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Issue No. 113

March 2009

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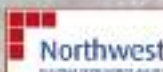
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Editor's Comment



AS I mentioned a couple of months ago those campaigning against a Titan Prison on the giant Omega site in Warrington could end up with something worse on their doorstep – and surprise surprise a leaked council memo now suggests a proposed new waste incinerator for the town could be located on the site.

But don't worry – we are told these new incinerators don't create dangerous levels of pollution and the energy they create could end up supplying the energy for other developments such as a prison on the site!

Whatever the case may be – I know one thing is for certain – all the main political parties will be campaigning against the incinerator and the Titan prison.

It is fine to campaign against something but we do face a huge problem – if not Omega, where else is suitable in Warrington for an incinerator, or indeed a Titan prison?

It is a fact that in the current economic climate it is going to be extremely difficult to create what was first envisaged for the sprawling

wastelands which were once part of the giant US Army airbase at Burtonwood.

Once described as the 'Jewel in Warrington's Crown' because of its huge potential, it is now becoming somewhat of a poisoned chalice.

I don't know what the answer is but

I think our politicians and elected members should all work together for the good of the town instead of trying to score points against each other in a bid to win our votes.

Meanwhile Warrington has recently been voted the most prosperous town in the north west, while at the same time another survey revealed we are facing worse unemployment than many other areas – it just goes to show you can make statistics show just about whatever you want!

Recycling pledge

PEOPLE in Warrington are being urged to continue recycling despite the credit crunch affecting the market for paper, plastic and other recyclable waste. The borough council has pledged that recycled waste will not be sent to landfill sites.

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Afternoon tea

It might seem a little old-fashioned, but scones with cream and strawberry jam, mini sandwiches with their crusts cut off, crumpets, desserts and a pot of earl grey – are one treat you can enjoy whatever your budget.

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Search for Town's next top model

Do you think you have what it takes to be the new face of Warrington?

The search is now on for girls to enter the first ever Miss Warrington Town competition – a great way to kick-start your modelling career!

The event is being organised by former Miss Warrington Holly Ikin who is a finalist for Miss Universe GB 2009. The winner of Miss Warrington Town will win an

amazing selection of prizes including:

- A photoshoot with Warrington based photographer Nick Giles
- A front cover on Warrington Worldwide magazine
- A hamper of goodies provided by Warrington Market
- Promotional appearances throughout 2009

- A crown and sash
- A season ticket at Warrington Town FC
- And the winner will be the face of Warrington Town FC!

Holly said: "Prizes are constantly being added so this is an opportunity that you cannot afford to miss!"

The event, sponsored by Warrington Market, is being held in aid of The Joshua Foundation, a charity created in 1998 to provide

holidays and experiences for children and their families, when a child has been diagnosed with terminal cancer.



In order to enter Miss Warrington Town, girls must be aged between 17 and 25. An audition day for contestants is being held on Saturday March 14 at Warrington Town FC. The audition will be a short process where you will have the chance to find out more about the contest and to meet the organisers. If you are interested in entering Miss Warrington Town, please arrive anytime between 10am and 2pm. There will be a £5 application charge. To confirm your attendance at the audition day or to find out more about the contest, please email misswarringtontown@hotmail.co.uk

The grand final of Miss Warrington Town is being held on Sunday April 26 at Warrington Town FC.

Melinda puts store in the picture

CELEBRITY television presenter Melinda Messenger popped into Smart Furnishings in Stockton Heath to feature a quality business for a Channel Five programme.

She and her team were filming an episode of the makeover show 'Cowboy Builders' shown early in February.

The business in Chapel Lane was chosen for the programme as the television company wanted to deal with a family run company that could meet all their flooring needs.

Steve Martin, who runs the advertising and marketing side of the business, was first contacted by the film crew via the website www.smartfurnishings.co.uk

Melinda spent more than an hour in the store filming and chatting to staff. Director Amanda Smart and laminate and wood flooring consultant Peter Dutton were involved in the filming.

Popular store Smarts is a family business with founder Ken Smart still

working in the shop, along with his wife Hazel, daughters Amanda, Cheryl and Jill, and son-in-law Steve.

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Hello and welcome to my monthly column . . .

