10k Run, and events held by other organisations including Warrington Swimming Club. Our annual team 'Away Day' attracted over 100 Team Members including Trustees, staff and volunteers. As well as sharing our plans, the event also provides an opportunity to share ideas and any concerns. During the day we worked towards developing a set of organisational values, setting out our collective vision on how we should conduct ourselves.

May started off with the 'Kayak Challenge' that was developed under the banner of 'Going the Extra Mile'. It brought together new supporters and added an extra buzz. WDP's learners celebrated success at the Adult Learners Awards, David Carey received the 'John Tickle' Disabled Learners Award and WDP received the overall 'Group' award. During May we launched our 'Young Persons Forum' which has continued to grow throughout the year.



In June we signed off 3 years work on the £1.3million refurbishment project of the Centre for Independent Living. The Lord Lieutenant of Cheshire David Briggs MBE, led the official opening ceremony in front of sixty invited guests. It was a very special day for 'Team WDP' and our partners Warrington Borough Council. Together we would like to thank the Big Lottery for the main grant of over £923,000, and our other supporters including WREN, St Georges Healthcare Group, Bond Hotel and Fairview Windows, plus the hundreds of people who supported our massive fundraising efforts.

The 10th July marked the 20th Anniversary of Disability Awareness Day, capping a fantastic week that met with a royal seal of approval from Her Royal Highness the Countess of Wessex. Her presence attracted massive media interest including a team from Granada Reports who returned for Sundays main event, both resulted in reports on ITV's regional news. Our VIP guests included eight government officials from Thailand and a World War Two Dakota fly past. The day was made even more memorable with news that the Message Institute based in India had run a successful Disability Awareness Day on the 10th July, making DAD 2011a truly international event. Later in the month, the Minister for Civil Society Nick Hurd MP visited the Centre.

In September 'Team WDP' held our 20th Anniversary celebrations at the Town Hall. We were honoured to be joined by fellow founder members Eric James and Alan Shaw; this was the first time that we had been together for nearly 16 years. During the event we also announced our new Community Patrons, Professor Steven Broomhead, John Gartside OBE, Lord Doug Hoyle, Pete Pinnington, Peter Ives, Liz Smith and Dr Sarah Baker.

October saw the opening of our new Mobility and Independent Living Store that we have developed in partnership with the Golden Square Management Team. In mid-October we ran our 8th annual North West Positive Action Awards where 14 awards were presented to individuals, small and large employers, service providers and voluntary organisations. We would like to thank NHS North West, Arena Housing and Sellafield Limited for their support.

Looking back, 2011 has been a year packed with milestones. Looking ahead there will be many challenges in maintaining the funds required to deliver our current services. Our Disability Trading Company and new retail store are two initiatives aimed at raising new funds. During the year ahead we will continue to review our current services, and we will look for new opportunities.

On behalf of 'Team WDP' we would like to thank all of our partners for their continuing support, our fellow Trustees/Directors, staff, volunteers, the people who use our services and everyone who has supported us during the past year.

We look forward to working with you all next year.

Thank you

Dave & Jayne

HOT OFF THE PRESS.... WDP were recently named as Wire FM's Employer of the Year, Dave Thompson MBE DL received the Lifetime Achievement Award and within a few days he was awarded an Honorary Degree (MBA) for the work he has done over the years supporting and empowering disabled people.

Warrington Disability Partnership Board of Directors/Trustees and Senior Management Team ensures that the organisation operates within the legal framework laid down by the Charities Commission and Companies House. They strongly support the Senior Managers with the overall management of our services.

The Board consists of:

- Dave Thompson MBE DL MBA – Chair
- Pat Kitto – Deputy Chair
- Sue Bentley – Treasurer
- Dave Cheetham – Secretary
- Terry Wadsworth
- Gary Skentelbery
- Chris Molyneux
- Ian Richardson
- Karen Beaton
- Jan Pritchard
- Eileen MacDonald
- Ian Grant (co-opted)
- Sarah Hall (co-opted)
- Jeff Greenwood (co-opted)
- Scott Beaton (Financial Advisor - co-opted)
- Simon Banks (Retired July 2011)

Senior Managers:

- Jayne Horton – Chief Officer • Brun Corbishley & Dave Connor – Assistant Operations Managers

Visit our website: www.disabilitypartnership.org.uk



Access and Training

Self financed through income generation

Throughout the year our teams have continued to provide advice and support to 46 local businesses, developers, architects, voluntary groups and individuals. This advice ranges from general telephone enquiries to site visits and audit reports. Our staff have delivered disability awareness training to 718 people.

Making A Difference

"The Audit has provided us with a fuller understanding of the issues we have on site. It has provided us a working document to address the needs of all disabled people. We would recommend WDP to work with other Companies"

Accessible Caravans

Self financed from income generation and donations

Our two holiday homes in North Wales provide disabled people, their families or carers the opportunity to take an accessible and affordable holiday. Both of our caravan holiday homes have been designed to provide inclusive access for disabled people.

'Grenadier', based on the the Harts site in Pensarn took 15 bookings during 2011. 'Guillemot' based on the Lyons Robin Hood site in Rhyl took 18 bookings.

