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March 2013

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See Page 3

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IT is inevitable that a project as huge as HS2 will split communities and in Warrington it has certainly done that. For every person supporting the proposed new high speed rail link with London, you can easily find another opposing it vehemently.

Some divide on predictably political lines and it's probably best to ignore them. The nature of party politics means that when one side comes up with an idea, the other feels duty bound to rubbish it.

Others may be inspired by the "not in my back yard" syndrome and, understandable as this may be, they are also best kept in perspective.

After all, you can hardly expect someone whose house is to be demolished or whose view spoiled, to be overly enthusiastic about a new railway.

Warrington Borough Council has perhaps wisely, so far been a little a little cagey on the issue.

Council leader Terry O'Neill said: "Officers in our transport and policy teams will be studying these plans closely over the coming weeks and we will be engaging with stakeholders such as parish councils, partner agencies, residents,

businesses and neighbouring authorities to formulate and submit our official representation to the government."

HS2 does illustrate one thing, however, and that is our continuing obsession with speed. Trains travelling at 225mph are held up as a reason for pressing ahead with the scheme, even though they will lop only about

half-an-hour off journey times between Warrington and the capital.

Is half-an-hour so important? Particularly in an age when we have been told that the internet and video conferencing make much business travel unnecessary?

Our scepticism about HS2 is not based on whether it will benefit this town or that, or despoil this beautiful landscape or that, but rather on whether it is needed at all.

News and Advertising deadline for the April issue is March 12

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Perfect Prom fundraiser

A 'PERFECT Prom Evening' held at Warrington's Peace Centre helped raise more than £1,200 for The Tim Parry and Johnathan Ball Foundation For Peace.

The event organised by The Dress Studio, Culcheth, was one of a number of activities taking place to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Warrington bombings.

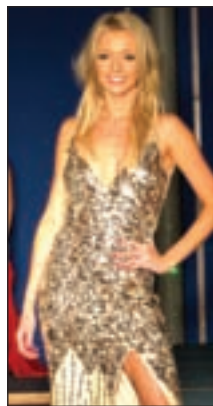
The evening included an amazing fashion show by The Dress Studio, as well as a great selection of stalls - from photographers to make-up artists, hairdressers to jewellery!

The event was organised by Holly Ikin, from The Dress Studio, and Wendy Parry.

Holly said: 'It was a pleasure to organise the event for the The Tim Parry and Johnathan Ball Foundation For Peace. We could not believe that twenty years had passed since the Warrington bombings and it is very important to us to support our local charities. I have seen the amazing work that the Peace Centre does and so, I especially wanted to support them during this important year. We were thrilled with the response and the fashion show was very popular!'

The Dress Studio has dresses for all occasions from proms to parties, balls to weddings..... with over 600 different styles instore!

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Hello and welcome to my monthly column . . .

Hypnotes

by Michael Mahoney

Feeling great!

When was the last time you heard anyone say that they were feeling great? Or that everything was going really well and that they had no worries? I suspect for most readers it might be a while, it is for me certainly.

Have you noticed how many people are voicing the fact they have aches and pains, that they feel stressed, work is terrible, relationships are not as easy etc. I am finding more people are prepared to mention their aches and pains, voice their moans and groans. It's as if it makes people feel better, and to some extent it may be cathartic for them to do so, but not all the time!

I am going to make an appeal to you dear reader, let us become more upbeat, more positive and let's share that positivity with others. I have done this several times before writing this article and on several occasions I have stopped people in their tracks, really quiet amusing.

When asked how I'm keeping, I've replied wonderful, could be better of course but in the main doing well, how about you? On

each occasion they have not replied about themselves, but wanted to know why, what am I doing to feel so good? Of course I have my aches and pains, worries about my family and the usual life events, but I also know that by having positive thoughts and attitude, this creates not only a shift in mood with the releasing of beneficial chemicals which can mitigate physical aches and pains, but also brings a brighter outlook on life.

"Memories are made of this" was sung by Dean Martin in 1955, a chirpy little song from a bygone era, but we all have some positive memories to call upon to help us now in this present, even in difficult times, past positive thoughts can help us to overcome difficulties, help to lighten a heavy mood, bring a different perspective to a situation. And these changes of thought and perception can help us not only now but in the future. And of course this moment and this time are tomorrows' memories, if we can do something to make us feel good or at least better three times a day, it will over time become a habit, and

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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www.michaelmahoneyhypnotherapist.com

when it does, you give out a more positive vibe, and that, as many people attest often brings better times, opportunities and outcomes. In short what you send out you receive back. I realise too, that reading this at a difficult time in your life will sound hollow, even rubbish and a waste of time, but hopefully as luck may have it, you may read it when you are open and receptive to such suggestions and considerations. So try it, be upbeat three times a day, and see how it makes you feel. You have nothing to lose, except moans and groans, negativity and feeling down, and so much to gain, you may find so much to genuinely enjoy and be thankful for.

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Award for police museum volunteers

CHESHIRE'S Warrington-based Museum of Policing won the team volunteer award at a prestigious awards evening at county police headquarters.

Its curator, Peter Wroe (pictured), was also runner-up in the volunteer of the year award - and Warrington Town Centre Special Constabulary were also runners-up for an award.

The museum has evolved over a number of years, becoming a registered charity in 2006 and was formally accredited by the Arts Council in 2011.

Its team of volunteers have worked thousands of hours to establish a credible collection of exhibits and artefacts which is on show for visitors to enjoy. The team carry out a number of functions including visitor co-ordination, exhibit and maintenance, clerical assistance, archiving, researching and financial management.

The museum provides a free visiting service and encourages individuals and groups to join in the policing experience and ensures the history of policing in Cheshire is preserved and available to the public.

Jim gives up sleep for the Starlight Walk



HOSPICE volunteer Jim Eccles has pledged to give up a night's sleep and volunteer round the clock to help marshal the 2013 St Rocco's Starlight "Party in the Park" Walk, which takes place at Orford Park on June 21.

Now renowned throughout the area as a great ladies night out the event is also a fantastic opportunity to raise funds for 'Warrington's Favourite Charity.'

The route starts and finishes at Orford Jubilee Park and walkers can choose to walk a 6.5 or 13 mile circuit of a well-marshalled route through Warrington Town Centre, Latchford, Padgate and Orford. Places are limited and are allocated on a first come, first served basis.

Jim, from Penketh, has been marshalling the Starlight Walk since it began in 2006. He enjoyed that first night so much that he has marshalled for the hospice ever since.

"There's a reason why so many of the marshals

volunteer year after year" he said. "I believe it's because the Starlight Walk is such a fantastic night. Every year the walkers thank us marshals and tell us how much they have enjoyed the walk. The atmosphere is brilliant."

Alison White, matron at St Rocco's Hospice, saw the Starlight Walk for the first time last year.

She said: "It was such a privilege to be part of this wonderful event and to see so many ladies showing their support for St Rocco's. The hospice cares for hundreds of families living with life threatening conditions each year and needs to raise nearly £3 million each year just to keep running, so all the ladies are doing a tremendous job in raising so much for us."

Places for the Starlight Walk are limited so anyone who would like to take part should visit www.starlightladieswalk.co.uk to sign up online, or pick up a form from the hospice.

Perfect gifts for Mother's Day

Are you unsure what to treat your Mum to on Mother's Day? We have everything you could possibly think of under one roof!

Why not take her out for a tasty lunch at The Sundial Terrace Cafe, or how about a piece of jewellery that you know she wouldn't buy for herself.

There are so many gift ideas throughout the centre including Candles, Clothes, Scarves, Shoes, Handbags, Ornaments, Bath Bombs and Wall plaques.

Do you want something a bit different? Why not have the ironing done for her or book an appointment in the Beauty Salon or Hairdressers.

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Business



Jobs Fair a success

NEARLY 700 people attended a Jobs Fair at the Halliwell Jones Stadium, organised by Warrington South MP, David Mowat.