Hypnotes

by Michael Mahoney

Adapting

This month, I want to focus on the importance of thinking differently. During uncertain times our confidence and self esteem can be eroded. Our belief systems are often challenged and we sometimes or often feel uncomfortable with external events, with other people and ourselves. Regular readers will be familiar with the phrase, 'each thought creates a physical response' and this is important to remember.

What we also have to remember is unfamiliar is not necessarily wrong, it's simply unfamiliar. But we adapt and we can learn to think differently, and as we think differently we eventually feel more comfortable and unfamiliar then become familiar.

How many of us who walked past Woolworths the day after it closed and felt those feelings of unfamiliarity? It has always been there. Generations of Warringtonians have met outside the Woolworth shop on a Saturday to meet our friends before 'going around town'. And yet a few walks past it and how quickly we become familiar to seeing it closed. We adapt, and we do it well if we allow ourselves too.

Over recent months, we have become familiar with bailouts, company

closures; we have also become familiar with massive numbers, a billion, 20 billions sometimes hundreds of billions. When we first thought about billions it was a mind numbing number, now we're all familiar with the huge numbers and we now don't give them a second thought (though we will when we have to pay them back!) so again we adapt.

And that is one of the many great things about being human, we are adaptable, we can make the best of a bad job, we can learn to think differently, we can learn to think better, we can learn new skills, new attitudes and new outlooks.

Every single person who reads this article is capable of changing their thoughts and outcomes. My self help audio recordings and my services at Guardian Medical Centre are about helping people to make changes in their lives. More recently I have been busy focussing on helping those who have been made redundant to speed up their emotional recovery, restore confidence levels develop self motivation and determination amongst other things and therefore to move on again.

Anyone who has ever been made involuntarily redundant will know the impact it has on their lives and their

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



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

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emotions, the silent fears as well as those shared with loved ones. And it takes time to recover, but we do eventually, but in my view the sooner the better, because there is lots of competition out there, and we need to learn and adapt even more.

What we thought were dependable institutions and companies are vanishing or taking on new forms, and yet change always brings opportunity. It is up to us to take advantage of the times. However no-one will say it is an easy thing to do, but I believe it is those who are prepared to adapt and learn and think differently who will be the winners when all this is over. And it will pass and things will get better again for the majority. For some it will literally be starting from scratch again, but everyone does have the ability to adapt and change and move on. Sometimes we have no choice, so the more comfortable we feel in and about ourselves and our abilities the better our outlook, and subsequently what we eventually achieve.

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Lucie bids for stardom

WARRINGTON singing hopeful Lucie Evans is again bidding for stardom.

Lucie, 15, a pupil at Birchwood High School, is taking part in an internet competition worth £100,000 towards the cost of promotion and publicity.

The competition is on 1click2fame.com – and fans can vote for her with a simple click.

Visitors to the site can see a video of Lucie and vote once every 24 hours.

The link to click is www.1click2fame.com/performances/443

Lucie already has a considerable success story behind her.

Last year she won the Warrington's Got Talent contest at the Halliwell Jones Stadium and later sang at a song-writing competition in London in front of music industry people and Robin Gibb from the Bee Gees.

She now has a manager who is pushing her towards a record deal and has also been to Norway to work with a songwriting and production company to record some original tracks for her demo cd.

She recently had a photo shoot in London for her demo cd and website and also travelled to Glasgow to record



three more original tracks.

Proud Dad Rob Evans said: "Lucie sang at the Ascot Ball for the Tim Parry Johnathan Ball Peace Foundation and went down really well."

Should Lucie win the internet competition, the money would give her the chance of going to America to work with Marshall Altman, a top producer who works with artists such as Katie Perry and also gain more publicity.

Lift off for airstrip

PLANS for a private airstrip for fixed wing aircraft have been given the go-ahead at Martinscroft Moss, Rixton, following an appeal.

Originally, Warrington Borough Council refused permission because police and the Highways Agency were concerned that low flying aircraft could distract drivers on the nearby M6. But their objections were withdrawn when the scheme was amended to move the airstrip 300 metres further from the motorway.



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What is the Enterprise Finance Guarantee?

UNLESS you are a hermit, you will not have failed to notice the turmoil in the World and UK financial markets.

One of the many attempts by the Government to avoid matters deteriorating further is to provide Guarantees to the Banks to support borrowing by small businesses, thus encouraging Banks to continue to provide loans to this very important market.

