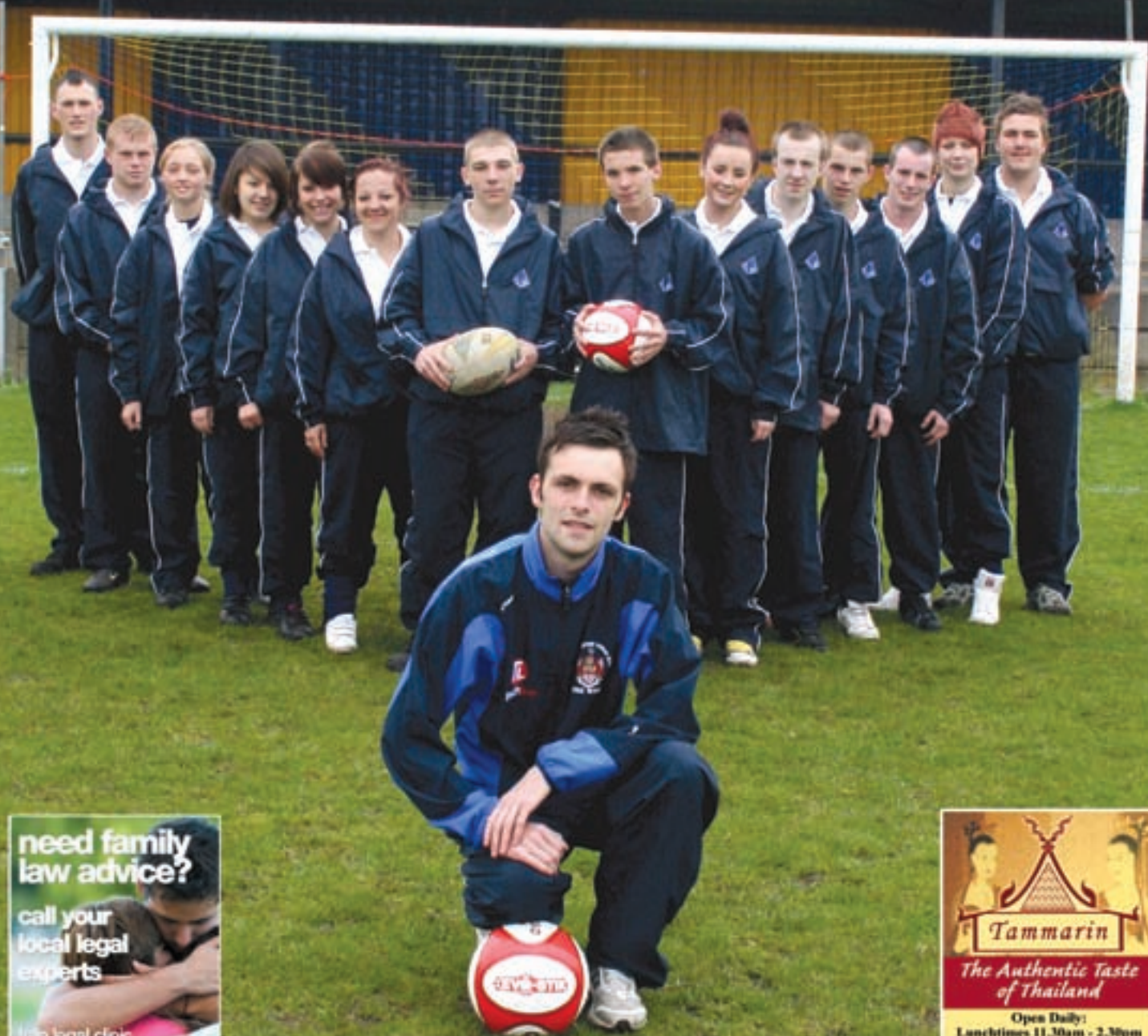


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Issue No. 140 June 2011 FREE EVERY MONTH

Apprentices on the ball Page 3



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Have you got a story? Send your news items and pictures to info@warrington-worldwide.co.uk or phone 01925 623631

AS predicted it was all change at the local elections as Labour returned to power at the town hall after winning six seats from the Lib Dems, giving them a workable majority.

It is never easy being in power as it is impossible to please all of the people all of the time.

