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**See Page 3**

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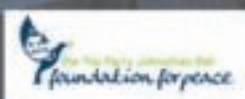
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# Editor's Comment



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DURING a trip down to the corridors of power at the House of Commons and Number 10 Downing Street I was given a fascinating insight into the day to day running of the country.

Thanks to Warrington South MP David Mowat I received a personal invitation to a reception with the Prime Minister for a meeting of local Editors at No 10.

During the day I spent some time shadowing our MP and also spent time in the public gallery in The House of Commons witnessing proceedings first hand.

### Fortunate

Putting politics to one side the history of the place is amazing and I was also fortunate enough to see a Warrington issue raised in the house, concerning the case of the young mum campaigning for the DNA of her dead soldier partner to be released to prove he was the father of their child - followed by the breaking news from the Chancellor George Osborne regarding the appointment of the new Governor of the Bank of England, Canadian Mark Carney - a move welcomed by Shadow Chancellor Ed Balls.

Earlier I had seen our local MP meeting with members of the opposition to discuss ways of tackling the looming pension problems.

It was certainly refreshing to see representatives from all parties working together for the good of the

country.

Maybe those politicians a little closer to home can take note!

Back home in Warrington we have to endure members of the same political party falling out with each other!

### Lesson

I am not naive to think it is all a bed of roses in the House of Commons and I am well aware when the gloves are off there is plenty of political fighting - but I saw first hand they can work together and co-operate with

each other for the good of the country - a lesson we should all take on board.

So come on Warrington Borough Councillors, work together for the good of our town!

To conclude my journey I shared a taxi and train back to Warrington with the Editor of our local newspaper, which further fostered good working relations between our town's media!

# Shelly's

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## TailorMade for you...

### Local business bucking the trend...

Far from the usual doom and gloom of anything related to Financial Services, the poor state of the economy, underperforming investment funds and pensions The TailorMade Group are bucking the trend. Festive celebrations are well under way as we toast the year 2012 as our most successful one yet!

There are many numbers for us to crunch reflecting on this year:-

Most importantly and poignantly we have doubled our premises over on Olympic Park, adding to our head office "TailorMade House" the purchase of additional premises, soon to be named "Ian Shaw House" in memory of our colleague and Director, whom we sadly recently lost to Cancer.

We have also more than doubled our staff numbers, and now have 44 on the team with the latest addition being our third apprentice, following on from Hong Quatch and Dom Ball. Lucy Bretnall will study for an NVQ in

Business and Administration via the Positive Outcomes recruitment process.

Alongside this, is the success of our team of Financial Advisers who all have successfully achieved their Level 4 Diplomas in Professional Financial Advice maintaining their status to the new government standards.

We have carried out on-going due diligence across a variety of Worldwide locations visiting "off-plan" and "completed" properties that our clients have invested in Crete, Cyprus and the Caribbean.

On top of all of this the team leader of TailorMade Alternative Investments, Phillippa Doust has found time to have her very own little girl! Welcome to the world Izabella Frances Stone!

Next year brings with it Auto-Enrolment, and with this, large employers will be required to automatically enrol eligible employees into a qualifying pension scheme. By 2018 even

the smallest employers will have to engage. Many still have no idea that this is coming and even when they do have no idea how to handle it. So register your business with us at

info@tailormadegroup.co.uk and we will keep you up to date with the staging dates when this is applicable to your business and guide you through the process.

So 2013 looks like an even busier year and we'll sign off thanking everyone for their business this year, and wishing you a happy festive season and a successful 2013.



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**It's time to act...**

# Market is 'out of this world'!



**WARRINGTON** market showed it was "out of this world" for Christmas shopping when it organised a Christmas market in the town centre streets to support the St Andrew's Day Festival celebrations taking place in the town.

Market customers were entertained by a Doctor Who lookalike as he was chased around the market and town centre by a couple of Daleks seeking to take over the world.

Over 100 market traders took part in the event which attracted large crowds throughout the day. Many of the regular indoor market traders went outside for the day joined by invited guest traders, while over 30 specialist vintage traders put on a Christmas market of their own inside the event hall of the market.

The Created in W.A collective of craft traders also joined the fun in Time Square.

A giant carousel and a Victorian fairground organ outside the market added to the atmosphere conjured up by the St Andrews day festival.

*Pictures show Dr Who and his Dalek with Market Manager Steve Pickering being transported 'out of this world' and inset Town Crier Peter Powell launching proceedings and fundraisers from Warrington Disability Partnership on their town centre stall.*



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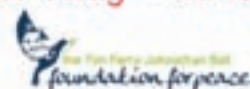
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Hello and welcome to my monthly column . . .

# Hypnotes

by Michael Mahoney

## New year, fresh start

As we look forward to 2013, have you decided what to take with you from 2012? We hope that a New Year will bring us new opportunities, and we can 'start again'. But will you be taking regrets into 2013 too? What about guilt and blame, anger or disappointment or perhaps feelings of being hard done to. What about the plan or project that didn't quite come off or the relationship that ended?

Many people tend to carry their negative past with them, like snails carrying a burden through life, they may do it, because they believe they deserve to do so, or they don't have the right to be happy, or they believe that they have to put up with whatever life throws at them, because they don't have any choice.

If you are similarly like minded then you may just want to consider that your thinking may be flawed. Why should you have to go through life living regret, guilt, blame etc? Why don't you deserve a good life, happy relationships, and all the things that you see other people with, but don't seem to manage to obtain yourself? Flawed thinking is simply that you

may not know any better, or you simply don't know how to start to think and do things differently or you may not know how to plan a better future. However if you really do believe you deserve your burdens and troubles and nothing can change them, then your thinking really is flawed, and good luck to you! Just cut this article out and put it somewhere safe until something changes for you.

For those readers who want a better outlook on life, want a better future and simply want to leave old negative thoughts and behaviours in the past, then there is no better time than the focus which a new year brings.

Start by asking yourself, what you want to release. Realise whatever happened in the past has gone. Your responses, actions and behaviours back then were subject to your life experiences and pressures of the moment.

Simply carrying burdens with you now is not productive. Hindsight is the only exact science, and if you knew then what you know now then things might have been different, but you didn't know then what you know now! Since then you have moved on

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



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and obtained more knowledge, wisdom, education and life skills. However you can use that new information to prevent you behaving the same way again, and that is progress. Acknowledge that fact, and you will help yourself to move on.

So remember each thought is an end and a new beginning. Let 2013 not be just another date, let it be the year that you decide to learn from the past, to help yourself to move on more easily into the future. Embrace all the positives of 2012, and take them with you into the New Year. Be ready to plan differently. Sever the link between memory and negative emotion, so you can remember the past but no longer take the associated emotion on board. Above all, remember you, like everyone else, are unique; there is nothing to stop you moving on positively, except yourself. If you need guidance, contact me and let me help you. I wish you well on your journey into and through 2013.



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**HAPPY? OK? SAD?**

[www.happyoksad.org.uk](http://www.happyoksad.org.uk)



# Golden partnership for St Rocco's Hospice

HOSPICE volunteer Peggy Moss MBE was on hand to officially open a new St Rocco's Hospice shop in Golden Square Shopping Centre cementing a partnership which spans over 30 years.

Back in the early 1980s, Peggy was asked to become part of a committee dedicated to raising funds for a hospice in Warrington. She first secured a shop at Golden Square, selling donated goods to raise funds for a Hospice Appeal. In just six weeks, the shop raised over £6000 and the committee were well on their way to opening a Hospice.

St Rocco's Hospice opened its

doors to patients in Warrington back in 1985.

The Hospice now has eight shops which are staffed by volunteers who collectively raise over £600,000 a year to care for patients at St Rocco's.

Ian Cox, General Manager of Golden Square Shopping Centre said: 'We are delighted to support the work of St Rocco's by providing a retail unit. Our partnership with the Hospice has spanned a generation and helped make a difference to thousands of patients and families across Warrington.'

"During 2011 alone, Golden Square activities have helped to raise



over £47,000 for St Rocco's- funds which have helped to support the Hospice's day therapy services and provide a haven for hospice patients."