Making A Difference

"What a lovely and pleasant caravan to stay in. It was clean and spacious and not what we expected from a rented caravan. There were plenty equipment available for use there and knowing we could loan a scooter from the CIL helped as well. This is the first time we have been able to holiday together for years and it has been just what we needed."

Benefits Advice

This service is un-funded

Our benefits advice service is run predominantly by volunteers meeting clients who require support to complete benefit application forms. During the past year we have secured over £615,000 in benefits for 322 local people. These include Disability Living Allowance, Attendance Allowance, Carers Allowance, Employment Support Allowance, Income Support and Pension Credits. General advice was given to a further 558 people.

Making A Difference

"I really don't know what I would do without the help for my DLA forms, I am really grateful; the advice given was very helpful"

Centre for Independent Living

Equipment Showroom – Funded by NHS Warrington & supported by Warrington Borough Council
Wheelchair Loan and Equipment Hire Service – Self financed through donations



Our Equipment Showroom has a range of independent living equipment on display including bathing, toileting, mobility, stair lifts, recliner chairs, and adjustable beds. Following the launch of our Disability Trading Company in February 2011, the range of products now available to purchase from the Showroom has been expanded to include larger items (scooters, recliner chairs, etc). Our staff and volunteers also offer information and advice on a wide range of other topics including sensory impairments; accessible holidays, days out and work closely with local Housing and Care Call services.

During the year, 15,105 people have visited the Centre and we received 3,834 telephone enquiries to the showroom. We also loaned out 732 wheelchairs, and 76 pieces of equipment to local people. Our team of 12 volunteers dedicated 2,567 volunteer hours.

Making a difference

"I visited the CIL with my family in need of some help and advice on equipment, was in the process of waiting to see a doctor and still unaware what my illness or disability was. The staff spent time with us explaining what was available and discussed how to get my own permanent wheelchair. We loaned a wheelchair whilst waiting to be assessed and also purchased a few small daily living aids to help me around the home. A few weeks later I came back with my family to give an update on my prognosis and took information away on Shopmobility, Direct Payments and WDP's Learning Centre activities."
Thank You



Community Cafe (The Galleries)

*Self financed from income generation
Furniture funded by a West Area Neighbourhood Board Grant and
Conservatory Supported by Fairview Windows*

Our Galleries Community Cafe is a pleasant place to stop for a rest and a bite to eat. You can have a tea, coffee, soft drinks, snacks or a meal after you have explored the wide range of equipment available in our showrooms.

We also provide a catering service which is available for outside catering or for use if you have booked one of our meeting rooms. We have served 2,734 lunches and buffet lunches for 432 people during the last year.

Making A Difference

"Lovely food, good atmosphere and a warm welcome. Nothing is too much trouble and we enjoy coming in."



Disability Awareness Day (DAD) 2011

Principally sponsored by NHS Warrington, also sponsored by 5 Boroughs Partnership NHS Foundation Trust, Arena Housing Group, BT Retail, NHS Northwest, NHS Western Cheshire, Avanta, Warrington Borough Council, Warrington Collegiate, Warrington & Halton Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Warrington Retail Ltd Partnership, David Lewis, Cynthia & Francois Salluys, St George Healthcare Group

This year's 20th anniversary event attracted 240 exhibitors and 28,000 visitors. Our team dedicated 2,640 volunteer hours. A huge fundraising effort contributed over £30,000 to this year's event.

During DAD Week 2011, the team were honoured to receive a royal visit from HRH Sophie Countess of Wessex to the 'Inspire Your Life' event, organised by 5 Boroughs Partnership NHS Foundation Trust. This, as well as a fly-past from an RAF Dakota, visitors from the Thai government, DAD India and media coverage including two news reports on Granada TV made the 20th Anniversary event, one to remember.

Making A Difference

"I would like to thank you all for such a fantastic day out last Sunday. I enjoyed it so much. The popularity of the event seems to have increased greatly. I have never seen so many people there before and I do go every year. DAD visitors"



Disability Information Point – Warrington Retail Market

Staffing is self funded, the stall space is supported by Warrington Borough Council's Retail Market

Our team provide information and advice on a wide range of disability related support. We also operate a satellite Shopmobility service, which offers scooters, electric and manual wheelchairs. Our team actively support our Fundraising and Events programme.

Throughout the year 18 volunteers have helped to answer 4,939 enquiries and co-ordinate 1,024 loans of our scooters and wheelchairs.

Making A Difference

'The people of Warrington are extremely lucky to have such services, we have nothing like this down south. I needed specific information on certain health matters. The team at WDP were very helpful and resourceful'

Engagement & Partnerships

WDP are represented at over 120 meetings locally, regionally and nationally to ensure that disability matters are on the meeting Agenda. Meetings range from local Support Groups to Warrington's Local Strategic Partnership and the national Sexual Health & Disability Alliance. This ensures that we are promoting social inclusion and breaking down barriers.

Employment Team

Funded through Skills for Jobs 'Routeways' programme by Warrington Borough Council plus Work Programme sub-contract from Avanta and funded through Department for Work and Pensions and European Social Fund plus sub-contract from Greater Merseyside Connexions funded through Skills Funding Agency plus other funding support via Lancashire Colleges Consortium.