A total of 26 organisations, ranging from Warrington Borough Council to United Utilities were on hand to offer careers advice and to spot talented people. A number of seminars throughout the day helped people with interview techniques and

advice on apprenticeships.

Feedback from job hunters and employers was positive and suggested that a dozen positions were offered on the spot, with a further 238 people given follow-up appointments.

Commenting on the event David said: "I am grateful to everyone who came along and made this event a success.

"I hope that all those people who turned up were able to get something out of it, whether it be a job offer, a follow-up appointment or just a useful piece of advice that will help them with future applications."



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St Rocco's launch corporate challenge

FIRMS in Warrington are being asked to sign up for a Corporate Challenge being run by St Rocco's Hospice.

The charity is inviting companies to join in and have fun whilst raising money for the hospice. To kick start the process each firm taking part will be given £50 to start their fundraising – and the challenge is to see what it can amount to over the year.

The challenge will run throughout the year and culminates in a fantastic gala dinner and awards ceremony, where awards will be made recognising individual and collective achievements.

So far more than 30 companies have signed up including RBS, United Utilities, Touchline, Sharples, Barclays and Big Storage.

It costs almost £3 million each year to keep St Rocco's running and providing care to thousands of hospice patients and their families across Warrington. Future plans include the development of a communal area for patients and families to be together at a difficult time in their lives.

Graham Roberts, chief executive of Assura Group (which sponsors the challenge) said: "The St Rocco's Corporate Challenge is a great initiative which we are proud to be supporting. We are hoping all the companies involved will really pull out all the stops to turn their £50 into a fantastic amount of money for this worthy cause."

Anyone interested in joining the challenge should contact Vanessa at St Rocco's on 01925 575780.

Helping young entrepreneurs

HELP is on hand for entrepreneurial Warrington teenagers looking for town centre premises, business advice and training to make a success of their ventures.

Warrington Youth Village, a new business start-up hub for young people, has been established by Warrington Youth Club, supported by Warrington-based company CEL Procurement.

Located on Bank Street, the Youth Village aims to tackle local youth unemployment, grow the business skills of local youngsters and provide inspirational activities for teenagers.

Young people can take a unit to sell their goods. Opportunities are also available to social entrepreneurs such as music teachers and fitness instructors offering services for young people.

David McNicholl, senior manager at Warrington Youth Club said: "Warrington has high numbers of NEET youngsters - Not in Education, Employment or Training. "We're working with local schools and colleges to tackle this by developing seven key focus points at Warrington Youth Village.

"Young people and social entrepreneurs who are interested in citizenship, dance and drama, fashion and design, hair and beauty, sport and fitness, music and live performance and outreach work should get in touch."

Anyone interested in taking a unit at the Youth Village should contact Warrington Youth Club on 01925 581217 or email davem@warringtonyouthclub.co.uk

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Business

Business booming at Viking BNI

BUSINESS is booming at a breakfast business group which has passed over £3.1 million worth of business.

Warrington South MP David Mowat was on hand to help the Viking Chapter of Business Network International (BNI) based at the Park Royal Hotel in Stretton, celebrate the landmark figure.

The networking group has outsmarted the economic downturn by understanding and promoting each other's businesses by word of mouth marketing and referrals.

BNI Viking's Chapter Director Dave Skeels from environmental consultants Complete Eco, said: "In the current climate people want to do

business with people they know like and trust and that is why BNI Viking is so successful."

"An ambitious group that thrives on business, structured training, pooling their resources and spotting opportunities for each other, has a lofty target of achieving £1.5m of business this year and are well on their way to achieving it.

Picture shows David Mowat MP (left) presenting Chapter director Dave Skeels a cheque for £3.1M watched by members of the networking group

Picture courtesy: naturalfocusphotography.co.uk



Identifying town's skills needs

AN initiative to identify the economic, skills and learning needs of the town has been officially launched by the Warrington Skills Commission.

More than 50 representatives of businesses and organisations attended the launch event at Birchwood.

The commission has been investigating the current economic situation in Warrington to develop a framework for growth and prosperity in the town.

Led by the Borough Council, the project also involves representatives from Warrington Chamber of Commerce, the NHS, local businesses, the Cheshire and Warrington Local Enterprise Partnership, as well as schools and colleges.

It shows that predicted local growth areas are manufacturing, energy, nuclear, construction, communications, logistics and distribution.

Key areas for skills and education providers to focus their resources on were shown to include ICT, science, technology, health and social care and general employability skills.

A report on the initiative can be seen at www.warrington.gov.uk/warringtonskillscommission



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Town is beating the fly-tippers

A SURVEY has revealed Warrington has one of the lowest rates of illegal fly tipping in the UK.

The 2011-12 Environment Agency survey looked at the number of incidents of fly tipping in each area and confirmed that Warrington has the second lowest rate in the North West - and the lowest of any comparable town.

Cllr David Keane, the borough council's executive member for environment and public protection, said: "Fly tipping can be a real blight on our communities and I am delighted that the numbers of incidents in Warrington have continued to fall year on year. We take firm action against those who fly tip, including roadside checks, compliance visits to local businesses and by prosecuting those who flout the law.

"We also provide support to those people who want to recycle or dispose of any residual waste correctly. We are currently considering the responses to our recent consultation on fortnightly bin collections and we will ensure that further actions to tackle fly tipping and to support our local communities are actively considered as part of this process".

Although fly-tipping rates have continued to fall, the council is urging anyone who witnesses any fly-tipping to report it on 01925 443322 or environmentalcrime@warrington.gov.uk

High school's China connection

PUPILS from Penketh High School will be working on a joint project with a school in Xian, China, on Climate for Classrooms.

The Warrington school has been given a grant to develop international links and spread the word about its work.

The bid was submitted in conjunction with Oakwood Avenue Primary School and Sir Thomas Boteler CE High, through Connecting Classrooms run by the British Council.

It beat hundreds of applicants to receive funding to facilitate a reciprocal visit to learn and share good practice with its international colleagues.

A school spokesperson said: "The focus of the project is called Climate For Classrooms and we will be working on a variety of activities at Penketh and also in the school in Xian to help make our young people more aware of climate issues and how they can impact upon their environment and reduce their carbon footprint."

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Housing Trust teams up with soccer club

WARRINGTON'S biggest landlord and the town's premier football club have teamed up to launch an innovative community partnership.

The partnership will see Golden Gates Housing Trust (GGHT) and Warrington Town FC work together over the next 18 months to deliver a range of activities for adults and young people aimed at promoting health and physical activity.

GGHT will become a key sponsor of the football club and tenants and their families will receive a number of benefits, including discounted admission to all Warrington Town FC home games and reductions in the cost of places on the club's multi sport camps.

A free taster session for the camps will also be provided to the Trust's tenants during the April half-term holidays.

The launch event was also used to mark the start of an exciting new competition called "Golden Goal", which aims to find a new footballing superstar among the Trust's 11,000



Left to right: Roy Smith, Neil Martin and Peter Mercer (GGHT) with James Standing, Toby Macormac, Gary Skentelbery, and Peter Turner (WTFC).

tenants and their families.

Open to all GGHT staff and tenants aged 16 or over, the competition will see one lucky winner getting the chance to join pre-season training with the first team in July and potentially become semi-professional with their home town club.

More details on a special trial day will be provided to the Trust's tenants in the next few months.

GGHT chairman Roy Smith said: "It is great to have this opportunity to support Warrington Town FC. The club plays an important role in the

community and is doing excellent work to help local people improve their lifestyles with sport. We believe that our partnership will bring many benefits to our tenants and their families and will play a key role in helping them to improve their quality of life."

Warrington Town chairman Gary Skentelbery said: "We are delighted to welcome Golden Gates Housing Trust on board as one of our new community partners and look forward to working with them closely over the

coming months.