The new scheme is called the EFG – Enterprise Finance Guarantee and it replaces the SFLG – Small Firms Loan Guarantee scheme. What is it?

An EFG is a facility guaranteed by the government and should be used for those customers who lack adequate security to meet the bank's normal lending criteria.

The Government guarantees 75

per cent of the loan.

The banks can take additional security to cover the shortfall EXCEPT the customer's personal home.

In return for the government guarantee, a 1.5 per cent (reduced from two per cent) premium is payable by the customer to the DTI on the outstanding capital balance on a quarterly basis.

Most purposes are eligible, although the scheme is primarily designed for shorter term working capital.

There are some ineligible industries and some restricted purposes.

The scheme does not replace the need for normal banking

considerations to be taken into account – eg. The customer's stake and service ability of any borrowing.

For limited companies full personal guarantees with independent legal advice and debentures must be taken in all cases.

EFGs can be provided for any amount between £1k and £1 million and for terms between three months and 10 years.

Therefore, if you are looking for finance for your business, whether it is for equipment, working capital, or commercial property, we have funds available.

Indeed Barclays provided 20 per cent more loans for small enterprises in 2008 than we did in 2007 and it is our aim to provide even more loans this year. Please feel free to contact any members of the local business team at Barclays in Warrington to discuss your plans. We are available on 01925 782133 for Janet Mitchell or Ted Fryer (dealing with businesses which are already established) or 01925 782132 for Steve Ward or Gill Hillier (for start-up ventures). We look forward to hearing from you.

Barclay Bank PLC – now there's a thought!



Ted Fryer
Barclays Business
Manager

Loss adjuster moves into town

A LEADING firm of insurance loss adjusters has moved its regional headquarters to Warrington.

Merlin Professional Claims Services has merged offices in Manchester and Knutsford to relocate to a new regional service centre at Fountain Court, Birchwood.

The Warrington location was chosen for its proximity to transport networks and the skill base.

Chief Executive Richard Webster said: "The growth of our business has

been such that new, larger offices have been required from where the full range of our property and liability loss adjusting and related services can be delivered.

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50-year celebration for landmark process



Picture, courtesy of Photography for Industry, shows (left to right) managing director Len Sharpe, Ambassador Jean-Michel Veranneman de Watervliet and retired manufacturing manager Steve McKenzie studying a model of the AO Plant.

A VIP visit was organised to a Warrington company to mark the 50th anniversary of a landmark production process.

The Belgian Ambassador to the UK, Jean-Michel Veranneman de Watervliet, and the Mayor and Mayoress of Warrington Graham and Elaine Welborn visited Solvay's Warrington site.

They were part of the celebrations to mark the anniversary of Hydrogen Peroxide production by the auto oxidation (AO) process.

Peroxides business manager Eric Mignonat, technical manager Alain Vandenbussche and former managing director Jorge Oliveira were also present, along with Solvay employees

and former staff.

In 1970, Solvay joined forces with Laporte to form the Interax group of companies who, in 1986, built a new AO Plant at Warrington, employing the then latest technology and costing over £20 million.

That plant continues to operate today, albeit with a recently upgraded instrumentation and control system which once again ensures the plant operates with the latest technology. The Warrington site is now wholly owned by Solvay.

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March

"What's On"

Mind The Gap

Friday 27 February

The Comedy Store

Saturday 7 March

Freddie Starr

Sunday 8 March

Colin Fry

Monday 9 March

Poles Apart

Thursday 19 March

Legends Of The Oche

Friday 20 March

Tickets & Information

01925 442345

www.pyramidparrhall.com



Something for Everyone This Season

Pyramid and Parr Hall are playing host to a veritable feast of events and activities over the coming weeks and we just know you'll find something you simply can't afford to miss this spring!

Friday 27 February - Mind the Gap

For fans who enjoy their drama with a little comedic bite, there's 'Mind the Gap' on Fri 27 Feb



(Pyramid, 8pm, £8/£6). This dark drama follows a couple on the last tube home. When the lights go out and they become stuck in a tunnel all they have is the dark. How can you trust someone when you can't see their face?

