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Issue No. 183 January 2015 FREE EVERY MONTH

**Lighting  
up the  
town!**

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**Warrington  
Disability  
Partnership  
Annual Report**

**ANNUAL  
REVIEW  
2015**



# Editor's Comment



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IT is fantastic news that Warrington can now at long last look forward to a major improvement to the town centre following the go ahead from planners for the £52 million redevelopment of Bridge Street.

The area has been in serious decline for a number of years and it is a terrible sight seeing so many former grand buildings in the heart of our town centre standing empty.

This project will include the demolition of the town's market, which will then be re-homed on a temporary basis, before being put on the site of the historic Boots building.

The work will take several years to complete causing unavoidable disruption, which will undoubtedly have an impact on town centre trade.

During this period it is vital that the borough council communicates effectively with the public and give serious consideration to allowing free parking to attract shoppers to the town.

Time and time again I hear people opting for the Trafford Centre or Widnes because of the free car parking opportunities.

The fact it probably costs them

in petrol, what they save on car parking, seems to make little difference.

People just don't like paying for car parking if they can avoid it - and combined with the gridlock we often face around Bridge Foot on a near daily basis, visiting Warrington can be an unattractive proposition.

Personally I think Warrington is starting to turn a corner, particularly when you take a look at the Cultural Quarter.

There are now a number of quality establishments within the

quarter, alongside the Parr Hall and Pyramid, creating an area of town well worth visiting.

Within a few minutes walk of Golden Square, Warrington certainly now has a night time offering which doesn't attract the drunken hostilities often associated with Bridge Street - which will hopefully become a thing of the past following the proposed redevelopment.

So as we enter a New Year there is plenty to be optimistic about!

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# Lantern parade lights up town

YOUNGSTERS and their parents braved the elements to help light up Warrington town centre with the annual Lantern Parade.

They were joined by characters from the forthcoming Snow White Panto which is due to take to the stage at Warrington Parr Hall in the New Year.

The Parade started and finished in Queen's Gardens and involved a magical winter tour of the town centre, including live music, Christmas Carol singers and much more!

In the build up to the event organisers Culture Warrington put on lantern making workshops at schools, libraries, community centres, the Museum and around the town centre.

Snow White and friends are appearing in Panto at Warrington's Parr Hall between Saturday 3 January and Sunday 11 January, with performance times to suit all. What better way to stave off the January blues, than with a heart-warming tale of friendship, love and triumph over the wicked queen!



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Hello and welcome to my monthly column . . .

# Hypnotes

by Michael Mahoney

## Peace and joy

**As Christmas is now a fading memory, and we welcome in 2015, perhaps we can reflect for a few moments on the spirit of the Christmas season, with the following verse:**

May you have the gladness of Christmas which is hope;

The spirit of Christmas which is peace and joy;

The heart of Christmas which is love.

Was this a reality for you? Or was your experience very different to this? For many people it is the most stressful time of the year, especially when the season seems to start earlier each year. By the end of November there were early reminders all around, trees and lights quickly appearing, carols constantly playing in the shops and on the radio, people and traffic building around the shopping areas. Whether we liked it or not, we couldn't get away from it, could we?

So did all those things help to bring the 'peace and joy' of the Christmas Spirit to you, and were you able to really enjoy the real spirit of Christmas, when it finally arrived? Or were you worn out by

the build up and the expectations of achieving the perfect Christmas, and ultimately putting up with people and circumstances which caused you undue stress and little 'Peace and Joy'.

How do people experience 'Peace and Joy'? We can all experience it very differently, like any other emotional response, our attitudes and beliefs can affect it. It may be something to be attained, which can constantly allude you. If you imagine for a moment that your experience of emotional feelings are like the waves of the sea, ebbing and flowing, or crashing and rolling; that then creates the awareness of feelings coming and going no matter how mild or severe. Therefore, all emotional responses can be replaced with something new, and never stays the same. There are of course exceptions to the rule i.e. depression, where the emotions are suppressed, and support is needed to regulate emotional responses again.

