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Editor

Gary Skentelbery

Production

Paul Walker

Advertising

James Balme
Tony Record
Freephone
0800 955 5247

Editorial

01925 623631

Email

info@warrington-
worldwide.co.uk

Websites

www.culchethlife.com
www.frodshamlife.co.uk
www.lymmlife.co.uk
www.warrington.tv
www.warrington-
worldwide.co.uk

Address

New Media Centre
Old Road Warrington
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WHILE I welcome any road safety initiatives, especially ones aimed at reducing speed and saving lives I do wonder about the 20's plenty campaign which is now going to be rolled out across the town over the next three years - at a cost of £740,000.

We have already seen various highways improvements taking place over the years around Warrington, which have included traffic lights being added to roundabouts and then being switched on and off to aid traffic flow and roundabouts being removed totally to be replaced with new junctions, which increase traffic congestion - all at considerable cost.

We even had to endure seeing one set of road improvements on Cromwell Avenue being redone at considerable cost to the local tax payers.

As we have a national speed limit of 60mph, which isn't normally sign posted - why can't we campaign for a national speed limit of 20mph on housing estates - thereby saving the costs associated with making and erecting all the signs? Or this that too much like common sense?

If we are going to press ahead with the 20's plenty campaign, which it would appear we are after the council agreed to speed up the implementation, I do hope the signs are introduced with common sense and that money isn't wasted on any inappropriate signage on roads which are not even long enough to accelerate up to 20mph.

I have already witnessed some 20

mph signs going up in Great Sankey on roads which are no more than cul-de-sacs containing three or four properties and only half a dozen vehicle lengths long - erecting signage on roads like this is a complete waste of public money.

There is certainly a need to control the speed of motorists in some residential areas - but there is also a

need for common sense - which does not always prevail when it comes to council's and highway departments.

If I remember rightly Warrington can also boast the uneviable record of having one of the shortest cycle ways in the country! So much for common sense!

Even cyclists pointed out these cycle ways, which probably cost thousands of pounds to create, were a complete waste of time!

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Survivor giving victims a voice

A WOMAN who survived years of domestic violence is helping others who have experienced similar problems by giving them a VOICE.

Nicola Holland launched her support group VOICE five years ago at the Longford neighbourhood centre but has now relocated to a new location at Great Sankey.

She suffered five years of domestic violence from the father of her young son before escaping from Liverpool to Warrington eleven years ago.

The support group provides one to one support, sharing of experiences, training and learning opportunities, mentoring and advocacy and a social network with regular events, to name but a few.

Nicola walked out of her home with only a change of clothes for herself and her son who was almost three at the time.

"I left all of my belongings and did not return to the property. The situation had become too dangerous and after planning our escape we fled to a women's refuge. I had tried to escape the night before but my ex partner chased me all around the neighbourhood, I was knocking on peoples doors and screaming for help but no one came to my aid.

"Eventually he cornered me and said if I didn't come back he would jump all over my head. As soon as we got back to the house he kicked me in the ribcage, which caused severe bruising. I had pain when breathing for months after. He had also head butted me in the face several months previous and I believe my cheek bone may have been

fractured as I had an egg sized lump on it and I could feel hard sharp bits in it and I also had a black eye. He also threatened me with a gun! The violence usually started if I didn't want to do what he said or if I had a difference of opinion. I was basically a slave.

"I had never been to Warrington before I moved here but I knew I had to leave Liverpool for mine and my son's safety. My ex partner also said he would slit my throat if I ever left him. I went to ground for many years and severed contact with Liverpool informing no one of my whereabouts except a few close family members.

"I didn't know a single person when I first moved to Warrington and felt a great sense of isolation. I also experienced prejudice from certain people in authoritative positions who seem to think that women are in some way to blame for suffering domestic violence. During my journey I experienced some positive and also negative experiences from service providers."

Nicola says it was a very distressing and dangerous time for herself and her young son and believes organisations like VOICE are needed to help those in similar circumstances.

She decided she wanted to use her experiences to help others, doing voluntary work advice training at the citizens advice bureau to get a good basic understanding of the system.

She then went on to achieve level 2 in community development work qualification through the open college network. She learnt how to set up a community organisation on the course and used her skills to set up VOICE. She is currently doing a degree in youth and community work studies.

"Funding is very difficult to sustain for grass roots organisations and I am not paid for my work," added Nicola. "Although Kings community centre offer a fair rate for community groups I am constantly filling in funding applications which are often rejected but I believe there is a need for independent grass roots organisations and I will be undeterred in my plight for social justice against domestic violence.

"VOICE operates a self help approach, survivors supporting one another, sharing experiences and information. The survivors are the real experts of domestic violence some women say to me "I don't want to be that person the domestic violence victim" they feel the stigma but we don't have to, we can stand together and re-claim our power.

"Domestic violence destroys peoples confidence and self esteem. I suffered panic attacks and depression over the years but I was determined to make a difference. I know a lot of people are still going through domestic violence. When I was in that situation I didn't even know about refuges or how to get in one till someone told me. Obviously there are organisations like woman's aid and refuge that can put you in



touch with the right people if refuge is an option you are looking at.

"VOICE is also here for any body who wants support or wants to use their voice to make a difference and more voices make a bigger sound.

The ultimate goal is for VOICE to have its own centre - like a half way house.

Any one wanting to find out more about VOICE can contact Nicola on 07526395273 or email voice-nicola@hotmail.co.uk

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Hello and welcome to my monthly column . . .

Hypnotes

by Michael Mahoney

Why giving is easier than receiving – but sometimes we need to receive!

If someone close to you asked for your help, would you give it? Most likely the answer would be yes! Yet why is it so hard for some to admit they need help?

Remember being a child and asking for help? Or perhaps your own child has asked for help. Most youngsters have no trouble asking for what they need, and it is expected of us as we learn and grow. But something changes as we become adults, and we become less and less comfortable asking for help – even when we desperately need it.

In the workplace, we may feel that we might appear incapable of the duties set before us if we ask for help. In our private lives, we may experience sadness, or be overwhelmed with life, yet somewhere along the line, we were taught that we should be able to handle things on our own, and that it is weak to have to rely on other people.

Sometimes being so close to the problem, the solution is not in focus. We have been taught that it is better to

give than to receive. But at some point, when you receive help you are also giving!

You are giving yourself the chance to heal and improve – and when that happens, you can in turn be a better you and help others too!

During Mental Health Awareness Week last month, many people posted this on their social media pages:

“Depression, Anxiety and Panic Attacks are not signs of weakness. They are signs of having tried to remain strong for too long. Did you know that one in three of us go through this at some point in our lives?”

When you recognise areas in your life that are not improving no matter what you do – or even what you don't do - it may be time to ask for help. And despite what you may think, asking for help is actually showing great insight, maturity and strength of character.