The St Rocco's Shop in Golden Square will sell a selection of quality clothing and shoes, along with a range of festive goods on the run up

to Christmas.

To volunteer at the St Rocco's Golden Square shop please contact Julia on 01925 575780.

Picture shows Ian Cox -General manager of Golden Square, Peggy Moss MBE and April Yates, St Rocco's volunteer.

## New mental health awareness campaign

A NEW mental health recognition/awareness campaign has been launched online in Warrington.

The "Happy? OK? Sad?" website, www.happyoksad.org.uk has links to a wide range of local and national support services, as well as information about how to boost your mood and feel good about yourself.

The non-medical campaign is relevant to people who currently enjoy a good level of mental health as well as to those who are experiencing a mental health crisis and need immediate support.

Research has shown that it's particularly important to look after your mental health if you're a carer, or if you're living with long a term health condition, as you may be more vulnerable to mental health problems such as depression.

The aims of the Happy? OK? Sad?" campaign are to make people aware of:

- simple things they can do to look after their mental health
- symptoms of common mental health problems
- services that can offer information,

advice, support or treatment

"Happy? OK? Sad?" was developed by Warrington's Public Health Team, working in partnership with and other local agencies. The campaign website is divided into age specific pages, so people can quickly find the information and services most relevant to them. There's also a page for frontline workers with links to online tools.

Posters and leaflets are being distributed to services and groups across Warrington to advertise the campaign and direct people to the

website.

The publicity materials, like the web pages, are tailored to different age groups

Anticipated future phases of the campaign include raising awareness of mental health issues amongst health professionals through training and developing "Happy OK Sad" materials specifically for prisons.

For more information about the campaign please contact: Caroline Jenkins on cjenkins1@warrington.gov.uk

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## Business

# Toy appeal shows true spirit of Christmas

BIG Storage's annual Toy Appeal has again been hailed a great success.

Paul Fahey, BiG Storage Branch Partner said: "If you are one of the many hundreds of people who have donated a toy to the appeal, please take a moment to consider the joy you generosity will have brought to a child.

"Thank you to every person or business that has contributed to the amazing gifts that have been collected for this year's toy appeal.

The charities have been overwhelmed by the response to the appeal and how generous the local community has been.

Andrew Pope, Relief Project Officer at Grangeway Court added: "Our staff, myself included, have been reduced to tears of frustration at working with families who have nothing to give their children at Xmas time. We don't apportion any blame to our clients as their circumstances can be exceptionally difficult. The

opportunity to receive gifts for 'our families' from yourselves has been a great relief and we have worked hard, delivering right up to the last minute, to the needy families who are always very appreciative and totally humbled, by the kindness of strangers."

Helen Crowther from the Children's Adventure Farm Trust said: "We have been absolutely bowled over by the response to this year's Toy Appeal, the quantity and quality of toys donated is nothing short of phenomenal.

The charities that were recipients of the appeal are: The NSPCC based in Warrington, The

Children's Adventure Farm Trust who are based in Cheshire provide holidays and activities for terminally ill, chronically sick, disabled and disadvantaged children. Jacobs Unique Memory Pot (J-U-M-P), Ronald McDonald House Charities (RMHC), St Josephs Family Centre, Grangeway Court Homeless Lodge in Runcorn and St Katherines Contact Centre who support families across Warrington.

*Pictured with the donated toys are Helen Crowther of Children's Adventure Farm Trust and Paul Fahey, BiG Storage Branch Partner*



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Business

# New recruit at Network Warrington

LOCAL bus company Network Warrington has welcomed on board its newest recruit, Natalie Kissack as the Company's new Marketing Executive.

Natalie is originally from the Isle of Man and moved to Liverpool in 2007 to study marketing at Liverpool John Moores University. She has varied marketing experience, working for businesses operating both locally and globally. Her first marketing role was at the Isle of Man Tourist Board where her job involved organising the Island's Food and Drink Festival in association with a number of local businesses. Before coming to Network Warrington she worked in the marketing department at Charge Point Technology, a manufacturing company based in Speke.

David Squire, Managing Director, said: "We are delighted to welcome Natalie to the company, in her new role she will be responsible for driving forward business development through innovative marketing campaigns and will be working with other local businesses such as Gulliver's World and Live Wire to develop joint initiatives to increase bus travel".



# New Indian restaurant opens



A BRAND new Indian restaurant has opened in Warrington at Gemini 8 Retail Park. Situated on Charon Way Bombay 8 is a contemporary Indian Restaurant serving wholesome food from the Indian Sub-continent daily from 12pm - 11pm every day.

The menu is based on the highest quality produce using fresh seasonal ingredients from all corners of South East Asia. Bombay 8 is a family friendly restaurant offering lunch specials, shoppers menu, kids menu and also a takeaway service. For more information visit [www.bombay8.co.uk](http://www.bombay8.co.uk)

# Masters degree for business leader

SANDRA Brusby, managing director of Warrington-based Business Venture has been awarded a Masters Degree in Leadership and Culture Change from Manchester University.

Formerly chief executive of Business Link Cheshire and Warrington, she has been assisting new and established businesses for nearly 30 years.

An accredited Small Firms Enterprise Development Initiative (SFEDI) business adviser and a Growth Accelerator programme coach, Sandra was awarded the OBE five years ago in recognition of her services to business.

She said, "Studying for my Masters degree has been an extremely rewarding journey and I hope very much that my new skills will benefit both Business Venture and the companies we work with in the future"

Sandra is also actively involved in introducing clients in the region to new markets and contacts in India as well as helping companies to develop and enhance leadership skills.



**Warrington jobs fair**

"During this difficult time for the economy, I am acutely aware of the problems faced by many of the people in Warrington who are in low income jobs or who are jobseekers. Since 2009, I have been running a Job Club and so far 150 people have been helped back into employment or education."

I will be holding a Jobs Fair on **Friday 8th February, 2013** at The Halliwell, James Stadium.

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

David Mower - MP for Warrington South

[www.warringtonjobsfair.com](http://www.warringtonjobsfair.com)

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*Choir 'prisoners' await their curtain call.*

## Choir 'jailed' for singing opera

THIRTY members of Warrington Male Voice Choir were "jailed" - for singing in a Beethoven opera.

But their incarceration was not a punishment - in fact it was an opportunity to perform with an opera company.

The choir travelled to Buxton at the invitation of the New London Opera Players to play a part in their production of "Fidelio".

In a real break from their normal activities they left their familiar blue blazers at home and donned costumes and make-up to become members of, and to perform, the "Prisoners' Chorus".

Robin Green, artistic director of the New London Opera Players, said: "We were absolutely delighted with the performance that the gentlemen of the Warrington Male Voice Choir gave."

"Not only was the sound full and vibrant, but the extra mile the gentlemen went in donning both costumes and make-up to make convincing prisoners impressed us all. Some of them seemed to enjoy it almost too much...."

Choir secretary Dave Knight said: "This was one of the choir's most unusual bookings and all involved enjoyed every minute of it. From the audience reaction they obviously appreciated our performance, although we were locked up again straight after it. but lovers of Fidelio will know this was, of course, all part of the opera".

## Dickens of a day!



*Mayor of Warrington Steve Wright, with local councillor Sheila Woodyatt.*

THE annual Lymm Dickensian Festival has been hailed a great success after attracting large crowds.

Event organiser and local Town Crier Peter Powell was delighted with the numbers who turned out to support the annual event.

"There was a large turn out with some people saying it looked like record numbers," said Peter, who helps co-ordinate the event with a team of volunteers.

Local organisations use the event to help raise much needed funds through street collections and stalls in the village centre.

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# Hairdresser hits the red carpet at glittering awards

LOCAL hairdresser Andrea Potts hit the red carpet at a glittering awards ceremony.

Andrea, who is one of the team at Callaghan&Moran on Sankey Street, Warrington, has been awarded the Wella Professionals Master Colour Expert Status, which is the highest accolade for colour in the world of hairdressing.