The important issue here is that we can achieve feelings of 'Peace and Joy', even though at times it may be fleeting. People may then discount this, if the feeling state does not last, and does not fit

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



Tel: 01925-658322 email [timelineservices@aol.com](mailto:timelineservices@aol.com) [www.michaelmahoneyhypnotherapist.com](http://www.michaelmahoneyhypnotherapist.com)

what they expect it to be like. If the expectation is that we have to feel 'Peace and Joy' to enter into the spirit of Christmas, and then we are unable to feel it at that time, the chance is that negative emotions will override any fleeting feelings of 'Peace and Joy' we may have had, which will then go unnoticed.

The key is to be in touch with positive emotional responses to events, and let go of negative thoughts and feelings, especially about ourselves, if what we do, think and feel does not match with external events. Then, when we are more in tune with ourselves, there is more chance of experiencing moments of 'Peace and Joy' at any time of the year.

If your goal in 2015 is to learn how to have a more positive approach to life, please contact us to discuss how we can help you. Please contact me or my associate, Cate on: 01925 658322 to arrange an Initial Consultation.



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# College appoints new Principal

WARRINGTON Collegiate has appointed Nichola Newton as Principal and Chief Executive.

Nichola will take up her new role in February 2015 from Paul Hafren who is retiring at Christmas after twelve years as Principal of the college.

Nichola joins the Collegiate from Leeds City College where she is Deputy Principal - Teaching and Learning. She is a very experienced senior leader with a strong record of success in her previous roles at Runshaw College, Nelson and Colne College and Ashton Sixth Form College.

Having played key roles in two outstanding colleges in the past, Nichola brings considerable understanding of what is required to achieve Warrington Collegiate's goal of becoming an outstanding vocational college.

Nichola will also play a leading role in the Warrington Collegiate Education Trust which currently comprises Beamont Collegiate Academy and the recently opened Future Tech Studio School.

Colin Daniels, Chair of Governors said: "Nichola is a confident and inspirational leader with an impressive track record of success within the sector.

"Her passion for teaching and learning and the success of all learners linked to the needs of the



local community will make her an excellent Principal.

"The Governors and I look forward to welcoming her to the Collegiate and working together to deliver our future plans."

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# Positive year for Warrington's economy

2014 was a very positive year for Warrington's economy. A wealth of positive independent stats showed the local economy as buoyant and bucking the national trend. It was very encouraging too to see our SME's performing so well. Warrington's SME's were ranked number one in the UK for high growth.

If further proof was needed, last month saw a very strong Warrington presence in the 2014 table of the best performing SME's in the North West. Network infrastructure specialists, WHP Projects, based at St James' Court and brewing and packaging suppliers, Thomas Hardy from Burtonwood were ranked in the top 20 and Hiden Instruments, who manufacture high precision scientific instruments was ranked 5th for most overseas sales.

Warrington Borough Council's growth plans as set out in Warrington Means Business have made good progress over the last twelve months. It is great to see the steelwork for the Business Incubator coming out of the ground on Stadium Quarter and exciting to think that it will open in six months.

Omega continues to fill with two more planning applications granted and occupier announcements are imminent.

At the time of writing the Bridge Street Quarter plans were about to be submitted for planning. Subject to approval we'll be on site on this transformational project early in the New Year.

Masterplanning is also well underway for Cabinet Works, Southern Gateway and Warrington Waters and 2015 will see these projects advance significantly.

The Warrington Skills Forum is up and running. This is an innovative and pioneering model that brings employers, schools and colleges together to discuss the skills needed to support local business and grow the local economy. Importantly it then looks to address and prepare to avoid skills shortfalls. In train with Warrington's key sector strengths it has a particular focus on engineering, logistics and the health sectors and I expect that the Forum will play a growing role as the year progresses.

Twelve months ago the economic landscape was still barren, however, 2014 did see green shoots and more importantly, I feel, a return of business optimism. Whilst there are signs that the economy may have bolted too early and is now starting to slow I'm confident of continued prosperity in 2015 for Warrington businesses.



Steve Park  
MD of Warrington & Co.

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## Busy period for Aspray – before any big freeze!

IT has been a busy period for the owner of Aspray (Warrington) Kevin Jackson, with an increase in the number of leaks/bursts handled already and that's before the cold weather takes effect!