The team provides a user led accredited Information, Advice and Guidance service and supports volunteering, work placements, supported employment, work trials, and routes towards part and full time employment. We deliver the mainstream 'next step' service, (166 advice sessions delivered this year), and the recently launched government 'Work Programme'.

The Lavender Hill project, for people aged 50 and over, provides skills, financial and health checks to improve training and work opportunities. A scoping project in partnership with WBC's Supported Employment Team provides learning and work opportunities for people with learning difficulties/disabilities.

Work Clubs and Can-Do clubs are at 10 venues supporting local engagement and the Health and Wellbeing of residents. Employers are supported to sign up for the 'Two Ticks' disability symbol and to promote best practice in recruitment and retention alongside mental health and wellbeing in the workplace. The team also advises on 'Access to Work' and administers the 'Towards Work Support Fund', from which 44 local people have benefitted.

The team now supports a total of 965 clients, of which, (281 new clients for 2011). Throughout the year 3,887 phone enquiries have been received and 58 clients have successfully gained employment.

Making A Difference

'Thank you for the casual but professional way in which my son has been supported. We have never been able to achieve what you have done and time and initiative has been taken to motivate him to get a job. He now feels part of a working life and happy earning a wage. This has made him feel human again.'

Finance & Payroll

Self financed through income generation

Our team offer a payroll service for Direct Payment users and small businesses. This includes registration of all employers/businesses with the Inland Revenue, processing payroll from time-sheets, producing payslips and ensuring all Tax and National Insurance are paid to the Inland Revenue by due dates. We also support our Treasurer and Chief Officer in producing Management Account Reports for the Board of Trustees and Project Management Reports for Team Leaders to submit to funders.

The Payroll team currently support 299 employers, with 504 employees. Throughout the year, the team have received 2267 phone enquiries.

Making A Difference

'I would not be able to manage without the support of the Payroll Team, which has always been reliable and enabled me to have a more independent lifestyle, due to their help with accounts, finances and payroll'

Fundraising, Promotions & Community Engagement

***Community Engagement financed through LSPA funding.
All other areas self-financed through donations and fundraising***

Fundraising plays a vital role in supporting many of the self financing or un-funded services offered by WDP.

Our calendar over the last twelve months has been busier than ever with over 80 events attended. These included community events, carnivals and information days, alongside our own Easter & Christmas tombolas, raffles, "Santa's Grotto", Going the Extra Mile Events, the Bupa 10K and Disability Awareness Day. Around 32,000 were engaged with at these events, which have all helped to raise awareness of disability and the services offered by WDP. In addition, our Community Engagement officer liaises with local community groups further promoting our services.

Earlier this year, we were proud to have been appointed 'Charity of the Year' for Sainsbury's Warrington and thank the team for their continued support.

Making A Difference

"I have enjoyed supporting the fundraising team immensely; I take particular pleasure in giving something back to the community and a charity that does so much for so many people."



Independent Living Team

Funded by Warrington Borough Council Direct Payments Service Level Agreement.

The Independent Living Team supports clients throughout the whole process of setting up and running their 'Direct Payment' and 'Personal Budgets'. This supports them with their independence, whether it may be using an agency or employing their own Personal Assistant (PA).

The support includes recruiting, advertising, interviewing, contracts of employment, Employer Liability Insurance and Criminal Records Bureau checks, along with any day to day problems they may have with the running of the Direct Payment. We also work closely with our Payroll Service to process wages, holidays, tax calculations and pay slips. The Independent Living Team have also been involved in a 'Support Brokerage' pilot project, ran by Warrington Borough Council, for clients receiving Personal Budgets.

The Independent Living Team currently supports 482 clients. 137 referrals have been received during the past 12 months.

Making A Difference

'I think we are incredibly lucky to have this organisation locally and I would recommend them to anyone who was caring for a disabled love one'

Learning Centre & Meeting Rooms

Funded by Warrington Borough Council's Life Long Learning and supported by Leonard Cheshire, UK online, Warrington Collegiate and WREN.

Our Learning Centre has received 3,618 visitors, including visitors to our Discover IT Suite, Meeting Rooms and participants in a wide range of classes.

Our Discover IT Suite runs a variety of classes for disabled people, their families, their carers and members of the local community. Specialist software, along with adapted keyboards, mice, fully height adjustable desks aims to make this facility accessible to everyone.

During the past 12 months we have had 851 meeting room bookings, 1,935 IT sessions and over 720 hours in the Discover IT Suite. These include: 'Computers for the Terrified', 'Basic IT for Learning Disabilities', 'Office Skills IT' and 'OCR Functional Skills' from Entry Level to Level 2.

We also offer a Camera Club, and members are involved with photo taking at WDP events, and other classes such as, "Confidence" and 'Arts & Crafts', which we are able to run in liaison with Warrington Collegiate.