During these difficult economic times any one making cut backs in the way of jobs or spending is not going to be popular - but sometimes needs must!

It will be interesting to see if the controlling Labour group implement any changes now they are back in power.

From previous experience while those in opposition often decry

cutbacks, once in power they rarely implement any changes.

What I do hope is that all the political parties will work together to ensure they do what is best for Warrington as a town and that those who have had the honour of being elected to serve their local communities - do exactly that and get out there and work their patch.

It is important that elected members engage with their local communities.

Those that do are more likely to be elected in the future.

The most disappointing aspect of the local elections was a turn out of just 39 per cent - it is down to the politicians to make sure people think it is worth going out and voting - and the only way to do that is to engage with the communities and show that they can help make a difference.

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Classic Transport Show

WARRINGTON Market is on the lookout for the proud owners of a classic car, motorbike or any other form of cherished transport from bygone days?

Once again, Warrington market is hosting a classic transport show across Warrington town centre on Saturday July 9.

This is the fourth time the event has taken place with all types of transport being exhibited on the day.

Accompanying car clubs such as North West Casual Classics, St Helens Classic Car Club, the Ford Sidevalve owners club and the St Helens Bus Museum will be a whole host of individual enthusiasts showing off their pride and joy. Laurel and Hardy will be there on the day to provide classic entertainment.

If you own and would like to exhibit your classic car, motorbike, steam engine, or any other type of transport please contact Warrington market on 01925 632571 or email spickering@warrington.gov.uk to book your place. It is free to take part however exhibitors must register in advance.

Apprentices on the ball!

WARRINGTON Town FC's new apprentice scheme is proving to be a great success providing valuable work experience for youngsters aged 16-18.

The course is run at the club's Cantilever Park ground in conjunction with ESTC, a training company specialising in sports stewarding and apprenticeship schemes.

Students who complete the 16 week course will gain an NVQ recognised qualification in Sports Leadership as well as an FA Level 1 award, leading to sports coaching and working in the local community and leisure services.

The course is available to any youngsters who are not in full-time employment or education.

The course is being run by the club's coach James Standing who provides classroom based work along with the practical coaching side of the course.

James said: "Students have worked on a number of roles at matches including half time draw, programme selling and ground maintenance work."

"Over the summer, they will be assisting with the upkeep of the ground and will learn about the day to day running of a football club."

"At the end of the course they will be seeking jobs within the local community and many have expressed an interest in carrying on as volunteers at the football club because they have enjoyed the experience."

For more details on the course contact James on 07714571452.



Meanwhile a number of projects are taking place at the ground during the close season including the creation of two five a side all weather pitches behind the goals which will be available for hire and for training.

Work is also taking place on relaying the pitch to create a level playing surface for next season.

To keep up to date with activities visit www.warringtontownfc.co.uk

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Hello and welcome to my monthly column . . .

Hypnotes

by Michael Mahoney

Where does it hurt? You can alleviate physical pain!

Most people in pain are so accustomed to popping a pain-reliever tablet, that it is almost second nature. And certainly, when needed, this is preferable to suffering.

But sometimes, medications no longer are effective, and taking larger doses are contraindicated or we can't take them as we used to due to side effects, or physicians may require that many pain-relievers have to be stopped several days prior to surgery.

What then? There is a solution and while some people may be in doubt, I have often been able to alleviate and in many cases even eliminate common physical pain in patients who have been seen by their physicians and therefore are aware of the cause of the pain. Certainly, common sense says that pain is our body's way of telling us something is wrong. But once you have consulted with your doctor and the cause of the pain is being addressed, I can often help with an added tool for your pain that is safe, gentle, has no bad side effects, and can be used whenever needed!

Sound to good to be true? Well it isn't. In most cases, where pain is ongoing – called chronic functional pain – the use of guided imagery and clinical hypnotherapy has been known to help.

Chronic pain is one area where patients may be hesitant to consider a mind-body treatment method. However, most of my patients with chronic pain have been able to address it quite effectively with the tools and sessions I have provided for them.

One of my patients suffers from chronic pain due to abdominal adhesions. These adhesions are the result of several surgeries and her surgeon told her that she would have this pain the rest of her life. He also informed her that surgery to remove the adhesions would only result in more pain from the surgery, and by the time the surgery pain was alleviated, the adhesions would have grown back.