Kevin said: "We work on behalf of the insured helping to ensure they receive a fair settlement from the insurance company. Many of our clients find it really stressful to make insurance claims, especially when insurers quibble about what work should be done. My job is to take the stress out of an already difficult situation. Best of all, there is no cost for our service\* as we are paid directly by the insurance company."

In addition to helping all of

our clients to make hassle free claims, Aspray have delivered an informative presentation at the Warrington Landlords' Forum, which was well received by local accredited landlords and associated professionals. The talk gave those present a great insight into the world of insurance and claims. It also generated a considerable amount of interest with local letting agents who recognised the merits of Aspray's insurance claims management service.

Kevin was also on the Aspray stand at the Manchester Landlord Investment Show, which proved popular with landlords, letting agents and insurance brokers showing interest in developing partnering relationships to help their clients make hassle free claims.

Since then, Kevin has been visiting the offices of local agents who are interested in working with Aspray. He said "Insurance brokers and letting agents recognise how Aspray adds value to the services they provide".

\*Aspray are paid directly by the insurer for any property reinstatement repairs they complete. Any excess will still apply.

For more information on the Aspray service or for help with your property damage insurance claim please call 0800 077 6705. Alternatively you can visit [www.aspray.com](http://www.aspray.com) to request your free £100 voucher to use at point of claim (terms and conditions apply).



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**Warrington jobs fair**

I will be holding a Jobs Fair on **Friday 6th February 2015** at The Parr Hall.

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

David Mowat - MP for Warrington South

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

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# Positive Learning Experiences at Birchwood College

THINGS have been going from strength to strength at Birchwood College during the past year.

In August students recorded the best results ever for the college, with 83% achieving A\*-C in their A levels and an impressive 53% achieving A\*-B grades. The number of students choosing Birchwood College for their Level 3 studies has also increased, giving rise to the necessity for extra tutor groups!

Media Studies A level, new to the curriculum for this year, has had a strong take up and there is a new media suite providing up to date facilities for students. A Level Law is also a popular choice at Birchwood and the students have been taking advantage of a number of different opportunities to expand their knowledge and gain experience of different aspects of the legal process.

In November students were given an insight into pursuing a career in Law with advice from Adam Pendlebury, Senior Lecturer in Law from the Department of Law and Criminology at Edge Hill University, about the qualifications they would need and an overview from Charles Agar, Senior Partner and David Jones (pictured right), both from FDR Law in Warrington, of the various careers available and how the different roles interact.

Meanwhile Year 12 student Talana Hodgson-Baines (pictured

top right) has been selected out of 500 applicants nationally for a place on the prestigious Pathways to Law initiative organised by the Sutton Trust. This is designed to give young people first-hand insight into what it means to study Law at university and to encourage them to do so. The course will provide a mentor, seminars at the University of Manchester and work experience opportunities in the field of Law.

Law and Public Services students have also been most fortunate to be given the chance to observe proceedings at the inquest into deaths of those at the Hillsborough

disaster which is taking place in Birchwood. This has been at the instigation of Marcia Wallis-Stewart of Birnberg Peirce & Partners, the solicitor acting for 76 of the victims' families. It has been an amazing experience for students to have the opportunity to gain an insight into such a historic legal event.

For the chance to study at Birchwood College, their next Open Evening is on Thursday 22 January, 6pm-8pm. For more information go to [www.birchwoodcollege.com](http://www.birchwoodcollege.com) or phone John Burnham, Head of College, on 01925 853500.



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Culture Warrington Pyramid & Parr Hall

## Planners approve £52m project to regenerate Bridge Street



PLANS for a £52 million redevelopment of Bridge Street, including relocating the town's market, has been given the green light by Warrington's planning committee.

The regeneration of Warrington's town centre took a significant step forward after planning approval was granted for the £52 million Bridge Street Quarter project.

When completed in 2019 the scheme will provide a new market hall, a multiplex cinema, a number of family friendly restaurants, a new council office building and will create a new public square. Site works are scheduled to commence early in the New Year.

The Council envisages a bustling vibrant market as being at the heart of the new development, however, in order that the market can make the move to its new contemporary home it will be necessary for the market to move to a temporary home.