She now joins a prestigious portfolio of elite Wella Master Colour Experts including Vidal Sassoon International Colour Director, Annie Humphries, and renowned colour guru, Daniel Galvin.

Andrea graduated with a highly prestigious degree in colour at a glittering ceremony in Manchester.

The ultimate stage of the Wella programme is run on a strictly invite only basis where the colourists learn about the chemistry of colour and extreme colour corrections. Visitors to Callaghan&Moran can now be sure they will be treated to the



very best in hair colour services when they make an appointment with Andrea.

Stuart Callaghan, Salon Director, said: "We are extremely proud of her commitment to the course and her determination to become an amazing colourist."

Stuart added: "At Callaghan & Moran, we aim to be the very best in

hairdressing from the latest colouring and cutting techniques to the leading new products available to achieve a great look for your hair.

"You can be assured that you will receive a truly pampered experience within our beautifully designed salon, right in the heart of Warrington town centre. We also offer an attractive loyalty scheme."

## Kerry's back in town



Kerry with Julie and Cloe Lynch.

FORMER pop star and reality TV celebrity Kerry Katona returned to Warrington to sign copies of her new autobiography "Still Standing."

She met fans in the Golden Square shopping centre, signed autographs, posed for photographs and hugged well-wishers.

The new book charts the past six years, which have seen the singer overcome problems with drugs, relationships, money and depression.

The former I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out Of Here winner was accompanied by her mum.

She made a big impression on shoppers, including mother and daughter Julie and Chloe Lynch.

Chloe, aged 15, said: "It was great to meet Kerry - she was really friendly and is so inspirational."

Kerry, aged 32, is set to make a comeback with girlband Atomic Kitten in the New Year.

# Callaghan & Moran

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#### annual costs

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# Robert picks up national photography award

AN amateur photographer from Warrington has won a national photography competition celebrating British manufacturing.

Robert Watkins' "Manufacturing a Filter" was the winning entry for the amateur photographer category of the "Made in Britain" Photography Awards, the nationwide competition run by EEF, the manufacturers' organisation, and sponsored by Canon, Lombard and the ERA Foundation.

The black and white photo of the finishing process to a filter manufactured at Croft Engineering Services in Warrington was praised by judges for its strong composition, exposure and tonal range with the welder's arm leading in to the focal point.

The competition attracted more than 800 entries, of which 87 were shortlisted.

Robert was presented with a share of £5,000 worth of Canon photography equipment by sponsor Lombard at a ceremony at the House of Commons. A winner and runner-up were selected from the three entry groups: young, amateur and professional.

David Ost, North West director at EEF, said: "Manufacturing is exciting and constantly evolving, and we are proud of all of our entrants who have helped us redefine the public perception of manufacturing with their eclectic range of images."



Robert Watkins' winning picture.


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**Tel: 01925 232255 M: 07887 557106**


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 74 Church Street, Warrington WA1 2TF  
E: [warringtonservicecentre@gmail.com](mailto:warringtonservicecentre@gmail.com) www.warringtonservicecentre.co.uk



**Warrington Play & Sensory Centre**

**A brand new safe, fun, soft play and sensory environment for disabled children and adults.**

With lights, sounds, interactive mats, ball pools and hoists we provide fun and stimulation for all ages and levels of need to enjoy.



Parties and group bookings available.

Look online for further details [www.warringtonsensorycentre.org](http://www.warringtonsensorycentre.org) or ring 01925 817347 to arrange a visit.

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**Warrington Play and Sensory Centre,**  
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**VISITORS to the Warrington Play and Sensory Centre describe it as "Absolutely fantastic, wonderful, in a class of its own!"**

The Play and sensory Centre in Woolston, provides leisure, play and sensory activities for disabled children, young people and adults.

Not only do they offer the latest in accessible soft play areas they have a fully accessible toilet with a full size changing bed and electric hoist. The dedicated sensory room allows users to interact with the bubble tube, fibre optics and light panel or to chill out on the water bed or in the ball pool.

The low-level soft play calm zone allows those that are less mobile to move around in safety and enjoy the interactive projector or watch a DVD and there is also a café.

Comments from visitors include: "Absolutely fantastic, we've had parties at commercial soft play, but this has been in a class of its own - the staffs co-operation and enthusiasm has shone through. A million thanks for making my special little boy's party so special."

"We had a wonderful time, my son enjoyed the sensory room and calm room with the UV light, whilst his sisters loved the ball pool and the slide, thank you."

"Membership is free and available to all children and adults with additional needs. Users only pay for

each session as they visit but you need to book before you come. You can also hire it exclusively for your group or for a family party.

To find out more call 01925 817347 email [sensorycentre@warrington.gov.uk](mailto:sensorycentre@warrington.gov.uk) or visit the premises at Hall Road, Woolston, Warrington, WA1 4PB.



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Centre for Independent Living • Beaufort Street • Warrington • WA5 1BA

# Annual Report 2012



This report has been produced on behalf of WDP by

**warrington-worldwide**

**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 15 trustees / directors, 220 volunteers and 40 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 Report

Dave Thompson MBE DL MBA – Founder & Chairman of Trustees / Directors

On behalf of Team WDP I am delighted to invite you to read our 2012 Annual Report. A rollercoaster year is probably the best way to describe the past 12 months.

The unexpected death of Dave Connor, Assistant Operations Manager, affected not only everyone associated with Team WDP, but also hundreds of people who had been touched by Dave's work which spanned over twenty years. He was due to carry the Paralympics torch a few weeks after his death. In a fitting legacy to Dave, I supported his family to lobby the organisers to allow one of Dave's students to carry the torch in his honour.

The predicted loss of funding due to contract changes and the massive reduction in requests for access and training resulted in redundancies across a range of services. Those most badly affected included our Employment Team, Leisure Recreation and Sports Team and Young Ambassador Project, which we had sustained unfunded for the past two years.

At the start of the year the Griffiths Court Foundation closed down, after their Trustees accepted that the poor economic climate had removed the opportunity to build the planned respite care and rehabilitation unit in Birchwood. They agreed to use their remaining funds to support an extension to our Learning Centre and, in partnership with our Board of Trustees, the remaining funds have been used to establish a grant scheme for carers and disabled people who need respite care. Both projects will carry the name of the late Marjorie Griffiths, which is a fitting legacy to one of Warrington's greatest disability campaigners.

During the past year there have been occasions when these low points have cast huge shadows over the great work that was continuing across WDP, work that includes:

- Sir Bert Massie opened our latest retail service based at the Liverpool Disabled Living Centre, which is supported by Liverpool City Council and Liverpool Community Health NHS Trust.
- Our other retail services, operated under our trading arm Disability Trading Company (DTC), continue to grow. This was boosted last month when our partners at Lend Lease, operators of the Golden Square extended the contract on our store for another year.
- Another DTC success was our Mobility Workshop and Service Centre which grew so much we needed to extend the building. The extended facilities allowed us to take on our first apprentice.
- As our retail stores and workshop continued to expand we purchased two new vans which provide a vital collection and delivery service to DTC.
- This change of direction towards a commercial/social enterprise has shifted our focus away from our origins as a conventional charity. (This resulted in a review of our management structures at which point our Chief Officer decided to leave under voluntary redundancy).
- We were successful in bidding for funds from Children in Need, which will enable us to continue running sports and leisure projects for disabled children and young people.
- Disability Awareness Day, despite being the wettest on record, went ahead, unlike many other local, regional and national outside events, which fell foul to the bad weather.
- During the VIP Reception at DAD we received great news when this year's principle sponsor Your Housing Group signalled their long term support to the event.
- Days later our spirits were raised again with news that our partners at the MESSAGE Institute in India successfully held their second DAD.
- Last month, Aquarius Diving Centres, based in Egypt, confirmed that they will be exhibiting at next year's event and they will sponsor our next Going the Extra Mile Scuba Challenge.



