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# Editor's Comment



**Editor**  
Gary Skentelbery

**Production**  
Paul Walker

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

**Editorial**  
01925 623631

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

**Websites**  
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**Address**  
New Media Centre  
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**HOPEFULLY the start of a new year can see the start of a new beginning for the controlling Labour group on Warrington Borough Council - but I won't hold my breath.**

The latest political spat which involved the police being called to the corridors of power at the town hall was the latest in a long list of an ongoing political battle which brings no credit to any of those involved.

All politicians are elected by the people, to serve the people - not to fall out with each other - it is bad enough to see opposing politicians from rival parties having a go at each other - without those representing the same side airing their dirty washing in public.

These battles within the Labour group have been going on for years now and one can only wonder what impact they will have at the local elections in May.

I am not sure what can be done to resolve these differences of opinion - but I would suggest whatever is

done - is done in private, behind closed doors and done quickly for the good of our town.

With further major cut backs looming in the council budget there needs to be a real focus on ensuring front line services do not suffer - and that means everyone pulling together in the same direction before the wheels come falling off.

Hopefully the re-appointment of Steven Broomhead as Chief Executive on a permanent basis will help steady the ship - but if he is to do so - he needs to be able to

focus on running the town hall and not being dragged into personal political battles.

Finally a quick word of congratulations to all those involved in organising the Rugby League World Cup locally.

The hard work and planning which went into the event in Warrington as host town to Samoa certainly paid off!

I think we can safely say it was a huge success and apparently injected a much needed £2.5 million into the local economy.

**Deadline for  
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issue is  
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# Warrington's 5,920 children in poverty

**A TOTAL of 5,920 children are living in poverty in Warrington – 15.3 per cent of the 0-15 age group – despite the town being seen as a relatively affluent borough.**

Warrington's employment rate of 76 per cent is significantly higher than the national average of 70 per cent. The borough also has a higher skilled workforce than seen either regionally or nationally – but the town's progress in reducing child poverty levels has not been as successful as anticipated.

Since 2009, the number of children living in families in receipt of out-of-work benefits has increased from 4,030 to the

present 5,920.

This is revealed in the borough council's annual report on child poverty.

In fact, Warrington ranks in the 25 per cent of local authorities in England with the lowest percentage of children in poverty.

But the figures for the borough as a whole conceal big differences across the borough, with the eight most deprived wards having much higher figures.

The number of children in poverty (with percentage of the 0-15 age group in brackets) in the eight wards is as follows:

Bewsey and Whitecross: 805 (30.5); Birchwood: 400 (20.9);

Fairfield and Howley: 615 (26.4); Latchford East: 415 (25.8); Latchford West: 165 (17.4); Orford: 600 (26.8); Poplars and Hulme 760 (32.1); Poulton North: 500 (26.0).

The report points out that although Warrington's employment rate is higher than average, earnings have declined over the past three years from an all-time high of £503.70 a week to £492.30 a week.

Benefit claims are in line with regional and national averages and in the most deprived wards, the claimant count is much higher than the national average.

An increased population has

increased demand for homes – particularly for socially rented accommodation. The number of applications has risen over three years from 7,651 to 10,968.

Gaps in attainment between children eligible for school meals and those who are not have widened in both writing and science, remained the same in maths and, although they have reduced in reading, still remain wider than the national average.

At the same time, weight and obesity continue to be a key area of need for children in Warrington, with the proportion of overweight children significantly increasing between starting school and Year 6.

The report is to be considered by the borough council's Supporting the Local Economy Policy Committee.

## Proud mum Wendy Parry receives OBE

PROUD mum Wendy Parry has received her OBE at Buckingham Palace from HRH Prince Charles - who visited Warrington after the 1993 bomb attack which claimed the lives of 12-year-old Tim Parry and three-year-old Johnathan Ball.

The mother of Tim who was killed in an IRA bomb blast in Bridge Street, Warrington, received the OBE in the Queen's 2013 Birthday Honours list.

Wendy, together with husband Colin is the co-Founder of the Foundation For Peace, now a national and international charity established in the boys memory. Husband Colin received an OBE in 2004.

Wendy is the inspiration behind the creation of the international Peace Centre in Warrington, opened in 2000 to help support people affected by political violence and terrorism and promote programmes in the prevention and resolution of violent conflict.

Wendy said she was: "Very proud and honoured to receive the OBE.

"Everything we have done in the past has been to keep Tim and Johnathan's names alive. This could be another thing that will help do that."

The investiture took place in the Ballroom at Buckingham Palace.

Wendy was joined at the event by Colin and their two children Dominic and Abbie.



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|--|--------------------------------|
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| 11   |                                |
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|   |                              |
|---|------------------------------|
| JAN   | <b>DIRTY DANCING TRIBUTE</b> |
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| 18  |                              |
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|   |                                  |
|---|----------------------------------|
| JAN   | <b>SOUL &amp; MOTOWN TRIBUTE</b> |
| SAT   |                                  |
| 25  |                                  |
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|   |                         |
|---|-------------------------|
| JAN   | <b>70'S BOOGIE SHOW</b> |
| FRI   |                         |
| 31  |                         |
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|   |                                |
|---|--------------------------------|
| FEB   | <b>ULTIMATE DIVA'S TRIBUTE</b> |
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| 1   |                                |
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|   |   |
|---|---|
| FEB   | <b>80'S IDOL SHOW WITH NATHAN MOORE</b> |
| SAT   |   |
| 8   |   |
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|   |                                  |
|---|----------------------------------|
| FEB   | <b>SWING WITH ROBBIE TRIBUTE</b> |
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| 14  |                                  |
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Hello and welcome to my monthly column . . .

# Hypnotes

by Michael Mahoney

## What are you hoping for in 2014?

**We have now reached that time of year which is filled with festive cheer, and holiday time, but with it, for many people, also increasing stress levels. This ultimately encourages reflection on past events and how this has affected coping skills and lifestyle in general.**

For many people looking forward to a new year may bring hope for better things, to be able to move another step forward away from painful experiences and memories, or it may be simply, wanting to improve on something that has been set in motion or for things to remain the same.

Whatever hopes and plans you have for 2014, now is the time to be setting ideas in motion and to be open to new opportunities. If you are already feeling positive and hopeful for better things next year, then you have an established belief system which will attract more positive experiences towards you.

Many people, however, may find it difficult to remain positive and hopeful of better things around the corner because of their current and / or past experiences. Some people actually give up hope, especially if they are feeling depressed or anxious, and may have a strong belief that things

will never change for them.

Hope is a very powerful feeling, and can always be regained by changing self-beliefs and being open to receiving love and support from others. It means self-care and commitment to oneself, and especially a desire for things to change for the better is a good starting point.

Modern society has taught us to look outside of the self rather than inside for the answers. If you are always waiting for others to change, or to change circumstances for you, then it may never happen. If you can recognise what you can do yourself, by changing your belief system, then you will be well on the way to being more hopeful about your life next year. Miracles can and do happen, as Christmas time reminds us, therefore it is important to be open to the possibility, no matter how small, a miracle can and will happen for you.

Acquiring knowledge is a good way of being receptive to miracles of change through self-development, and the start of a new year is a good time to begin this journey.

With this in mind, we are holding Health Awareness Workshops on Mondays 7pm-8.30pm at our Cheshire College of Hypnotherapy at 7 Bold Street, Warrington.  
• 20th January 2014

Michael Mahoney is a Clinical Hypnotherapist. He has research, and patient trials experience. He is a member of the Hypnotherapy Association, an associate of the Primary Care Society for Gastroenterology, based at Woolston Surgery, Neighbourhood Hub, Warrington WA1 4PN.