Sometimes it is hard being honest with ourselves as we are with others. But I have found, that most people want to help others, and that by doing so, you need not be embarrassed or

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 timelineservices@aol.com
www.michaelmahoneyhypnotherapist.com

feel less than worthy. In fact, when you ask someone to help you, you are telling that person that you trust them, and that you have confidence in their ability to assist you.

It is uncommon that someone would turn you away and tell you they won't help you. You are giving the helper the opportunity to show kindness and be of service, and in turn, you can reduce or address your need, burden or sadness.

With respect to mental or physical health, we all need help from time to time. In fact, problems in either physical or mental health can affect each other, especially if the problem is long standing. Depression, anxiety, worry, panic attacks could lead to other health concerns and may escalate in severity if left unchecked.

If you are experiencing concerns and need help, I have 25 years experience providing a gentle approach to help you lift those burdens.



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Flying the flag in Chicago

THREE Warrington school girls are heading off to join a leadership programme in Chicago, USA, in July.

The girls, all aged 15 and pupils of Sir Thomas Boteler Church of England High School, are busy fundraising to each raise £2,500 for their trip.

The school is a centre of excellence for the HOBY UK Leadership Development residential programme. It has so far played host to more than 200 young people.

Holly Gardener, Lauren Yarwood and Eleanor Panting, were three of last year's HOBY UK delegates. They are looking forward to furthering their experience and their leadership development by attending HOBY's World Leadership Congress in Chicago.

All three are looking forward to the adventure. Eleanor believes it will improve her future chances in work and business.

Lauren said: "My friends, family and myself have noticed a different side of me since going away to HOBY - going to the World Leadership Congress will just be an amazing experience, people coming from all over the world with different origin and backgrounds."

Her comments were echoed by Holly who added: "I also wish to show other people from around the world that the youth of Great Britain are not like the images they may have seen recently on the news, but are a youth with a conscience."

Dream comes true for Anneli

THE streets of Warrington are alive with the sound of music after local singer Anneli Conreen landed the lead role of Maria in Centenary Operatic's rendition of The Sound of Music.

It is a dream come true for 30-year-old Anneli who has wanted to play the part ever since she started singing at school and is currently rehearsing three or four times a week.

Now she hopes it will be a big step towards her ambition of touring professionally.

She has been a member of the Operatic Society since 2005 shortly after arriving in the UK from her native Norway but it is the first time she has landed a leading role.

She had to perform three songs, read eight pages of script and a kissing scene to land the part.

"It is a dream come true," said Anneli who lives in Callands. "I have wanted to play this part for as long as I can remember - ever since I started singing at school."

"The film was what actually inspired me to start singing."

Anneli, who is married to local



builder Paul Conreen, is currently in the first year of a Musical Theatre degree at the Ardern School of Theatre - one of 30 out of more than 800 applicants for the course.

She is hoping to go on and do her Masters at Guildford or Mountview.

Meanwhile she has built up a following on the local music circuit and also does private bookings for parties and special events.

"I am hoping that this role will be another step on my journey to gaining a part on a professional tour," added Anneli.

The Sound of Music is being staged at The Brindley Theatre in Runcorn from May 15-19 and will involve six performances, including a matinee.

Tailormade eyewear from

Why compromise when it comes to glasses? British spectacle designer Tom Davies brings the luxury of bespoke frames to Warrington town centre based Richard Shaw Opticians.

Consumers can spend thousands on their wardrobe.

Yet when it comes to glasses, which are the defining feature of their face, they won't countenance paying more than a couple of hundred pounds for something they will wear everyday for years on end.

That, at least, was the case until British spectacle designer Tom Davies came onto the scene. In a short time, Tom has revolutionised glasses by introducing bespoke frames, expressly

designed and handmade to suit a person's face, colouring, physical characteristics and lifestyle.

BESPOKE FRAMES?

Having a frame designed and made for you is like a combination of ordering a bespoke suit and re-designing your own face. You get sunglasses or spectacles which fit perfectly, in exactly the colours and materials you choose and designed specifically around your natural



features. They will suit you better than any glasses you have ever had.

Tom Davies Bespoke frames satisfy everyone: spectacle wearers who want a perfect fit, individuals who are looking for style and colour and those who have a clear idea of what they want. The customer chooses their preferred frame and the optician takes a sophisticated series of measurements and photos, chooses colours, shapes and materials and input them into the online design wizard.

The frame is hand - made for the customer using a combination of

traditional techniques and modern machinery. And the finishing touch, one of the features Tom's customers like the most, is their name laser engraved discreetly on the inside of one of the arms.

HOW ARE BESPOKE FRAMES DESIGNED?

Just as an experienced tailor has a set group of measurements which he uses to assess body type and how the cloth will hang on an individual, Tom's seven principles guide his team of designers when they are working on customers' design portfolios.




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From catwalk to business woman

FORMER model Holly Ikin has retired from the cat walk to launch her own boutique business in Culcheth.

During her days as Miss Cheshire and as a Miss England finalist Holly soon spotted a gap in the market after the many hours she spent searching for the perfect outfit.

The Dress Studio opened its doors last month and customers were amazed by their collections, which includes more than 600 incredible dresses – making it the largest selection of party and prom dresses in the northwest!

The Dress Studio offers a warm and friendly welcome, as well as a jaw-dropping collection of dresses! The boutique has dresses for all occasions - proms, parties, birthdays, engagements, pageants, weddings, cruises, races, nights out & more. The Dress Studio team also keep note of any special events or proms that the outfits are for, to help avoid any fashion faux pas!

Holly launched the boutique on Glaziers Lane, conveniently located next to Partridge Lakes Fishery – so, dads/husbands/boyfriends can enjoy a cup of tea in tranquil surroundings, while the girls are left to do what they do best! Holly has opened the store after struggling to find outfits that tick all of the boxes.

Holly explained: "When I competed in Miss England, I had a nightmare trying to find the perfect dress. Last year, I went to Aintree Races and had the same problem...

I could never find what I wanted. And as all women know, if I found

anything from a high-street store, it was practically guaranteed there would be quite a few of us in matching outfits!"

"I decided to open The Dress Studio to solve this problem. Instead of traipsing from store-to-store, I have created a one-stop-shop for all women."

With prom only a few months away, The Dress Studio has hundreds

of dresses perfect for the big event. They are prom specialists and have every style of prom dress that a girl could wish for. For groups of 5 or more, The Dress Studio also hosts 'Prom Parties!' With music, canapés, drinks and of course, trying on the dresses of your choice, the Prom Party is a fun & special way to select your perfect gown.

The boutique also has a very convenient 'Saturday Night Range,' an ideal solution for any outfit

dilemmas! Prices start at £25, meaning you don't have to break the bank for a last-minute fashion fix!

The Dress Studio is open 10am-7pm on Thursdays and 10am-5pm on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays & Saturdays. Private appointments are available on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Please feel free to contact Holly at The Dress Studio on 01925 766258 with any enquiries that you may have. Holly will be happy to help!