"We hope to grow our fan base and hopefully unearth a star of the future.

"We see Golden Gates Housing Trust as the perfect partner to help develop our brand in the local community as we continue to work hard to move the club forward up the football pyramid - with the ultimate goal of delivering a football league team to the town, with all the added benefits for the wider community."

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Warrington Market



Baby of the year 2013



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Warrington Market

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Runner up prizes include:

- The Flower Centre – Bouquet of Flowers
- Alison Loves to Bake – Birthday or Christening Cake up to £60
- Customer Information Desk - £20 Voucher for Warrington Souvenirs
- Taylor's Farm shop - Fruit & Veg Hamper
- Fair 4 All - £10 voucher
- Sausage Shop - 3 lb Pack of Syn Free Sausages + Italian Meatballs
- Warrington DIY Stall – Children's Sledge
- Dreamshakes – 10 x Free Drinks
- Pick n Mix Corner – Chocolate Selection Pack
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Free to enter photo competition: Terms and conditions apply

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Market
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WARRINGTON
Borough Council





WARRINGTON WOLVES 2013



Supporting our local team!



Back row (L-R)

Rhys Williams, Tyrone McCarthy, Gareth Carvell, Ben Currie, Simon Grix, Brad Dwyer

Middle row (L-R)

Willie Poching (First Team Coach), Rhys Evans, Mike Cooper, Paul Wood, Chris Hill, Trent Waterhouse, Joel Monaghan, Ben Harrison, Stefan Ratchford, Chris Riley, Richard Marshall (First Team Coach)

Front row (L-R)

Chris Baron (Head of Strength & Conditioning), Gareth O'Brien, Brett Hodgson, Richie Myler, Michael Monaghan, Ben Westwood, Tony Smith (Head Coach), Adrian Morley, Ryan Atkins, Chris Bridge, Micky Higham, Lee Briers



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ST. ROCCO'S HOSPICE

news

Starlight LADIES WALK 2013

Now held at
Orford Jubilee Park
on **21st June 2013**

Party in the Park



Join us for a fantastic night of fitness, fun and FREE entertainment
at the biggest and best 'all ladies' event in Warrington!

The St. Rocco's Hospice Starlight Ladies Walk is renowned throughout the area as a GREAT ladies night out! It's also a fantastic opportunity to raise funds for 'Warrington's Favourite Charity'. **The Starlight Walk is YOUR opportunity to get fit, have fun and do something for a really worthy cause. Since the Walk started in 2005, over 10,000 ladies have taken part and collectively raised around £1.3 million for St. Rocco's Hospice.**

The Starlight Walk is a sponsored, ladies-only walk in aid of St. Rocco's. Ladies can choose to walk a 6.5 or 13 mile circuit of a well-marshalled route through Warrington Town Centre, Latchford, Padgate and Orford. Places are limited and are allocated on a first come, first served basis.



Alison White, Matron at St. Rocco's Hospice saw the Starlight Walk for the first time last year. She said "It was such a privilege to be part of this wonderful event and to see so many ladies showing their support for St. Rocco's. The hospice cares for hundreds of families living with life threatening conditions each year and needs to raise nearly £3 million each year just to keep running, so all the ladies are doing a tremendous job in raising so much for us".

Places for the Starlight Walk are limited so if you would like to be part of this fabulous night please visit www.starlightladieswalk.co.uk to sign up online, or pick up a form from the Hospice.



Registered Charity No. 511592

Forthcoming Events 2013

January

31st Launch of St. Rocco's Corporate Challenge

March

3rd Adidas Half Marathon, Silverstone Race Track

FREE places available

14th Quiz Night

Statham Lodge Hotel Lymm

April

21st The Virgin London Marathon

May

13 -19th Will Week

26th BUPA Great Manchester 10k

Run - FREE places available

YELLOW WEEK - TBC

June

21st Starlight Ladies Walk from Orford Jubilee Park

30th Lymm Garden Walks

Lymm Festival - TBC

July

20th Proms in the Park,

The Peninsula Barracks

Cycle Challenge - TBC

August

4th Dragon Boat Race, Warrington Rowing Club

16th St. Rocco's Day

Afternoon Tea Day - TBC

September

3rd St. Rocco's Golf Day, Carden Park

October

5th Christmas Fair,

Lymm High School

Christmas Card Launch TBC

For more information on any of the above events, please call the Fundraising Team on 01925 575780

Follow us on





A day in the life...

Alison White, Matron, St Rocco's Hospice

Alison White (Ali) joined St. Rocco's in May 2012 with a background in specialist community health and hospice care. She is passionate about delivering the best possible care to patients and families and talks about a typical day at St. Rocco's...

"My day starts about 8am when I arrive. My first mission is always to see how things have been during the night for the patients, families and staff on the IPU (In Patient Unit) and the Day Unit. Sometimes there are family members who want to see me or meet with other members of staff to discuss their loved ones' care.

We always encourage feedback from the families we work with to ensure we are delivering the best care we can. Just the other day, a family member asked to see me. He had completed one of our feedback forms but said to me..."there is not a box big enough for me to write what I want to write about the way your wonderful staff have cared for my mum. From the cleaners who came to see my Mum every day to the volunteers who brought cups of tea, the nurses, the doctors -the whole staff- we cannot thank you enough!. There are times for laughter and times for sadness, even in a hospice"

Part of Ali's role is involvement in the strategic direction of St Rocco's and its place in the wider healthcare community. Ali says "Often my day involves internal meetings with other members of the hospice Senior Management Team - meetings which are held regularly to ensure the organisation as a whole is running smoothly and that we are on track with our strategic plans. I also work very closely with external bodies such as the Care Quality Commission (CQC) who regulate care organisations, to ensure the best standards of quality and care for our patients. I sit on the Integrated Cancer Network in Warrington, which comprises of representatives from health organisations across Warrington who meet to ensure quality health care for the whole of Warrington. Similarly, I meet with other members of the Cancer Action Team whose job it is to deliver the cancer strategy for the whole of Warrington including screening and care. It's really important for St. Rocco's to be involved in these groups to see what part we can play as a hospice".

Ali goes on to say "These meetings are really important but I never lose sight of what I am here to do - to support our staff in delivering quality care to the patients and families we work with. For me, the real privilege is to be working in an organisation where we are invited to walk alongside people at the most difficult time in their lives".



"I feel very blessed to do what I do, to do the job I have wanted to do and trained to do since I was eighteen years old. I feel proud and honoured to wear my uniform and to call myself a nurse. I look forward to the future and building on the achievements of this wonderful organisation we call St. Rocco's Hospice"

For more news on the hospice, like us on facebook/stroccos or follow us on twitter #stroccos



Little things make a big difference

Last year, St. Rocco's purchased a portable ultrasound machine, after months of fundraising and kind donations. The ultrasound machine was critical to patient services as Dr Esraa Sulaivany, Senior Medical Officer at St Rocco's, explains:

"Ultrasound is a safe, rapid imaging technique which is widely used in palliative medicine to assess the presence or absence of fluid in certain areas of the body that may then need medical intervention for the comfort of the patient. Before we had the portable ultrasound machine, patients had to be referred from the hospice to a hospital out-patient department, often waiting several days before being seen. Patients are then sent home or back to the Hospice to wait; sometimes for up to a week for the results!

"This had a very detrimental effect on patients, adding to their fatigue and stress.

"I can't tell you what a difference the purchase of this machine has made to the quality of life of our patients! They can now come to the hospice for intervention, reducing waiting time, offering immediate symptom relief and reduced stress on the family"

"Perhaps the best way of understanding the benefits of the machine are from the perspective of a patient who has used it.

St Rocco's patient Carol Reilly developed fluid in her abdomen (ascites) and had to live with it for months before she found comfort at the Hospice".