Taking vast amounts of pain pills was not the answer, though helpful, she knew she could not rely on this for chronic pain. So she used my recorded Chronic Pain Program. Of particular help for her, especially when the pain would flair, was a session entitled "Light Count." As soon as the pain began, she would play the CD containing this session. Initially, she was very sceptical that her intense pain could be addressed by just listening to guided imagery. But she has reported that by the end of the 18 minute session,

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



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

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

her abdominal adhesion pain was gone!

The nice part about using clinical hypnotherapy to help ease your pain is that you can safely use it alongside treatment methods that your physician may have prescribed for you, without the worry of prescription incompatibility, because there are absolutely no bad side effects.

If you suffer from chronic pain, feel free to find more information about chronic pain treatment at www.healthyaudio.com/content/chronic_pain_110 or you can call or contact me personally.

The use of clinical hypnotherapy and guided visual imagery for the alleviation of chronic pain has been presented in many clinical research studies done in this area showing just how effective it can be.

Don't suffer needlessly, but know that there is hope and I can often help you to address your chronic pain issues safely and effectively.



June

"What's On"

Wed 8 June
Gordon Smith

Fri 17 June
Cavaille Coll Organ Recital

Sat 18 June
Clone Roses

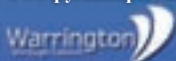
Thur 23 June
Gervase Phinn

Sat 25 June
The Looking Glass Burlesque & Cabaret

Sat 24 Sept
Jimmy Carr

Sun 25 Sept
60's Gold

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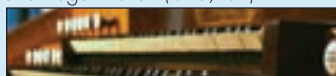
Wed 8 June - Gordon Smith

The welcome return of Gordon Smith, who is widely considered to be one of the most accurate psychic mediums. Prepare to meet the man who has captivated audiences across the globe. (£20)



Fri 17 June - Cavaille Coll Organ Recital

Next up is a special event to celebrate the unique Cavaille-Coll instrument, its history and musical groups from the town who have supported the organ. Featuring organists Benjamin Saunders and Roger Fisher. (£10/£7)



Sat 18 June - Clone Roses

Clone Roses hit town to present a show that is uncannily like the real thing. They expertly recreate the vibe of a Stone Roses gig with classic including Waterfall, Fools Gold and I Am The Resurrection.



Thur 23 June - Gervase Phinn



Don't miss an evening with best-selling author, radio and TV personality Gervase Phinn, as he shares some poignant tales of life as a schools' inspector in the Yorkshire Dales.

Wed 29 June - Dom Joly

And for those needing a lift in the laughter department, check out Trigger Happy star Dom Joly. Dom will attempt to make sense of his most extraordinary of lives. From being arrested in Switzerland in a Yeti costume to eating from Gillian McKeith's pants in the jungle. (£19.50)



Other highlights

include: The Looking Glass Burlesque and Cabaret on Sat 25 June (£13/£10) Jimmy Carr on Sat 24 Sept & Sat 19 Nov (£25), 60s Gold Sun 25 September (£27.50/£25), Northern Soul Night Sat 22 Oct (£7). And there's even more on our website.



This is just a taste of what's on in 2011 - see www.pyramidparrhall.com for even more fun and entertainment.

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Carpe Diem run away success



DIGITAL outfit Carpe Diem has won the brief to design the online advertising executions for sportswear brand ASICS for the next 12 months. The locally based agency will be working across 12 European territories, building on a relationship that recently saw it creating a new website for the brand's technical clothing range.

"This is a major appointment for Carpe Diem and a vote of confidence in our work from ASICS across

Europe," commented agency MD Bill Carr.

"We've been providing digital creative services to the brand for over 10 years and this project continues our creative work for ASICS across many different countries. The team here are really excited to have won the contract."

Bill said that the agency was now "in growth phase" and that "2011 is turning into a really important year for Carpe Diem."

Town has more to offer

DEVELOPERS, agents and other property professionals from across the North West attended the launch of the 13th annual Warrington Property Review. Key message of the review, compiled by BE Group, was that Warrington has more to offer than just business space and is getting development off the ground to become a more rounded economy.

The review provides an overview on movements in the commercial and industrial property market, together with details of deals and strategic developments within the town.