20mph roll-out to be speeded-up!

THE controversial £740,000 plan to roll-out of 20mph speed limits on residential roads across Warrington - originally expected to take 10 years - could be completed in half that time.

Town Hall officers always said that 10 years was a "worst case" estimate and the 20's Plenty for Us group, founded by Lymm resident Rod King, always said such a timescale was unacceptable. But the borough council has decided to double its annual spend on the project to £150,000 to speed up implementation.

The scheme will be prioritised on a population density basis, radiating outwards from existing 20mph areas in the town centre, Orford and Great Sankey South.

Roads to be considered must be "residential" - there must be 21 or more dwellings on them - and must not be key link roads, primary emergency services routes or primary bus routes.

Officers say a key principal of the project is that greater coverage will encourage respect of the 20mph limit by road users. A motorist who resides in a 20mph area is more likely to respect and comply with other 20mph speed limits.

Warrington Borough Transport believes it can help improve road safety by persuading more car users to use buses and is concerned that key routes should not become 20mph if this means existing timetables cannot be maintained or improved.

They say routes with four or more buses per hour should be excluded from the scheme. There is also concern that the optimum speed for the company's fleet of buses is 30mph. Police chiefs say a 20mph limit on some routes would not be logical and could lead to confusion and driver frustration, with more incidents of aggressive overtaking and tailgating. They could not justify enforcement on these roads.

Mr King's 20 for Plenty for Us group is promoting its campaign and encouraging motorists to slow down before the restriction becomes law, by asking residents to display 20mph stickers on their wheelie bins.

The proposed roll out will start in the Bewsey and Whitecross, Orford, Fairfield and Howley and Great Sankey South areas, moving on to Westbrook, Whittle Hall and other parts of Great Sankey South.

Next in line will be further parts of Great Sankey and Whittle Hall, Lymm, Penketh and Cuedley, followed by more work in Orford, Poplars, Poulton North, Hulme and Poulton South.

Birchwood, Fairfield and Howley, Poulton South, Rixton and Woolston, other parts of Great Sankey, Penketh and Cuedley and Bewsey and Whitecross will be dealt with next, followed by more work in Birchwood, Rixton and Woolston, Poulton South, Westy, Latchford, Penketh and Cuedley, Stockton Heath, Hatton, Stretton and Walton.

Work will then move to remaining parts of Stockton Heath, Grappenhall, Thelwall and Appleton, as well as Lymm, Hatton and Walton.

Culcheth, Glazebury and Croft, Burtonwood, Winwick and more parts of Birchwood, Rixton, Woolston, Westbrook, Whittle Hall, will be dealt with next and finally remaining areas of Culcheth, Glazebury and Croft, Burtonwood, Winwick, Westy, Rixton, Woolston, Lymm, Grappenhall and Thelwall, Appleton, Hatton, Stretton and Walton will be completed.





Lucky Warrington!

WARRINGTON is one of the luckiest places to live in the UK for winning on the National Lottery producing 82 jackpot winners over the past 17 years.

With a further 326 residents banking a prize of £50K or more, Warrington features in the top ten luckiest postcodes based on 17 years of lottery windfalls.

For the first time, the stats have been calculated to include all National Lottery prizes over £50K – not just jackpot wins - and show that it's not just famous Warringtonians Chris Evans and record producer Pete Waterman who have had a lucky break over the years. Amazingly one in 1,428 of adults in Warrington have now pocketed a prize over £50,000 since The National Lottery began in 1994 and residents have taken home over £159 million in big prizes to date.

Liverpool also features in the top ten luckiest postcodes helping to make the North West region one of the luckiest in the UK. One in 1,425 adults in Liverpool have banked a lottery prize of over £50,000, amounting to more than £266 million in major prizes for the residents.

Romford in Essex tops the poll of

luckiest postcodes in the UK, where one in 1,238 residents have taken home a major prize. The town is followed by the London Borough of Enfield and Dartford in Kent.

The statistics, which include both publicity and non-publicity winners, maps out the top 20 lucky hotspots based on the highest number of major prizes (over £50K) won per adult playing population since the National Lottery began in November 1994.

A National Lottery spokesperson said: "This is the first time we have included prizes of £50,000 upwards, giving a true snapshot of where the luckiest players are based. Warrington hasn't previously featured in the top ten lucky lottery league table however it's now clear that its residents have been quietly scooping major prizes all round!"

"In truth, with over 2,800 National Lottery millionaires now in the UK and an average of 24 lottery millionaires in each postcode, every part of the UK should consider themselves lucky."

Foster carers needed

LONG-term foster carers are desperately wanted in Warrington - where more than 220 children are in care.

Many of the youngsters are already placed with foster carers, but many more long term foster carers are need.

Foster carers don't need any special training or qualifications - the borough council provide that along with weekly allowances and support. Anyone interested should contact Warrington Fostering Service Recruitment Line on 01925 442402 or visit www.warrington.gov.uk/fostering

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WAR'S DECLARED - JUST DOWN THE ROAD!

BATTLEFIELD Live is a new, exciting and authentic combat experience - and it has arrived just down the road at High Legh.

It uses sophisticated infra-red gaming guns and is the most realistic simulation possible - short of joining the military!

In fact the guns are so sophisticated that the military use them when training! There is no pain, no paint, no bruises, just adrenaline fuelled fun!

Battlefield Live Knutsford is at Heywood Farm, Crabtree Lane, High Legh, WA16 6PE and the cost of going to war there is just £20 per person for a two hour battle.

The battleground is set in seven acres of exclusive woodland, with forts, bunkers, barricades and realistic battle sounds. Up to 36 gamers can be accommodated at any one time, but smaller groups can join together.

Each session lasts a total of two hours and the game is played by dividing the group into two teams who are given 'Live Plays' missions in which the players will receive a tactical briefing on what is expected of them.

This will include team objectives, historical background, a map and behind-the-scenes game tactics.

In each mission the aim is to defeat the enemy while at the same time protecting comrades and securing your mission. There is unlimited ammunition

on offer at no extra cost so there is always a lot of fun and loads of shooting!

Everyone playing is fully safety briefed prior to play. Camouflage overalls are provided, but gamers are expected to bring their own, suitable footwear.

Bookings can be taken from large groups or smaller parties. Smaller groups are simply paired up with other smaller groups to ensure the battle maintains its realistic atmosphere.

Battlefield Live is suitable for all players from age seven and upwards and is superb fun for the whole family.

The battles take place daily between 10am-12pm and 1pm-3pm and during the peak season at 5pm-7pm

More information - including movies showing battle action - can be found at the website www.battlefieldliveknutsford.co.uk or by calling 07779 248622.



Sharples Group team up with Adrian Morley

SHARPLES Group Director, Mark Brocklehurst, has teamed up with Warrington Wolves Skipper, Adrian Morley's Testimonial Committee.