Sunday 8 March - Freddie Starr



The month of March offers comedy mayhem as we play host to the trouser-dropping talents of Freddie Starr. The favourite funny man returns to Warrington on Sun 8 March (Parr Hall, 7.30pm, £18.50/£17) with his unique brand of zany humour. Reassuringly outrageous; don't miss this legendary entertainer.

Monday 9 March - Colin Fry

Following his sold-out event Colin Fry, widely regarded as one of the world's finest spiritualist mediums, returns to Parr Hall, with his new show 'In The Spirit With...', to share his philosophy with audiences on Mon 9 March (Parr Hall, 7.30pm, £19.50). This is a popular event, so advance booking is highly recommended.



Thursday 19 March - Poles Apart



Poles Apart sees two British lads (Dan & Mark) reversing the employment trend and seeking work in Poland on Thurs 19 March (Pyramid, 7.30pm, £10/£8). This unique show about a 2,000 mile adventure from the UK to Poland following the journey thousands of Polish people have made over the last 70 years. Poles Apart is the story of two nations who have fought together, worked together and now live together.

Friday 20 March - Legends Of The Oche

Legends of the Oche on Fri 20 March (Parr Hall, 7.30pm, £12) welcomes the World's greatest names in darts, including Bobby



George, John Lowe and Eric Bristow, and puts them under the spotlight to answer questions, play darts and tell their real-life tales. 'Legends of The Oche' is presented by the great Duncan 'Chase Me' Norvelle.

This is just a taster of what's in store at Pyramid and Parr Hall this season, there's even more events online at www.pyramidparrhall.com so be sure to check it out!

For tickets and information contact 01925 442 345 or call into Box Office at Pyramid, Palmyra Square, Warrington, WA1 1BL.



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Advertiser's announcement

Family problems call for family solicitors

by Paul Ireland, Widdows Mason

The days of Spiderman stopping traffic by climbing Tower Bridge or Batman scaling the Houses of Parliament are possibly behind us following recent changes to the law relating to children.

I have to be honest and say that both on a professional basis as a family solicitor for many years and also personally as a father of two little girls I have always considered these exploits actually did more harm than good and did little to assist the overall cause.

However, at the same time I also recognise that there are occasions when wrong decisions are made but in my experience it is more because people try and fight the system on their own and in their own way and without the benefit of proper legal advice.

If I had to rewire my house I would employ an expert electrician rather than try and tackle the difficult job myself. It is exactly the same principle in a court of law and if you have a family problem that ultimately may require the intervention of the court it is better to obtain some initial legal advice from an expert family solicitor.

I have noticed a growing trend over the last few years that when relationships breaks down more and more children are spending an equal amount of time with both parents or alternatively parents are managing to come to very sensible decisions that are in the best interests of the children and make arrangements for both children to see both parents following that relationship breakdown.

However, unfortunately there are a small percentage of cases where arrangements for children cannot be agreed and require a court order and an even smaller percentage where a court order is obtained and not respected by one or both parents. It is the very small percentage of cases that the recent changes of the law seek to address.

The new changes in the law are intended to help all parents promote contact and in those few cases where contact orders are not complied with the court will also have the ability to impose sanctions on the parent who is failing to respect an order of the court.

Examples of the new changes and Court's powers include:-

- The court being able to attach conditions to contact orders e.g. it can be a condition that a parent attends a parenting program.
- The court can impose on a parent who does not comply with an order a financial penalty or financial compensation for losses incurred as a result of failure to comply with a contact order (e.g. the cost of a holiday which is wasted).

These are just some of the main changes to the new law and I suppose time will tell whether we see the return of Peter Parker or Bruce Wayne but for the time being may the rest in peace.



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HEALTH bosses in Warrington have made a key commitment to increase life expectancy for local people over the next five years.

NHS Warrington's strategic commissioning plan for the period up to 2013-14 says life expectancy at birth for men will increase by almost two years compared with the present and a further two years over the following five years.

Women's life expectancy in the same period will increase by 1.5 years compared with the present and a further two years in the following five years.

This would mean men's life expectancy would be in line with the national average, compared to being one month less as at present while women's would increase from the national average as a present to one year above the average.

Average life expectancy in Warrington is currently 75.4 years for men and 79.7 for women.

NHS Warrington has listed seven

priorities to achieve the vision of "A Healthier Warrington for all."