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If you would like to attend one of our workshops, or make an appointment for a 1-1 consultation, please contact either myself or Cate Todd on 01925 658322. We both wish you lots of hope and joy for 2014!

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# Broomhead re-appointed to top job

PROFESSOR Steven Broomhead has been appointed chief executive of Warrington Borough Council on a permanent basis.

Councillors voted him into the job at a meeting of the full council.

Professor Broomhead – who held the post previously before becoming chief executive of the former North West Development Agency – has been acting as interim chief executive since June last year after the resignation of predecessor Diana Terris.

The post was advertised nationally and the council's chief officer employment committee interviewed shortlisted candidates in November last year, but could



not make a unanimous decision and resolved to re-advertise the vacancy.

The committee was again unable to make an appointment in October this year despite a competitive market.

It was then agreed to ask Professor Broomhead to stay in post on a permanent basis.

## Prime Minister endorses local media



PRIME Minister David Cameron gave a ringing endorsement to local and regional media during a special event at Number 10 Downing Street.

Warrington Worldwide Editor Gary Skentelbery was amongst a number of local and regional Editors invited to Downing Street by their local MPs.

Mr Cameron said local and regional media played a "vital role" in getting messages out to communities and thanked them for their hard work.

"Whatever your politics it was an amazing experience visiting Number 10 again," said Gary. "I was lucky enough to get an invite to a similar event last year and thought it would be a once in a life time opportunity - so to go back again was fantastic."

## Garage helps women learn more about cars

A WARRINGTON garage opened its doors to 30 women wanting to learn more about the basics about running their cars.

This was the first in a series of two-hour training sessions to teach women about the general rules of car maintenance, arranged by garage owner, Raf Khan from Warrington Service Centre .

Raf said: "We have started these motoring courses to help female motorists feel more comfortable about carrying out regular vehicle checks at home. Many women travel long distances for work and this course is designed to help them understand what they can be doing in between services to maintain their cars."

Tracey Smith, aged 32, who attended the first course, said: "Before I attended this event I felt uneasy about dealing with mechanics as I didn't always understand the rationale related to the expensive vehicle maintenance work, as I knew very little about car servicing and repairs."

"This course has been perfect for me, I've learnt a great deal and would recommend it to anyone who wants to be taught the basics of car maintenance and repair in an informal, friendly environment."

Due to the level of interest and success of the event, the next event will be open to both ladies and gentlemen. The date of the next educational session has been set and will take place on Wednesday 22 January at 6.30pm at Warrington Service Centre, 74 Church Street, Warrington, WA1 2TF. Booking is essential for this event and interested parties can reserve their place by visiting [www.wscladiesnightjan14.eventbrite.com](http://www.wscladiesnightjan14.eventbrite.com) or calling 01925 232255



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# Early birds boost Big Storage toy appeal

MEMBERS of Warrington BNI breakfast network group have thrown their full support behind this year's BiG Storage Toy Appeal.

The area's premier networking group, who meet weekly at the Village hotel at 6.45am have already amassed a tremendous number of gifts for the 2013 BiG Toy Appeal.

Lynne Lister a member of the BNI leadership team and from X-Press Legal services said: "It is amazing that the local business community has thrown their weight behind this fantastic appeal."

"BNI does tremendous charity work locally all year round and the 30 plus business involved here have shown how important the appeal is to each one of them by giving so generously."

BiG Storages Paul Whittaker a BNI member and Toy Appeal Co-ordinator added: "Over the last eight years the toy appeal has attracted tens of thousands of donations, every single one of which has helped to make a difference to a child in need."

"We are delighted that BNI Warrington have decided to support our appeal, which this year will help local charities such as the NSPCC Warrington, The Children Adventure Farm Trust and JUMP."

BiG Storages are now set to surpass their target of 5,000 toys

this year and this will help to ensure that there are plenty of presents for the under privileged and vulnerable children who will be helped by the local charities based in and around Warrington.

Doug Brown from RTL, technology recycling specialists added "I know the kind hearted and generous residents of Warrington will once again overwhelm us with toys and gifts to support the BiG Storage appeal and I am excited to be a local drop off point."

"Please can I reminded readers that we will accept all toys and gifts which are new and boxed for babies up to those of sixteen years of age"

Toys can be dropped off at



Warrington BiG Storage Branch, 73 Manchester Road, Woolston. WA1 4AE 01925 812700. Opening Times Mon-Fri 8am-6pm, Sat 9am-

4pm, Sun 10am-4pm.

For the very latest toy appeal information and any further details please visit [www.bigstorage.info](http://www.bigstorage.info) and click the Toy Appeal link.

## Business with head in the clouds!

A WARRINGTON based business has its head in the clouds but in a good way.

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# New school opens its doors



Head teacher Nick Toyne, the Mayor, Mr Bate, Cllr Colin Froggatt, lead member for children and young people, Kath O'Dwyer and pupils at the opening ceremony.

IN an exciting ceremony Woolston Primary School has formally opened its brand-new premises on Barnfield Road.

The ceremony included songs by Woolston Primary's own pupils and a special performance by Warrington's Signing Choir.

Former teacher Harold Bate, who taught at the school from 1957 to 1980, joined Mayor Cllr Peter Carey, in unveiling a plaque to mark the opening of the new building.

Headteacher Nick Toyne said: "Today is a very important and proud day in the continued life of our school. This new building and the staff within it will inspire learners both now and in the future to achieve their best and be successful citizens."

After the ceremony some of the school's year six pupils led guided tours of the distinctively-shaped £4 million building, which occupies a 2.45-hectare site.

The council's director of families and wellbeing, Kath O'Dwyer, said: "Warrington Borough Council is delighted to be able to deliver new school premises that will provide a wonderful learning environment for the school's two hundred pupils.

"I'd like to thank Mr Toyne, and the school staff and governors, and especially the children, for the very warm welcome and the wonderful entertainment. We wish the whole school the very best for the coming decades."

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Gynaecological causes of chronic pelvic pain lasting for more than 6 months (chronic pain) may differ at different chronological stages of life. An ultrasound scan of the pelvis should be one of the first investigations to be arranged, but other tests may be requested to assess the bowel and bladder. In over half of women with chronic

pelvic pain if a gynaecological cause is suspected a laparoscopy (keyhole surgery) is performed for diagnostic and therapeutic purposes.

The commonest gynaecological causes of chronic pelvic pain include: endometriosis (lining of the womb growing in other places inside the pelvis), adhesions (clingfilm-like scar tissue caused by infections, previous surgery or endometriosis), ovarian cysts (benign or malignant masses of different size) and some types of fibroids (benign hormone dependent tumours that grow in the uterus and vary from the size of a pea to a grapefruit).

Superficial vulval pain, experienced on the outside of the vagina rather than deep in the pelvis, is a less common symptom, and can relate to infections, dryness, nerve damage and some skin conditions. This type of pain has no relationship with the menstrual cycle, and can occur during sexual intercourse.

Non-gynaecological causes of chronic pelvic pain may be associated with problems in the bladder or bowel, and/or musculoskeletal, nerves and psychological issues.

Women can't do anything to prevent ovarian cysts, endometriosis or fibroids causing pelvic pain symptoms, but better



Luciano G. Nardo MD MRCOG, Director GyneHealth, Consultant gynaecologist and reproductive surgeon, Centre for Reproductive Health, Daresbury Park, Warrington

knowledge and appropriate clinical management help prevent any of these impacting more on the quality of life and daily activities.