Making A Difference

"There is no pressure; a relaxed atmosphere makes it easier to learn. The Tutor is very patient and will explain things as many times as you need. The course has built my confidence"



Leisure, Recreation and Sport

**Funded by Warrington Borough Council and Cheshire & Warrington Sports Partnership
Working in partnership with ASET, Aiming High for Disabled Children, Warrington Youth Club, NSPCC,
Warrington Wolves Foundation and Warrington Swimming Club.**

The team has been involved in a number of community based projects:

- Planet Blue Youth Club – for 11 to 25 years olds with an average of 43 participants per week and over 100 members.
- Disability Inclusive Sports Club (DISC) – for 11 – 19 year olds, attracts around 15 young people per week.
- Mini Disability Inclusive Sports Club (Mini DISC) – for 5 – 11 year olds with an average of 23 attendees per week.
- One Wednesday Can't Hurt (OWCH) Pain Management Support Group – with around 12 attendees per week.
- Children's Inclusive Swimming Club – for 5 – 18 year olds, with 7 swimmers per session.
- Wheelchair Sports Club – for anyone 11+ plus with an average of 6 people per session.
- Sports Unlimited (5 Hour Offer) – developing an 8 to 10 weeks initiative highlighting inclusive activities for young disabled people with an average of 38 people per session. This project finished in March.
- Leisure, Recreation & Sports Forum – meets quarterly at WDP with an average of 10 people attending per meeting. The forum looks at ongoing provision in the area. It discusses key developments and success in the area to avoid duplication of services. This is a chance to share guidance and support of both local authority and voluntary sector organisations.
- Inclusive Disco – monthly Discos are held at Chicago Rock for Young Adults aged 18+, with an average 20 people attending per week.

Making A Difference

"The Sporting Opportunities which WDP provides are second to none. Their understanding of my child's needs has meant I can enjoy an hour or so without worry"

Mobility & Independent Living Store

Developed in partnership with the Golden Square Management Team (Lend Lease). Staffing is self-funded.

Our new Mobility & Independent Living Store opened its doors in October. The central location of the shop in the Golden Square shopping mall brings greater accessibility for tens of thousands of disabled people and their families to this and other services from WDP.

The Store offers an extensive range of high quality independent living products at affordable prices backed up by a wide range of support services including our Mobility Workshop and Service Centre.

We have followed national recommendations to develop this new service and we are already receiving interest from councils, primary care trusts and other user led organisations with a view to them developing similar services.

Making A Difference

"The staff are very welcoming and friendly and have a really good knowledge of the products and equipment."

Positive Action Awards 2011 & Appreciation of Efforts Awards 2010

**Positive Action Awards (PAA) sponsored by NHS Northwest, Sellafield Ltd & Arena Housing Group
Appreciation of Efforts Awards (AoE) supported by Warrington Borough Council & Warrington-Worldwide**

Giving an opportunity for disabled people and carers living in the Northwest (PAA) and Warrington (AoE) to nominate employers, businesses, service providers or individuals that deserve recognition for promoting independence, delivering accessible and/or inclusive services, or maintaining exemplary employment practices for disabled people and/or carers.

2011 Positive Action Awards Winners

Hannah Al -Taraboulsy, Warrington Guardian
Stem by Stem Florist, Wirral
Northern School of Asian & Oriental Cooking, Barrow in Furness
No Secrets, Knowsley
Warrington Swimming Club
Canalside Community Radio, South Cheshire
Graham Barker, KPAC, Knowsley
Congleton Disabled Access Group
Halton Autistic Family Support
Mosaic Community Care Ltd., Preston
The Wheel of Manchester, Great City Attractions
The ALEX Project, Macclesfield
Terry Woods & Cybaqua, Warrington
Carly Ryan

Stem by Stem Florist won the Sponsor's award on the evening.

Making A Difference

'I still cannot believe that I was chosen for an award, out of so many worthy people, Judith is on cloud 9. It is so lovely to see the boost this has given her. She is more determined than ever to be a florist and it's her determination and hard work that has made it possible. This award has made her say "nothing is going to stop me" and that is just wonderful.' **Stem by Stem Florist – Wirral**

2010 Appreciation of Efforts Winners 2010

Adrian Derbyshire
Emma Parkes – 5 Boroughs Partnership NHS
Foundation Trust
Keith & Philip Parrot
Marjorie Cain & John Wilkins - Macintyre Care
BNFL
Eileen McDonald
Kath McElroy
Elizabeth Charnock
Warrington Borough Council – Sensory Team
Warrington Retail Market

Relationships, Sex & Disability Matters

Funded by NHS Warrington, NHS Halton and St Helens

This innovative service is nationally recognised for tackling this very sensitive subject. Enquiries are received via our Centre for Independent Living, Disability Information Point (Warrington Retail Market), website and telephone.

The wide range of information provided in our 'Relationships & Sex Matters' packs are used by professionals or individuals to offer support and advice on the issues concerning sex and disability.

WDP is a member of the Sexual Health and Disability Alliance (SHADA) Group and this project has close links with Leonard Cheshire Disability. We attend regular 'Local Implementation Group' (LIG) meetings to ensure that disabled people are given the correct support from local NHS groups and Sexual Health services.

Making A Difference

"Having the information pack has enabled our organisation to support and advise people on issues surrounding relationships, sexual health and disability".

Shopmobility Warrington

Funded by Warrington Borough Council and supported by Golden Square Management, Lend Lease and Warrington Bus Interchange

Our Shopmobility service provides a vital life line for its 583 registered members who require mobility support to shop in the Warrington Town Centre and Golden Square. 390 day visitors have also used this service during the past 12 months.