These involve:

Increased resources into prevention, staying healthy and reducing inequalities,

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- G.P Liaison Worker
- Outreach Support Worker
- Drop - In
- A 'signposting' service
- Carers Emergency Card
- Counselling Service
- Quarterly news letter



The Princess Royal Trust



Free Information & Support Line: **0800 731 6941**

For more information call: **01925 644212**

Young Carers Line: **01925 248465**

Email: Warrington_Carers@garvenplace.freeserve.co.uk

Website: www.carerswarrington.co.uk

Town team up on the buses

WARRINGTON Borough Transport and Warrington Town Football Club have teamed up on the buses with a unique sponsorship package, which will benefit youngsters across the town.

As part of the bus company's new Under 19's Saver Card campaign, which gives all youngsters aged under 19 half price bus travel, they will now be able to gain free admission to all Warrington Town's home league games free of charge - by simply showing their saver card.

The U19 Saver complements the recent successfully introduced Student Saver Card and is intended to encourage young people to use buses more, assist Warrington Borough Councils 14 - 19 Strategy and reduce congestion in the town. Application forms for membership of

the scheme are available from the Bus Interchange.

The new sponsorship deal was launched at the football club's link school, Sir Thomas Boteler CE High School.

Borough Transport Chairman Coun. Les Hoyle said: "This is a great money saving opportunity for every youngster in Warrington. Not only can they save money on public transport but they can now also get free admission to football matches."

"A town the size of Warrington deserves to have a successful football team and hopefully by encouraging more people along to the games it will be something to build on for the future."

"By encouraging young people to use public transport it helps the environment and providing a healthy interest in a sport like football is an added bonus."

"Now our young bus users are getting two great deals for the price of one!"

As part of the sponsorship package all Borough Transport employees can also gain free admission to home league games.

Warrington Town Chairman Dave Hughes said: "We are delighted to be teaming up with Warrington Borough Transport. It will help lift the profile of the club and hopefully attract along a new generation of fans."



'Our work is under-estimated'

THE workload of councillors in Warrington has been under-estimated for a number of years – according to the councillors themselves.

A working group of councillors set up to review the way council members' pay is calculated is recommending changes.

Councillors' allowances are recommended by an Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) appointed by the council – although the final decision is made by the council itself. In May last year, the IRP, decided that the average time spent per week on council business by a backbench councillor should be estimated at 15 hours. They based their findings on a survey carried out in 2006.

But last November, another survey was carried out. All 30 backbench members of the council were invited to take part, but only 13 did so. They were from all three political parties and represented nine wards.

This indicated that on average, members worked 28.64 hours per week. The council working party is now recommending that the IRP take into account the increased average of 28.64 and a national average of 22 hours per week when it puts forward its recommendations.

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£127-a-week to take in a lodger

A WARRINGTON-based charity is looking for people willing to take in lodgers.

Openingdoors is a charity that helps to improve the quality of life for homeless and vulnerable people.

Nisus 22 is the charity's Supported Lodgings scheme, where young homeless people, aged 16-22 years, are provided with accommodation in a home within the local community.

Openingdoors is looking for providers who can offer a young person somewhere to live.

All people need to become a provider is a genuine interest and a

willingness to support a vulnerable young person, a spare room and some free time to help prepare a young person to live an independent lifestyle.

In return they will receive satisfaction from supporting a young person, full support from skilled co-ordinators - and a payment of £127 a week.

More information about becoming a provider is available from 01925 246936 or by emailing info@openingdoorsnorthwest.co.uk

£31,000 boost for voluntary groups

MORE than £31,000 has been awarded to organisations in Warrington thanks to a innovative grants scheme.

Grants have been distributed by Warrington Council for Voluntary Services (CVS), chosen as one of 67 funders across the country, since the scheme launched in September 2008.

Among the 24 local organisations benefiting from funding are Warrington Open Door at Christmas, Shooting Stars Dance Drama Group and the Older People's Forum.

Chief executive of Warrington CVS Nigel Bacon said: "Warrington is full of small groups and individuals who work tirelessly to tackle local problems and this fund is dedicated to supporting their efforts."

"Grassroots Grants is exciting as it provides help direct to community groups now and into the future. That is why we are urging local leaders, businesses and individuals to make an investment in the future of their community by contributing to the Warrington Grassroots Endowment Fund."