BE group director Vince Sandwell presented the findings of the report and Andy Farrall, the borough council's executive director of environment and regeneration, also gave a presentation.

He highlighted the town's achievements and gave an update on plans for regeneration and growth already well underway.

Mr Farrall said: "The word 'regeneration' doesn't really appear any more in what we're trying to do. It's about economic growth, both in the sub-region and Warrington itself. We've focused on key sites in the town centre and some from outside, like Daresbury and the Omega Site, that can make a difference."

"The criticism has always been that Warrington has business space but nothing else, but that is changing."

"The Orford Park project is coming to fruition, which is a major Olympic legacy project. Decathlon start onsite with their store next month and the council will be choosing its partner for the major development of the Bridge Street Quarter in June this year."

Copies of the review can be obtained from Angela Hankey on 01925 442371, or inwardinvestment@warrington.gov.uk

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Using a balanced approach with the support of a professional security consultant will help you make sure that you consider all the relevant issues and the respective parts of

your business so that any proposed improvements to the security are more likely to be effective and long term. Conducting a logical security survey will help to make sure that you have considered all potential risks and threats.

You should treat any change to your business as an opportunity to improve measures to reduce crime. Make sure that security is part of your business planning process

Good professional security and attention to detail will deter potential criminals.

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Major sport retailer comes to town

A MAJOR sports retailer has announced it is to open a store at Warrington's Orford Park Project, employing about 50 people.

Decathlon will open its 10th UK store on the site later this year on the Winwick Road site of the development. The purpose-built 25,000 sq ft store will sit on a six acre site and offer both full and part time posts.

The company specialises in the sale of sporting equipment for more than 70 sports, from skiing and cycling to sailing and rugby.

Orford Park is a unique regeneration venture being piloted in the town using sport, leisure, health, education and lifelong learning to promote the improved health and well-being of the local community and beyond. Construction of the main community hub is well underway.

The £30 million project has been developed in partnership with Sport England, The Football Foundation, the FA, the North West Development Agency, Warrington NHS Trust and more than 20 other funders.

It will completely transform 50 acres of a former landfill site and enhance the facilities of the existing popular community park.

Andy Farrall, executive director for environment and regeneration at the borough council, said: "I very pleased to welcome Decathlon to Warrington.

"The new store will not only create jobs in the local area but it is entirely in keeping with the sporting legacy of the site and what we are trying to achieve with this landmark development."

Pupils scoop award

PUPILS from a Warrington high school scooped a top award for their keen business skills at the area finals of Young Enterprise - an educational organisation which works to develop young people's business skills

A group of eight Year 12 pupils from Penketh High, who set up a company called Apollo, took the prize for the best trade stand with a DVD and resource pack which addresses the issues around bullying.

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Admiring Royal Wedding cup cakes at the Elmsett Close Great Sankey Street Party are left, Megan Collins aged 14 and Jess Martin aged 11.

Right Royal knees up

WARRINGTON residents enjoyed a right royal knees up as they celebrated the Royal wedding with a number of street parties across the town.

There were six official street parties in the town, licensed by the borough council, with road closures in place

but a number of other impromptu events took place. The official street parties took place in Goldcliffe Close, Callands, Parkland Close, Appleton, Brian Avenue, Stockton Heath, Briar Avenue, Hollins Green, Ashfield Gardens, Latchford and Hardy Road Lymm.



Residents of Elmsett Close celebrate the Royal wedding.

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Raising money by the bucket-full

FUNDS raised by a Warrington youth club bucket collection will be used to improve their base and for summer activities.

The youth group, from Fearnhead Cross Youth and Community Centre, raised £171 by a three-hour bucket collection at B&Q, Delph Lane, Winwick.

The group, which meets on Mondays from 7pm to 9.30pm, is open to young people aged 13 to 19. It is a free service run by Warrington Borough Council Youth Service.

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Storm over hospital 'merger' plan

A MERGER between Warrington Hospital's management body and Whiston Hospital is one of a number of options being considered in a bid to "rescue" the struggling Merseyside hospital.

The possibility has come as a shock to hospital chiefs at Warrington. Another option is Whiston could be handed over to a private company, health minister Simon Burns has admitted.