As Carol said... "The ascites affected my quality of life, my confidence, everything. I felt very sad and



worried. One morning, I had a phone call from one of the MacMillan nurses to tell me that she had spoken to St. Rocco's. She said the hospice had an ultrasound

machine and that their senior doctor was specially trained to perform drainage procedure. I cried and cried, I would not have been happier if I was told that I had won the Euro Millions lottery. I felt like I gained hope for the future, I was excited and told all my family and friends about this. On the same day, I met Dr Sulaivany, who performed the Ultrasound scan and agreed to drain the fluid. Within hours it was all done and I was able to go back home. I felt very special and privileged.

So thank you all for giving me back my life..."

Thank you to everyone who donated funds towards the Portable Ultrasound machine!

Hospice Developments

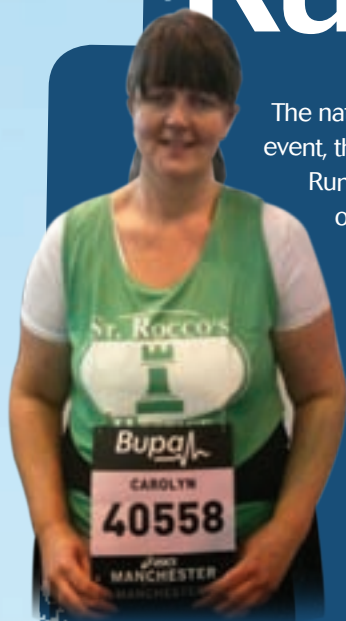
St. Rocco's is always striving to deliver the best possible care to patients and their families and delivering that care takes lots of planning! Strategic developments at the Hospice are underway to ensure the Hospice reaches out to as many



people in need of hospice care as possible, diversifying and delivering different ways of working whilst ensuring that all of this is done as cost effectively as possible. Part of the planning process to develop hospice strategy was a recent Strategy Day, where partners from the wider health care community joined staff and volunteers at the Hospice. Regular staff meetings are also being held to keep people up to date with developments/changes.

Be a Hospice Hero in 2013

Run



The nation's favourite 10k running event, the Bupa Great Manchester Run, has seen over a quarter of a million enthusiastic runners pound the streets of Manchester in the last 10 years.

In recent years, tens of thousands of spectators and a live TV audience have witnessed stars of the running world like Haile Gebrselassie and Britain's Jo Pavey running

and winning events. Last year, 63 St. Rocco's Runners raised in excess of £10,000 for the Hospice! St. Rocco's is recruiting runners for 2013 - so if you would like to be part of the biggest 10k in the UK and run alongside 40,000 other runners, St. Rocco's can guarantee a FREE place in exchange for raising a minimum sponsorship amount.



Call Helen on 01925 575780 for more information

Endure

Are you a Tough Mudder, Total Warrior, Iron Man or just love to do endurance treks? The triathlon and endurance circuit is one of the fastest growing sporting events in the UK and the list of competitions is growing by the month. One of the most well known endurance challenges - Total Warrior- is claimed to be the ultimate test of strength, stamina and team work. The event is held over two days in August in the Lake District and involves tackling 25 punishing obstacles.

Last year Michael Lee and his partner Leah completed the Tough Mudder challenge in aid of St. Rocco's, raising over £500. As Michael said, "The course was brutal! But very enjoyable all the same. We completed the course

in 2 hours 12 minutes. Training for the electric wire fences and some of the other treats they had in store was difficult to say the least, but none the less, a great experience. Wouldn't have missed it for the world!"

**For more tough c
Helen c**

Cycle



You could take on a cycling challenge like no other through the closed roads of London and the Surrey Hills in August and join 20,000 cyclists who will ride a modified version of the London 2012 Olympic Road Race. RideLondon100 will

start in the new Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park. With leg-testing climbs and a route recently made famous by the world's best cyclists, this promises to be truly spectacular event for all involved.

Ballot places for this iconic event are open until 7th Feb so be quick and you still could be in with a chance of a place. St. Rocco's has guaranteed places in this iconic event - call Helen on 01925 575780 to find out more.

STOP PRESS - If you are a keen cyclist, why not join the St. Rocco's Cheshire Plains and Peaks Cycling Sportive in July! For more information, call Helen on 01925 575780



Thank You...



more details on
h challenges, call
n on 01925 575780

**TOTAL
WARRIOR**
ACCEPT THE CHALLENGE...



Co-op Warrington staged a Santa Dash to raise funds for St Rocco's - part of over £20,000 they raised for the Hospice in 2012!



Asda Westbrook raised over £365 from a bucket collection



St Rocco's Staff Nurse Rosie Peplow says thanks to Stuart Waldron, who raised over £500 for St. Rocco's from his cabaret evening at Pierpoint and Bryant Social Club.



Assura Group Chief Executive Graham Roberts hands over a cheque for over £800 to St. Rocco's Vanessa Simmons. Assura have supported St. Rocco's as their charity of the year in 2012 and are also sponsoring the Corporate Challenge (see page 7).



Orford Boys FC supporting St Rocco's Hospice with logo'd shirts. Thanks and good luck for the coming season boys!



Mike Williams and Chris Eyres from the Masonic Lodge with a cheque for £2419 - a generous donation from the Grand Lodge of Freemasons



Community Fundraising

with Malcolm Kindon

Christmas Raffle 2012

We are pleased to announce the winners of our 2012 Christmas Raffle. The 1st prize (A Year at The Village Hotel Warrington) was won by Mrs A of Lymm.

The 2nd prize (Christmas Bundle to the value of £300) was won by Mr C of Warrington, 3rd prize (a Christmas Hamper) was won by Mr. M of Old Hall. Thank you to The Village Hotel for donating the 1st prize and to Beaverbrooks (pictured) for donating a £100 gift voucher. Congratulations to the winners and a very big thank you to all who bought tickets, helping to raise £8000 for the Hospice.



Christmas

Once again, St Rocco's had fantastic support from schools, shops and businesses throughout Warrington and further afield selling Christmas beanies. Thank you to all who delivered them and all who sold and bought them.



In addition to the traditional toys in schools, this year we also introduced a sponsored 'St. Rocco's Reindeer Dash'. Three schools took part, raising over £2000 for the hospice.

(pictured teachers from Winwick Primary School joining in the fun!)

St. Rocco's calendars took on a new look this year, with Parks and Waterways of Warrington being featured. They were so popular that demand actually exceeded supply. We apologise to the many

supporters who were unable to purchase them— we will increase the order next year in line with this year's spectacular demand.

Loose Change Boxes

Are you tired of loose change bulking up your pockets and purses? We can help – take one of our loose change boxes and it will solve all of your problems! Since April, St Rocco's has raised over £8500 from loose change boxes. A big thank you to all.

Bag Packs / Collection Days

We have held a number of bucket collections and bag packs at various supermarkets throughout Warrington during 2012. Over the Christmas period alone, 75 volunteers gave 176 hours to raise £5476 – an amazing amount. A very big thank you to them and also to ASDA Birchwood, ADSA Cockhedge Centre, ASDA Westbrook, M & S Warrington, and Tesco Warrington for allowing us to have space and time in their stores.

Coffee Mornings

Our 'regular' coffee mornings have, this year, raised over £3600. Many thanks to Ronnie and her team for organising their coffee morning at Woolston, to Sandra, Chris and their team at Glazebury Methodist Church and to Colin, Myrna and friends at Grappenhall for their Afternoon Tea.

If you would like to run a coffee morning or afternoon tea for us, please contact Malcolm on the number below.

Crown Green Bowling

Two Bowling Mains have been held for the Hospice this year. September saw the annual Mike Roach Memorial Bowls competition at the Royal British Legion at Woolston.

Also in September was the second Mavis Horton Memorial Bowls competition held at Monks Sports Club, Woolston. (organisers and winners pictured)

Both events are very popular competitions. A very big thank you to the friends and families who generously organised these events for us, to the companies involved and also to the Royal British Legion and Monks Sports Club for the use of their bowling greens and facilities.