He said donations to the fund are boosted by schemes such as Gift Aid and match funding by the Government.

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www.warrington-

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Gavin Hastings, Alex Wood, Alex Hurst.

Row (L-R)
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Row (L-R)
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www.warrington-wolves-worldwide.co.uk

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Artist step nearer dream

WARRINGTON artist Anthony Turk hopes he is a step nearer achieving his dream after creating an eye-catching marine life mural at a Warrington swimming pool.

Anthony, from Great Sankey, has always dreamed of creating a giant marine life mural on a Warrington landmark.

Now after creating one at Sankey Leisure's swimming pool, he hopes he is a step nearer his dream.

It was while visiting family in Detroit (USA) in 1995 that he started his dream.

His cousin's husband - Jerry Sell - showed him a book by his nephew - Robert Wyland.

Wyland's canvases were huge buildings set in industrial and coastal areas. While in the States Anthony got the chance to work on one of Wyland's giant marine life murals.

"Although I had seen murals before, his style was unique - he uses car spray guns which is a large airbrush and traditional brushes. A typical Wyland mural of blues and greens transform the buildings and as the murals are marine scenes, the environmental message is striking.

"I couldn't wait to return home to begin work."

Unfortunately he was not able to pursue his dream due to planning red tape in Warrington, resulting in the creation of the Pink Eye building at Crosfield's roundabout.

Meanwhile Wyland flourished becoming the official artist of the Beijing Olympics.



In contrast Anthony has had limited opportunities to use the techniques he had learned from Wyland and was delighted to have the chance to use them at Sankey Leisure Centre.

Meanwhile he still has a dream of

one day removing the gaint tear from the Pink Eye building near the Crosfield roundabout and replacing it with a marine life mural.

For more details visit www.apinkeye.co.uk

Advertiser's announcement

Spring into action

SPRING is the perfect excuse for homeowners to get their house in order and give a hardworking oven a well deserved clean, according to professional oven-valeters Ovenu.

For many homeowners, clearing out the clutter with an annual spring clean can be a very satisfying experience. Whether it's having a thorough clean through, catching up on the filing, or finally getting round to completing odd jobs around the house, it's a chance to prepare for the year ahead.

But for even the most enthusiastic spring cleaners, donning rubber gloves and tackling the oven is still one of the most loathed chores.

Paul Clark from Ovenu Warrington, said: "Taking the time to have a good old clean can be very rewarding, but when it comes to cleaning the oven, most people would rather close the door and put it to the back of their minds!

"Whether you're cooking for love or necessity, the more you use your oven the more debris and grease can start to build up and this can affect its efficiency. Roast dinners enjoyed over the winter months may be long gone from the dinner plate, but remnants could still be lurking in the oven, hiding behind the panels, behind the fan cover or even dribbling by the heating elements in those hard to reach places.

"By regularly cleaning and maintaining your oven, you will ensure it performs at its best and help prolong its life, so you shouldn't need to replace it as often."



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Receptionists – the Learning Advocates Initiative needs you!

The Learning Advocates initiative is coming to Warrington and it needs the help of receptionists employed in local companies.

Receptionists are at the hub of a business and know everyone in the company. Learning Advocates is a project that helps to encourage employed people to get involved in learning and receptionists are in an ideal position to be able to promote learning to their colleagues.

Liz Johnston from Learning Advocates says "The initiative is all about upskilling the workforce. We offer free training to enable a member of staff from a non-unionised company to train as either a Learning Advocate or a Learning Supporter. This member of staff can be working in any role but we're particularly keen to attract receptionists to take part. Advocates are trained to interview colleagues/promote learning, and Supporters are trained to publicise learning opportunities to their colleagues. In the current climate it is particularly important to have a skilled workforce and having a trained advocate or supporter is a real asset to a company. We need local receptionists to take up the challenge of promoting learning in their companies".

A free 4 day advocate training course will be running in Warrington during April and May 2009. Supporter training is delivered via a 2 hour on-line course and can be accessed anytime/anyplace as long as people have internet access.