Tasked with helping raise as much money as possible for Adrian and his chosen charities (the Wooden Spoon Society and Manchester Children's Hospital) the Committee got straight to the job in hand by successfully publishing a special 2012 Calendar featuring naked rugby players from the England squad!

Passion

Mark's passion is Rugby League and he has a wealth of experience gained from years of involvement in the management, organisation and participation in many charitable and sporting events in the North West of England.

Mark, said; "The testimonial will run from March 2012 and will involve a number of events spread across a three month period. We're already promoting the Launch Dinner to be held on March 7 at the Park Royal Hotel. Also being arranged is a boxing night with Frank Bruno and a Golfing Day to mention just a few of the events. We hope our enthusiasm and efforts inspire the people of Warrington to

dig deep, get involved and help us make Adrian's testimonial as great as the man himself."

Morley is one of the game's finest ambassadors and recently became the first GB International to reach 50 caps for his country.

Testimonials are normally only afforded to players who serve a club for ten years but the Rugby League allow special ones for those who are deemed to have provided excellent service to the sport.

Adrian played for Leeds between 1996 and 2000. Although also eligible for the Welsh national team, he made his England and Great Britain debuts in 1996 and says representing his country has been his "biggest honour". After a spell playing for the Sydney Roosters in Australia, he returned to the UK and joined Warrington in 2006 becoming an instant hero with the fans with his no nonsense performances.

Mark is joined on the committee by **warrington-worldwide** Editor Gary Skentelbery.



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Choosing a security guard company for your security needs

CHOOSING the right security company to supply your services can have its problems, some security companies give an excellent service others give a very bad service. Having poor security on your premises can be worse than not having any at all, because you think it is doing its job. There is certain MATTERS THAT MUST ALWAYS BE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION WHEN MAKING YOUR CHOICE.

SIA Approved Contractor

Is the supplier registered on the SIA web site as an ACS Approved Contractor? Don't be misled by them saying that they have SIA licensed officers, it is not the same. Approved Contractors are stringently audited every year to check if they are doing their job properly and in compliance with British Standards. This is done for your benefit as a customer and ensures that officers are properly vetted amongst other things.

Price challenge

Some suppliers will undercut the price against all their competitors in order to get the work. The danger in accepting the lowest price is you get what you pay for. There is a danger of low cash payments to officers to avoid tax and insurance payments. The service may be skimpy with little management and supervisory support. The lack of integrity may show in activities such as 'Ghosting'

which means making false invoice claims for officers who are not on site or making required visits to the site, simply doing 'Nodding' visits (pass in the car) to premises. If you pay for a Corsa don't expect a Rolls Royce.

Insurance cover

Is the supplier produce current copy of their public liability, indemnity, employee insurance and other insurance you may need for your situation? Does the amount covered satisfy your needs?

Health and safety

Can the supplier produce a company Health and Safety Statement and Policy have they been accepted by one of the major standards auditors?

Credit checking

Will your supplier come out credible in a credit check? It would be of no help to you if the security company went into administration whilst supplying your services.

HR professional

Does the supplier employ a Human Resources Manager that knows how to manage TUPE that of transferring incumbent officers on site to the new supplier and other personnel issues? The law gives incumbent officers the right to stay on that site even when the security company changes.

Robustness, consistency in resources

Your supplier should be in a position to ensure that they will always be able to supply your officer requirement, even during sickness absence, holidays etc. Do they have the resources to do that? Ask them to prove it.

Proving their activities

Ask the question "how can you prove that you are going to do what you say you will do, once you get the job?" This is crucial to their effectiveness and they should have a good answer. There is good independent technology for proving to you the customer, what activity takes place on your site by the onsite or visiting officer. These should be backed up with other evidence. Such evidence cannot be tampered with.

One stop shop

Most people like to deal with just one supplier when it comes to various aspects of security and front end personnel. So you might expect to have security guards, key holders,

uniqwin



For more information contact Cliff Unwin M.D for Uniqwin Security on 01925 286100

receptionist, concierge, traffic marshals, banks men, CCTV installation and monitoring security barriers, gates and a security consultant from the same supplier. This can be done.

Advice on security personnel

If you want free no obligation advice on your requirements for security or you would like your current supplier checked against certain criteria we can assist you at Uniqwin.

Contact Cliff Unwin on 01925 286 100 - Uniqwin Security

Partnership creates new apprentice



Chief executive Hems de Winter, apprentice Hayley Griffiths and DSN fundraising manager Angela Burrows discuss the new apprentice role.

A WARRINGTON-based charity has joined forces with a PR agency to create a joint apprenticeship to mark National Apprentice Week.

Deafness Support Network (DSN), of Wilson Patten Street, and Chester agency de Winter PR have appointed their first apprentice, Hayley Griffiths, 18, as office and fundraising assistant.

She will divide her time between the two organisations learning a range of skills. At DSN she will focus on marketing and fundraising and at de Winter she will be supporting the communications office.

DSN operations executive Gill Reeder said: "Hayley will play an important role at DSN assisting our fundraising manager Angela Burrows to maximise fundraising opportunities.

"This is a really exciting collaboration and we're thrilled to be working alongside de Winter to provide a young person with a varied and unique role."

Hayley will train for the role with the support of West Cheshire College as part of the apprenticeship scheme.

She said: "I'm really happy to have been given such a great opportunity and I can't wait to start my apprenticeship working within these two brilliant organisations."

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For some people this is the only home they know...

Warrington Borough Council want to end rough sleeping and see that everyone has somewhere to live and are able to get the help and support they need.

Please help us to change people's lives, if you believe that someone is sleeping rough, please contact us on **07768 605020**.

Information will be dealt with confidentially.

You can also email roughsleepers@warrington.gov.uk or use our online form at www.warrington.gov.uk/roughsleepers

housingplus
the Gateway
85-101 Sankey Street

Warrington
Borough Council 

No Second Night Out for rough sleepers

WARRINGTON Borough Council and its partners are asking for the public to help them end rough sleeping in Warrington.

The no second night out project is part of government initiative which seeks to provide accommodation for all people who find themselves without a home.

In Warrington, the "No Second Night Out" team is led by the Council's Housing service team, Housing plus. They work in partnership with the Stepping Stone Outreach Team, Arena Options

Vulnerable Tenants Support Service, The Salvation Army, Cheshire Police, Supporting People, Warrington YMCA and Room at the Inn to provide accommodation and support to homeless people.

Cllr David Keane (right), executive board member for environment and public protection at Warrington Borough Council, said: "In the current tough times, it is our priority to provide help and support, to ensure that

nobody in Warrington needs to sleep rough. We're asking for your help to achieve this by using your eyes and ears to help us to help rough sleepers'

If you see someone who you think is rough sleeping you can help them by contacting the "No Second Night Out team".

Ways to get in touch, by telephone 07768 605020, by email housingadvise@warrington.gov.uk or in person at Housing Plus offices at the Gateway, 85-101 Sankey Street in the Town Centre.