## Go-ahead for 220 new homes

PLANNERS have cleared the way for a major development of 220 homes on the site of the former Bruche Police Training Centre, off Greenway.

Housebuilders Morris Homes, who already had outline planning consent to re-develop the site, have been given final approval by the borough council's development management committee. The development will consist of eight five-bedroom detached houses, 127 four bedroom houses, 19 three-bedroom detached houses, 23 three-bedroom and 43 two-bedroom mews properties. Thirty per cent of the properties will be "affordable" – and the developer is also making a financial contribution to enable 44 off-site affordable homes.

More than 20 nearby residents had opposed the scheme – mainly on highway issues. They said local roads were already congested. But the committee came to the conclusion that road safety measures which would be introduced as part of the scheme would resolve highway issues.

The 8.7 hectare site was originally developed as a transit station for troops during World War Two. It was redeveloped as a training centre for police during the 1950s but closed in 2006.

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# Annual Review 2013



This report has been produced on behalf of WDP by

**warrington-worldwide**





## Introduction

# Welcome

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

"On behalf of my fellow trustees, staff and volunteers I am delighted to share our achievements from 2013, which I suppose started at last year's annual meeting with the exciting news that my fellow trustees had awarded my wife Pam the title of Honorary Lifetime President. This was in recognition of her commitment to WDP that stems back over 20 years.

I described 2012 as a rollercoaster; well 2013 has been more akin to a carousel ride. That said the relentless financial pressure faced by our funding partners has resulted in short-term contracts that has affected staff morale and our business planning. Contract changes led to the sad loss of two posts in our nationally recognised Independent Living Team, but in contrast, funding from new partners and the expansion of our internally developed services supported the expansion of our team which included Tom Coleridge who took up the post of Disability Information Officer. The return of some of our old volunteers and the recruitment of several more led to the expansion of our team of volunteers. We also added new skills to our Board of Trustees when we welcomed Mark Wilson OBE.

Other high points of the year included:

- opening of the extension to our Marjorie Griffiths Learning Centre that offers education and training courses to hundreds of disabled people,
- completion of the extension to our Mobility Workshop and Service Centre that has allowed us to increase the work undertaken and to launch a new mobility equipment recycling scheme,
- launch of the Marjorie Griffiths Respite Care Fund that is really making a difference to the lives of carers and the people they care for,
- continued growth of all of our retail services that are operated under our trading arm 'Disability Trading Company' (DTC),
- increased outputs across all of our services,
- Pam and I were invited to visit Esther McVey, Minister for Disabled People, at the House of Commons where we were joined by WDP supporter and local MP David Mowat,
- our Sex and Disability project was featured on Channel 4's 'Sex on Wheels' programme,
- we reviewed and expanded our community engagement, attending networks and forums ensuring that the voice of disabled people continues to influence policies and services,
- increasing membership and attendance at our Disability Forum, which links up dozens of disability organisations with statutory partners,
- our Going the Extra Mile Scuba Challenge was covered by ITV Granada Reports, and it raised thousands of pounds towards Disability Awareness Day,
- other successful fundraising events; 'Walk in the Park', the 'Big Splash' sponsored swim, BUPA 10K Run, English Half Marathon, Quiz Nights, Raffles, Music Nights

and countless Tombola's at fetes and carnivals across Warrington.

Our 22nd Disability Awareness Day was simply the best, so far. In contrast to last year's wettest event, this year was the hottest and driest, which helped to attract record numbers to most of our 12 supporting events held the week leading up to the big day, as well as a record number of exhibitors and visitors to DAD. Your Housing Group were our principal sponsors, and Esther McVey, Minister for Disabled People, was our special guest. Our event was the catalyst for organisations across the world to run similar events, including the 'MESSAGE Institute' based in the Punjab in India and 'Closing the Gap', a user-led organisation based in Cameroon. The national Guardian newspaper and the BBC were amongst dozens of organisations to quote that DAD Warrington was responsible for launching the International Day of Disability Awareness.

The lowest point of the year was news of the sad loss of Anne Thorpe MBE; Anne was one of our original trustees and a key member of several disability organisations. Another sad day saw the closure and more recently the demolition of the Dallam Day Centre, where we established our foundations over 20 years ago.

I would like to thank all of our partners for their continuing support. I would also like to thank my fellow Trustees/Directors, our staff, especially Derek, Brun, Gavin and Caroline, our fantastic volunteers, the people who use our services and everyone who has supported us in any way during the past year.

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, not just across Warrington, but also across the world."

Thank you.

*Dave*

**Dave Thompson MBE DL**  
Founder and Chairman

**Pam Thompson**  
Honorary President





# What we do and who we are

Warrington Disability Partnership (WDP) is a user-led organisation that provides Information and Advice on a variety of topics and delivers services to disabled people, their families, carers and organisations working with disabled people.

- Our Centre for Independent Living Showroom displays a wide range of equipment to assist independence; we also offer equipment on loan, including a free wheelchair loan service.

- Our Employment Team provide information, advice and guidance through the National Careers Service. This service provides access to the best information, advice and resources and enables everyone to make more effective choices about skills, careers, work and life.

- Our Independent Living Team offer information and support in managing a package of personal care through Direct Payments and Personalised Budgets, with help from our in-house payroll service.

- Visit our Marjorie Griffiths Learning Centre, where we offer a range of IT courses. We are also able to offer various Leisure courses in collaboration with Warrington Collegiate.

- Our well-equipped Meeting / Training Rooms are available for hire at reasonable rates, with on-site catering available at a reasonable cost from our Galleries Community Café.

- Over 220 volunteers regularly support our services, they share or learn new skills, develop skills to help them to move into employment or give something back to their local community.

- Our Disability & Sex Matters Project works with Health & Social Care Providers, voluntary organisations and individuals. We provide Relationships, Sex and Disability Awareness Training for professionals and individuals.

- Speak to our Leisure, Recreation and Sports Development team who can offer support and advice regarding inclusive activities for disabled people. We also run a number of sports clubs for children and young disabled children throughout the week.

- Why not help Ollie the Owl (our Mascot) and our Fundraising Team and hold your own event or volunteer for one of our own exciting events held throughout the year?

- Our accessible holiday homes in Pensarn and Rhyl, North Wales are available for hire at competitive rates. Our fully accessible Narrow Boat (The 'Wizard') is based on the Bridgewater Canal (Warrington) and is available for day trips.

- Our Shopmobility Scheme in Legh Street Car Park, Warrington offers both scooters and wheelchairs on a membership or daily rate service.

- Our Benefits Advisors can offer advice and support with completing benefit application forms. Advice sessions are held by appointment only at our Centre for Independent Living.

- Get your voice heard locally by attending our monthly meetings of the Warrington Disability Forum (held at the Centre for Independent Living). All welcome.

- WDP's trading arm - Disability Trading Company (DTC) offers high quality independent living products at competitive prices, backed up by an extensive range of support services. Incorporating the Mobility Workshop, which provides servicing, repairs and maintenance services for a wide range of mobility equipment.

- Our Mobility & Independent Living store based in Golden Square shopping centre also gives the opportunity to view and purchase equipment from a convenient location within Warrington Town Centre. In addition there is a store at the Lighthouse at Brunswick Dock, Liverpool.





## Volunteer spotlight:

# Ros Schofield

Ros – who will have been volunteering at WDP for 20 years in January next year - works on the switchboard, which primarily involves connecting some of the 50,000 callers through to the relevant department in a courteous manner as quickly and efficiently as possible.