When open in 2018 the new market hall will incorporate the magnificent, Grade 2 listed former Boots building façade on Bridge Street as one of its entrances. The opposite side of the building will feature entrances out towards the new square in front of the new multiplex cinema. Access into the market will also be available from the two other sides of the building in order to generate and promote through footfall and promote trade.



# Advice on beating the damp

WARRINGTON'S Golden Gates Housing Trust is offering advice to tenants and other local residents suffering from the effects of damp, condensation and mould.

A few simple steps can help prevent problems occurring.

With cooler weather on the way, waking up to streaming windows can be a familiar sight for many people and this is usually the first sign of a condensation problem.

Over time, other signs such as damp patches and mould on walls might start to appear and unless action is taken, other problems can occur which can damage the property or even the occupier's health.

A spokesman said: "Fighting condensation can seem like a continuous battle, especially over the winter months. Homes are prone to condensation during this

time as there is a great temperature difference between the warm interior of your home and the cooler air outdoors.

"Cold weather usually tempts homeowners to conserve as much heat as possible in order to stay warm, which means that the warm moist air circulating around your home has no way of getting out. Unless you ventilate your home properly, condensation will begin to form on surfaces that are below the dew point of the surrounding air and many properties will suffer from mould growth."

GGHT chairman Roy Smith (pictured) said: "Our customers need to be aware of the potential problems which excessive condensation and mould growth can cause and should take steps to minimise the risks. It is unlikely that properties can be completely

condensation free however, it can be controlled to acceptable levels by taking a few simple steps."

GGHT has produced a short film which it is urging all customers to view. The film can be viewed on the Trust's YouTube channel at [www.youtube.com/GGHTrust](http://www.youtube.com/GGHTrust).

If any of the Trust's tenants continue to experience condensation and problems with mould then GGHT will arrange to have a technical survey carried out on their property. They are advised to contact GGHT for free on 0800 25 26 27 and book an appointment for a trained member of staff to inspect their home.



## Sports complex wins longer hours

A MAJOR new sports and community hub to be built in Warrington's Victoria Park is to be allowed to stay open until midnight - to allow for greater use of the facilities and promote active lifestyles.

Planning chiefs have agreed that a floodlit rugby pitch with 300-seater grandstand can stay open until 10.30pm while the community facilities - including a community room and bar - can stay open until midnight.

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# Reproductive Health Group

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# Keeping your home free from condensation & mould...

Condensation can happen in your home you need to read the following to help protect yourself and your home from the effects of condensation.



## What is condensation and what causes it?

- Condensation is moisture in the air caused by cooking, washing, bathing and even breathing
- There is always some moisture in the air, even if you cannot see it.
- As the air gets cooler it can hold less moisture, so droplets of water appear, especially on cold surfaces – this is known as condensation.
- Everyday examples of condensation are when you see your breath in cold weather or when your mirror mists up when you have a bath.

## What does condensation look like?

The build up of condensation causes black mould on walls, furniture, clothes and curtains. The residue left by condensation can damage the plasterwork and decoration. The moisture in the air and the spread of mould can affect your health especially if you suffer from chest or breathing problems.



Every home gets condensation at some time - usually when lots of moisture and steam are being produced such as bath times, when cooking meals or washing/drying clothes. It is quite normal to find your bedroom windows misted up in the morning after a cold night; It does not mean you have a serious condensation problem.

If your home never seems to be free from condensation, or you have mould growth as well, read on.

## What GGHT are responsible for?

By law, we are only responsible for condensation that has been caused by damaged items that we are responsible for repairing. These are listed in your tenancy agreement, but include the following:

- The structure and outside of the building.
- The services for supplying water, gas and electricity.
- The facilities for getting rid of waste and foul water.

If you require more information contact us free on 0800 25 26 27 (01925 452452, mobile phone users, standard rate), email [info@gght.org.uk](mailto:info@gght.org.uk).

## How to help yourself:

### What can you do to reduce it?

#### 1. Produce less moisture

- Dry washing outside the property whenever you can.
- Vent your tumble dryer to the outside of your home.
- While cooking, always cover pans and don't leave kettles boiling.
- If extractor fans are fitted, use them.
- Never use portable gas bottles or paraffin (flue-less) heaters.