Sponsored Dog Walk



2012 saw our second sponsored Dog Walk, organised by Peta Brandwood. With Cheshire Dogs School running an agility session and Pets at Home providing goody bags, a great fun day was had by all.

Community Events Galore!

Other community events organised in the last few months include: Gordon & Marjorie Lawless's Quiz Night at St. Oswald's Club, Padgate and 75 Engr Regiment TA's annual 'Proms in the Barracks' and 'Community Carol Service'.



Thank you to one and all for your continued and much needed support.

For more information on how you can help in the Community, please contact Malcolm Kindon at St. Rocco's on 01925 579230 or email malcolmkindon@stroccos.org.uk

Can you take up the Challenge?



St. Rocco's Hospice is looking for companies to be part of a brand new Corporate Challenge for 2013. If you work for a company who would like to raise money for a worthy cause whilst having great fun in the process look no further. Each company participating in the St. Rocco's Corporate Challenge will be given £50 to kick start their fundraising and the challenge is to see what that £50 can amount to over the course of the year!

The St. Rocco's Hospice Corporate challenge will take place throughout 2013 and will culminate in a fantastic gala dinner and awards ceremony, where awards will be made recognising individual and collective achievements.

It costs almost £3 million each year to keep St. Rocco's Hospice running and providing care to thousands of hospice patients and their families across Warrington each year.

Future plans at the hospice include the development of a communal area for patients and families; a place where families can be together. Your support in 2013 will secure funding for this and other projects which make a real difference to the lives of local families.

The Corporate Challenge is sponsored by Assura Group. Graham Roberts Chief Executive of Assura Group said... "The St. Rocco's Corporate Challenge is a great initiative which we are proud to be supporting. We are hoping all the companies involved will really pull out all the stops to turn their £50 into a fantastic amount of money for this worthy cause"

If you work for a company who would like to take part in the Corporate Challenge, please contact Vanessa at St. Rocco's Hospice on 01925 575780

St. Rocco's Hospice 2013 dragon boat race



Last year, over £20,000 was raised in sponsorship in the 2012 St. Rocco's Dragon Boat race. An amazing day was had by all; with winning team - *The A Team* from Warrington Borough Council - rowing to victory for the second year running!. Second place went to *ABS Consulting* and third to *Slimloaders* - (another WBC team).



The fundraising stars of the show were two brothers

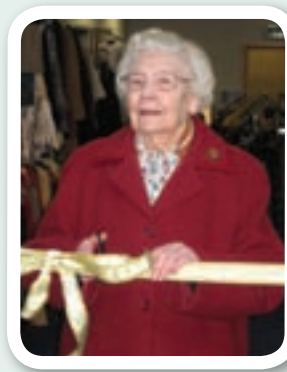
Nigel and Stuart Dearden from Warrington Borough Council who rowed on competing teams '*A team*' and '*Slimloaders*' and collectively raised a fantastic £8700!

St. Rocco's Dragon Boat Race will be on Sunday August 4th and will be hosted by Warrington Rowing Club on the River Mersey. The event is a fantastic opportunity to gather friends, family and colleagues together for a fun day out or a team-building opportunity.

For more information or to register your team, contact the St. Rocco's Fundraising Team on 01925 575780 or visit www.stroccos.org.uk

St. Rocco's Shops... **30 YEARS** and still going strong

December 2012 saw the opening of the eighth St. Rocco's Shop in Warrington with the unveiling of a retail unit in Golden Square Shopping Centre. The St Rocco's Golden Square Shop was opened by Hospice volunteer Peggy Moss MBE – who has been involved in raising funds for St. Rocco's for over 30 years.



Back in the early 1980's, Peggy was asked to become part of a committee dedicated to raising funds for a hospice in Warrington. She first secured a shop at Golden Square, selling donated goods to raise funds for a Hospice Appeal. In just 6 weeks, the shop raised over £6000 and the committee

were well on their way to opening a Hospice.

Ian Cox, General Manager of Golden Square Shopping Centre said: "We are delighted to support the work of St. Rocco's by providing a retail unit. Our partnership with the Hospice has spanned a generation and helped make a difference to thousands of patients and families across Warrington".

The Hospice now has eight shops which are staffed by volunteers who collectively raise over £600,000 to care for patients at St. Rocco's. You will find these local shops at Longford Street in Orford, Hood Manor Shopping Centre, London Road in Stockton Heath, Birchwood Shopping Centre, The Bridge Shopping Centre in Latchford and The Cross in Lymm. The St Rocco's Furniture and Interiors shop at Bridgefoot has a collection service available for furniture and household items.



For more information about any St. Rocco's Shop please visit the website www.stroccos.org.uk or call the Hospice on 01925 575780

LOTTERY Gift Vouchers



Give the gift that keeps on giving!

You can now buy Gift Vouchers for St. Rocco's Lottery - with a chance to win big cash prizes! The gift voucher contains a number of entries into St. Rocco's weekly lottery draw, with a chance to win up to £5,000 on the rollover, or one of 149 other weekly cash prizes.

Buying a St. Rocco's Lottery Gift Voucher is simple. All we need is the name of the recipient, a date for the voucher to start and number of weeks in the draw (minimum 10 weeks). The voucher is a fantastic idea for a gift for special birthdays (e.g. 18 weeks for an 18th birthday) or an anniversary (25 weeks for silver wedding) or just as a special gift of 52 weeks for Christmas.

To purchase your lottery gift voucher, please call St. Rocco's Lottery Office on 01925 579222



Will Week 13th - 19th May 2013

Did you know that over £200,000 was donated to St. Rocco's last year in legacy income? This income was used to support hundreds of families at the Hospice during 2012.

If you've been thinking of making a Will and keep putting it off, you are not alone! Like so many other people who intend to make a provision for their family, often making a will only becomes a priority when personal circumstances change.

So if you've been thinking of making a will, but not got round to it, why not take advantage of St Rocco's Hospice Will Week? Each year on a specified date- supporting solicitors in Warrington agree to waive their normal fee for writing a Will in return for a donation to St Rocco's Hospice. Suggested minimum donations are £40 for a codicil, £75 for a single will and £120 for a pair of mirror wills.

A legacy gift to St. Rocco's can support the work of the Hospice and safeguard hospice care in Warrington for future generations.

For more information about St Rocco's Will Week, please contact the Hospice Fundraising Team on 01925 575780

Ashley builds on his success



Former Warrington Collegiate Brickwork student, Ashley Terron aged 20 from Appleton is building on his previous success in local and national competitions by winning second place in a prestigious Construction Skills competition in Denmark.

Currently Ashley is one of only three Bricklaying students training with Squad UK hoping to be chosen to represent his country in the International WorldSkills Championships in Leipzig in July.

A delighted Ashley said, "The competition was Denmark's annual National Skills final, with over 50 skills competing. The UK was invited to send guest entrants and I was selected together with a hairdresser and a joiner, also training with Squad UK. The Danish judges were impressed with the quality of my work, my speed and accuracy as well as the relationship with my training manager, Mike Burdett from York College."

As Ashley was competing for training purposes and as a guest he was delighted to be given a silver

trowel as a souvenir and £120 prize money. He spent a week training in Aarhus, Denmark's second largest city after Copenhagen, before taking part in the four day competition.

Ashley was proud to be selected for the international competition, commenting, "I was chosen to represent the UK as my competition marks in training were the highest of the three bricklayers in the squad. This is classed as a pressure test, as a measure of how I deal with training and competing on the international stage. I'm delighted with my win and felt that I coped very well with a competition where not everyone speaks English as well as using different bricks and mortar that I am not used to in England. This is excellent preparation for Leipzig 2013."



Curriculum Manager for Construction and the Built Environment, Paul Gould, said: "I recognised very early on in his training that Ashley has an exceptional talent. I'm sure he has a great future ahead of him. Competitions such as SkillBuild and WorldSkills International not only raise the profile of the construction industry but they also demonstrate the high level of skills training which is undertaken here at Warrington Collegiate. Ashley has great career prospects ahead of him, in a very diverse Construction Industry."