Partnerships continue to be high on our agenda, and it's clear to see that 2012 was our most successful in terms of the breadth and depth of our work. During the year we contributed to over 120 different meetings and forums locally, regionally, nationally and internationally, ensuring that the voice of disabled people continues to influence policies and services. Other notable partnerships not already mentioned include:

- Network Warrington, WDP named as charity of year
- St Georges Healthcare
- BNFL
- West Area Board, (Warrington Borough Council)
- Warrington Borough Council
- Thorn Marine
- Chester University
- Steps Beyond Warrington
- Advice Service Fund - Big Fund, on behalf of the Office for Civil Society (OCS)
- Our mascot Ollie the Owl signed up sponsorship deals with Big Storage and Warrington Town Football Club.
- Sainsbury's Warrington, WDP named as charity of year
- Warrington Market, (Warrington Borough Council)
- Barclays Bank
- NHS Warrington & Clinical Commissioning Group,
- Royal British Legion
- Warrington Collegiate
- British Telecom
- No Secrets

Our staff continued to provide advice on disability related facilities for large and small projects including the Orford Park Jubilee Hub which was opened by the Queen in May. We also supported a successful bid that will result in major access improvements at Birchwood Railway Station.

Learners from our Learning Centre reaped success again at the Adult Learners Week Awards. Christine Newsham won The John Tickle Disabled Learners Award, with the Mayor of Warrington presenting certificates to two WDP projects, Supported Employment Group and Functional Skills in IT Group and Kim Howard received an individual award. We were also nominated in the National Adult Learners Awards.

Our staff and volunteer fundraisers had the busiest and best year ever, with monthly quiz nights, Easter and Christmas raffles and another successful "Going the Extra Mile, Scuba Challenge" (special thanks to Terry Wood and his team from Cheshire Scuba). It seemed that not a weekend went by when we weren't fundraising at the market, town centre, local carnivals and fetes, plus our own events. Plus our staff, volunteers and friends of WDP entered a variety of corporate events such as the Bupa Manchester 10k. As you read this report we will be busy with this year's Santa's Grotto and giant tombola.

Looking ahead we will no doubt face more challenges to maintaining the funding we need to operate our services. Several of our long standing contracts will be put out to open tender, and gaining public donations will get harder as the number of worthy causes grows. We will build on our current partnerships and we will explore ideas for new funding streams, just as we did last year when our Board of Trustees had the foresight to support my proposal to launch our trading arm.

On behalf of Team WDP I would like to thank all of our partners for their continuing support. I would like to thank my fellow Trustees/Directors, our staff and volunteers, the people who use our services and everyone who has supported us during the past year. Before finishing I would like to acknowledge fellow Trustee Ian Richardson, who retired this year due to family commitments.

Finally I would like to invite you to read the rest of our annual report. I hope you agree with me that Team WDP continues to make a difference to the lives of disabled people and their families.

Thank you

*Dave*

#### WDP Trustees

Warrington Disability Partnership Board of Directors/Trustees ensures that the organisation operates within the legal framework laid down by the Charities Commission and Companies House.

#### Trustee Board:

- Dave Thompson MBE DL MBA– Chair
- Pat Kitto – Deputy Chair
- Sue Bentley – Treasurer
- Dave Cheetham – Secretary
- Terry Wadsworth
- Gary Skentelbery
- Chris Molyneux
- Karen Beaton
- Jan Pritchard
- Eileen MacDonald
- Ian Grant
- Sarah Hall
- Dave Williams
- Cynthia Salluyts (co-opted August 2012)
- Scott Beaton (Financial Advisor - co-opted)
- Ian Richardson (retired June 2012)

**Visit our website: [www.disabilitypartnership.org.uk](http://www.disabilitypartnership.org.uk)**



## Access and Training

### *Self financed through income generation*

Our Access and Training Teams provide advice and support to local businesses, developers, architects and individuals, this advice ranges from general telephone enquiries to site visits and audit reports. Our training programme offers training to both outside organisations and individuals and includes Disability and Equality training and Relationships, Sex and Disability training.

In addition to supporting our partners, we are committed to promoting the development of all of our team members and actively support them to progress further. During 2012, many of our team members have completed a variety of different training courses including 'Volunteering', 'Safeguarding', 'Mental Health Awareness', 'First Aid' and 'Customer Services'. This has helped with their continuing professional development, with many of our volunteers going into employment, both with WDP and elsewhere.

*"WDP have enabled me to enrol on a Level 3 NVQ Management course, this will help in continuing my personal development and the work I am undertaking. I will have theoretical knowledge to back up my practical experience. I will also be able to pass on my knowledge to volunteers to be able to run a more efficient service."*

## 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.

The 'Grenadier' caravan, based on the Harts "Little Fields" site in Pensarn has taken 17 bookings during 2012, with 'Guillemot', based on the Lyons Robin Hood site in Rhyl taking 15 bookings.

*"We only recently found out about your accessible caravans, we thought why not give one a go. What a fantastic caravan to stay in. It was very spacious and clean, not what we have come to expect from rental caravans. We will be using your caravans again in the future."*



## Appreciation of Efforts Awards 2011

### *Supported by Warrington Borough Council & Warrington Worldwide*

The awards were launched in 1995 and are aimed at recognising organisations and individuals who provide the very best in local services for disabled people.

#### **2011 Winners:**

- Jade Kersalls
- Councillor Steve Wright
- Karl Llorca
- Fairview Windows
- Network Warrington
- Melanie Harding
- Dave Cheetham
- Linda Jeffries
- St Gregory's High School - Rosemary Rigby
- Golden Square/ Lend Lease Team
- WBC Community Assets Project Team
- St Georges Healthcare Group

*"Winning this award was a complete shock! I was very humbled to be recognised in this manner given the amazing work that other people were being recognised for. It will take pride of place on my wall at home".*

## Benefits Advice

### *Supported by the Advice Service Fund, on behalf of the OCS*

Our Benefits Advice service is run by volunteers meeting clients who require support to complete benefit application forms. The team completes regular online research and attend training to keep their knowledge up to date. During the past year our volunteer benefit advisors have helped to secure over £1 million in benefits for local people, including Disability Living Allowance, Attendance Allowance, Carers Allowance, Employment Support Allowance, Income Support and Pension Credits. Benefits advisors also signpost people to other WDP services, support organisations and networks.

*"I asked Chris to help me complete my forms for DLA as they are difficult and time consuming. Since being awarded higher rate mobility component I have passed my driving test and been able to get a car which has given me much more independence and has vastly improved my quality of life."*



## 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. Over the past year, the showroom has continued to expand the range of products available to purchase with the support of the Disability Trading Company, which include larger items of equipment (scooters, wheelchairs, recliner chairs and beds) as well as smaller daily living aids (walking sticks, kitchen equipment and bathing aids). 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 Housing and Care Call services.

During 2012, we have expanded many of our display areas, including our children's & mobility areas to showcase new and exciting products available.

During the year, 14,580 people have visited the Centre and we received 4,436 telephone enquiries to the showroom. We also loaned out over 700 wheelchairs and 92 pieces of equipment to local people. Our team of 7 volunteers dedicated over 2,000 voluntary hours.

*"After visiting your showroom at Beaufort Street recently, we were very impressed at the level of professional, unbiased and friendly serviced we received. This enabled both my wife and I to make a decision that has changed our lives for the better. We cannot thank you enough."*

## Community Café

**Self financed from income generation  
Cafe tables and chairs funded by a West Area Neighbourhood Board Grant**

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 drink, snack or a meal after you have explored the wide range of equipment available in our showrooms. Over 4,000 meals have been served in the past year.

We also provide a catering service which can provide food and drink for our many visitors who attend meetings and community events. This included a BBQ for the Queens Jubilee Party, which was attended by over 200 local residents and children from the local school.

*"Pleasant friendly staff, nice to call in, have a meal and have a chat in a relaxed atmosphere."*

## Disability Awareness Day 2012 – 21st Anniversary event

**Principally sponsored by Your Housing Group, also sponsored by 5 Boroughs Partnership NHS Trust, Warrington Clinical Commissioning Group, BT Retail, Warrington Borough Council, Warrington Collegiate, Warrington & Halton Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Bridgewater Community Healthcare NHS Trust, NHS Merseyside, Cynthia & Francois Salluyts, St George Healthcare Group & Network Warrington.**



This year marked the 21st anniversary of the event, which has continued to grow in size and stature since the first event in 1992. Despite the wettest ground conditions that the team have ever encountered, the event attracted 257 exhibitors and over 25,000 visitors. It is credit to the large army of DAD volunteers who dedicated over 2,750 hours to ensure that the event went ahead, despite a number of last minute alterations.