#### 2. Ventilate well to remove moisture

- When a room is in use, keep a small window and/or a trickle vent open.
- Ventilate bathrooms and kitchens.
- Keep bathroom and kitchen doors closed even if they have extractor fans.
- Ventilate cupboards and wardrobes - do not overfill wardrobes - let the air circulate freely inside. Move it 50mm away from the surrounding wall. If possible, locate wardrobes against internal partition walls.



#### 3. Heating your home

The use of your central heating at low levels provides the most economical form of heat and reduces the likelihood of condensation. Usually this needs to be between 18c-22c and opening curtains in bedrooms or poorly lit rooms in the daytime allows them to warm up naturally.

If you are concerned about your heating bills contact our Energy Advisor free on 0800 25 26 27 or check out [www.gght.org.uk/EE](http://www.gght.org.uk/EE).

#### 4. Treat & removing the mould

- There are various products on the market that will help such as fungicidal products available in DIY stores.
- Wipe down windows, frames and other affected areas with a fungicidal (mould-killing wash) that carry a Health and Safety Executive 'approval number'. Make sure you follow the manufacturer's instructions precisely.
- Dry-clean mildewed clothes and shampoo mouldy carpets
- After treating mould-affected areas, redecorate using a good-quality fungicidal paint. Where possible remove lining paper and wallpaper, treat the plaster and then paint or paper the area again.
- A dehumidifier may help.

## Winter warmer packs for the elderly

ELDERLY residents and vulnerable people living in Warrington will benefit from winter warmer packs to help them during extreme winter weather.

Golden Gates Housing Trust (GGHT), has teamed up with supply partners Sure Group and social enterprise Fusion21 to deliver the packs to those in need across communities in Warrington.

An estimated 18,200 excess winter deaths occurred in 2013-14 across the UK, according to figures from the Office for National Statistics, and with rising utility costs and tighter household budgets, many more people are choosing food or fuel.

The 50 packs contain essential items such as soup, porridge, blanket, hot water bottle and chocolate.

Golden Gates is a "Registered Social Landlord" with around 8,600 properties in Warrington.

# New £4.3m juniors' building work well under way

**CONSTRUCTION work is well underway on a new, purpose-built Junior School building and central 'Hub' at Withington Girls' School costing £4.3m (inclusive of fees and VAT).**

The leading independent school for girls aged 7 to 18 has commissioned a state-of-the-art Junior School to be built within the grounds of Withington's existing site in Fallowfield, Manchester.

The project will deliver a new suite of classrooms for younger pupils, enabling two-form rather than single-form entry in both Years 5 and 6, and enhancing accommodation and facilities available for the whole School. There will also be a light and airy social 'Hub' with a new roofed courtyard area linking the Junior and Senior departments.

Withington's new Junior School building will be capped by an eco-friendly wildflower grass roof, and much of the preparatory work is being carried out off site to reduce disruption.

With construction due for completion in summer 2015 - Withington's 125th anniversary year - this latest investment follows a decade of improvements at the school including a new £2m Sixth Form Centre and Bistro in 2009 and a £1.2m Science development just a few years earlier. The new Junior School and 'Hub' will be the largest single development in the School's history.



The project has been designed by Manchester and London-based architects Levitt Bernstein, who have created a master plan to meet Withington's long term development strategy. Builder and developer Seddon, which delivered a £1.2 million science block for the school in 2004, has been appointed as lead contractor on the project.

Withington's Headmistress Mrs Sue Marks said: "Withington Girls' School has a heritage of vision stretching back to its foundation by a group of leading Manchester families in 1890. The new Junior School and Hub will help to ensure that Withington

remains at the forefront of girls' education nationally in the way our founders intended, offering exceptional opportunities for personal development - academic, cultural, sporting and social - and encouraging independence of mind and high aspirations".

"I am delighted to announce that, from September 2015 onwards, our means-tested bursary scheme will be extended to include junior girls coming into Years 5 and 6. This will be in addition to the senior school bursary programme which currently helps around one-in-six senior girls with the fees, according to each family's needs."