She also helps out around the office with general administrative duties such as sorting mail and packing envelopes.

Prior to volunteering Ros worked for the GPO on the main switchboard handling emergency calls and so had a wealth of experience to draw upon.

“I started to volunteer as a result of meeting Dave Thompson,” explains Ros. “I was studying a Pathways course, which was a course WDP offered at the time, and I spoke to him after he gave a talk at the Neuro Centre in Liverpool. Dave suggested I get involved and I’ve been volunteering ever since.

“The thing I most enjoy about volunteering is the people I work with. They’re really friendly and they’ll do anything for you. They’re like family.”



Ros says that it doesn’t feel like 20 years since she started at WDP.

“It’s gone past so quickly! If I wasn’t volunteering I’d be sitting at home watching TV so being involved keeps me busy and it’s important to interact with others. My mum also provided me with plenty of encouragement and motivation, but to be honest I motivate myself because I enjoy it so much.”

During the past 20 years Ros has noticed that WDP has become a lot bigger and that many positive changes have occurred, such as the launch of the Shopmobility service and the Disability Trading Company.

“The building itself has undergone some changes for the better as well and I am really pleased that there are more volunteers these days,” she adds. “I’m still meeting new people as I don’t know everyone, but that’s something I like as I enjoy meeting people and it keeps things fresh.”

In her spare time Ros likes to go out with her family and friends. “I really enjoy a good pub meal and I like shopping for clothes,” she says. “I also enjoy buying my grandchildren presents.”

## Volunteer spotlight:

# Graeme Timperley

Graeme is a highly dedicated and versatile volunteer – offering his services in not one, but three different roles.

“I work three days a week and I started with WDP 20 months ago,” he explains. “I spend Wednesday mornings on the switchboard and afternoons with the Employment Team. I make up information packs for the Employment Team and ring clients to check their progress with finding work.

“On Mondays and Thursdays I work on the information stall at Warrington Market. This is a face-to-face role and I help people solve queries such as seeking further information on disabilities and illness and assisting them with hiring scooters.”

Graeme applied through the ‘Do It’ website after reading up on the prospect of undertaking a volunteering placement.

“I really enjoy my role because I’m helping the public and my colleagues – who are fantastic to work with - make me feel valued and that I’m part of a team,” he says.

“My role and the people I come into contact with inspire me, so I hope I inspire them. I always strive to do the best job I can



and I enjoy keeping my head down and getting on with as much work as possible.”

The value his colleagues have placed on him is evident in that he was nominated for the ‘Volunteer of the Year’ award last year.

“I was extremely proud to be nominated and absolutely delighted I finished in third place,” he says. “I received a framed certificate, which proudly hangs on my wall at home.”

In his spare time Graeme enjoys listening to music and solving crossword puzzles. He also volunteers at Warrington Wolves Foundation – putting his encyclopaedic knowledge of his favourite rugby league

team to good use as an archivist.

“I’m currently transferring videos of old matches to DVD format. It’s a labour of love,” he says with a smile.

Clearly someone who likes to keep himself busy, Graeme is also currently studying for an NVQ in Customer Service, which he’s working hard on to pass, and his future plans are to hopefully secure paid work at WDP or elsewhere.

**FACT:**

**Our Independent Living and Payroll teams support over 500 local disabled people to stay independent**



## The perfect getaway

# What a 'Wizard' way to spend your break

Looking for the perfect getaway?

Perhaps you've been searching for a home away from home to spend a week relaxing or maybe you fancy a day out cruising the local waterways.

Thanks to Warrington Disability Partnership (WDP) both bases are well and truly covered.

WDP has accessible caravans available for hire in North Wales – one in Rhyl and one in Pensarn – as well as an accessible narrowboat ('The Wizard') which provides day trips on the Bridgewater Canal, Warrington.

'Guillemot' – based at Robin Hood Caravan Park, Rhyl - boasts an interior which has been designed and furnished to an enviably high standard and facilitates manoeuvrability with wide sliding doors – providing clear access to each room.

The spacious shower and toilet area is particularly well-equipped for independent and assisted use – and a special emphasis has been placed on providing ease and safety of access to the caravan with a purpose-built ramp with handrail.

On-site facilities include a diner; launderette; tennis court; indoor swimming pool; kids' club; cabaret club and arcade. 'Guillemot' can accommodate up to five people.

'Grenadier' - based on Harts Caravan Park in Pensarn – shares equally high-quality facilities, such as exterior lights to illuminate the approach; a fitted handrail in the toilet and level taps fitted in the kitchen and shower room for ease of operation. The site is small and benefits those looking for an idyllic retreat to the Welsh countryside. 'Grenadier' is slightly larger than 'Guillemot' and can sleep up to six people.

If you prefer a day out on the water to a week caravanning, why not join us onboard the 'Wizard Narrowboat'? During the 2013 season, over 900 people have enjoyed a day trip on the boat.

WDP's accessible Narrowboat provides day trips along the picturesque Bridgewater Canal to Lymm Village, the Barn Owl Inn or Norton Priory, for disabled people; families; friends and community groups. Facilities include a platform lift; accessible toilet and tea making facilities.

Crewed by experienced volunteers, you're guaranteed a magical and relaxing day out!

For booking availability and pricing information to either board 'The Wizard' or take a break at 'Grenadier' or 'Guillemot' please call 01925 240064.

Alternatively, please visit [www.disabilitypartnership.org.uk](http://www.disabilitypartnership.org.uk)



## Accessible Holiday Homes and Narrowboat

Warrington Disability Partnership have accessible caravans in both Rhyl and Pensarn, North Wales available for hire.

We also have an accessible narrowboat providing day trips on the Bridgewater Canal, Warrington.

For more information on these services contact us on:

**01925 240064**  
[disabilitypartnership.org.uk](http://disabilitypartnership.org.uk)

Holidays from just £120 per week

2014 bookings now being taken





## Mobility Recycling Scheme

# Don't bin it — DONATE IT

During the past decade, mobility and other independent living products have become more readily available. Increased consumer demand and mass production has led to lower prices, higher quality and more choice. Adversely, it's not surprising that we are now seeing more items discarded in general household waste, refuse centre and landfill sites.

Warrington Disability Partnership (WDP) have launched a new and innovative scheme which aims to recover, recycle and reuse electric scooters; wheelchairs; crutches; wheeled and framed walkers.

Donated equipment, once restored, will be used in WDP's Shopmobility fleet, our independent living Equipment Loan services or sold on at affordable prices. All profits made from the sale of the equipment will be reinvested in WDP's services, which support thousands of disabled people every year.

WDP is currently in negotiations with the MESSAGE institute based in Punjab, India to see if some equipment can be sent to India to enable disabled people to be given a chance to retain or regain their mobility — helping them to stay independent.

Dave Thompson MBE DL MBA, Founder and Chairman said: 'We are very excited about the potential for the scheme to expand not just in Warrington, but also across Cheshire and Merseyside. We are so convinced that we have invested in building a new workshop and service centre, which is located within the grounds of our Centre for Independent Living in Beaufort Street. We are also planning to expand volunteering and employment opportunities for disabled people as the



work increases."

The scheme supports the aims of regulations set out in The Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE Directive 2006) — namely to reduce the amount of electrical and electronic equipment being produced by encouraging everyone to reuse and recycle all electrical products.

It is important to note that items that cannot be refurbished can be stripped of working parts and reused. If you would like to donate any equipment we can arrange to collect it, or you could drop it off yourself and enjoy a look around our vast showroom or pop into our Galleries Community Café.