Without the support from our sponsors, in particularly Your Housing Group (principal sponsors for the event), such a large scale event would not be possible. The team are extremely grateful for their continued support.

*"Just returned to Shropshire from a great day out at DAD today. Thank you to Dave and all the teams of helpers for such efficient organisation and support. It was a pleasure to meet, and introduce our disabled daughter to so many good people among the volunteers, exhibitors and performers - an excellent showcase. Thank you all!"*

**Ian Warburton – DAD 2012 visitor**

## Disability Information Point - Warrington Retail Market

*Supported by Warrington Borough Council and Warrington Market*

Our team at the Disability Information Point provide a wide range of information and advice on local support groups and voluntary services. They also provide advice and assistance on national voluntary and statutory organisations and disability service providers, handling 4,028 enquiries over the past 12 months. The vast range of leaflets and booklets are regularly updated and the team regularly use the internet to keep up to date with new developments.

The team, predominately run by a team of 19 volunteers, also operate a satellite Shopmobility service, which offers scooters, electric wheelchairs and manual wheelchairs. This was hired out 849 items for a total of 1938 hours.

We use the point in front of the Disability Information Point for a range of disability related awareness events with support from local community groups. Our annual Santa's Grotto, as well as regular tombolas help to support the running of this service.

## Mobility Workshop & Service Centre

*Staffing is self-funded.*

*Workshop equipment funded by donations from Warrington, Birchwood & Stockton Heath Lions Groups and the Office for Disability Issues*

Our Mobility Workshop provides a service and repair centre for any type of disability equipment at our purpose built workshop; this also includes maintaining the fleet of scooters in our shopmobility & equipment loan services. The team at the Workshop have completed over 200 repairs during the past 12 months.

### Available services from our Workshop include:

- Servicing
- Repairs
- Battery testing
- Refurbishments
- Parts
- Collections and deliveries



We also accept any donations of mobility equipment for our recycling project and offer the chance to try out Mobility Training Test Track to improve confidence when using the equipment.

*"We were told to come to the Mobility Workshop by a friend to see whether they could repair our scooter. When the man came to collect the scooter, he was very friendly and helpful. My batteries were swiftly replaced and my scooter was promptly returned to me in perfect working order."*

## Employment Team

*Funded by: Work Programme sub-contracts from Avanta and Cheshire West and Chester Council funded through Department for Work and Pensions and European Social Fund, a sub-contract to deliver National Careers Service from Greater Merseyside Connexions Partnership funded through Skills Funding Agency, and a contract to deliver a specialist support service to Warrington residents aged 50 and over (Lavender Hill Project) funded through Warrington Borough Council.*

The team provides a user led accredited Information, Advice and Guidance service to around 180 clients and supports volunteering, work placements, supported employment, work trials and routes towards part and full time employment. During the past year the team have supported 39 clients into employment.

We deliver the mainstream 'National Careers Service' and the government-led 'Work Programme' targeting 9 priority groups. We also provide targeted support for Warrington residents. Our Lavender Hill project, for people aged 50 and over, provides skills, financial and health checks to improve training and work opportunities. In total we have received almost 8,000 telephone enquiries for employment information and advice in the past 12 months.

The team supports community venues and children's services by offering support funded by our mainstream contracts. Our National Careers Service advisers support a 'Can-Do' club in Stockton Heath and also provide a co-location activity in Warrington Jobcentre one day per week. The team encourages local engagement activity that supports 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 and also advises on 'Access to Work' applications.

*"I hadn't worked for 6 years but my adviser was patient with me and helped me find my confidence again. I am now working 10 hours per week and hope to increase my hours in coming months."*

## 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 and producing payslips. Processing all year end records to the Inland Revenue and keeping updated with any changes made by HMRC. We also support our Treasurer 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 312 employers, with 510 new employees. Throughout the year the team have received 2,468 phone enquiries.

*"Using Warrington Disability Partnership Payroll allows me to relax knowing that a professional and timely job will be done; with the assurance that there is always help at the end of the phone if needed."*

## Fundraising, Promotions & Community Engagement

*Community Engagement financed through LSPA funding and Advice Service Fund, on behalf of the OCS. 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 extremely busy with over 100 events attended throughout the year, with over 75,000 attendees. These included events such as carnivals, information days and the Bupa 10K run alongside our own events - Disability Awareness Day, Tombolas & Raffles and Santa's Grotto.

Our Community Engagement Officer liaises with local community groups to promote the services that WDP offer and raise awareness of disability. This is done by attending as guest speakers and taking information to other organisations. Overall, the team have engaged with approximately 36,000 people.

Fundraising activities for this year include a Country & Western night, the Spire ½ Marathon, Tough Mudder (an army-style assault course), Going the Xtra Mile - Scuba Challenge, Doggy Fun Day and the BUPA 10K run.

None of the above could happen without the support of our volunteers, staff, sponsors and supporters who have all given up their time to help. A massive thank you to all that have been involved.

*"I have enjoyed supporting the fundraising team as it has opened the door to other opportunities within WDP and built my self-confidence immensely, also it has been a great way to give back to the community whilst supporting a great charity."*

## Independent Living Team

*Funded by Warrington Borough Council*

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). We also support clients who are in receipt of Independent Living Fund and those who are "full cost".

The support includes recruiting, advertising, interviewing, contracts of employment, Employer Liability Insurance and Criminal Records Bureau checks, along with any day to day problems. 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 team currently supports 464 clients, of which 153 are under 18. During the past 12 months, the team have received almost 100 referrals.

*"Direct Payments has made us feel that we have got part of our lives back! Although you shouldn't.....you can feel resentful towards the "cared for" person when completely "snowed under" with the caring role! Direct Payments has changed all that for me as a recipient of a carers Direct Payment."*

*"I get continuity from the Direct Payment service. Over the years they have got to know me so I don't have to keep repeating myself and explaining all my personal things to lots of different people. They are very very helpful to me."*

## Learning Centre & Meeting Rooms

*Funded by Warrington Borough Council's Life Long Learning and the Griffiths Court Foundation, supported by Leonard Cheshire and Warrington Collegiate*

The Learning Centre boasts a fully equipped IT Suite, a classroom / meeting room with 3PCs and Interactive Whiteboard, a Multi-Sensory Room and fully equipped Meeting Room and has received 4,187 visitors in the past 12 months.

The New Discover IT Suite has 12 PCs and an interactive Smart Board. It runs a variety of classes for disabled people, their families, their carer 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. IT classes provided include: Computers for the Terrified-Basic IT for Learning Disabilities-Office Skills IT-OCR Functional Skills from Entry Level to Level 2. We also provide a variety of one off courses on: Movie Maker, Facebook, Shopping online and getting to know your Laptop. Our "IT Buddies" provide one to one tuition to people with a Visual Impairment. 87 members have used the suite for over 800 hours.

We run a variety of other classes including Meditation, Soap Making, and in partnership with Warrington Collegiate- Confidence, Floral Art and Jewellery Making. We have an active volunteer led Camera Club that meets once a week. In total, individual class attendees for Learning Centre activities have totalled over 2,350.

The Learning Centre & CIL have a number of meeting rooms, accommodating small groups of up to 6 people to larger groups of 30 people, all of which are available for hire. A number of these have full audio visual equipment and flip charts on request. Wi-Fi is available throughout.