**"Sports teach discipline and commitment, they challenge and build character for everything you do in life."** *Howie Long*

### 2015 ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS

For Year 7 entry:

Monday 12th January 2015

For Years 3-6 entry:

Saturday 17th January 2015

**NEW PURPOSE-BUILT, EXPANDED JUNIOR SCHOOL OPENING SEPTEMBER 2015**  
Additional classes for girls in Years 5 & 6

To arrange a tour of the School please call 0161 224 1077



# Priestley swimmers impress in national championships

WARRINGTON can boast one of the fastest swim teams in the country after a stunning performance by Priestley College's swimmers in the national championships.

Competing in the national finals of the English Schools' Swimming Association championships Priestley's male medley team finished seventh.

Head of Sport Nigel Howells said it was an incredible achievement for the swimmers who were competing in the London Olympic Park pool.

"It was a great experience for our students who were inspired to be in the Olympic pool," he said.

"To finish seventh when we were competing against the country's strongest swimming academies and other colleges is something to be very proud of."

Ten students represented Priestley College at the Olympic Park with one female and two male teams competing against the top 20 performers in the country.

"It was a fantastic achievement

just to have qualified as regional champions," said Nigel. "There's some real quality in our swim team and they performed incredibly well in the competition."

Priestley made it through to the relay finals thanks to impressive team performances in the regional qualifiers held at Everton Park in October. The boys won the freestyle event and finished second in the medley with the girls matching that medley achievement.

Priestley has entered the swimmers into several big competitions to help improve their times whilst most of the squad compete with the Warriors of Warrington.

"We all train together so have been able to push each other on and that has really helped," said Josh Radin, who is studying A Level PE, History and BTEC Certificate in Sport at Priestley.



## What's On at

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Warrington Deaf Sports & Social Club - (Open to all with membership just £5 a year)

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O.A.P. - Every Wednesday afternoon 12.00pm-4.00pm

Snooker Match League - 'A' & 'B' Teams every Thursday night 7.30pm-11.00pm

BSL Signing Choir - Every 2 weeks Thursday night 7.30pm-9.00pm

Deaf Church - Third Sunday of every month

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# Housing Trust help deliver the gift of a new jobs



*Christmas Cheer for GGHT's Employment Initiatives Team celebrating their success of supporting 42 residents into work during the month of November.*

WARRINGTON based Golden Gates Housing Trust's (GGHT) Employment Team have been helping to deliver the gift of a new job in time for Christmas, after successfully supporting 42 of its residents into work during the month of November.

The success came when Christmas was just around the corner, where many jobs tend to be temporary. However, at least 80% of the roles secured are permanent positions.

The jobs secured have all been filled by GGHT residents or other local residents living in Bewsey & Dallam, building on the success of the Trust's recent Jobs Fair. The 42 new jobs are with a wide range of employers from across Warrington and the surrounding area, including small local employers such as Hesketh Plastering, Lunch Co and Bridgewater High School and large national companies such as Tesco, NEXT and Pets at Home.

Three of the jobs secured were filled by residents who have completed GGHT's '1st Steps to Trade' pre-employment course. The course offers a range of free qualifications including Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH), Manual Handling, First Aid, Working at Heights and Construction Skills Certification Scheme (CSCS). So far 34 residents have successfully completed the course, with 11 finding employment and a further 6 accessing Work Placements at GGHT to boost their CV's. The team are well on track to support 48 residents through the course by the end of March.

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**New radio station wins O2 funding**

ORFORD student Daniel Miller has won a bid funded by O2 to inspire the next generation of radio enthusiasts in Warrington.

Daniel, 22, is to set up the Vibe Youth Radio Station aimed at the 13-25 age group and will have the motto "bringing the heart back into radio".

He said: "This is awesome! I've got huge plans for the new station starting with the existing radio team from Warrington Collegiate. Vibe radio will have an impact on the youth of Warrington and beyond. The future is in online radio - there's already a sizeable audience for online radio, but there's lots more we can do."

The Interactive Media student has experience in setting up and running the student radio station at Warrington Collegiate, and that contributed to his success in winning the funding from "think big with O2."