Whiston Hospital was recently rebuilt under a £350 million Private Finance Initiative (PFI) but is now struggling to fund £20.3 million annual payments.

The hospital is run by St Helens and Knowsley Hospitals NHS Trust and Warrington and Halton General hospitals are run by North Cheshire Hospitals NHS Trust. A health service insider said: "Whiston is effectively broke and as such cannot get foundation status."

LABOUR seized back control of Warrington Borough Council after five years of a Lib-Dem Tory coalition, making a total of six gains - all from the Lib Dems.

The margin of victory delighted Labour leader Terry O'Neill as the six gains gives his group a "workable majority."

The Lib Dem vote collapsed across Warrington but they managed to hold off strong challenges from the Conservatives in Lymm, Stockton Heath and Appleton but with greatly reduced majorities.

The Conservatives successfully held on to Culcheth. The Labour gains came at Bewsey and Whitecross, Great Sankey North and Great Sankey South, Latchford West, Poulton North and Whittle Hall.

A total of 67 candidates contested 20 seats, with Labour and the

Conservatives fighting all 20 seats and the Liberal Democrats 18. In addition there were five Green Party candidates, three UK Independence Party and one British National Party.

One of the big casualties of the

night was Liberal Democrat deputy mayor, Cllr Ted Finnegan at Latchford West. Meanwhile Warrington voted over overwhelmingly against the AV voting system as 40,442 voted No while 19,134 voted Yes.



Labour members celebrate their six gains to take control.

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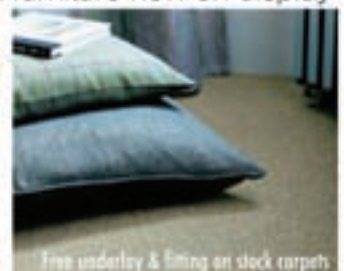
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Bus company shows support

WARRINGTON'S bus company Network Warrington has announced its continued support of the town's premier football team - Warrington Town FC.

It is the third successive year Network Warrington have sponsored the club as part of its community links.

The deal provides free admission to all games for Network Warrington employees and those who benefit from their money saving Saver Card tickets.

Managing Director David Squire said: "We see the local football club

as an important part of the local community and we can see the obvious benefits of helping the club grow and to become more successful.

"The sponsorship also gives a benefit in kind for our employees and added value for those who invest in our Saver Cards."

Successful

Town's Chief Executive Richy Sutton said: "We are delighted Network Warrington share our vision of making our town more successful on

and off the pitch.

"They are one of a growing number of local companies and businesses who are showing their support as we bid to move the club up the footballing pyramid - with the ultimate goal of bringing league football to the town."

Meanwhile any one interested in showing their support for the football team should contact their new community liaison officer James Standing on 07714571452 or email info@warringtontownfc.co.uk



MD David Square (left) with Town winger Chris Gahgan.

Bus service changes

NETWORK Warrington will be making a number of changes to bus services with effect from Monday June 6.

Following an extensive survey of our Network, times will be changed on most services in both the morning and afternoon peak periods; some services will also have different times throughout the day to take account of increased traffic congestion across the area. David Squire, Managing Director (pictured), commented "Our customers tell us that their number one priority is that their bus turns up on time, the effect of the changes we are making will improve the reliability of our services".

From the same date there will also be a number of other changes to our services which are detailed below:



Service 17 will be extended from Westbrook Centre to Gemini Retail Park, offering more buses from the Town Centre to Gemini, and providing a new link for residents in the expanding Chapelford Village.

Service 29 will be reduced to one

bus per hour beyond Lingley Green during off-peak periods only.

Service 31 will be reduced in frequency to hourly at off-peak times only, but will be extended to serve Honiton Way, restoring the link for residents to reach local shops and the Post Office.

Service 420 will be re-numbered to 22, to create a logical number sequence of service numbers for routes using Winwick Road.

There will be more Sunday buses from Sunday 12 June; all routes will operate on even frequencies, although the hours of operation will continue to be based on retail trading

hours.

Finally, Warrington Borough Council are changing two evening bus service contracts. Service 12 will be withdrawn in the evenings and partially replaced by new service 10, which will serve Gainsborough Road, and the evening services to Penketh on services 30 and 32 will be combined as service 32A.