*"The tutor is kind and patient. I am allowed to learn at my own pace. My confidence is growing."*

*"The venue and facilities were excellent and well organised. In terms of travel, your Centre was well placed and staff made everyone feel very welcome. We would certainly recommend your Centre to other groups."*



## Leisure Recreation and Sport

*Funded by Children in Need.*

*Working in partnership with the Sports Engagement team, Warrington Youth Club, Aiming High for Disabled Children and Warrington Wolves Foundation.*



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

- Disability Inclusive Sports Club (DISC) for 11-19 year olds.
- Mini Disability Sports Club (Mini DISC) for 5-11 year olds.
- One Wednesday Can't Hurt (OWCH) A pain management support group – with around 10 attendees per week.
- Children's Inclusive Swimming Club for 5 – 18 year olds.
- Wheelchair Basketball Club averaging 7 people per session.
- This year's Disability Awareness Day 'Sports Zone' was dedicated to the memory of Dave Connor, with eleven participation sports and sport information stalls.

*"Watching my son and the other children be so enthusiastic about sport is truly inspiring. The coaching is excellent. Thank you WDP."*



## Mobility & Independent Living Service - Liverpool

*Funded by Liverpool Community Health NHS Trust & Liverpool City Council*

Our new Mobility Independent Living Service opened its doors in April 2012. Our central location near Liverpool Town Centre and Liverpool One has become greatly popular as it offers disabled people, families and its carers fully accessible facilities, which are available daily with no appointments necessary. Our showroom offers a wide range of products from scooters, wheelchair and beds to smaller daily living aids to increase the independence of our clients.

Around 163 people visit the centre every week, Many of these visits have resulted in purchasing an item or product, although the team also offers independent advice around products to suit a person's needs / disability and also signpost to other local organisations, where appropriate. This partnership approach has led to many disabled people receiving better quality services in Liverpool, with links formed with a number of local organisations including Bradbury Fields, RNIB, Local Solutions and Liverpool Community Health (Wheelchair Service). We also provide additional support services to include wheelchair loans and work with our Mobility Workshop for repairs and servicing.



*"It has made huge difference to me, the help & advice from the team was invaluable. They are amazing and make a difficult situation very bearable."*

## Mobility & Independent Living Store - Warrington

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

Our Mobility & Independent Living Store, recently reached its 1st year of trading and is now well established within the Golden Square Shopping Centre. The store offers an extensive range of high quality independent living products at affordable prices, which is backed up with a range of support services such as our mobility workshop, showroom and service centre.

MILS customers have demonstrated their appreciation of our service by voting in the Golden Square Smile Competition, which judged the best customer service providers in Golden Square. The team are pleased to have been voted in the final 12 out of 130 shops.



## Relationships, Sex & Disability Matters

*Funded by NHS Warrington*

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 also runs 'Relationships, Sex and Disability Awareness Training' sessions for professionals, and individuals who are interested in finding out more information about services and aids around sexual health. During 2012, WDP became a C – Card distribution centre, providing a service for young disabled adults to talk to staff about sexual health and obtain condoms free of charge. WDP is a member of the Sexual Health and Disability Alliance (SHADA) Group.

*"The Relationships, Sex and Disability training has given me an insight into the issues faced by disabled people around relationships and has enabled me to be able to answer enquiries relating to these."*

## Shopmobility Warrington

**Funded by Warrington Borough Council and supported by Golden Square Management Team (Lend Lease), Warrington Market and Warrington Bus Interchange**

Our Warrington Shopmobility service provides a vital life line for those who require mobility support to shop in the Warrington Town Centre and Golden Square. We provide the means to allow people to get out and about and shop as independently as possible.

Satellite services are available at Warrington Bus Interchange and the Disability Information Point in Warrington Town Centre. During the past 12 months our team of 7 volunteers have given over 2,320 hours to support the service, assisting in the loan of 6,140 scooters for over 14,000 hours.

*"We use shopmobility every week, without this service my mum would not be able to go out shopping and would lose her independence."*

## Telephone Helpline

**Funded by Warrington Borough Council**

WDP run a Disability Helpline where disabled people, families, carers, support groups and health professionals can phone to ask for information, advice and guidance on all disability matters. A dedicated team of volunteers staff this Helpline then direct or signpost our callers through to the appropriate team or services. During the past 12 months, the switchboard has received 54,708 calls.

Our trained team, some of whom have given over 19 years service to WDP, have extensive knowledge of available services or have access to current information.

*"Thank you for the advice and support that you gave to me, I spent weeks asking different people (nurses, support workers and other professionals) for help. It wasn't until I spoke to the helpline staff that I received the answers I needed. Thank you WDP."*



## Volunteering

**Supported by Lloyds TSB and the Advice Service Fund, on behalf of the OCS**

Warrington Disability Partnership currently has 141 Volunteers who regularly volunteer across all of our services. Alongside these volunteers we have many other volunteers who help out throughout the year at a wide range of events, including DAD. During the past year, our volunteers have given 60,464 hours to ensure that an effective service is delivered, an outstanding amount, which would cost the organisation £374,272 if paid at the National Minimum Wage.

This year volunteers have covered 19 departments across a wide range of services i.e. Admin Support, Switchboard, Benefits Advice, Fundraising and the Wizard Canal Boat. The volunteers are supported by dedicated support workers, as well as having the continuing support from the volunteer coordinators. Further volunteering opportunities have developed through the opening of MILS stores at Brunswick Dock, Liverpool and MILS Golden Square, Warrington.

*"I enjoy volunteering on the WDP Helpline. Over the past 19 years, I have learnt a lot and been able to help disabled people by giving them information to improve their lives and gain greater independence. The team are friendly and supportive and are a pleasure to work with."*

## Warrington Disability Forum (WDF)

**Funded by Warrington Borough Council**

The Warrington Disability Forum provides monthly meetings for consultation and information exchange with guest speakers ranging from the Warrington Health Consortium, Out & About Day Care Services and the Macintyre Shared Lives Project.

The Forum has a lively agenda for discussion with an average attendance of 20 members per meeting. In total, there are 134 active members, which include both individuals and organisations with an interest in disability matters.

Many local organisations have held consultations with members of the forum, taking their suggestions on board. Throughout the year forum members have been involved in discussions around the new Garven Place development, the Orford Jubilee Hub, Social Services reviews and Town Centre parking.

## Websites & Social Networking

*Funded by a variety of core funding streams and public donations*

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

- **Warrington Disability Partnership** - [www.disabilitypartnership.org.uk](http://www.disabilitypartnership.org.uk)  
30,597 visitors during the past 12 months (793,962 hits)
- **Disability Awareness Day** - [www.disabilityawarenessday.co.uk](http://www.disabilityawarenessday.co.uk)  
21,329 visitors during the past 12 months (665,365 hits)
- **Positive Action Awards** - [www.positiveactionawards.org.uk](http://www.positiveactionawards.org.uk)  
2630 visitors during the past 12 months (55,065 hits)
- **Warrington Access Guide** - [www.warringtonaccessguide.org.uk](http://www.warringtonaccessguide.org.uk)  
50,712 visitors during the past 12 months (734,182 hits)
- **Disability Trading Company** - [www.disabilitytradingcompany.co.uk](http://www.disabilitytradingcompany.co.uk)  
4555 visitors during the past 12 months (117,982 hits)



We actively use Social Networking for promotion and communications, in particular through facebook on our WDP page (290 'likes') and Ollie Bird's profile (2,106 friends) and on twitter @Ollie the Owl (751 followers). We regularly update our friends and followers on the activities and fundraising events which WDP take part in. In 2012, a facebook page was set up, specifically for Disability Awareness Day (DAD), which became popular in the lead up to the event. The team are looking to build on this for 2013.

*"It's great keeping up to date with the news on Facebook from WDP and Ollie. There's always something going on with their fundraising events and activities and I know exactly where to go if I need information and advice on disability matters. Great photos too!"*

## Wizard Narrow Boat

*Self-funded from income generation and donations with support from Thorn Marine and the Barn Owl, Lymm*

The Wizard is a unique wheelchair accessible 40' narrow boat that offers low cost day trips to disabled people, their families, carers and support groups within the local community along the scenic Bridgewater Canal. Over 800 people have enjoyed trips on the Wizard, during 2012, with WDP volunteers giving 2,577 to support 101 trips.