For more information call Steve or Tommy on 01925 240064.

**Mobility Recycling Scheme**

✓ Wheelchairs ✓ Electric Scooters ✓ Wheel & framed walkers ✓ Crutches

disability trading company

A new and innovative scheme to recover, recycle and reuse mobility equipment

Warrington Disability Partnership

01925 240064

Don't bin it! Donate it!



Fulfill your potential with

# The Marjorie Griffiths Learning Centre

WDP's Marjorie Griffiths Learning Centre, based at Beaufort Street, offers a whole host of classes designed to help disabled people fulfil their potential.

From brushing up on IT skills to taking the plunge and learning something new such as meditation or soap-making, the Centre - funded by Warrington Borough Council's Lifelong Learning and the Griffiths Court Foundation, with support from Leonard Cheshire and Warrington Collegiate - can make goals achievable.

The Centre features a fully-equipped IT Suite; a classroom / meeting room, with three PCs and interactive whiteboard; a multi-sensory room and fully-equipped meeting room. The Centre has received

4,208 visitors in the past 12 months.

The Discover IT Suite has 12 PCs and interactive smart board. It runs a variety of classes for disabled people, their families, carers and members of the local community. Specialist software - along with adapted keyboards; mice and fully height-adjustable desks - aim to make this facility accessible to everyone.

IT classes provided include: 'Basic IT for Learning Disabilities'; 'Office Skills IT' and 'OCR Functional Skills from Entry Level to Level 2'. These classes complement one-off courses on Movie Maker; Facebook; shopping online and getting to know laptops.

Facilities are also available to

offer one-to-one tuition for visually impaired users.

Our most popular course is our 'Computers for the Terrified'. We are currently running our 25th course, which has resulted in almost 200 learners now being 'less terrified' when using a computer.

The Centre - in partnership with Warrington Collegiate - also offers classes in confidence-building; floristry and jewellery-making. For budding David Baileys, why not join the active volunteer-led Camera Club, which meets once a week on a Wednesday morning?

In total, individual class attendees for centre-based activities has totalled more than 1,200 since it opened in May 2010.

All courses are free to those who fit the following criteria (please be advised that some courses may incur a charge of £3.15 per hour if this does not apply):

- Learners in receipt of any income-based benefit
- Learners with learning difficulties and learning disabilities (including those with recognised mental health conditions)
- Anybody who claims benefits in kind (e.g. free school meals; prescriptions and sight tests)

For further information about the Marjorie Griffiths Learning Centre, availability of courses and remission criteria please contact the team on 01925 240064.



## The Marjorie Griffiths Learning Centre

- IT Classes from Pre-entry Level to Level 2
- Confidence Courses
- Craft Classes
- Numeracy, Literacy & Employability
- Camera Club
- 'Computers for the Terrified'

For more information please contact  
the team on

# 01925 240064

or email

[info@disabilitypartnership.org.uk](mailto:info@disabilitypartnership.org.uk)

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



## Remembering

# Disability Awareness Day 2013

The brilliant sunshine saw record numbers attending this year's Disability Awareness Day (DAD) with a total of more than 28,000 people including Esther McVey MP, the Minister for Disabled People, and former Everton and Wales goalkeeping legend Neville Southall. With news that organisations in both Punjab (India) and Cameroon had held their versions of DAD, it underlined claims that DAD in Warrington is truly international and inspirational.

Organised by WDP, DAD Warrington is Europe's (and possibly the world's) largest 'not for profit' voluntary-led pan disability exhibition. This year's event attracted more than 250 exhibitors who showcased a wide range of information on services available for disabled people. Thousands of visitors participated in activities in the Dave Connor Sports Zone whilst others relaxed in the Performing Arts Marquee, which showcased talent from around the region including Hollie Caddock and the Batala Samba Band. Additional attractions included circus skills; birds of prey; fairground rides and 'Britain's Got Talent' semi-finalists Urban Gypsies.

A VIP Reception was held for sponsors and supporters, which included a presentation from 'Your Housing Group' – the principal sponsor for the day - which focused on how disabled people are being affected by recent Government changes and Welfare Reforms. Ms McVey presented Your Housing Group with a small memento and certificate and described the event as being 'truly inspirational'.

Dave Thompson MBE DL - founder of WDP and DAD event co-ordinator - paid tribute to the sponsors;



supporters; exhibitors; visitors and most importantly more than 100 men, women and young people who make up DAD's Army of Volunteers.

"They are all deserving of the Queens Award for Voluntary Services, which was presented to us in 2006. Without a team effort the events couldn't take place," he said.

"It is an honour to be part of a team that continues to make a difference to the lives of tens of thousands of visitors to DAD Warrington and we are overwhelmed at the fact we have inspired other organisations across the world to follow what has been achieved here in Warrington."

Dave and the team are already planning next year's event, which promises to be very special indeed. It will be held on Sunday, July 13 2014.

For more information please visit [www.disabilityawarenessday.org.uk](http://www.disabilityawarenessday.org.uk) or contact the DAD Admin Team on 01925 240064.





# Working in Partnership

Warrington Disability Partnership would like to thank everyone that has supported and worked alongside us during the past 12 months - including:

- Warrington Borough Council
- Warrington Clinical Commissioning Group
- BBC Children in Need
- Liverpool City Council
- Liverpool Community Health NHS Trust
- Poppy Factory
- Your Housing Group
- WBC Lifelong Learning
- Avanta
- Greater Merseyside Connexions Partnership (GMCP)
- 5 Boroughs Partnership NHS Foundation Trust
- Warrington & Halton Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
- Golden Square Management Team (Lend Lease)
- Bridgewater Community Healthcare NHS Trust

- Warrington Collegiate
- Apex Health & Social Care
- Warrington Retail Market
- BT Retail
- Golden Gates Housing Trust
- St George Healthcare Group
- Thorn Marine
- Griffiths Court Foundation
- Warrington Rotary
- Birchwood Lions Club
- Network Warrington
- Leonard Cheshire
- Skillzone Ltd
- Stronger Together
- St Oswald's Social Club
- Culcheth Rotary
- The Barn Owl Inn
- Big Storage
- West, East and Central Area Boards
- PQ Corporation
- University of Chester
- David Mowat MP
- John Munslow & family
- Decathlon
- Sport Cheshire
- Bizspace / Vacant Space

- Management
- Office of Disability Issues
- Mrs Richardson
- Big Lottery – Advice Service Transition Fund
- Warrington Citizens Advice Bureau
- Cheshire & Warrington Schools Sports Partnership
- Warrington Youth Club
- Cheshire Foundation Trust
- NSPCC
- The Tim Parry Johnathan Ball Foundation for Peace
- Sport Cheshire
- LiveWire Warrington
- Active Warrington Sports Team
- Warrington Wolves Foundation
- Hexel
- Warrington-Worldwide

We would also like to thank members of Team WDP, staff, volunteers, trustees, patrons and supporters.