Ashley who keeps in close contact with the college, often returning to use the workshop for training purposes, says, "I wouldn't be where I am today without my three years training at Warrington Collegiate so I'm delighted to be able to share my success with the college. From starting

my apprenticeship I have always aspired to be the best. Representing the UK in Leipzig is my ultimate dream."

Ashley works for the family business, Peter Terron Brickwork Contracting Limited, who in turn sub-contracted to Redrow, one of the leading Construction Developers. He combines competition work with his Degree at the University of Salford, still finding time to support his college at Open Evenings and student masterclasses.

Ashley will find out if he has been selected to represent the UK in July in Leipzig at International WorldSkills 2013 at the team selection event at Stephenson College, Coalville, Leicester on Saturday March 9 after a grueling five days of competition and training. He has invited his family, employer and his tutor from Warrington Collegiate to join him on selection day.

Second phase of flood defence work

WORK on the second phase of Warrington's new flood defence scheme will get under way this summer, following completion of the first phase currently reaching an advanced stage at Latchford.

The second phase involves a series of flood walls and embankments at Howley.

The third and final phase of the scheme will be constructed in Woolston, Padgate, Kingsway North, Cinnamon Brow and Latchford East and is scheduled for construction in summer next year, with completion in spring 2015.

The finished flood defences will reduce the risk of flooding to more than 2,000 homes and businesses in Warrington from the River Mersey and its tributaries.

The £23 million scheme has been made possible thanks to a partnership between the Environment Agency and Warrington Borough Council, who are jointly funding the new flood defences.

Flood Risk Manager for the Environment Agency, Mark Garratt, said: "The Environment Agency continually monitors flood risk and identified that thousands of homes and businesses are at risk of flooding from the River Mersey in Warrington.

"We prioritise our funding so that we protect as many people and properties as possible, but even with the support of government funding, this scheme would not have gone ahead without the support of Warrington Borough Council and the local community."

Special awards celebrate 20-year partnership

WARRINGTON Disability Partnership (WDP) has presented special awards to staff at Warrington Market to celebrate a 20-year partnership.

Charity founder Dave Thompson presented a Certificate of Appreciation to the Warrington Retail Market Team to thank members for their support over the years.

Awards were also presented to two members of staff, Karen Evans and Karen Daniels, who arranged the assembling and decoration of the Santa's Grotto and organised the 'Letters to Santa' scheme, both of which took place outside the WDP Disability Information Stall.

A variety of activities, organised by WDP, took place outside of the Disability Information Point during the festive season, including the Santa's Grotto, tombola and Christmas raffle. These events raised more than £11,500 to support the work of the charity, which includes the running of

the Disability Information Stall.

Dave said: "This was a fantastic amount, which will help to support many unfunded services, including the Disability Information Stall, which would not have been possible without the support of the dedicated Market Team."

As well as supporting a wide variety of fundraising events over the years, the Market Team have supported the daily running of the award-winning community

Disability Information Point situated in the rear hall of Warrington Market. Run predominantly by WDP volunteers, the Disability Information Point provides free information and advice directly to the public on a wide range of disability related issues, in an easily accessible setting in the centre of Warrington.

Dave Thompson presenting the awards to Market Manager Steve Pickering and the two Karens.





Warrington Collegiate

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Tel: 01925 494494

Policeman's marathon effort

WARRINGTON Policeman **Andy Blizard, 29, is running the London Marathon in memory of his wife's 18 month old son who died tragically of meningitis.**

He will be cheered on by his wife Kelly-Ann, 33, whose son Daniel Cain died of the disease in 1996.

Despite never having run more than three miles before, Andy has vowed to complete the run and raise £1,500 for Meningitis UK.

To get in training he has "ditched the chips and burgers" in favour of a more healthy diet. Kelly-Ann, who is also a police officer, is supporting him.

He runs four times a week to train for the race on April 21, and plans to run the Wilmslow Marathon on



March 24.

Andy said: "Based on my running times at the moment I should finish the marathon in around four hours 30 minutes, but I'd like to get that down to under three hours.

"My wife is over the moon I'm raising money to help put a stop to meningitis. I have always said I wanted to do it, but never got round to it before. She told me to just get on with it. There's no doubt I'm going to get to the finish line – even if it's on all fours."

Kelly-Ann was only 17 when Daniel became ill. He started having convulsions and was rushed to hospital.

By 9am the following morning, his condition had deteriorated and he was transferred to Pendlebury Hospital. But the disease had taken hold and Daniel died in the ambulance before reaching the hospital.

Andy said: "This is my challenge, it's personal to me as losing a child to meningitis is something my wife went through. I can see the effect meningitis has had on her and continues to have to this day.

"Meningitis is a horrible disease and happens so quickly. Daniel died within a day and a half of becoming



ill."

To boost funds further, Andy and Kelly-Ann are organising a charity night at Orford Jubilee Neighbourhood Hub in Warrington

on Saturday February 23, to include live music, an auction and raffle.

Tickets cost £5 each, and are available by emailing andyblizard@gmail.com

Dave is taking the plunge again



SWIMMERS have the chance to get fit and help Warrington Disability Partnership (WDP) by taking part in a sponsored swim while the charity's founder Dave Thompson is also taking the plunge again for the third consecutive year.

People are invited to dive in and join WDP's sponsored swim event on Saturday March 2 at Orford Jubilee Park from 4pm to 8pm, while Dave will and others will be taking part in a sponsored scuba dive at Great Sankey Leisure Centre on April 27.

During the sponsored swim participants will be challenged to swim a maximum total of 64 lengths of the swimming pool. People can also complete shorter lengths and children are invited to join in.

Those wishing to swim at a slower pace can do so in the training pool.

This will be followed by Dave's sponsored scuba dive which is being supported by Sport Diver and Cheshire Scuba.

For the past two years, Dave, who broke his neck 20 years ago playing American football, which has left him with the use of just one arm, has raised thousands of pounds by swimming a mile under water.

Anyone interested in supporting either event should contact WDP fundraising team on 01925 240064.

College trio heading for Oxford



Priestley principal Mike Southworth with Oxford-bound Chris Hammond, Connor Simpson and Niamh Costello and tutor Mark Salmon.

THREE students from Warrington's Priestley College have been accepted by Oxford University to study Medicine, Politics and English.

Chris Hammond, Niamh Costello and Connor Simpson have all made it after studying A Levels or the International Baccalaureate alongside Priestley College's unique graduate programme.

Chris, who is 18, from Stockton Heath will be going to Pembroke College Oxford to study medicine after completing his Maths, Biology, Chemistry and Psychology A Levels.

The former Bridgewater High School student, who wants to be a consultant, said: "The graduate programme at Priestley definitely helped because it gave me the opportunity to see Oxford, which started to convert me into wanting to go there in the first place.

"The essay competition was marked by Pembroke tutors so that really helped you to understand what was expected of you."

The graduate programme is unique to Priestley and works with the very best students aiming to unlock their potential and raise their aspirations.

It focuses on making students competitive in the national and international market place for universities and employment.

Also heading to Pembroke College Oxford is another former Bridgewater High student, Connor Simpson, who studied the International Baccalaureate at Priestley.

The 17-year-old, who will be studying politics, philosophy and economics, said: "I'm trying to think about my career options and am considering politics because I want to make a real change and help people."

Fellow International Baccalaureate student Niamh Costello, who is 18, is heading to Mansfield College, Oxford, to study English.

The former Lymm High School student from Thelwall, said the IB had prepared her well for the university interview process.

"The IB interested me because of the way it appeals to universities," she said. "You get to keep a breadth of subjects without losing the depth of knowledge and it helps you to keep your options open."