Combating the loneliness of carers

A NEW group aimed at combating the loneliness faced by those caring for young children has been started in Warrington.

Helen Johnson and her friend Mariska Berveling created the new group called Meet Ups for Parents and Carers in Warrington.

Helen said: "Our aim is to get as many parents and carers out and about with their little ones as often as possible. Being a parent can be a lonely time and we understand this."

"Currently we meet in local play centres but as the weather improves we will be doing park meet ups, days out, etc. Where possible we source reduced or free entry for our members making it more affordable too."

Further details are available from Helen at mrs.helen.louise.johnson@yahoo.co.uk

Rotary's recipe for success

A GROUP of 14 young chefs took part in a gruelling cookery competition at St Gregory's High School, Warrington.

The youngsters from seven schools were competing in the district round of the Rotary Young Chef Competition 2012.

The year 10 pupils had to prepare a three-course meal to put before professional chefs. Taking part were two St Gregory's pupils Helena Lawton and Matthew Doherty, with Matthew winning through to the regional finals with his rack of lamb dish.

The standard of competition was high and Chantel Kelly (sponsored by the Rotary Club of Douglas Bay) and Matthew Doherty (sponsored by the Rotary Club of Warrington) were chosen to go through to the regional competition in Northwich on March 17.



Mary Dickinson, Head of Catering, St Gregory's, students Matthew Doherty and Helena Lawton and Malcolm Ross representing their sponsors, Warrington Rotary Club

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annual costs	
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Stefan Ratchford, Chris

Front row
Gareth O'Brien, Brett Hodgson, Richie Myler, Michael
Adrian Morley, Ryan Atkins, Chris

www.warrington-

WOLVES 2012



Row (L-R)
Chris Carvell, David Solomona, Ben Harrison, Simon Grix

Row (L-R)
Tommy Seymour, Chris Hill, Trent Waterhouse, Joel Monaghan,
Riley, Richard Marshall

Row (L-R)
Joel Monaghan, Ben Westwood, Tony Smith (Head Coach),
Tommy Seymour, Bridge, Mickey Higham, Lee Briers

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TailorMade
GROUP

Unlock the power of
your pension funds...

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Who is TailorMade Group?

Calling on 35 years of collective experience in the financial services industry, Alistair Burns and Robert Shaw formed TailorMade Financial Solutions in 2003. The company was set up to provide Clients with trusted advice in all areas of traditional financial planning.

TailorMade Group was later formed to incorporate the connected companies, which currently include TailorMade SIPP Ltd and TailorMade Alternative Investments Ltd, as well as TailorMade Financial Solutions.

Collectively the group employs a focused and professional team of over 20 people who provide a wealth of experience within the financial services sector. Our team provide a first class service to Clients and over 100 Industry Partners.

We pride ourselves on providing Clients and Industry Partners with a comprehensive range of products and services in a professional and transparent manner.



Our Company Objective

"To inform, encourage and assist clients to take control of, and responsibility for, their savings and retirement planning needs, by providing products and services that they want, in a fair and transparent manner."

Unlock the power of your pension funds...



- Do you have any **preserved** pension arrangements?
- Would **you** like to decide where **your** pension fund is invested?
- Would you like **all** your funds in **one** place?
- Would you like the option to put **your** funds into a **wider variety** of Investments?
- Would you like a more **proactive service** from your pension provider?
- Have you been **dissatisfied** with your current pensions performance?
- Are you **concerned** about having enough income when your time comes to retire?

If you answered yes to any of the above questions.

It's time to act...

We can help you unlock the power of your pension funds by showing you how a SIPP can help your retirement planning strategy.



What is a SIPP?

SIPP stands for Self Invested Personal Pension.

Arguably the most prominent pension success story in recent years has been the popularity of the SIPP. SIPPs have grown in popularity despite traditional pensions hitting the headlines for usually the wrong reasons. A SIPP is a form of personal pension scheme which gives you:

- CONTROL:** **YOU** Decide where **YOUR** money is invested
- CONSOLIDATION:** Transfer **ALL** your preserved pensions into **ONE** place
- DIVERSIFICATION:** Invest in asset classes of **YOUR** choice
- SERVICE:** On-going service **YOU** deserve from **YOUR** pension provider
- TRANSPARENCY:** **ONE** easy to understand charging structure
- PERFORMANCE:** **YOU** are dissatisfied with the performance of **YOUR** current pension provider arrangements

TailorMade SIPP Limited is a local independent financial advisory company whose sole purpose is to offer advice on the merits of moving preserved pension schemes into a SIPP.

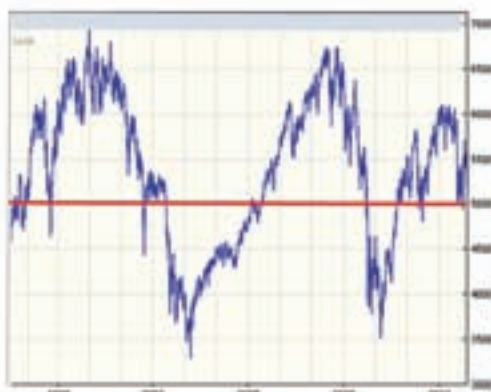
As a company we are authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority (FSA) and as such we are obliged to follow their strict principles of practice and enforce the standards they set within their Rules and Guidance to ensure the advice we give to our clients is in their best long term interests.

TailorMade SIPP Ltd would urge anyone considering transferring preserved pension funds from their current arrangement(s) to a SIPP (or any other pension contract) to obtain professional advice from a qualified IFA (Independent Financial Adviser) before doing so.

TailorMade SIPP Limited is authorised and regulated by the FSA. The purpose of this leaflet is to provide generic information & should not be interpreted as a personal recommendation or advice.

There are four major impacts to your savings and retirement planning. Stock Market Performance, Interest Rates, Inflation rates and Annuity Rates. Over the past 15 years, traditional savings and pension funds have been negatively affected by the performance of the Stock Market and management charges. In addition, the amount your pension fund can now buy in the form of an annuity has also reduced dramatically. The charts below highlight these points.

FTSE 100
Jan 1997 — Dec 2011



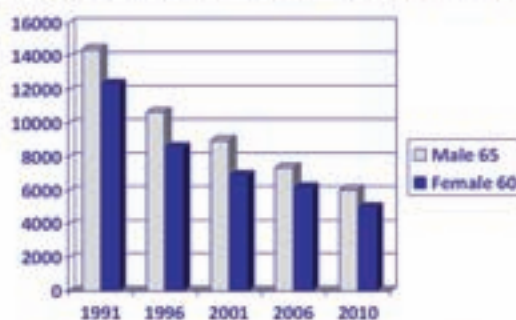
UK Inflation Rate



Source: Bank of England

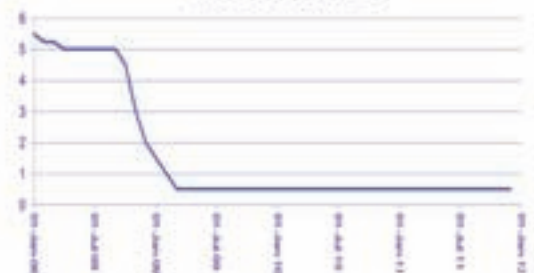
Annuity Rates

Pension Income based on purchase price of £100,000



Source: AEGON UK Plc. November 2010

Interest Rate %



Source: Bank of England

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Once your SIPP is established... The choice is yours...