#### WDP Trustee Board:

Dave Thompson MBE DL – Chair

Pat Kitto – Vice Chair  
 Sue Bentley – Treasurer  
 Dave Cheetham – Secretary  
 Jan Pritchard  
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 Karen Beaton  
 Eileen McDonald  
 Christine Molyneux  
 Adrian Derbyshire  
 Ian Grant  
 Sarah Hall  
 Mark Wilson OBE (co-opted August 2013)

#### WDP Honorary President:

Pam Thompson

#### WDP Patrons:

Dr Sarah Baker  
 Liz Smith  
 Peter Ives  
 Prof Steven Broomhead  
 Lord Doug Hoyle  
 John Gartside OBE  
 Mike Hannon



## Meeting Rooms for Hire

Warrington Disability Partnership has 5 Meeting Rooms

- Prices start at £10 per hour
- On site catering
- Accommodating up to 40 people
- Out of town location
- Free parking
- Fully equipped meeting room

For more information on hiring these meeting rooms contact us on

# 01925 240064

[meetingrooms@disabilitypartnership.org.uk](mailto:meetingrooms@disabilitypartnership.org.uk)

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





## Going the Extra Mile

# A year in pictures

'Going the Extra Mile' is the collective name for this series of endurance-sapping challenges which are organised and performed each year to raise funds for Warrington Disability Partnership. Do you feel like you have what it takes to participate in any or all of the above? If so, why not sign up and pledge your support? Please contact the WDP Fundraising Team on 01925 240064 for more details.

Those of you who are seasoned veterans when it comes to these challenges, we thank you for your support and we look forward to doing it all again next year!



**Above:** Santa and his elves take a break from the Grotto

**Above right:** A Walk in the Park: Tom Coleridge and Avis Edwards take part in the 5k challenge

**Right:** Scuba Challenge: Getting set for the mile challenge

**Far right:** The Sponsored Swim: Comprising 64 lengths, led by swimming champion Aden Walker

**Below:** Bupa Manchester 10K: 24 runners worked up a sweat in aid of WDP



Here are some dates for the diary for 2014:

**Sponsored Swim:**  
Saturday 1st March

**A Walk in the Park:**  
Sunday 11th May

**BUPA Manchester 10K Run:** Sunday 18th May

**Scuba Challenge:**  
Saturday 6th September

**English 1/2 Marathon:**  
Sunday 21st September



## Volunteer spotlight:

# Lyndsey Woods

A Customer Service placement at Warrington Collegiate led to Lyndsey's volunteering career with WDP.

"My tutor recommended I contact WDP because part of my placement involved securing a volunteering position and I've never looked back," she says.

"When I started four years ago I was working for the Shopmobility service booking customers in and demonstrating the scooters. An opening in the main office came up in February this year and I decided to take up a new challenge. I've been really enjoying it and I make sure I do as much work as I can during the two days a week I'm in."

Lyndsey's key duties involve administrative work; photocopying; laminating and cutting leaflets to prepare them for distribution.

"I get a lot of pleasure from the people I work with and talk to," she explains.

"They're great company and I've made lots of friends since I started here. I really feel like I'm part of the team."

"When I'm volunteering I've got so much to do and it keeps my mind occupied. I know I'm helping the organisation with my contribution and that makes me feel good."



The Sorting Office based in Great Sankey will soon benefit from Lyndsey's diligent attitude and friendly personality as she has successfully landed a part-time paid position.

"I start in December and I'm quite excited as it's a new challenge," she says. "I'll also continue to volunteer at WDP because I enjoy it so much."

When Lyndsey isn't volunteering she can be found most weekends in the stands at Goodison Park cheering on her beloved Everton FC.

A lifelong fan and season ticket holder, Lyndsey has been impressed with new boss Roberto Martinez's 'fresh approach' and their fine early season form.

She cites Kevin Mirallas as her favourite player. "I've been really impressed with Romelu Lukaku as well, but we've only got him on loan... though I'd be happy if he ends up staying!" she laughs.

Lyndsey's hopes for the future are to continue to work hard at WDP and the Sorting Office... and to see Everton win the Premier League this year!

## Volunteer spotlight:

# Peter Burns

Peter has provided invaluable assistance to WDP's kitchen staff two days a week every week for three years – serving hot food and (in his own words) 'doing lots of washing up'.

"I really enjoy helping Pam, who works in the kitchen, because I get on with her. I work hard and always do my best," he says.

Pam couldn't agree more. "My job would be twice as hard without Peter around," she says. "I can't pay him a higher compliment than that. He'll do anything I ask him to and he's always very polite."

A phone call made by WDP to Peter led to his volunteering career. "After receiving the phone call, where we talked about me coming in to help, I was offered an interview and a chance to see exactly what they wanted me to do," he explains. "I decided that I liked what I was being shown and after speaking to my mum I decided to start volunteering. I'm really enjoying myself and I like the atmosphere in the canteen."



Peter's role – combined with his friendly personality – has clearly endeared him to many members of staff. "I get on with so many people who work here such as Tommy, Kevin, Tony, Sam, Steve, Donna and Naomi – but I count everyone as friends. I'm really lucky I see everyone because I work in the kitchen. I enjoy speaking to people, which means my role is well-suited because I can talk to them when I'm serving them their food."

This year he celebrated his 32nd birthday and received two cards signed by WDP staff. "It was really nice of them to remember my birthday and to think of me like that," he says.

In his spare time Peter enjoys playing video games – he is eagerly looking forward to the release of 'Batman: Arkham Origins' – and making frequent trips to Old Trafford to watch Manchester United courtesy of his season ticket. "Van Persie and Chicharito are my favourite players and even though we've had a slow start I still believe we'll win the title again... We're champions!" he exclaims.

**FACT:**

During the past 12 months, our Shopmobility members have spent over £700k in Warrington Town Centre helping to support the local economy.



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# Ladder exchange event puts safety first

LADDERSTORE hosted its first Ladder Exchange Event in Warrington to encourage people to change their old, dodgy ladders for brand new ladders whilst offering advice on how to work at height safely.



Held at Taylor Business Park in Warrington, the Ladderstore team provided discounts, advice (and bacon butties!) to anyone who wanted to scrap their old ladders for new ones.

Carl Oates, Sales and Marketing Manager who braved the cold dishing out new ladders and advice on ladder safety said: "As one of the UK's largest distributors of access equipment, we encounter a lot more poor practice than we would like whilst watching people work at height. Often the quality of equipment being used is some way short of the quality we would expect to see when people work at height on a daily basis. Damaged ladders contribute towards an increased risk of falls while working at height. "We saw the Ladder Exchange as a great opportunity to ensure that people have the opportunity to dispose of their old and damaged ladders, buy replacements at a discount and ultimately save money while increasing safety."

Local councillor Paul Campbell called in to show his support at the event.