Chris, Niamh and Connor will begin their studies at Oxford in October.

Senior tutor Mark Salmon said: "We'd like to congratulate Chris, Niamh and Connor on achieving their place at Oxford and all other Priestley students who have gone on to leading universities."

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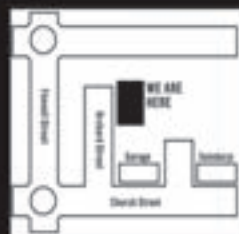
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The dangers of penalty points

by Jonathan Conder

Endorsement of penalty points is obligatory for many of the more common driving offences. Most drivers will be aware that if they accumulate 12 or more penalty points in a 3 year period they will be liable to disqualification from driving for a minimum period of 6 months, or longer where there has been a previous ban.

A court can decide not to impose penalty points for an offence which carries obligatory endorsement in very limited circumstances amounting to 'special reasons'. Where those circumstances do not apply a defendant should consider whether it is advisable to argue in court that exceptional hardship would result from disqualification.

The facts of the offence and ordinary hardship arising from disqualification are not relevant. This means that it is often necessary to demonstrate that the

ban would affect people other than the defendant, for instance where a relative who is elderly or infirm relies on the defendant to provide transport. Similarly if a ban would result in loss of employment and this would damage a business or the livelihood of others then these would be relevant considerations. The court will consider the effect of a ban on the defendant alone if the result would be particularly damaging, such as default on a mortgage or bankruptcy. The court will look very carefully at whether the defendant or others affected would have access to alternative means of transport. If the court is persuaded that exceptional hardship would result it can exercise its discretion to either disqualify for less than the mandatory minimum period or not to disqualify at all. However the penalty points are not wiped clean from the licence so drivers

have to exercise particular caution after a successful exceptional hardship argument because they will not be permitted to make another one for 3 years.

Drivers who have only recently passed their test need to be aware that if they accumulate 6 or more points in the 2 year probationary period following their test their licence will be revoked. This is not the same as disqualification but means that the driver will revert to provisional licence holder status and will have to pass a test again before regaining their full licence.

If you are facing a totting disqualification Widdows Mason has a number of solicitors who will be able to advise you about this area of the law and about other motoring offences. Please contact our criminal law department on the telephone number listed below.



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Financially yours

By David Watkinson

Real Time Information reporting approaching

The starting date for Real Time Information (RTI) reporting is approaching fast. If you have employees then you need to ensure that you are ready to implement it from 6th April. There is plenty of guidance on HMRC's website, but there are a number of basic points that you should be aware of if you wish to avoid penalties.

If you do not currently need to operate PAYE then the introduction of RTI does not alter this. Generally, this will apply if no employee either earns above the National Insurance "Lower Earnings Limit" or has another employment. However, if you currently operate PAYE then RTI will apply to all employees however little they earn. You may, for instance, have a number of full-time employees and additional part-time employees earning below the Lower Earnings Limit. Currently, PAYE reporting only applies to those employees where tax and/or national insurance is deducted. However, from April you will need to report payments made to all employees, including the part-time people.

There are a number of implications of the above:

1. If you operate PAYE for any employees you must ensure that you

have the information required by RTI for all employees including those not presently on the payroll, and that it is fully up-to-date. Whilst this information is basic, such as name, address, national insurance number, gender, etc. If any of this information is missing, you will not be able to submit the necessary reports in time, resulting in possible penalties.

2. It is possible that, even if all of your employees generally earn below the Lower Earnings Limit, an employee may temporarily increase their earnings sufficiently to become subject to PAYE; for instance if they cover for a colleague who is on holiday or on sick leave. This will require you to operate PAYE and, therefore, will bring all of your employees into the RTI reporting regime.

3. You should ensure that your recruitment procedures are adequate enough to ensure that all required information on new employees is available in sufficient time to make the necessary RTI reports.

Under the new regime you must make the RTI reports to the tax office before you make any payment to the employee. If you fail to ensure that you are ready for this



David Watkinson and Margaret Black

major change then you will be faced with the unenviable choice between not paying your employee or subjecting yourself to possible penalties. Whilst the tax office have said that they will be applying penalties with a "light touch" during the next 12 months this is certainly not an excuse for failing to make these preparations.

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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Wolves bonus to do the double



Left to right: Andy Gatcliffe (Wolves' chief executive), Tim Marshall (director of Doodson Broking Group), Simon Harrison (director of Doodson Broking Group), Alex Wilson (Wolves' senior sales executive)

WARRINGTON Wolves have been offered a £50,000 bonus if they achieve the elusive double in the 2013 season – winning the Grand Final and the Challenge Cup.

The bonus is offered by long-time sponsor insurance brokers Doodson, which specialises in sports insurance.

The North West based company has supported the team since 2009 as title sponsors of the away stand.

Neil Clayton, group managing director, said: "We have been sponsoring Warrington Wolves for a number of years, and in that time they have brought home the Challenge Cup trophy three times and also the League Leader's Shield. It's been a fantastic achievement.

"For the 2013 season we wanted to help inspire them to do the double and win the Grand Final too. We will be paying the team £50,000 if they win both the Grand Final and the Challenge Cup in 2013."

Money would be used to help fund further development of the club, helping continue the great work done in the club and community.

Andy Gatcliffe, Wolves' chief executive, said: "As a club and team we have been growing year on year, both on and off the field, and 2013 will be no different as we look to build on the success of 2012.

"Last year saw us lift the Challenge Cup silverware for the third time in four years and reach the Grand Final for the first time in Super League these were experiences that everyone involved with the club would like to relive."

New look for young Sharks



RYLANDS Sharks Under 12s rugby team will have a brand new look for the new season thanks to a new sponsor.

Warrington letting agents Northwood have given the team £300 for new sweatshirts, in dark blue and white, for the 21 players.

The team, coached by Darren McLaughlin and Carl Turner, will be competing in the Northwest County Cup for the first time this season starting on March 24.

Northwood administrator Catherine Bradley suggested the company sponsor the team as her son Jack Connor is a player.

She said: "We wanted to support the local community and so agreed to sponsor the team. We intend to keep supporting them in the future."

£34 million loan to head off street lighting crisis

WARRINGTON needs to borrow £34 million over a period of three years to head off a crisis facing street lighting across the borough.

The "invest to save" project will replace 22,000 existing lanterns with modern, low energy lamps and also replace deteriorating lighting columns.

It will also avert the very real possibility of the borough council having to switch off half its 27,697 street lamps.

Soar

Current spending on street lighting energy is more than £1.4 million - representing 17 per cent of the borough council's energy costs - and within five years it is expected to soar to £2.4 million.

In addition, 61 per cent of lighting columns are 25 years old or older and 36 per cent are older than 40 years - with the average life of column put at 25-30 years.

This means about 17,000 columns are in need of replacement, with 10,000 at high risk of failure.

Basic cost of replacing a lighting column is £950 which means the cost of replacing all 17,000 aging columns is £16 million. Replacing 10,000 "high risk" columns will cost £9 million.

Current budget provision would allow an average of 500 columns a year to be replaced

Carbon emission

Street lighting also accounts for 17 per cent of the council's carbon emissions.

Interestingly, the council has no statutory duty to provide street lighting, the original purpose of which was to prevent crime. It was unrelated to highway safety - however it is recognised that it does contribute to road and community safety.

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Stadium plans welcomed

WARRINGTON Town Football Club's ambitious plans for a 5,000 to 6,000 seater stadium at Omega, the £1bn, 233 ha (575-acres) mixed-use development site at Junction 8 of the M62, have been welcomed by the site's delivery partners.