The aim of the station is to work with community leaders to engage young people from presenting to technical roles and head of music, an exciting prospect for young people in Warrington.

The station will aim to engage young people and get them involved with the station from presenting to technical roles and head of music.

Dan is hoping the station will go on air in the New Year, in late spring, after a school and youth centre tour.

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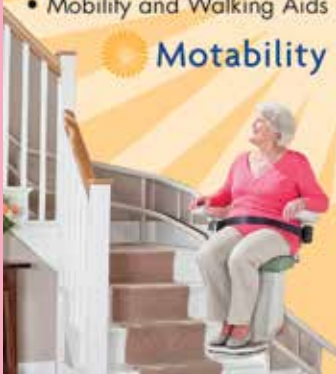
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# Financially yours

By David Watkinson

## Tax Returns for the New Year

Hopefully, you have all recovered from the hangovers and other related ailments that afflict people over Christmas and New Year. Like many other accountants, we look forward to the end of January when we can hopefully celebrate getting all clients' tax returns into the tax office on time.

If you do have difficulties in submitting your return then please contact us. We would be pleased to assist. Do not delay! Submitting your return after the deadline will incur a penalty of £100. Further delay, however, will only make the problem worse, and penalties can quickly escalate to over £1,500. Burying your head in the sands is an option, but a very expensive one.

Everyone wants to pay less tax, and one way that many people who are working for themselves can do so is by transferring the business into a limited company. This was made particularly attractive in 2008 when additional reliefs were introduced. The individual could transfer assets, including goodwill, into the company and only pay 10% Capital Gains Tax on the amount of the gain after deducting the

annual allowance. This money could then be withdrawn free of any further tax or national insurance liability as and when the company became able to pay it. Meanwhile, the company could write the goodwill off in its accounts, admittedly over a number of years, and claim tax relief at 20% on the amount written off.

That was, until 5th December last year! The Chancellor obviously thought that this was too generous and decided that these provisions required "strengthening" or, in anyone else's language, restricting. With immediate effect from the date of the Autumn statement, the CGT relief to the individual was withdrawn on the transfer of goodwill when the transfer was to a close company controlled by that same individual. At the same time, Corporation Tax relief was denied to the successor company when the transfer was made under those same circumstances.

Does this mean that incorporation is no longer beneficial? Not at all. However, it does mean that the benefits are reduced. There are still circumstances when tax can be reduced by operating through a



company, and these savings can be substantial especially if significant amounts of profit are retained within the company for future investment. And we must never forget the safeguards that operating as a company provide to the business owner.

As always, the pros and cons must all be weighed up before a decision is made.

*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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# Wolves chief standing down



WARRINGTON Wolves chief executive Andy Gatcliffe is stepping down after 15 years in charge at the club.

Since his appointment in 2000, he has played a major role in the club achieving its current heights not only within the game but also within the business community.

Since taking on the position in the latter stages of the club's time at Wilderspool Andy was at the forefront of the move to the purpose-built Halliwell Jones Stadium and its recent expansion.

The transition saw many highs and lows but the proactive nature of both Andy and the club has resulted in the Wolves now becoming a leading club and business within the sport, driven not only by the success on the pitch in three Challenge Cup finals and two Super League Grand Final appearances but also off it, with the club being at the very heart of the borough-wide community.

Over the past 15 years, Andy has prided himself on leading from the front, be it from capitalising on big name signings and International Rugby League to match-day initiatives and developing partnerships with global brands.

Andy said: "While it is sad to be leaving the club, I take with me so many very special memories from my time as chief executive, having led a truly professional team of people who have pulled together for the good of the club.

"I am extremely proud of what we have all achieved and for the genuine respect gained from all our commercial and community partners. A special mention must be given to Warrington Borough Council who throughout my time have been consistent supporters, assisting in our becoming a 'leading template sports club'.

"The club will continue to develop and will go from strength to strength in the coming years."

Club Chairman Professor Steven Broomhead, said: "Andy has been a relentless, passionate advocate for the Wolves and Rugby League development in the town. He has been a great sporting entrepreneur and we have moved from being an ailing club to a major force in the world of Rugby League."

Andy will be leaving his post early in the New Year.

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