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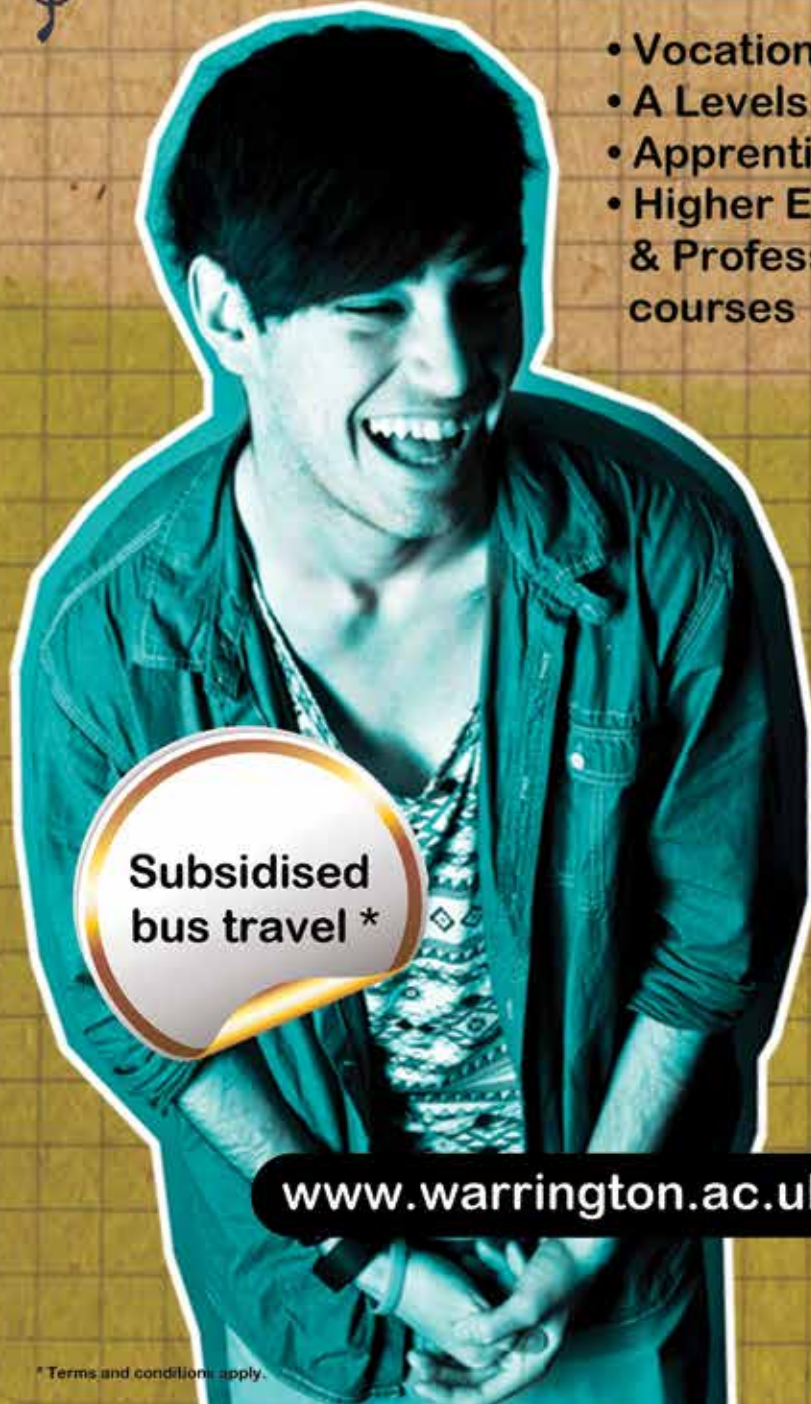
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# Housing Trust on track to support tenants into employment

**WARRINGTON based social landlord Golden Gates Housing Trust (GGHT) is on track with ambitious plans to support 450 of its tenants and their family members into employment.**

GGHT are committed to supporting its residents deal with changes brought about through the Government's Welfare Reforms and the downturn in the economy.

To achieve this, the Trust's Board of Directors set aside just over £2 million at the beginning of 2012 to invest in creating a dedicated Employment Team.

They were set a series of challenging targets, including helping to support up to 450 local residents into employment, education and volunteering over three years.

A mid-term review shows that the Trust is on track to hit this target, thanks to a series of hugely successful initiatives.

One of the Trust's earliest and most successful initiatives was the development of an extensive programme of in-house Trainee and Apprenticeship opportunities. To date 49 residents have been recruited on 12 month long Trainee contracts and 28 Apprenticeships on three year contracts, at a cost of just under £1

million.

The Trust is also using its investment in its homes to create further apprenticeship and employment opportunities.

Following its successful transfer in 2010 the Trust set out to invest £105 million over five years delivering the "Warrington Standard" and to date have used this spend to create 40 jobs with its contractors. As part of the work undertaken in Longford to replace the Castle Walls, contractors were also able to recruit 22 local residents into a range of different roles.

More recently the Trust has launched its Positive Change programme, an innovative new scheme that has already attracted 650 registrations from those living in its homes and on its estates. The scheme uses modern communication methods, including SMS messages, emails and social media sites (www.facebook.com/gghtpositivechange) to connect those registered with the Trust's own employment, training and volunteering opportunities, as well as those from other local organisations. Since its launch at the end of 2012, over 350 of those registered have attended a GGHT organised training session to increase their confidence or employability skills, 20 have taken



up volunteering opportunities and 108 have secured employment.

The Trust is committed to taking its employment services out into the community to support its tenants and have established a series of highly successful job clubs. Run in conjunction with local partners, the clubs take place each week in Longford, Bewsey and Warrington Town Centre. Residents attending can receive one-to-one direct support from the Trust's employment advisers and get free access to computers to help with their job search and employment applications. A key part of the Trust's success has been the ability to bring in external funding, with just over £200,000 having been attracted to date. This money has been used to support the recruitment of additional apprentices and to deliver training, including pre employment training for NEET young people and the long term unemployed and confidence and motivational courses. The Trust have also generated additional income through the delivery of a Work Programme contract, supporting 24 local residents into sustained employment.

The Trust's latest initiative sees it joining forces with Warrington Borough Council to offer a new Employer Incentive Scheme,

supporting local employers to employ local people by offering a wage subsidy of between £3,000 and £5,000 to create jobs with training and apprenticeship roles. The partnership aims to subsidise up to 45 jobs and apprenticeships over the next 2 years.

Tracey Walsh, Employment Initiatives Manager for GGHT, said: "We have developed a range of ways to engage with our residents and provide them with support into employment, training and volunteering. Whether it is attending one of our weekly job clubs to receive face to face support or just asking us a question by email or on our Facebook site, our residents can get what they want at a time and place that suits them.

"Our approach also supports the objectives set out in Warrington's Learning and Skills Plan. We are committed to working in partnership with training providers, suppliers, the voluntary sector and local businesses to provide targeted employment and skills support. Our approach has also ensured that resources are targeted in areas where there is the greatest need in order to address the gap in levels of skills, employment and earnings between the most and least deprived parts of Warrington".

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Find out more about what we have 'Available Now' at [www.gght.org.uk/available](http://www.gght.org.uk/available)

You can also view all our properties on [www.chooseahome.org.uk](http://www.chooseahome.org.uk) or on



View properties on your TV or Smartphone. Sky 539, Virgin 233 or download the App from the Android Market or iTunes Store.



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# Panto promises to be family classic



THIS year's Parr Hall pantomime promises to be one of the best yet, with traditional family favourite Cinderella.

Running from Friday January 3 until Sunday January 12, Cinderella is the lovely daughter of Baron Hardup. Unfortunately, Cinderella's ugly stepsisters are jealous of Cinderella's beauty and they treat her like a slave.

One day Cinderella helps an old gypsy woman who promises that she will be rewarded for the kindness she has shown. Cinderella also meets Prince Charming and falls madly in love with him. Soon the eligible young Prince invites everyone to a grand ball, but the Ugly Sisters force Cinderella to stay at home.

Suddenly, a Fairy Godmother appears and with a wave of her wand transforms Cinderella into a beautiful princess, fit to go to the ball. However, she warns Cinderella to be back home before midnight or her beautiful clothes

will turn back into rags.

Cinderella becomes the belle of the ball and Prince Charming falls in love with this mysterious princess. But she almost forgets the Fairy Godmother's warning and has to run away from the ball just before midnight to avoid being discovered. In her haste she leaves behind one of her crystal slippers.

The Prince searches far and wide across the country to see whose foot fits the crystal slipper. Eventually, Cinderella is reunited with her Prince and in the true tradition of fairy tales, everyone lives happily ever after.

The perfect way to describe a Parr Hall pantomime is 'non-stop entertainment from start to finish'.