The initiative is completely free to non-unionised companies who do not have Investors in People status and is funded by the Learning and Skills

Council (LSC) as part of its regional European Social Fund (ESF) programme. Dave Brennan, Acting Director of Skills, LSC North West says "In these tough times training is more important than ever, and companies that don't train their staff are 2.5 times more likely to fail than those that do. Training can also have a big impact on individuals, and open the doors to a more fulfilling career. It is great to see schemes like the Learning Advocates Initiative in action. This sort of help for the people of Warrington is exactly what the European Social Fund is about."

The Learning Advocates initiative has been operated in Cumbria by Liz & Graham Johnston of The Johnston Partnership since 2004 and is now being rolled out across the North West region.

For more information contact Liz Johnston, Tel/Text: 07791 639 146, Email: liz@learningadvocates.co.uk or log on to www.learningadvocates.co.uk



Liz Johnston & Graham Johnston.

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Learning Advocates Initiative



FREE Training Opportunity

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Want to learn some new skills that would help your colleagues?

Would you like to become your company:

Learning Advocate - "Learning Advocates are trained to interview colleagues, advise on individual learning needs/ opportunities and promote a learning culture in their company."

Learning Supporter - "Learning Supporters are trained to publicise new learning opportunities to colleagues."

Advocates attend a locally delivered 4 x 1 day/week course (Open College Network). Supporters complete a 2 hour on-line or distance learning course (In-house certificate).

All tuition fees, course materials and enrolment fees are FREE to staff from non-unionised companies who don't have IIP (Investors In People) status. Disability/interpretation support provided.

Once trained, advocates & supporters receive regular newsletters and are invited to network meetings to keep them up-to-date with FREE training opportunities.

For more information contact:

Graham Johnston Tel: 07791 639 196 Email: ghmjohnston@aol.com
Liz Johnston Tel: 07791 639 146 Email: lzzjohnston@aol.com



Council to clean up 'mystery' path

TOWN Hall chiefs at Warrington have agreed to step in and tidy up a footpath after failing to discover who owns it.

The unadopted path runs from Malpas Drive, Great Sankey, through to Hood Lane, near to The Rose public house.

Nearby residents, who use it as a shortcut to shops at Hood Manor and other local facilities such as a mother and toddler group, complaint about its litter-strewn state.

Sankey South ward councillor Jim Regan and the borough council have

tried to trace the owner - but even an approach to the Land Registry has failed to find out who the land belongs to.

Coun Regan said: "The path has become something of an eyesore and we tried to find the owner to persuade him to tidy it up. But we can't trace him. I asked the council to clean it up and they have agreed to do so as a 'one-off'.



Penny drops in at former school

WARRINGTON Wolves winger Kevin Penny dropped in at his old school with team mates Steve Pickersgill, Ben Westwood and Simon Grix.

The players visited school assemblies to promote the club and to talk to students about motivating themselves for success.

They also offered the school reduced price tickets for their matches and handed free tickets as prizes.

Pictured above left to right - Kevin Penny, Alex Mairs, Chloe Callaghan, Dillon Pownhall, Steve Pickersgill.



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Don't underestimate the power of words

In the last month, we have seen the historical inauguration of a new president in the US – his speech is now written in history and is appearing everywhere – youtube.com, full manuscripts in national newspapers all over the world, it even appeared in full on the internet, less than 5 minutes after he finished.

The power of words and who says them is this month's topic. I know you may not have a client that is as high profile as the US president, but your client's words are very important to your organisation. If you take one action from this column is to get more case studies and quotes from your clients and customers.

You can use every marketing strategy to get your message across about why you are different, what the benefits of your service are but nothing communicates better than what other people think and say about you?

At the present time, everyone is reviewing their marketing spend and budgets are tight. Using case studies and endorsements from clients doesn't cost anything. One of the biggest obstacles is convincing people that you can really make a difference or why someone should take up your service rather than a competitor. A case study or a quote can do

this for you.

So when clients tell you they're pleased with you, your service or your organisation, ask them if they would be willing to share their experience with others. Once you get case studies and quotes, make sure you incorporate them into as many of your communications as possible.

Third Marketing is a unique organisation that was formed to enable small charities, social enterprises and businesses to achieve more through affordable PR and Marketing Solutions. If you want to know more, then why not sign up to our weekly blog by visiting our website.



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SPOTLIGHT ON WARRINGTON MARKET

Market is simply the best!

TRADERS at Warrington Market are celebrating after it was named the country's best indoor market at a national event.