*"As always, the Wizard Team, are very helpful, polite and respectful to the residents (passengers). It's a joy to spend time on the Wizard - a pleasure from beginning to end. Can't wait for the next voyage."*



**Special thanks go to all of our Funders, Sponsors, Donors and everyone who helps to support our services. A list of thanks is listed on our website [www.disabilitypartnership.org.uk](http://www.disabilitypartnership.org.uk) - we couldn't run our services without your continued support.**

**LOG ON TO OUR WEBSITE FOR REGULAR NEWS ITEMS  
[www.disabilitypartnership.org.uk](http://www.disabilitypartnership.org.uk)**



## Mobility & Independent Living Service

- Equipment Sales ●
- Walking Stick MOT Service ●
- Incontinence Products ●
- Advice & Guidance ●

## Mobility Workshop & Service Centre

Our purpose built mobility workshop is available to cater for your every need with fully trained staff on hand to carry out our services:

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- Collection & Deliveries ●

We also accept any donations of mobility equipment for our recycling project

You can also talk to us about our competitively priced servicing contracts

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SHOPMOBILITY WARRINGTON: Legh Street Car Park, Warrington WA1 1QU

MOBILITY & INDEPENDENT LIVING STORE: 93 The Mall, Golden Square Shopping Centre, Warrington WA1 1QE

MOBILITY & INDEPENDENT LIVING SERVICES: Lifehouse Summers Road,  
Brunswick Business Park, Liverpool L3 4BL. Tel: 0151 709 0121

DISABILITY INFORMATION POINT: Warrington Retail Market, Academy Way, Warrington WA1 2EN

Supporting: Warrington Disability Partnership  
Centre for Independent Living, Beaufort Street, Warrington WA5 1BA

# 01925 240064





## Celebrating Inter Faith

As Chair and Secretary of Warrington Council of Faiths, the Rev Stephen Kingsnorth of Warrington Borough Ministry, and Faith Advisor to the Council, was invited with others from around the nation to Lambeth Palace for a gathering hosted by the outgoing Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Rowan Williams, in celebration of Inter Faith Week.

## New service for the less mobile

CARING Cars is a new personal transport service established in Warrington for people with mobility problems.

It's the brainchild of Chris Gleave, from Sankey Bridges and it fills a gap in the local provision for people who have difficulty getting about.

Chris said: "I've worked as a professional carer most of my working life and it was while working for the North West Ambulance Service I had the idea of providing a specialist service that not only gets people from A to B but also provides an experienced carer/companion for the entire trip."

Caring Cars is fully licensed, DVLA and CRB checked and operates throughout the week.

**Caring Cars**  
 'Supporting your Independence'

Caring Cars is a fully licenced service offering transport and care for you or your loved ones. We provide a car, wheelchair and an experienced carer /companion to go with you to any appointments or events including shopping, hospital, funerals, weddings etc or a day trip down memory lane. We will spend the entire trip with you and will ensure all your needs are cared for.

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# Students perform at Theatre of Dreams

WARRINGTON students got the chance to perform on one of the world's biggest footballing stages thanks to a pioneering partnership with Manchester United.

Students from Warrington Collegiate, studying BTEC Level 3 Football Excellence with Manchester United Soccer School, Development through Coaching, demonstrated some of the skills gained on the course, during a special appearance at United's "Theatre of Dreams".

As United left the pitch at half time the students came on to enthusiastic applause to demonstrate excellent passing moves, some outstanding dribbling as well as coaching skills.

Mike Walsh, Lecturer for Sport at Warrington Collegiate and Coach at Manchester United Soccer Schools said, "The course, a first for Manchester United Soccer School (MUSS) and Warrington Collegiate, working in partnership, is for students who are interested in pursuing a sports coaching career. The students are taught using the coaching principles used by Manchester United. The quality of the skill displayed by the students is extremely high. These students will be the first to qualify on the new course and will have brilliant futures ahead of them whether it is in coaching nationally or internationally or progressing on to university."

Ben Graham, aged 16 from Orford, said, "It was a breath taking experience playing on the pitch in front of the 60,000 strong crowd. The course has been fast paced and demanding since we started in September. We have already gained the FA Level 1 Football Coaching Award which I am using coaching with Fife Rangers under 15's. I



already feel I've got a great future ahead of me in football coaching.

Luke Pollock, 17 from Orford, added, "The great thing about this course is that not only do you gain some fantastic coaching skills and knowledge used by one of the top teams in the premier league but you also develop as a player. After the course I plan to work for MUSS then carry on to university to progress further in my coaching career".

Jamie Livesey, aged 16, from Orford, spoke for most of the students saying, "It was a boyhood dream of mine to be on the pitch at Old Trafford during the game as I have been a fan all my life and have a

season ticket."

Graham Murphy, Curriculum Manager for Sport at Warrington Collegiate concluded, "The students are based at our fabulous new sports facilities at Orford Jubilee Park including state of the art fitness testing equipment and brand new 3G football pitches. The course has been so successful that we have plans to expand for next September and are looking for students keen to develop their coaching skills, as well as gain a qualification associated with one of the most well known names in the game. The current students have plans to progress to University or go straight into employment in the coaching industry, some with the

world famous Manchester United Soccer Schools.

Students interested in the new course can come along to a taster and information session at the Collegiate's new sports facilities at Orford Jubilee Park on Monday, January 21 at 6.30-8pm. Further details are available from Mike Walsh, Course Leader at Warrington Collegiate. Mike can be contacted at [mwalsh@warrington.ac.uk](mailto:mwalsh@warrington.ac.uk) or by calling Learner Services on 01925 494494.

## Youngsters get a taste of courtroom drama



Left to right: Students Robbie Dobson (barrister), Nicole McColgan (witness), Amanda Strong (barrister), Nicole Dillon (witness) and Liam Stockton (usher and court clerk).

WARRINGTON students took on the roles of barristers, jurors and courtroom staff when they took part in a "Mock Trial" competition.

The Forensics and Public Service students from Warrington Collegiate had a day in court for the regional heat of the annual Bar Mock Trial Competition at Liverpool Crown Court.

More than 170 schools and colleges took part and Warrington narrowly missed out on a place in the final in London in March.

Orford student Louise Wright, 19, said: "We took on the roles of barristers, jurors and courtroom staff and then either defended or presented our case against other teams.

"We only have a short time to become familiar with the case. Then we have to battle it out in a real courtroom, in front of a real judge."

Performances were assessed by senior barristers and circuit judges.

Tina James, lecturer in Public Services said: "The competition aims to expand participants' understanding of the law, develop their skills of argument and reasoning, and widen the knowledge students have of a career at the Bar.

"The students are judged on the level and detail of case preparation as well as their advocacy skills. This is the first time we have taken part so we weren't quite sure what to expect. We're really proud of them winning two of their cases and only narrowly missing out on a place on the London final."

## Entrepreneurs make wire work!

YOUNG entrepreneurs are building a business out of a material that proved valuable in Warrington's past.

Eight students from Priestley College are creating jewellery from wire, a product that played a vital role in the town's history and provided a nickname for the Warrington Wolves.

Members of Wireworks are now aiming to sell shares in their company as well as the items they are making.

Student Joseph McGurty, who developed the idea and learnt the technique for making the jewellery from youtube clips, said: "I thought we could make a business out of wire as well as it tied in with the history of the local area.

"People can watch us make the jewellery in front of them and one of our biggest selling points is that the items are unique.

Priestley's Young Enterprise team – who are all studying BTEC Business Studies – are working with two mentors, Alan Hunter formerly from ICI and Nick Mullins from Rock Oil, to develop their business.

None of the students had ever made anything like the jewellery before, but bought a tool kit and are now producing intricate trinkets to sell



at open evenings and other events.

They will enter their company into the Warrington finals of Young Enterprise to demonstrate their business know-how, skills and creativity.

"It is great what they are doing and an excellent opportunity that will help them to prepare for the world of work," said Professional Studies Tutor Debbie Booth.

The students who make up Wireworks are Joseph McGurty, Chloe Hatton, Aimee Walker, Alex Leslie, Saabah Mohammed, Georgina Harrington and Charmie Valdez.