Satellite services are available at Warrington Bus Interchange and the Disability Information Point in Warrington Retail Market.

During the past 12 months, our team of volunteers have given 3,470 hours, assisting in the loan of 6,053 scooters for 17,833 hours.

Making A Difference

"I can't stand or walk very well and being able to use one of your scooters means I can get out and about and do my shopping and also allowed me to be more independent. If this service wasn't available I would have to rely on my husband to do all the shopping."

Supporters

Special thanks go to our everyone listed throughout this report, Team WDP and everyone who helps to support our services. A list of thanks is available on www.disabilitypartnership.org.uk – we couldn't run our services without your continued support. Thank You.



positive
Action Awards
NORTHWEST



Volunteering

Volunteer Co-ordinator funded by Lloyds TSB
Many areas self financed from donations

We currently have a team of 220 volunteers, consisting of 140 regular volunteers across our services and another 80 volunteers who support DAD and ad hoc Fundraising events. In the last year, volunteers gave 30,605 hours to ensure we continue to provide the effective service our customers have come to expect.

Volunteers are spread over 17 departments with a number of Support Workers to ensure that all volunteers have regular support and the opportunity to develop their skills. 2 volunteers have achieved their NVQ level 2 in Customer Services and Business Administration through train to gain.

Our main switchboard is staffed by volunteers with years of experience and the Main Office dealt with 54,708 incoming and 30,008 outgoing calls during the past year

The outstanding contribution by WDP volunteers can be seen by looking at the number of hours completed and the financial cost. Should they be paid by the National Minimum Wage this would cost the organisation £188,078.40.

Making A Difference

'Since I have been involved with volunteering at WDP my confidence and self esteem has grown tremendously. There was a time I would hardly leave the house, but volunteering got me back on track with my life and made me feel part of a team. It has helped me develop my life skills, social skills and even my IT skills! WDP picked me up when I was down, caught me when I fell and gave me the support I needed to feel like myself again. I have made friends here that I happily call my family and that is what I will always remember about my time at WDP.'

Warrington Disability Forum (WDF)

Self financed from donations

The Warrington Disability Forum provides monthly meetings for consultation and information exchange with guest speakers ranging from the Warrington Borough Council's Deaf Services Consultation, Better Health services for people with Learning Disabilities (WBC & NHS Warrington) and Disability Hate Crime.

The Forum has a lively Agenda for discussion with on average an attendance of 17 members per meeting. In total there are 87 active members which include individuals and organisations with an interest in disability matters.

Making A Difference

"Warrington Disability Forum has allowed me to speak openly about disability matters which affect me and others in a safe environment knowing that it will be listened to, taken seriously and passed on".

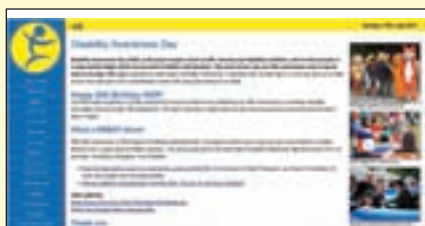
Websites, Facebook & Twitter

Self financed from donations

Overview

WDP operates five websites, all of which are built to a high standard of accessibility:

- **Disability Awareness Day - www.disabilityawarenessday.org.uk**
20,065 visitors during the past 12 months (615,201 hits).
- **Facebook, Twitter & Linked-In**
During the past 12 months, WDP have continued to promote our services through the development of social networking. Regular updates and new items are posted by Ollie Owl our WDP mascot on Facebook (Ollie Bird) and Twitter (@olliethowl). Members of the team are also members of Linked-In.
- **Positive Action Awards - www.positiveactionawards.org.uk**
2,856 visitors have entered the site over the past 12 months.
- **Warrington Disability Partnership - www.disabilitypartnership.org.uk**
25,339 visitors in the past 12 months (672,017 hits)
- **Warrington Access Guide - www.warringtonaccessguide.org.uk**
29,435 visitors in the last 12 months.
- **Disability Trading Company- www.disabilitytradingcompany.co.uk**
From July, the site has received 820 visitors (34,201 hits).



Wizard Narrow Boat

Self funded from income generation and donations; supported by Thorn Marine and the Barn Owl, Lymm

The Wizard is a unique wheelchair accessible 40 foot narrow boat that offers low cost day trips to the disabled people, their families, carers and support groups within the local community along the scenic Bridgewater Canal. During 2011, our team of volunteers have completed 3,069 volunteer hours to assist with 100 trips.

Making A Difference

"We had a nice relaxing day out with an enjoyable meal at the Barn Owl. The weather was great as well which adds to the overall enjoyment of the day. This boat enables our family to have an inclusive day out together and caters for our different abilities."



Workshop & Mobility Test Track

***Workshop is self financing from income generation
Test Track is funded by St George Healthcare Group***

Our purpose built Workshop offers servicing and repairs for a wide range of mobility products. Our collection and delivery service can pick up your equipment and we can even offer similar equipment on a free of charge loan, whilst work is being carried out. We also accept donations of second mobility equipment, which is refurbished where possible and sold on at a discounted rate.