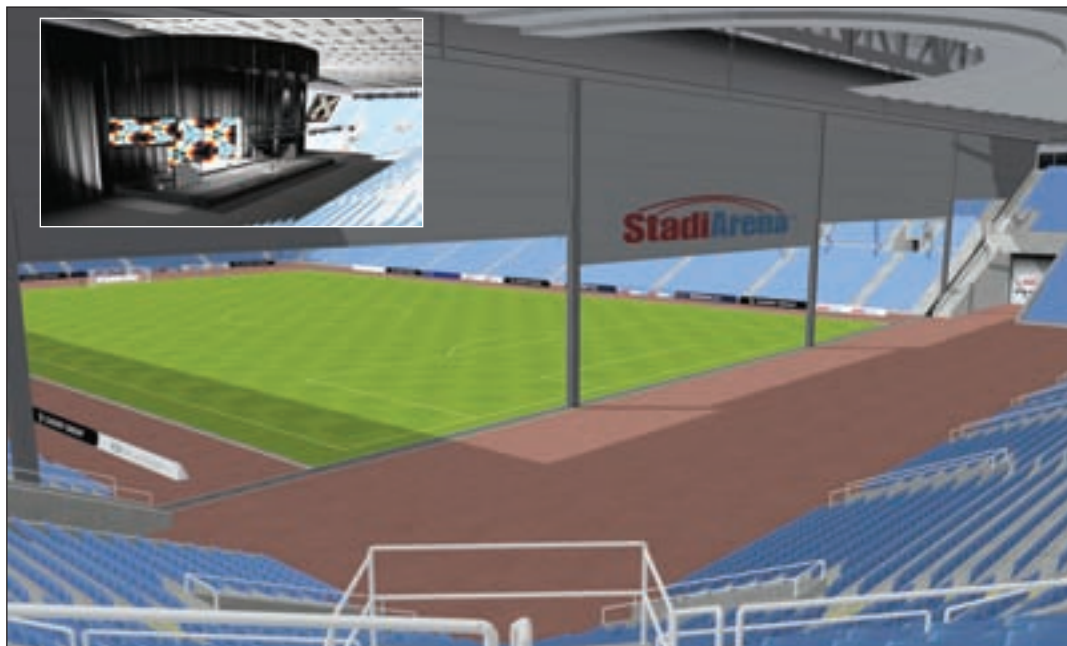
Although proposals have not yet been presented to the site's delivery partners, Omega Warrington Ltd, a joint venture between Miller Developments and KUC Properties Ltd, in partnership with The Homes and Communities Agency and supported by Warrington Borough Council, the club's ambitions have been welcomed.

Andrew Sutherland, joint Managing Director of Miller Developments and a partner of Omega Warrington Ltd (OWL), said of the football club's ambitions:

"It is excellent news for Warrington that the club is looking seriously at a considerable investment for a stadium and facilities that I'm sure will be welcomed by its staff, players and fans.

"The Council, HCA and ourselves would be happy to consider its incorporation in the Masterplan subject to receiving a viable business plan from the club."

The Omega opportunity is set to deliver 24,000 jobs for a range of



skills in the North West over the next 25 years.

Mr Sutherland added: "As OWL has said throughout, the main focus for this major site is the Growth Agenda and the securing of jobs for the people of the North West, whether via permanent or construction-led opportunities. The partnership has been working hard to achieve this and we have seen a quantum leap in demand from occupiers over the last few months meaning hundreds of jobs can be delivered in the next couple of years."

In December 2012, Omega Warrington Ltd announced the first

occupier for Omega North and Brakes, the grocery & fresh food suppliers, is now on site and due for completion by the end of the summer 2013. This first occupier will bring hundreds of new jobs to Warrington and a series of further investments, by occupiers looking to expand, are about to be announced. These are likely to generate in excess of 2,200 further long term jobs in the next couple of years plus around 1,000 construction jobs.

Councillor Terry O'Neill, Leader of Warrington Borough Council said: "Investment in Warrington is a great news story and one which the Council welcomes with open arms. Warrington FC is well regarded in the town and is a great asset not just in sporting terms but also for its support of the local community.

"We look forward to seeing a viable business plan for the stadium in order that we can consider whether it

can be incorporated into the Masterplan for Omega."

Deborah McLaughlin, North West Executive Director at the HCA said: "Omega is a significant opportunity to make a real difference in jobs terms to Warrington and the North West after a very challenging economic period. Considerable investment has already been undertaken by partners, both public and private sector, to ensure this site is 'open for business' when the market picked up. With recent and further imminent occupier success meaning this can finally be achieved, we need to ensure every square metre of Omega can assist the wider economic development objectives for the borough.

She added: "With this in mind, the Warrington FC proposals for Omega, and any other plans brought forward, will need to be assessed against that context to ensure the best possible, long-term investment for Warrington."

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Primrose and blue wall unveiled

A new Supporters Wall at the Halliwell Jones Stadium has been unveiled by Warrington Wolves.

A large turnout of supporters was on hand to cheer as the wall was put on show.

Mayor of Warrington Cllr Steve Wright, leader of the council Cllr Terry O'Neill, Wolves' chairman Steven Broomhead and club ambassador Alex Murphy cut the official ribbon to unveil the Primrose and Blue wall of messages.

Supporters were then given the opportunity to search the wall for their brick. The centre-piece to the wall commemorates the Wolves' Challenge Cup victory last year.

Andy Gatcliffe, Wolves' chief executive, said: "On behalf of the club I would like to thank all of our supporters for your continued loyalty. You once again turned out in large numbers for the unveiling of the wall which we believe celebrates everything that is Primrose and Blue giving you the chance to leave your mark at the stadium.

"You have played a huge part in making the club the success it is today and we look forward to sharing the new season with you both home and away."

Now we wait Arpley tip appeal

COUNCIL chiefs at Warrington are now waiting for the almost inevitable appeal against the planners' decision to refuse to allow a 12-year extension to the operational life of the giant Arpley landfill site.

As things stand, the tip must cease operating in October. But site operators Waste Recycling Group are likely to appeal before then - particularly as they allege the borough council has failed to follow correct procedures in the run-up to the application.

More than 100 local people attended a special meeting of the borough council's development management committee at the Parr Hall and heard councillors unanimously decide to refuse consent. Cllr Bob Barr, a member of the committee, expressed disbelief at what he described as the applicants' apparent naivety.

He said: "They cannot have failed to realise that the people of Warrington would not tolerate any extension to the operation of the tip. When planning permission was originally granted for 25 years expiring in 2013, it meant precisely that - no extension. Protests about the operation of the tip, the noise, the pollution, the traffic and the breaches of operating conditions must have been heard by the applicants who should have known that there were overwhelming planning reasons to refuse the application."

"Yet they came to the meeting putting up a last minute legal challenge to some minor aspects of the handling of the application, rather than explaining how they would satisfy residents. That was because they knew they couldn't persuade the people of Warrington to tolerate this noxious site anymore."

The proposals united political parties with Labour, Liberal Democrat and Conservatives opposing the application.

Clay pigeon plan thrown out

A CONTROVERSIAL plan to establish a clay pigeon shooting club on Green Belt land at Rixton, Warrington has been thrown out by planning chiefs.

Members of the borough council's development management committee voted unanimously to refuse permission for the change of use of land at Prospect Farm, Prospect Lane, Rixton. A total of 358 individual objections were received, plus two petitions signed by a total of 269 people. There were also objections from Birchwood Town Council, Rixton-with-Glazebrook Parish Council, the Campaign for the Protection of Rural England, Warrington Nature Conservation Forum, the borough council's natural environment officer, Risley Moss Action Group and Woolston Eyes Conservation Group.

The plan involved using farm land for a clay pigeon shooting club, with a clubhouse and associated parking spaces. The committee was told that clay pigeon shooting was allowed on 28 days in a year without planning consent. But if the application was approved it would take place two or three times a week throughout the year.

The applicants - the Prospect Target Club - claimed the development would provide essential and secure training for amateur and professional shooters.

Ten new jobs would be created and five existing jobs retained and the facility would attract £400,000 a year in consumer expenditure at local hotels, food, retail and leisure outlets.

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