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# Festive season is upon us - leave your car at home

by Jonathan Conder

The festive season is upon us and many people will be out enjoying themselves and perhaps drinking more alcohol than they normally would. The sensible advice for anyone who is thinking of driving after having consumed alcohol is clear: don't do it, even if you think you are under the limit. However many people ignore this advice, especially at this time of year. It may be sobering then to consider what the consequences might be if you are arrested for drinking and driving.

If you are stopped by the police on suspicion of drinking and driving a police officer will normally breathalyse you at the roadside using a hand held device. Failure without reasonable excuse to comply with this request is an offence. If the test is positive you will be arrested and taken to a police station.

At the police station you will be required to take part in a further test so that the level of alcohol in

your breath, blood or urine can be measured. Normally this involves blowing into a machine which produces a reading of the amount of alcohol in your breath. Refusing or failing without reasonable excuse to provide a sample is an offence. Reasonable excuse normally only applies where there is a genuine medical reason not to comply with the test. The police will decide whether you are given a breath, blood or urine test, you cannot choose. You are entitled to speak to a solicitor during your time at the police station but the police will not delay the test procedure for this to happen. It is likely that during your time at the police station you will be placed in a locked cell, possibly for several hours.

If the test shows that you are over the limit you will be charged, which means that you will be required to attend a magistrates court. The penalties vary depending on the alcohol level, any

aggravating features such as a collision and any previous record. The court is obliged, except in very limited circumstances, to disqualify you from driving for a minimum of 12 months including for an offence of failing to provide a sample. You may also go to prison if the case is very serious, even for a first offence. The consequences for careers and family life can therefore be devastating.

Don't make the mistake of driving in the morning after drinking heavily the night before. There is always a chance that you will still be under the influence which will not only be dangerous for you and other road users but will put you at risk of a positive breath test if you are stopped by the police.

Widdows Mason has a number of solicitors who can advise you about this area of the law and provide representation in court if required. Please contact our criminal law department on the telephone number listed below.



## Widdows Mason

Solicitors

Arundel House, 12 Rylands Street, Warrington

Telephone: 01925 632267 Facsimile: 01925 445148

Web: [www.widdows.co.uk](http://www.widdows.co.uk) Email: [info@widdows.co.uk](mailto:info@widdows.co.uk)



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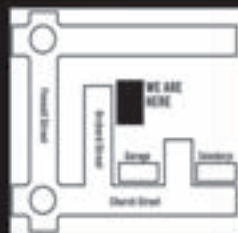
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## Motoring

# A car to reflect your personality

ADAM, Vauxhall's all-new three-door hatchback, which arrives in the UK early this year, offers unprecedented levels of personalisation with more than a million different specification and trim combinations.

Measuring 3.70 metres in length and 1.72 metres in width, the car comfortably seats four people and

arrives with prices ranging from £11,255 to £14,000.

Personalisation begins with the selection of one of three trim levels - ADAM JAM (fashionable/colourful) - ADAM GLAM (elegant/sophisticated) and ADAM SLAM (racy/sporty). The next level of customisation comes with the addition of option packs, and from here the

possibilities are virtually endless, with the choice of 12 body colours, 15 seat designs, 20 alloy wheel styles, three printed headliners and no less than 18 interior décor panels, to mention just a few.

An exclusive on-board infotainment system, integrates the owner's smartphone (Android and Apple iOS) with the car, making internet based applications available on the facia

mounted touch screen. Other features include a new-generation Park Assist that automatically parks the car, a Side Blind Spot Alert and a power steering system including a 'light touch' CITY mode.

Vauxhall believe the car will attract young and young-at-heart fashion-conscious customers who want their car to reflect their personality.



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# Financially yours

By David Watkinson

## Revisiting the question of dividends

Having had a nice break over Christmas, we thought we might revisit the question of dividends paid to director/shareholders. Many one man companies use dividends as a means to provide tax and NI efficient payments to the director/shareholder. In many cases, the payments are simply transfers of cash with no specific purpose, and it is left to the accountant at the end of the year to sort out what goes where.

This treatment may have been sufficient in the past but it is now getting less acceptable for a number of reasons.

Firstly, and without wishing to overstate this, there is a case where the Court of Appeal has held that dividends are salary for both tax and NI purposes. The taxpayer has been given leave to take the case to the Supreme Court, and some people are wondering whether, the tax office wins again, there may be a general attack on the use of dividends. The general view is that this will not happen. However, the likelihood of an individual arrangement being challenged even now is increased if the paperwork is not complete.

Secondly, and more importantly,

many director/shareholders have invested money in the form of loans into their company. If this loan is sufficiently large to cover all payments made by the company to the director then the payments could justifiably be regarded as repayments of that loan, with the loan being increased afterwards by the payment of a salary and dividend. However, two things are happening that may affect this interpretation:

1. With the downturn in the economy over the past few years, the profitability of many companies has fallen, with the result that the dividends and salary voted in the accounts have failed to fully cover the withdrawals made. An increasing number of director/shareholders are now finding that their loan to the company is insufficient to cover the withdrawals during the year, and this can create significant taxation repercussions.

2. With the forthcoming introduction of Real Time Information, failure to notify the tax office in advance of payments that are subject to PAYE deductions being made can lead to substantial penalties, and these penalties are for each occurrence of this heinous crime. If



David Watkinson and Margaret Black

payments are of a non-specific nature then it will be more difficult to refute any assertion by the tax office that they should be subjected to the Real Time Information rules.

Our advice is that it is more important now than ever to ensure that the exact nature of each and every payment to a director/shareholder is determined and that the correct paper trail to support that payment is created.

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

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# Award winning musician visits school

AWARD-winning musician Esco Williams visited Sir Thomas Boteler High School, Warrington, to help raise awareness of equality, integrity and diversity through music...

Esco, who has won a MOBO award and is one of MTV's top 20 artists of the year, visited as part of the Anthony Walker Foundation Roadshow (in memory of the Black Liverpool student who was murdered in 2005).

The aim of the roadshow was to raise awareness of equality, integrity and diversity, through music.

Pupils were enthralled by his music and the message of his songs about sharing cultures.

Head of English Cathy Munroe, who taught Anthony Walker in Liverpool, said: "It was the most traumatic experience of my career."

"Equality is a global issue and what Esco Williams has brought into school through the Anthony Walker Foundation is a wonderful opportunity for our pupils to think about other people and how we treat people who are different from ourselves and what is acceptable and what is not acceptable."



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# Westy wins £1 million windfall!

WESTY in Warrington, one of the top 8 per cent deprived areas in the country, will receive £1 million of Big Lottery funding over the next ten years.

Local residents will get to decide how to improve their local community and a new charitable trust will soon be set up tasked with deciding how and when to spend the money.

This could include anything from starting up training and employment schemes, creating social enterprises or providing more activities for young people. The council, ward councillors and local groups have long recognised the need for additional resources in this area and the Big Lottery submission was based on hard evidence of need.

Cllr Kate Hannon, executive board member for leisure, community and culture said: "This is fantastic news for Westy and for Warrington. This new fund is 100% resident led so it will be entirely up to people living in the area to use the funds on the things that matter most to them, and projects and services that will have the biggest impact."

The Big Local programme is funded through a £200m Big Lottery Fund investment and managed by Local Trust; Big Local is helping 150 small urban and rural communities across England to make their areas even better places to live.

## Perfect Prom fund raiser



A PERFECT Prom evening is being held to commemorate 20 years since the Warrington bombings and raise funds for the Tim Parry Johnathan Ball Foundation For Peace.

The Dress Studio in Culcheth is staging the event at the Peace Centre and there will be help and advice on getting ready for the big night.

The store, which has more than 600 dresses on offer, will showcase its prom and party collections. There will be stalls with all prom necessities including make-up artists, transport and jewellery. Toni & Guy, Warrington, will give demonstrations of perfect prom hairstyles.

The event will be held on January 29. Tickets are £10 and can be bought at The Dress Studio or contact Holly on 01925 766258 or Wendy on 01925 581234.

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