Our Mobility Test Track is available for training purposes for anyone who wishes to gain confidence or learn how to use a piece of mobility equipment safely



Young Ambassadors

Self financing through income generation & donations

Our Young Ambassadors work with schools, colleges and youth groups to raise awareness and break down barriers and stigma attached to all disabilities. 40 talks (average of 200 young people per talk) have taken place during 2011. In May our team started the Young People's Forum to help young disabled people and carers get their voice heard.

Making A Difference

"I really couldn't have wished for a better place to take part in the life programme than at WDP. The staff there made me feel right at home and comfortable. The life programme itself is an fantastic experience for learners to really understand how things work at an organisation and all the effort put in to it. I would recommend it to anyone the friends you make and the experiences you gain are well worth the go!"

Over 20 years service and we have delivered approximately:

- Over 560,000 telephone calls handled by the Team
- Over £250,000 raised for charities from Pin Badges
- Over 400,000 people have attended DAD events
- Over £750,000 raised by charities attending DAD
- Over 450,000 volunteer hours
- Over 2,000,000 hits on DAD website
- Over 250 organisations and individuals have received recognition via Appreciation of Efforts Awards & Positive Action Awards
- Over 5,000 individual wheelchair loans
- Over £4,000,000 secured in disability benefits
- Over £2,000,000 spent by Shopmobility members
- Provided disability access advice on over £100 million worth of projects across the town

LOG ON TO OUR WEBSITE FOR REGULAR NEWS ITEMS
www.disabilitypartnership.org.uk

Going the **EXTRA** MILE

Weekend of Challenges

Saturday, 25th & Sunday, 26th February
ARE YOU UP FOR IT?



Going the Extra Mile Challenges include:

Kayak
Run

Treadmill

Cross Trainer

Exercise Bike

Cycle

Hand Cycle

Swim

Scuba

Walk

Row

Wheelchair Push

Parachute Jump

Bungee



To accept the challenge please go to
www.disabilitypartnership.org.uk
and click on the link to Going the Extra Mile

For further information contact our Fundraising Team on

01925 240064

or email fundraisingadmin@disabilitypartnership.org.uk



What makes Warrington Market the best?

AWARDS

BBC Young Fishmonger of The Year

Andrew Leicester wins top BBC National Award

Best Market

Traders scoop best indoor market in UK 2009

Employee of The Year

Market Manager, Steve Pickering chosen from over 2 million local government employees

Business Award

Christina Houghton wins a Warrington Guardian business award for her business 'Window Dreams'

Outstanding Achievement

Steve Pickering wins national award for outstanding contribution to market industry

Customer Service

Market staff awarded NVO qualifications for outstanding customer service

Community Contribution

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

A SERIES OF GREAT TOWN CENTRE EVENTS

Warrington Food Festival
Fair Trade Market
Health and Wellbeing Day
Classic Transport Show
National Playday
Annual Farmers Market
BIG Christmas Market
Santas Grotto

**All this plus 135 Outstanding Traders
and 600 Market Staff make Warrington Market the best!**

Award winning Warrington Market
Open: Monday – Saturday 9am-5pm



WM widdows mason

WM SOLICITORS

WM Established since 1878

Widdows Mason... the approachable solicitors

With the start of a new year it is well documented that three of the most stressful situations that people can face in life are:-

1. moving house;
2. the death of a family member or;
3. divorce/separation

The reality is at some stage in our lives we will all inevitably be faced in these situations.

In such difficult times, understandably it is not always easy to think straight and make rational decisions and at Widdows Mason we believe we can help you through it.

We have a wealth experience in assisting people moving house, following the death of a loved one or following a separation. It is our responsibility to ease the pressure and guide our client through difficult times.

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Client care matters to us at Widdows Mason and we are happy to spend time with anyone who finds themselves in any of the situations I have mentioned or any other legal problem. We offer an initial free, no obligation consultation and invite you to take us up on that offer.

So while wishing all our clients old and new a happy, healthy and prosperous new year don't forget if any of life's stressful situations are affecting you now - Widdows Mason are here to help - and our first consultation is FREE!



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

Friends and family who drive too fast

JUST over half of drivers believe they have a family member who drives too fast – while 56 per cent say they have a family member frightened to drive on motorways.

This is revealed in an AA survey which also finds that 35 per cent of motorists have a family member who drives while using a mobile phone, eating, shaving or putting on make-up.

Young drivers (18-to-24) are more critical of their friends' driving than any other age group. Almost three quarters of 18-24 year-olds believe they have a friend who drives too fast; 70 per cent say they have a friend who "tailgates" and 79 per cent have a friend who drives while using a mobile, shaving, eating or doing their make-up.

Drivers aged 65 or older are less likely to have a friend they think drives too fast (43 per cent), tailgates (48 per cent) or drives while using a mobile, shaving, eating or doing their make-up (50%).

AA president Edmund King said: "A worrying number of us think our friends, families and colleagues have illegal and dangerous driving habits."

"Young people are particularly likely to have noticed dangerous driving habits amongst their friends."

"There is no way someone would pass their driving test if they displayed these types of behaviour, so there is no place for it on our roads."