The accolade was given at the National Conference of Market Operators.

Market manager Stephen Pickering said: "Markets are about people, the traders and the customers, and this award is acknowledgement on a national scale for all the efforts made by our traders to compete against the ever increasing retail competition."

Coun Bob Barr, the borough council's executive member for

planning, regeneration and housing, said: "This award is testament to all the hard work and dedication of our local traders to embrace new ideas and try to move forward in the difficult trading conditions of late."

Peter Reardon, whose family has run a fish stall in the market for four generations, said: "It is great to win the prize but anyone who has spent any time here already knows what a fantastic place it is.

"My family have worked here since 1850 and I grew up in the market. I still think when I'm opening up first thing in the morning, how happy I am to be here!"

Warrington Market Traders celebrating their national award with Miss Warrington Holly Ikin who has teamed up with the market to run a Miss Warrington Town charity event in aid of charity.



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Financially yours

By David Watkinson

Tax year reminder

As we approach the end of the tax year it is worth reminding employers of the PAYE reporting requirements and the penalties which follow if you fail to meet them.

18th April – All PAYE and NIC deductions must be paid over to the tax office unless you make your payments electronically. People making their payments electronically have another four days, but they should note that the payment must have cleared by 22nd April, not just have been made. If the payments are received late then interest will be charged, currently at 3.5% per annum, but there are no penalties unless you have more than 250 employees.

19th May – Employer Annual Returns must be received by the tax office. These consist of:

P14s for each employee, showing the total gross pay and deductions for each person who has been employed during the tax year.

P35 which is a summary of P14s for all employees as well as various statutory declarations.

Paper returns are still acceptable if you have fewer than 50 employees, although there is a tax-free reward if you file

electronically. Employers with more than 50 employees must file their returns electronically. Penalties, currently £100 for employers with fewer than 50 employees, are payable for each month or part of a month that the returns are made late.

31st May – A form P60, which is the employees copy of form P14, must be given to each employee in your employment on 5th April. Employees who have left before this date should already have been given a form P45.

6th July – Forms P11D and P9D must be received by the tax office, as well as form P11D(a) which is the return of Class 1A NIC payable. All these forms relate to expenses and benefits received by employees during the tax year. It is important to note that:

- all expenses paid to employees, including allowable travelling expenses, must be reported unless the employer has applied for and been granted a dispensation by the tax office. Penalties payable for late submission are similar to those for the other Annual Returns. A copy of the form, or of the details contained on the form, must be given to the employee by this date.
- there is an opportunity on the form P35



David Watkinson and Margaret Black

to state that no returns are due, and if this is completed then there is no need to submit these forms.

18th July – Payment of Class 1A NIC must be received by the tax office unless payment is made electronically, in which case a further four days is allowed. Interest is payable if payment is received late, with surcharges also being payable if you have more than 250 employees.

Further penalties are payable if incorrect returns are submitted, so it is vital that accurate and timely returns are made, and we are pleased to assist our clients in meeting their responsibilities and avoiding penalties!

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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Sailors visit Town

SAILORS from Warrington's adopted submarine HMS Turbulent were special guests at Warrington Town Football Club.

They had been hoping to cheer on Warrington during their Unibond Division One North clash with Woodley Sports which was unfortunately frozen off.

Despite the setback the crew still enjoyed a buffet laid on at the club's recently revamped social club.

They were joined by the town's Mayor Coun Graham Welborn and his Mayoress wife Elaine and former Miss Warrington Holly Ikin, who is celebrating after winning

through to the UK finals of Miss Universe.

It was a first visit to Warrington for the Turbulent's new Commanding Officer Ryan Ramsey, who was joined by nineteen members of his crew, who had a difficult journey 'up north' after being stranded in snow in Exeter!

Plans are now in place for a charity match between crew members and a Warrington Town XI later in the year.

Wolves kick start season



WARRINGTON Wolves kick started their season with a special media day at the Birchwood HQ of their principal sponsors Vestas UK.

warrington-worldwide was on hand to film exclusive video interviews with Head Coach Jimmy Lowes, Deputy Chairman Steve Broomhead, team captain Adrian Morley and various other players.

To see the videos visit the Warrington Wolves video gallery on www.warrington-worldwide.co.uk which includes regular updates with Jimmy Lowes.



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