“The world’s natural resources are finite” Participate in the development of a renewable energy project based in Queensland, Australia. Over 140 hectares of *Millettia* trees have been planted which absorb over 7,000 tonnes of carbon a year, helping to combat climate change. Investors can purchase leasehold plots of land and receive fixed returns over 5 or 8 year periods. *For example, £10,000 invested over 5 years will achieve an overall total return on your investment of 80% which equates to £18,000*

“Redefining luxury in the Caribbean”

Investors have the opportunity to invest in freehold properties by Harlequin Hotels & Resorts, a company which specialises in creating the finest luxury resorts in the Caribbean. Stunning properties in fabulous locations with the potential for high capital growth supported by excellent rental potential.



Buccament Bay Resort, St Vincent & The Grenadines

“Own a tangible asset,

not a promise!” Physical Gold offers physical gold products (eg. gold bullion or coins) that provide safety and security for your investment portfolio by acting as “portfolio insurance”. and due to its investment liquidity, it allows the investor quicker access to their monies than property for example would offer.



“Gold demand doubles amid economic gloom and frozen interest rates” Daily Telegraph Feb 2012

“Self Storage is the fastest growing commercial property sector in the UK today”

Investors have the opportunity to purchase a long-leasehold (min 250yrs) on a storage unit from Store First Limited. With low minimum investment levels and guaranteed returns of 8% for the first 2 years, this is a low cost, hassle free investment.



“The world’s population is rising” Argentina has an established agricultural economy and is one of the top three agricultural exporters globally. It has ideal growing conditions and produces two crops every year. With a growing global population there is a huge demand for food and agriculture has been identified as a key investment theme for the future. Investors can purchase farmland, with the land being re-purchased in 5 years or 10 years, as the Investor chooses. *The 5 year investment offers fixed returns with the original investment plus 5% being returned at the end of the 5 year period.*



“The benefits of Fractional Ownership are contributing to its current escalation in popularity”

Investors can purchase a discounted share within a hotel suite situated on the beautiful island of Crete, and benefit from rental income and capital growth on their share of the property that is mortgage-free, already built and taking bookings for Summer 2012.



TailorMade
ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENTS

Part of the TailorMade group of companies, TailorMade Alternative Investments was launched to cater for the growing demand for alternative investments to play an increasing part in Client’s investment and retirement planning strategies.

Due to the perceived lack of value for money (i.e. performance achieved in relation to charging structures) and the prospect of low interest rates for the foreseeable future, classic fund based pension and investments are fast becoming a thing of the PAST.

TailorMade Alternative Investments open doors to new investment opportunities providing Clients with DIRECT access to a DIVERSE portfolio of alternative investments, rather than through traditional fund based routes. This cuts out some of the associated costs and can help provide true diversification in a variety of asset classes, stabilising an investment portfolio in volatile times.

Within this ever changing economic landscape, both private and institutional investors strive to identify the best sectors and niches in which to invest their

FUTURE.



FURTHER INFORMATION

Please refer to our website for details of forthcoming events and for more information about TailorMade Group.

If you would prefer to have an informal discussion, please contact Sue Goddard on the number below.



Contact Us:

TailorMade House
Unit 1 Olympic Park
Olympic Way
Warrington
WA2 0YL

Tel: 01925 810595

Fax: 01925 811816

Website: www.tailormadegroup.co.uk

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Have you considered what will happen to your financial affairs if you suddenly become incapable of managing your own affairs? You may become incapable due to illness or through mental health.

If you were to suffer illness, accident or mental health issues your family could suffer financially as well as emotionally with the after effects. If you are unable to deal with your financial affairs by being able to use your bank accounts pay bills deal with everyday issues then what would be the impact on your family. If you have a sole account the bank will not let anybody deal with it without a formal Lasting Power of Attorney and even if you have a joint account the bank can freeze the account if they become aware one account of the account holders is incapacitated. It does not matter if you have a spouse and/or children they will not have any rights or powers to deal with things without a Lasting Power of Attorney.

The best solution is to appoint someone as your attorney whilst you are fit and well in a lasting power of attorney. By doing this you give your attorney the power to deal with all your financial affairs on your behalf. You can also obtain a lasting power of attorney to give your attorney the power to deal with your personal welfare once you lose the capacity to communicate your wishes to nursing staff. You can appoint a number of attorneys depending on your circumstances who may act together or independently.

If you do not make this provision and then become incapable then the Court of Protection will appoint someone to deal with your affairs and the process is expensive very restrictive and very time consuming.

Widdows Mason Solicitors can provide you with the essential advice you need and prepare all the necessary documentation to obtain the Lasting Powers of Attorney. Make an appointment now to discuss your personal circumstances and how a Lasting Power of Attorney will benefit you and your family. First interview will be free so what have you got to lose. Contact Su Wilson on 01925 632267 or email swilson@widdows.co.uk



Paul Ireland is a Senior Solicitor and Partner at Widdows Mason Solicitors and specialises in all aspects of family work.



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Contact Jim Edwards
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Warrington Market

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2012

It's all going on in Warrington



Sat 12 May - Warrington Food Festival

Join award winning Warrington market traders at the return of the hugely popular Food Festival with Television celebrity chef Brian Mellor

Sat 9 June - Jubilee Street Party

Come and join our BIG street party with lots of stalls, fun and entertainment. Plus a full size SPITFIRE aircraft will be on display in the town centre.



Sat 23 June - Health and Wellbeing Day

Find out how to live a healthier lifestyle with award winning Warrington market. Lots of fun activities, cooking demonstrations, fresh food and healthy options to consider.



Sat 7 July - Warrington Market's Classic Transport Show

All types of classic vehicles from years gone by take over the streets of the town centre in this ever popular show.



Sat 14 July - Warrington Music Festival

The market will be supporting the town centre music festival with a second stage for acoustic acts in the Time Square area along with lots of fun activities all day.



Wed 1 August - National Playday

Celebrate National Playday with the award winning Warrington market. Lots of activities for all the Children throughout the town centre including puppet shows, circus skills workshops, face painting, badge making, entertainers and lots more!



Sat 1 Sept - Annual Farmers Market

Warrington market hosts the very popular town centre farmers market. All produce on sale will be grown, reared, caught, brewed, baked, smoked or processed by the stall holder and there will be lots of family fun and entertainment.