However, when questioned about their own driving skills, most motorists were confident of their abilities. More than 70 per cent said they were "quite" or "very" good at sticking to speed limits. Nearly 90 per cent denied tailgating and said they were "quite" or "very" good at keeping a safe distance from a car in front of them.

Crossover SUV with breakthrough technology



The Mazda CX-5

MAZDA have chosen its CX-5 compact crossover SUV to introduce its breakthrough Skyactiv technology to the UK.

The car arrives in showrooms in April and Mazda claim the Skyactiv technology helps make the CX-5 the lightest and most fuel efficient car in its class. The entry level 148bhp diesel will take the car from 0-62mph in 9.2 seconds but also return 62.8mpg, with an ultra-low 119g/km CO2 figure that means road tax is free for the first year.

Mazda offers a choice of 148bhp and 172bhp diesels alongside a 163bhp petrol engine. The latter two can be specified with four-wheel drive, but the lower-powered diesel is only available as a front-wheel-drive model.

In Japan, the Skyactiv technology is already making waves. Mazda have won the Japan Automobile Hall of Fame "car technology of the year" award with a re-vamped Demio - known over here as the Mazda2 - equipped with the new technology. Critics are already praising the diesel engines which they say feels more like a petrol engine than any other four-cylinder diesel on the market.

The CX-5 is also an extremely practical crossover, with a 503-litre boot and rear seats which fold flat into the floor at the touch of a button to provide a 1,603-litre load area. During the coming year, Skyactiv technology will be introduced in a whole new generation of Mazda cars.

Campaigners win 20-year battle for station bridge

CAMPAIGNERS have won a 20-year battle to get a new bridge, with access for the disabled at Birchwood railway station.

The Department for Transport has announced it is making a £1 million "Access for All" grant towards the cost of a new footbridge, with two lifts for the disabled, linking the two platforms at Birchwood station.

A partnership made up of the borough council, Warrington Disability Partnership, Birchwood Forum, Stronger Together, Cheshire and Warrington LEP, Birchwood Town Council and others backed the bid.

Total cost the project, expected to

be completed in two years' time, is £1.4 million. Match funding of £390,000 has already been made available through the borough council.

Dave Thompson, chairman of Warrington Disability Partnership, said: "This is fantastic news for the whole community, not just for disabled people, also parents with pushchairs and prams, children, frail elderly, and those who have temporary impairments."

Ex-library reopens - with books galore!

THE former Great Sankey library - closed because of borough council funding cuts - has been given a new lease of life offering books and a whole lot more.

Nearby residents were devastated when the library in Marina Avenue, closed in March.

But now Kings Church, based at nearby Penketh, has teamed up with the borough council to re-launch it as Kings Community Centre.

It now houses hundreds of books, ranging from classics to children's. Membership is free and people can borrow up to three books.

But the fun does not stop there - there is also a free jigsaw lending service and a toy corner where parents can sit and chat while their children play.

Visitors can also enjoy a free tea or coffee while they relax in a lounge area with armchairs and settees.

The hall can be booked by members of the community for a small fee - and is already proving a popular venue.

Kings Community Choir meets at the hall on Tuesdays and other groups include a walking group and youth group.

Volunteers staff the centre from 10am to 2pm Monday to Friday. Anyone interested in finding out more about the centre can call in or ring 07970 329875.

Wood backs white ribbon campaign



Paul Wood at Warrington Collegiate congratulating the students on their impressive work supporting the campaign.

Warrington Wolves star Paul Wood teamed up with students at Warrington Collegiate in their support of the White Ribbon Campaign.

Public Services students at the college decided to take a stand against Domestic Violence by raising awareness among their peers through the production of a presentation, leaflets and posters, as well as fundraising for the national White Ribbon Campaign.

The students were inspired by Wood, who spoke about White Ribbon Campaign encouraging men of all ages to pledge that they will never commit, condone or remain silent about domestic violence and abuse.

"We at Warrington Wolves are all backing the White Ribbon appeal. I think it is fantastic that we are trying to challenge domestic violence within our society. Making people aware it goes on via this campaign may go some way to helping the violence to stop."

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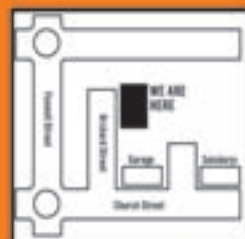
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Kath and Sally drop in at No 10



TWO members of staff from Warrington Borough Council's Children and Young People's Services visited Downing Street to mark the launch of Family Footings, a new project for families of children with learning disabilities.

Kath Hingston, area team manager (left) and Sally McGrail, commissioning manager (right), joined more than 80 invited guests and staff from charity group MacIntyre, to mark the creation of the project.

Family Footings helps parents understand and negotiate the special educational needs system. It provides families with simple planning tools to work out what is best for the child and the family.

The project also brings families with disabled children together to share experiences and gain information that will enhance their family life.

The evening was an opportunity for key stakeholders across the country to find out more about the project, meet members of the project team and have a unique opportunity to go inside the doors of Number 10!

Kath and Sally are working with MacIntyre locally to explore ways in which they can involve families across Warrington.