Full details of all the changes are available from our website at www.networkwarrington.co.uk, by phone at 01925 634296 or from our office at the Bus Interchange.

Spa treatment - at the fire station!

RESIDENTS of the Orford area of Warrington can enjoy all the benefits of a spa break at a discount price - at the fire station!

They can enjoy various therapies for just £5 on Wednesdays at the fitness suite at Warrington Fire Station, Winwick Road.

The Well Warrington Network is offering 10 different therapies to choose from including Reiki, Aromatherapy, Reflexology, Indian Head Massage and Spiritual Healing.

Sessions last between 45 minutes and an hour. Further information about the therapies can be found on the website www.wellwarringtonnetwork.co.uk

Funding has been provided for Orford residents - but people from other parts of the borough can also book the treatments for £25. Appointments can be booked by ringing 07806565545.

The Well Warrington network is a non-profit making organisation, made up of five fully qualified therapists. Profits go towards other community projects and the network also works with disability and patient groups and organisations.


Wolves sporting gesture

WARRINGTON Wolves' stars Lee Briers, Jon Clarke and Ryan Atkins gave up their free time to take part in a special questions and answers evening at their footballing neighbours Warrington Town.

The event was hosted by rugby commentator Graham Lovatt and helped raise an estimated £3,000 for the football club's new pitch appeal fund.



The sporting panel with Town's chief executive Richy Sutton.



Our times are changing on Monday 6th June 2011

Our times are changing in order to help improve reliability on our services. In addition the following routes will also change:

- Service 12** - Evening service withdrawn by Warrington Borough Council and partially replaced by new Service 10 covering Chester Road and Gainsborough Road
- Service 17** - Extended from Westbrook Centre to Gemini Retail Park offering more buses from the Town Centre to Gemini and providing a new link from Chapelford to Gemini
- Service 29** - Revised to one bus per hour beyond Lingley Green via Westbrook and Burtonwood to Collins Green
- Services 30/32** - Evening service merged into one route as service 32A
- Service 31** - Daytime service reduced to hourly but extended to serve Honiton Way to provide a new shopping and Post Office link
- Service 420** - Renumbered to 22 so that all Winwick Road services are in a common series.

We will also be operating additional buses on Sundays to ensure there is a regular service during shopping hours.

For more information visit www.networkwarrington.co.uk call 01925 634296 or visit our office at Warrington Interchange

Enterprising youngsters scoop award

PUPILS from a Warrington high school scooped a top award for their keen business skills at the area finals of Young Enterprise - an educational organisation which works to develop young people's business skills.

A group of eight Year 12 pupils from Penketh High, who set up a company called Apollo, took the prize for the best trade stand with a DVD and resource pack which addresses the issues around bullying.

ICT teacher John Carlin said: "They were absolutely fantastic on the night and a real credit to the school, I can't tell you how proud I am of them all."

"Sadly we didn't win the overall team prize, but it was indicated to our team that we were close to winning."

"Our business, however, was acknowledged by many there as the

best and most original idea and everyone was impressed with the issues it is trying to address.

"Representatives from some of the schools present have placed orders for our resource pack and a director from the Golden Square Shopping Centre gave the group his number and is keen to launch our resource pack in a new venture they are launching in family products."

The quality of the delivery of enterprise education at the Heath Road school was also acknowledged as they received the Centre of Excellence award for their outstanding teaching and commitment to enterprise education programmes.

Anyone interested in purchasing the anti-bullying resource pack can do so by contacting the school on 01925 722298.



New bandstand

A BRAND new bandstand has been opened at Warrington's Walton Hall Gardens to replace one destroyed by vandals last year.

The Mayor, Cllr John Joyce performed the official opening ceremony. The new bandstand was commissioned for Walton to replace one destroyed by fire in an arson attack last year. It is Victorian in style and licensed for civil ceremonies.

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Widdows Mason are delighted to announce the arrival of Geoff Stokes and his assistant Sharon Saunders.

Geoff and Sharon both of whom are born and bred in Warrington have been working in the town for in excess of 30 years.

They both bring with them an excellent reputation for their service to their clients. Their knowledge in the area of Wills, Probate, Property and Commercial transactions as well as other aspects of law will ensure that they will compliment the existing team at Widdows Mason.