Sat 8 September - History Day

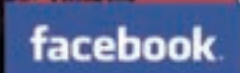
There has been a market in Warrington since the year 1255 This event across the town centre looks at Warrington through the ages, from Medieval beginnings to the modern day. Lots of fun activities for all the family

Indoor market open 9am - 5pm Mon - Sat



Tel: 01925 632571

Visit Warrington Market on facebook



Motoring

Car with emotional and rational appeal

HYUNDAI has announced full pricing and specification for its new generation five-door i30 hatchback, due for launch in the UK on March 12.

Prices start at £14,495 on-the-road for the entry level Classic model, which comes with insurance ratings from Group 7E, making it one of the most cost effective C-segment cars to

own and run.

The newcomer builds on the success of its predecessor. First launched in 2007, the outgoing i30 was the first 'i' product in Hyundai's

range and introduced new standards of quality and driveability.

The new generation i30 brings with it a new level of style, interior quality and technology – adding emotional as well as rational appeal.

It will be available in four main trim levels including Classic, Active, Style

and Style Nav, while customers will also have the choice of either petrol or diesel engines – including Hyundai's latest ultra-efficient 1.6-litre diesel unit that emits less than 100g/km CO₂.

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Big 6 means the six major energy companies who currently supply over 95% of UK households, comprising British Gas, E.ON, npower, EDF, Scottish Power and Scottish & Southern Energy. Guarantees and price comparisons are based on the Ofgem standard domestic usage profiles for low, medium and high users on a 12-month basis and exclude Club membership fee, surcharge for gas customers using an independent Gas Transporter, fuelled discounts and other tariffs. Only applies to Great Britain customers.

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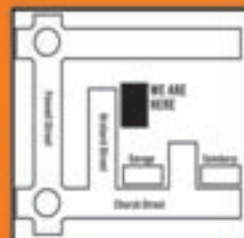
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Volunteers help transform stadium

THREE teams of apprentices, graduates and managers from Warrington based United Utilities threw themselves into community challenges, including sprucing up Warrington Town's Cantilever Park as part of National Apprenticeship Week.

One team of managers got themselves nice and mucky painting fences, collecting litter and cleaning showers at Warrington Town Football Club.

Community Development Officer for the club, James Standing, who is sponsored by United Utilities praised their efforts: "The group were really enthusiastic," he said.

"The work they carried out really has helped us out and I will look forward to welcoming more of their helpful staff here in the near future."

Meanwhile the three teams were also tasked with getting creative and they busied themselves drawing a team crest, coming up with a snappy name for their group and composing a song or limerick about the day.



Contact centre to expand

LESS than five years after it opened, Warrington's Customer Contact Centre needs to expand to cope with demand.

As a result, planning chiefs have given the go-ahead for the change-of-use of a former shop in Bank Street as a satellite contact centre.

Members of the borough council's planning committee were told that due to increasing public use, the existing contact centre in Horsemarket Street, needed to increase its facilities and accessibility but was unable to do so because of size restrictions.

The new centre will back onto Warrington Market and is surrounded by numerous vacant shops and commercial premises.

It will be refurbished and fitted with new, automatic opening double doors.

The new centre will open from 9am to 5.30pm, Monday to Saturday.

Collegiate scoops top green award

A WARRINGTON college has scooped a top national green award after reducing its carbon footprint while also saving money.

Warrington Collegiate has won the Best Sustainability Initiative award at the UK Public Sector Digital Awards 2011, for their work in reducing their carbon footprint, beating stiff competition from NHS, Surrey and Cambridgeshire Libraries and Learning Services.

The Facilities and IT Services departments reduced CO2 in a variety of ways including installing solar panels to harness the power of renewable energy sources. Smart – metering systems were also installed which can shut down gas, electricity, water and air conditioning units automatically and recycle energy wherever possible.

The college also addressed its ICT infrastructure by virtualising over 60 servers replacing 42 old computers. The IT team also completed a desktop virtualisation system which allows the re-use of existing infrastructure for longer, reducing the need to annually replace computers saving energy and money. Printers were replaced by lower energy models amounting to a staggering 40% reduction in energy usage. Further savings were also made by the use of software that shuts machines down after 30 minutes of inactivity and removes the restart and logoff options, forcing users to shut down machines at the end of their use.

Overall the college made a massive reduction in carbon footprint equivalent to reducing CO2 emissions per year by 327 tons, taking 71 cars off the road or planting over 14,000 trees.

The UK Public Sector Digital Awards, held at the Guildhall in London is the UK's most closely watched public sector technology awards, supported by the Prime minister, David Cameron, and recognises excellence and innovation in digital initiatives in national and local government, the NHS, education and the third sector. Locally the college's sustainability programme was recognised at the Warrington Business Awards sponsored by Warrington Guardian by a commendation for Team of the Year 2011.

In a video on video link from Downing Street, the Deputy Prime Minister, Nick Clegg said: "These awards are highly important in celebrating ICT successes across the public sector.

"Your ideas that cut waste and boost efficiency so that in these difficult times as much funding as possible can go to front line services"

David Cameron is a strong supporter of green initiatives explaining, "These Awards recognise some of the brilliant work done by digital specialists working across national and local government. One of our big ambitions is to make government more transparent, open and accountable and digital communications will play a massive part in that. I congratulate all the nominees and encourage all digital specialists across the public sector to follow their good example and innovation."

Nick Smeltzer, Director of IT Services was presented the award by Cabinet Office Minister Francis Maude MP and Katy Ring from K2 Advisory who sponsored the event.

"I am delighted to accept this award for Warrington Collegiate, said Nick. "Winning the Best Sustainability Initiative is recognition of our commitment to the environment and to reducing our carbon footprint. These are challenging financial times and the ability to reduce our energy consumption means that we have more resources available for our students. It is also proof that Further Education colleges can be right at the cutting edge when it comes to implementing new technology and systems and adapting to change."

Warrington Collegiate is developing a number of courses and apprenticeships which offer training in renewable energy sources including Electrical and plumbing and Gas. In the future the college plans to run conferences and seminars for business and education including local schools to showcase what can be done to save energy and money in these times of austerity.

The college has been recognised nationally in the past for its green credentials. In 2011 Warrington Collegiate won both the JSC RSC North West Recognition of Innovation Awards as well as the Techworld Award for Energy Efficiency. The college was also shortlisted for

Outstanding Practice in Sustainability at the TES FE Awards. In many instances the college fought off competition from much larger organisations, impressing the judges that a small college can punch well above its weight in terms of going green.



Nick Smeltzer, Director of IT Services (middle) is presented the award by Cabinet Office Minister Francis Maude MP (right) and Katy Ring (left) from K2 Advisory who sponsored the event.

Hands on experience for council leader

WARRINGTON Council leader Terry O'Neill visited Warrington Collegiate for some 'hands-on' experience to help celebrate National Apprenticeship Week.