Kath said: "We would like the project to focus particularly on working with families with young children or those approaching transition into adulthood, to help to ensure services and support are responsive to their individual needs."

More details about Family Footings can be obtained from Kath or Sally on 01925 444063 or from the website www.familyfootings.org

£7 million health centre needs a name

A BRAND new £7 million health centre will open in Warrington later this year - and health chiefs want the public to have a say in naming it.

Work is well under way on construction of the centre which will replace the existing Garven Place centre in Sankey Street and will bring a number of key health services together under one roof.

The development makes use of the site of the now demolished Warrington Baths.


NHS Warrington is asking local people to put forward their suggestions for a name for the building, which is due to be completed by November.

The name could have local historical, health or geographical significance, or it could even be a word that sums up what the centre will do.

The building will accommodate a pharmacy and two GP practices serving 9,000 registered patients as well as a number of services for the wider community, including breast screening, child health and dental services. More car parking spaces will be made available for patients.

Suggested names should be sent in writing to NHS Warrington, Communications Department, Millennium House, 930 - 932 Birchwood Boulevard, Birchwood, WA3 7QN or by email to Communications@warrington-pct.nhs.uk

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By David Watkinson

It is never too soon to plan for the current tax year

Like all firms of accountants we are currently deeply involved in ensuring that client's tax returns for 2011 are submitted by the due date of 31st January 2012. However, it is never too soon to plan for the current tax year which ends on 5th April 2012. There are some tax saving opportunities available which must be used before the end of the tax year or be lost.

One clear example is an investment into an Individual Savings Plan (ISA). During the current tax year, any individual can invest up to £10,680 into an ISA. Of this, a maximum of £5,340 can be put into a cash ISA, ie into a cash-free bank deposit account. Any balance of the annual limit can be invested into a stocks and shares ISA, ie if no cash is invested into an ISA then the full allowance can be invested in stocks or shares.

You should remember that the limit of £10,680 is for each individual. This means that a married couple can invest up to £21,360 during the current year.

However, also remember that an ISA will only save tax if you are a taxpayer.

They do not have any advantage for non-taxpayers, and these should ensure that they do not incur any additional charges. This leads to a simpler form of tax planning for couples. That is to ensure that, when someone is a taxpayer but their spouse is a non-taxpayer, all investments are in the name of the non-taxpaying spouse.

It is also important to consider pension planning. There are limits to the amount that can be invested into pensions each year and obtain tax relief. Firstly, you can only contribute an amount up to your total earned income in the tax year. Secondly, there is an annual limit above which you will not receive any tax relief, and for the current year that limit is £50,000. Again, this is per individual so married couples, both of whom are working, can contribute up to £100,000.

This could lead to some interesting tax planning for "one-man" limited companies. All payments to spouses must be commercially justified, but assuming this to be the case then a spouse can be paid up to the personal allowance, currently £7,475 subject to income limits. For



David Watkinson and Margaret Black

example, assuming a salary of £15,000 can be justified, then the company could pay a salary of £7,475 to the spouse with a further £7,475 being paid into a pension fund. After tax relief, the cost of this to the company would only be £12,000 meaning that the spouse has achieved an investment of £7,475 at a net cost of just under £3,500.

WatkinsonBlack are pleased to advise on these and other matters. They have considerable experience in these and other matters, including providing a very cost-effective payroll bureau service. If you want to arrange a no-obligation initial meeting on any taxation or accounting matter then please contact us. Please note that these ideas are intended to inform rather than advise and you should always obtain professional advice before taking any action.

Finally, everyone at WatkinsonBlack would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone A Very Merry Christmas as well as A Prosperous New Year.

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Morley honoured with testimonial



WARRINGTON Wolves Skipper Adrian Morley has been granted a special three month Testimonial by the Rugby Football League for his services to the game.

The testimonial, will run from March 2012 and involve a number of events spread across this period.

Morley is one of the game's finest ambassadors and recently became the first GB International to reach 50 caps for his country.

Testimonials are normally only afforded to players who serve a club for 10 years but the Rugby League do allow special ones for those who are deemed to have provided excellent service to the sport.

He played for Leeds between 1996 and 2000. Although also eligible for the Welsh national team, he made his England and Great Britain debuts in 1996 and says representing his country has been his "biggest honour."

In the 1997 post season, he was selected to play for Great Britain in all three matches of the Super League Test series against Australia.

Morley won the Challenge Cup with Leeds in 1999 when they defeated the London Broncos 52-16 at Wembley Stadium.

After having a spell playing for the Sydney Roosters in Australia, which included a short spell as a Grand Final winner with Bradford, he came back home to sign for Warrington in 2006 becoming an instant hero with the fans with his no nonsense performances.

Salford born Morley currently has one year left on his contract with the Wolves and says he will make a decision on his future next June.

Disability football tournament

Disability Football came to town as seven teams from colleges across the North West braved the cold and biting wind at Warrington Collegiate as part of the Ability Counts Football League. Playing seven a side, the competition was fierce with the Collegiate players keen to win on their home territory.

Warrington Collegiate also took part in a three team disability football tournament organised by Warrington Wolves Foundation Disability Co-ordinator, Danny O'Brien. The team had some excellent wins and hope to continue this winning streak.

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