Paul Ireland Partner said "I am delighted to welcome Geoff and Sharon to Widdows Mason. It is a rare opportunity to be able to acquire people of their calibre and they will

compliment our existing Wills, Probate and Property Team. Geoff and Sharon are well established and well respected members of the Warrington legal community and bring with them a wealth of experience and knowledge. I am thrilled that Geoff and Sharon chose to join Widdows Mason and regard it as a real coup for us."



Paul Ireland, Partner



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Motoring

Cars that come tailor-made

THE new Volvo S80 Executive and V70 R-Design top-of-the-line saloon and sporty estate car come in refined special versions tailor made for buyers who want a car with that extra exclusive look and individual touch.

Both cars are designed around the growing number of people who appreciate the possibility of tailoring their cars to suit individual tastes, according to Lex Kerssemakers, senior vice presidents, product strategy and vehicle line management at Volvo.

He said: "The Executive version of the S80 radiates exclusive luxury while our R-Design models are developed for buyers who want an extra sporty look."

The Volvo S80 is the most exclusive Volvo saloon - and the Executive version features details that emphasise the Scandinavian design, sophisticated comfort of the spaciousness.

It is the first Volvo model with an instrument panel top in leather, available in espresso brown or off black. Among other interior details are ventilated soft leather seats with massage function, leather door panels, an integrated analogue clock on the instrument panel and the aluminium centre consol storage.

The V70 R-Design comes with a number of specially developed exterior and interior design details.

The exterior has unique design details in the front, LED turning indicators integrated into door mirrors with silk metal covers and a unique, diamond cut 18-inch wheel.

Inside, there is leather upholstery trimmed in off black, leather around the gear selector, and black floor-mats with contrasting stitching.

Both cars feature the latest Volvo Sensus infotainment system, all information presented on a five or seven-inch colour screen positioned to make it easy for the driver to keep his or her eyes on the road.



The V70 R-Design estate car

Japanese cars in short supply

JAPAN's eight major vehicle manufacturers have reported that their combined domestic production facilities are only operating at about 50 per cent of the normal, as a result of disruption caused by the earthquake, tsunami and nuclear disaster.

Toyota - for a long while the world's biggest vehicle maker - appears to have been hit worst and expects to be overtaken by General Motors in the production stakes.

Mitsubishi has fared better than the others and suffered a reduction of only 25.7 per cent.

The Tohoku region hit by the disasters does not have many assembly facilities for car companies but it is a key area for making many

of the parts required to build cars. As a result, parts are in short supply and in some cases, entire assembly lines were halted because vehicles were missing just one or two parts.

The impact has been felt globally as well, with overseas production plants, including those in the UK, also unable to secure sufficient parts to carry on.

Car manufacturers say continued shortages are inevitable and output figures are likely to remain low.

So for some time to come, Japanese cars seem likely to be in short supply on forecourts around the world - and could well lose out to makes from other parts of the world.

Roads continue to decline

A SURVEY of councils by the RAC has revealed that road conditions across the country are continuing to decline because Town Hall chiefs are being forced to undertake short-term repairs rather than permanent solutions.

Twelve out of 20 councils reported that government funding cuts mean they are concentrating on short term repairs to fill potholes caused by the harsh winter.

Eight councils have cut road maintenance budgets, two have dipped into reserves to make up for shortfalls, and two more have set up private finance initiatives to pay for road maintenance.

One council has axed £5.8 million from its road maintenance budget despite having a backlog of £160m in repairs.

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Catwalk students help local charities

COLLEGE students took to the catwalk in support of the Warrington Grassroots charity. It was the annual fashion show at Priestley College and the event aimed to raise as much money as possible to help support local voluntary and community groups within the Warrington area.

Students showed off garments, accessories and body based pieces designed by those studying a range of courses from the Art and Design curriculum area while students studying BTEC Business played a key role in managing the event for a core unit on their course.

Art tutor Emma Lingard, said: "For the Art and Design students this event was really special

allowing them to show their pieces to a live audience, whilst at the same time, supporting such a worthwhile cause."

Business Tutor Julie McDonald added: "It was really useful for the Business students to play a key role in the management of this event, which was some six months in the planning. The results spoke for themselves on what was a great day for the college."