First stop was the Construction Training Workshop where Cllr O'Neill proved he was a top pupil at bricklaying following instructions from 19 year old, apprentice, Daryl Deloaze from Orford.

Following this, Councillor O'Neill moved to the Plumbing workshop to develop his skills even further with encouragement from apprentices, 19 year old Tom Spencer and 25 year old Kelvin Hampson.

He was given a tour of the Renewable Energies facilities, the latest green initiative by Warrington Collegiate with Jem Morris, Curriculum Manager for Construction and Building Services and Sustainables, accompanied by Angela Perry, Director of Property Services Golden Gates Housing Trust and 17 year old apprentice, Jack Hodgkiss from

Risley.

After his hard work Councillor O'Neill enjoyed a spot of relaxation, meeting North West Apprentice of the Year 2008, hairdresser Alisha Cooper who started her career as an apprentice with Warrington Collegiate and now manages Lisa B's salon in Warrington.

Peter Metcalf, Director of Human Resources at Brooksons Accountants and 19 year old accountancy apprentice, Jack Wright, from Westbrook discussed the benefits and development of apprenticeships over coffee with Councillor Terry O'Neill.

Employers who work with the college were also on hand to tell Councillor O'Neill about the benefits of apprenticeships from their point of view, joining him for a lunch in Buckley's Training Restaurant. They enjoyed lunch cooked and served by students studying hospitality and catering at Warrington Collegiate including apprentices, 18 year old Daniel

Whittles from Whitecross and 20 year old Daniel O'Donnell, from Orford, who demonstrated his flambé skills, making Crepe Suzette for dessert.

Commenting on his experience Cllr O'Neill said: "It's been a real pleasure visiting Warrington Collegiate today and meeting some of the young people undertaking apprenticeships. Their enthusiasm for the work they are doing is tremendous and the skills and knowledge they are gaining here will be invaluable for their future careers."

The college has added reason to celebrate its young apprentices as it has trained three national award winners. Ashley Terron aged 19, from Appleton, won Bronze in the UK SkillBuild finals and is waiting to hear whether he will be selected for Team GB at the WorldSkills Championships in Leipzig, Germany, 2013. After three years at Warrington Collegiate, Ashley is now studying at the University of Salford for an HNC in Construction and Property Management.

Plumbing apprentice, Kristian Poyner, 22 from Higher Whitley, Warrington won the Heating Engineers, Installers and Plumbers (HIPS) UK Apprentice of the Year 2011 and has now started his own business.

Meanwhile Gareth Williams, 23 from Warrington, who works for Bramall Construction, was awarded the UK Contractors Group, Apprentice of the Year, 2011, reflecting his dedication to the role and outstanding work with one of the country's leading community regeneration specialists, Keepmoat.



Warrington Collegiate Bricklaying Apprentice Daryl Deloaze with Councillor Terry O'Neill, Leader of Warrington Borough Council



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By David Watkinson

Late filing penalty... Or so we all thought

Once again, January 31st has come and gone. This has always been a stressful time for accountants and their clients, but even more so this year. Previously, no late filing penalty would be charged if there was no tax due. However, this year was different! One major difference this year has been that anyone who fails to send in their tax return on time will be penalised even if there is no tax loss.

Or so we all thought! However, it looks like someone has had second thoughts on this, but decided not to tell anyone until after the deadline had passed. If you have received a tax return and failed to send it back by the due date, and if you feel that you should not have received it, then you can telephone the tax office and if they agree then they will cancel both the tax return and the penalty.

This is not the same as the normal appeal procedure which requires that you have a "reasonable excuse" for not returning it on time. A reasonable excuse under the normal appeal procedures would include serious illness or death of the taxpayer or a close family member, unexpected postal delays, or a delay on

the part of the tax office to provide required authorisation codes, etc. It would not include the individual considering that a tax return is not required in their particular circumstances.

It is not that we feel that state pensioners whose only other income is all taxed at source, or people receiving no income other than non-taxable state benefits, should be penalised for not sending in an on-line tax return. It is that the old rules would have worked to preclude them from paying a penalty in any event.

It is, instead, that people should know where they stand and what their obligations are. The current position suggests that the regulation changes were not thought through before they were enacted. It was obvious to anyone closely involved in the system that these relative draconian penalties would affect a considerable number of taxpayers, currently estimated at about 900,000, and that many of these will be similar cases to those given above. However, if these people can now avoid the penalties by simply telephoning the tax office then this begs two questions:

1. Should not those people in similar



David Watkinson and Margaret Black

circumstances who have incurred professional fees in submitting their returns on time now be recompensed, and

2. What effect will this have on the number of late returns in future years if people think that this will be repeated.

Would it not have been better to have legislated for these circumstances arising by allowing this process during the tax year, rather than introducing it as a knee-jerk reaction once the deadline has passed?

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

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Town to be a hub for music

WARRINGTON is taking the lead in a bid for £1.2 million funding to create a music education hub - a partnership dedicated to providing young people with opportunities to advance their musical education.

Town Hall bosses have agreed to seek the funding from the government in partnership with the neighbouring borough of Halton.

The creation of music hubs is central to the national plan for music education and if the bid is successful the funding would be provided over the next three years.

Various music organisations would also be involved and would plan and provide opportunities for 5-19 year olds in the area, including learning to sing or play a musical instrument.

All the partners would share equipment, staff and training to provide learning opportunities at reduced cost.

Warrington and Halton both have a very good track record for music education and have delivered many successful events, including the massed choral events, Children of Halton Sing.

Warrington is well placed to bid for future funding as the Schools' Arts and Culture Service was judged as "Outstanding" through the Federation of Music Services Moderation Programme last year. Halton's success was also validated last year.

Partnerships with local, regional and national music providers are strong and the service has been approached by outside providers wishing to be part of a potential Warrington and Halton Hub.

Blue bins have just got better

MORE items than ever can now be recycled in Warrington's blue bins.

New materials that can be recycled include shredded paper, aerosols, clean tin foil, Tetra Pak drinks cartons and more types of plastic.

In the past residents could only recycle plastic bottles, but now plastic yoghurt pots, margarine tubs and clean plastic food trays can also be recycled.

The improvements to the blue bin scheme follow a new two year contract between the borough council and recycling firm UPM which could see the council earn £800,000 to reinvest in services for the town.

Cllr David Keane, the council's executive member for environment and public protection, said: "The improved blue bin scheme will enhance the service provided to residents by allowing them to recycle more items than ever before."

"We would like to thank local people for their support of the recycling scheme and urge everyone to make sure all their family, friends and neighbours know about the changes so we can recycle even more in the year ahead."

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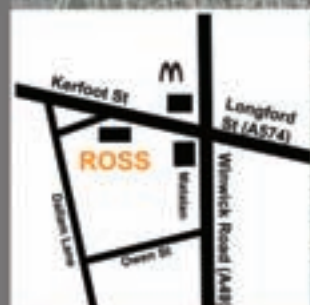
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