Picture shows: Cinderella – played by Alison Faragher; The Ugly Sisters, Ravishing Rita and Wicked Wander – played by Mark Two and Lea Holmes; Buttons – played by Paul Ludlow and the Fairy Godmother – played by Rebecca Christian.

## Limehouse Lizzy Warrington Parr Hall

Review by Nick White. Photographs by Adrian Corlett



THIN Lizzy were one of the few hard rock bands of the seventies to enjoy both album success and a string of hit singles.

The band disintegrated in 1984 and two years later lead vocalist and bass player Phil Lynott was dead as a result of pneumonia brought on by drug addiction.

The subsequent incarnations of the band have never managed to recreate the magic of the original band and to be fair it is a near impossible task as anyone who was fortunate enough to see Phil Lynott in his prime will attest.

That's off then to Limehouse Lizzy who for the last twenty years have been delivering the ultimate tribute to the band. Front man Wayne Ellis vocal phrasing is so close to that of Lynott's, it's like the great man himself is in the room. The band does an excellent job of recreating the dual guitar sound of classic Lizzy. They open with Jailbreak and for the next hour and a half the small but enthusiastic Parr Hall crowd are transported back to the golden age of Rock n Roll. Crowd favourites include Dancing in the Moonlight, Emerald, Bad Reputation and the inevitable Boys are Back in Town. All are delivered with great panache and enthusiastically received by the audience. The show closes with Whiskey in the Jar. Support came from the Guns & Roses Experience who like most tribute acts were a pale facsimile of the original band.

Parr Hall's music line up for 2014 is beginning to take shape with artists such as Imelda May, Mike and the Mechanics, Camel, UFO, Buzzcocks and Lloyd Cole already confirmed to play at the Warrington venue. Full details available from [www.pyramidparrhall.com](http://www.pyramidparrhall.com)



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| Thurs 9 Jan | 9.45am & 1.30pm | ★ |
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# Top hairdresser demos for students

HAIRDRESSING students at Warrington Collegiate were in for a treat when their tutors organised an evening with Sean Tello, award winning hairdresser, and his team from the 'Colour Room'.

More than 150 students together with representatives from hair salons in Warrington were invited to see Sean perform cutting and editorial demonstrations in the Barton Theatre at Warrington Collegiate. As well as winning many awards, and being nominated for many more, Sean is the owner and creator of The Colour Room Salon. He is also a member of the artistic team for L'Oreal.



Sean arrived in the afternoon with three models to prepare for the evening demonstration. 19 year old hairdressing student at Warrington Collegiate, Helen Bilsborough, from Lowton, was thrilled to be chosen to assist in the preparation, working alongside Leah Walton, an award winning stylist from the Colour Room.

Helen said: "It was wonderful to be able to see top hairdressers in action. The hair styles being demonstrated were very intricate; my favourite was Avant Garde which I would describe as edgy. Sean made it look so easy and both he and Leah passed on their expertise as they worked so I got lots of tips on styling and techniques."

Alison Edmondson, Curriculum Manager for Hairdressing and Barbering at Warrington Collegiate, who arranged the visit said: "This is a wonderful opportunity for our students to experience the elite of the hairdressing world. We want this visit to inspire them to aspire to be the best in the profession. We're also pleased to welcome Tracy Dabell from L'Oreal tonight to support the event."

## Text reminders for hospital appointments

HOSPITAL patients at Warrington can now receive appointment reminders by text.

Patients whose mobile numbers are held by the hospital will receive the reminder a day or two before the appointment. Hospital chiefs hope the initiative will reduce missed appointments which currently run at about one in 10 of the 1,300 appointments made every day.

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# Financially yours

By David Watkinson

## Problems due to staff cuts at HMRC

HM Revenue & Customs have lost 34,000 jobs since 2005, with another 10,000 planned by 2015. In addition, just three weeks before Christmas it was announced that a further 3,000 staff on fixed term contracts due to end in March 2014 will not have the contracts extended. These include 1,500 staff in personal tax and compliance with a further 500 in debt management. The other 1,000 will be split between various other offices.

On the same day the inefficiencies already being experienced by both the taxpayers and their advisers were shown when:

- in one telephone call to the tax office they confirmed that documents sent to them nearly two months previously had not been received and duplicates would need to be sent in; and
  - in a second telephone call less than half an hour later they confirmed that those same documents had been received in October
- This is only one example of the problems already being faced. These problems will only increase with further staff

cuts. HM Revenue & Customs say that these cuts are possible due to greater use by the public of on-line facilities. However, whilst the HMRC website is one of the most user friendly and is (generally) being improved, contact with a knowledgeable and experienced human is frequently required.

Will this make tax evasion easier? Certainly the tax office thinks that this will not happen. In a speech to the Professional Fee Protection Group a tax office spokesman, Edward Troup, said that there would be no decrease in their tax investigations policy despite these staff reductions. He stressed that tackling tax avoidance would continue to be a priority.

In that same speech he said that the tax office would increase "nudge" campaigns to encourage tax compliance. We recently received an example of one such letter which extended to two pages. In it we were told that one of our suppliers (who were named in the letter and with whom we had not dealt for over two years), or one of their suppliers, or a supplier to one of the supplier's supplier, had evaded VAT and that we could be held liable if the tax office thought that we were, or



should have been, aware of it. Enclosed with the letter was a four page leaflet suggesting the checks that we should undertake to avoid being held liable, and these included performing identity checks on directors. Our first thought was that the directors of Tesco would be very busy! Our second thought was that it was easy to see what the letter said but almost impossible to understand what, in real terms, the letter meant.

Perhaps HMRC should spend a small part of what they save through staff cuts on lessons from the Plain English Society!

WatkinsonBlack are pleased to advise on these as well as other matters, including providing a very cost-effective payroll bureau service. If you want to arrange a no-obligation initial meeting on any taxation or accounting matter then please contact us.

Please note that these ideas are intended to inform rather than advise and you should always obtain professional advice before taking any action.

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# Town team up with referees!



WARRINGTON Town FC is helping provide the referees of the future after teaming with Warrington Referees Society.

The club's HG Driver Recruitment Stadium is now home to the Warrington Town Referees Academy (WTRA) providing the perfect training facility for referees of the future.

Academy Chairman Roy Naylor said: "Fifteen years ago Warrington referees Society boasted a F.I.F.A Referee, a Football League Referee and six Referee Assistants, who were jokingly known as the 'Warrington Mafia'.

"Now we have four officials on the contributory league, that's good, but with the potential and size of Warrington it's not good enough."

As a regular visitor to Warrington Town Roy held talks with Managing Director Toby Macormac and the club's secretary Chris Henshall, an Ex-Football League Assistant Referee, about using the football stadium as a base for the society.

Roy added: "Warrington Town had everything we needed - a football pitch, a 3G training facility, access to viewing a football match that we could analyse for learning purposes, a room big enough to seat a large group in comfort, a stage, along with the use of a screen for use to view all the latest DVD's that the FA send out.

"The only thing that was missing was the next generation of referees. But now with the facilities on offer it is much easier to attract them.

"Thanks to Warrington Town we are getting a higher level of retention of referees, because they are enjoying it more, they are training for longer and they want better games so they are now looking at promotion and how to do it. Warrington's input other than the use of the facilities, has given this particular Society an identity.

"The football club recently made a statement of intent that they want to have Football League status within seven years. Well here at the Warrington Town Referees Academy we hope to also have that same status in refereeing terms, as some of the referees who are here now are showing real potential," added Roy.

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