A range of local Warrington businesses also supported the show including MC2 Hair Design who provided hair and make-up for the models while a range of others donated gifts to a raffle.

Pictures by Nat Ashurst





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Financially yours

By David Watkinson

Business record checks have arrived!

Last month we reported that some areas had already received "Business Record Check" letters from the tax office, and said that taxpayers in Warrington should take this as an early warning.

How true! Since then we have been approached by one person who has received a letter, and one of our own clients has also received a letter. Business Record Checks have arrived! We therefore apologize if this seems a bit of a repeat from last month. However, this is a very important development that could affect a large number of local traders. Business Record Checks are where smaller traders will be visited to check the quality of their records. Should the tax office discover that the records are not adequate then this could result in more than a slapped wrist or advice on improving them. This could also give rise to assessments being raised on the grounds that returns were inaccurate or unreliable, with the resultant increase in tax liabilities and penalties.

Last month, we touched on the records that should be kept by all businesses. In particular, we said that guidance issued by HMRC on their website states that the basic records to be kept by sole traders must include "a record of all your sales

and takings" as well as "a record of all your purchases and expenses". However, they then go on to include a long list of more detailed records, such as bank statements and purchase and sales invoices, that "will be useful for completing your Self Assessment tax return and answering any questions that HMRC may have about it". Our experience suggests that the basic records alone will fail to convince HMRC that those records are complete and accurate.

The tax office have said that the cost to taxpayers of these Business Record Checks will be less than a couple of hundred pounds. This is, frankly, cloud cuckoo land if it is an honest estimate. The cost will be substantially more in all but a very few cases, and the tax office estimate could not include any professional representation.

So what should you do? Firstly, we offer all our clients a fee protection policy at very reasonable cost, ensuring that they do not need to pay us to represent their best interest. Secondly, we are always happy to advise clients on how best to keep records, whether it is manually, using a computer spreadsheet, or purchasing a computer based accountancy package. We are very happy to offer clients a



David Watkinson and Margaret Black

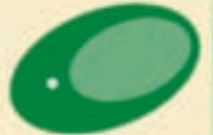
simple bookkeeping package that meets all of the requirements of most small businesses, whilst at the same time being much easier to use than either Sage or Quickbooks. Further details are available on our website: www.warringtonaccountants.co.uk

WatkinsonBlack are pleased to advise on these and other matters, including 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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Anti-drink project hailed a success

WARRINGTON'S Arcangel anti-alcohol project is being hailed as a huge success.

Town Hall bosses say it has cut crime, anti-social behaviour and serious violence and made the town centre feel far safer at night.

In the three years since the project was launched by the borough council, police and other partners, significant improvements have been achieved in the town centre.

Total crime is down by 12.3 per cent and violent crime by 15.7 per cent. Serious violence has been slashed by a staggering 25.8 per cent.

Alcohol-related anti-social behaviour has been reduced by 7.3 per cent, although officers believe the decrease is actually much more when the impact of 800 Section 27 notices issued by police are taken into account. These notices allow police to remove people causing anti-social behaviour from the town centre.

During the three year period, conditions have been imposed at 13 licensed premises.

Cheshire Police have set up the Town Centre Neighbourhood Policing Unit, training has been given to club door staff, taxi marshals have been introduced and Lower Bridge Street has been closed to traffic at night.

Warrington's MPs visited the town centre at night to see police operations for themselves and this led to national government changing its stance on alcohol sales in a similar way to that adopted in Warrington.

As a result of the project's success, it is now being formally closed and its task group disbanded. But the measures it introduced will continue and the situation will continue to be monitored.



Lib Dem will be town's new Mayor

LIBERAL Democrat Mike Biggin is to be the next Mayor of Warrington.

He will step into the job originally earmarked for his party colleague Ted Finnegan, who lost his seat in last week's council elections.

Cllr Biggin, (pictured), who is also a member of Grappenhall and Thelwall Parish Council, where he has been chairman for the last two years, joked: "It is like a life in chains."

"But it is a massive honour to become Mayor of Warrington and I am thrilled."

"I can't help but feel sorry for Ted Finnegan, however. He put in all the hard work of preparing to be Mayor, acting as deputy for the last 12 months, but has been deprived of the final honour. It is very sad for him."

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