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Editor
Gary Skentelbery

Production
Paul Walker

Advertising
James Balme
Nick White
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
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Address
New Media Centre
Old Road Warrington
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THERE is plenty of positive news coming out of Warrington at the moment with the town apparently punching above its weight in the fight to get the economy back on track.

Being listed as one of the "top 10 cities" in the UK for private sector jobs growth with the third highest employment rate and the 10th highest earnings, are just some of the positives for our town.

In Birchwood there has been a 29 per cent increase in office lettings while MEPC Birchwood Park is investing £1.3m in road networks. Further details on all these positive news stories can be found elsewhere in this issue.

But on the downside Warrington is set to bid a fond farewell to Whites Sports on Warrington Market after 113 years!

It is always sad to see a business which has been part of our town's history disappear and I am sure many readers will have fond memories of their visits to the sports shop, which is hoping to be entered into the Guinness Book of records for the longest established Family Sports Business.

It is becoming increasingly difficult for small businesses to compete with the national chains and our buying habits have also changed, with more and more people now buying online.

I would like to take the opportunity

of wishing Susan White a happy retirement and thank her and her family for all their support over the years since we first launched our magazine. The family business name will live on through her sons Adam and Roger who have helped take the business into the 21st century online at www.whitesports.com

In the meantime if you want to take a trip down memory lane you still have a chance to visit the stall at the back of Warrington Market until the end of April and pick up a bargain!

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Lauren is a natural



TEENAGER Lauren Lyon is celebrating winning through to her first beauty pageant - at the first attempt and is now automatically through to compete in Miss Teen England.

Lauren, aged 14, a pupil at Sir Thomas Boteler High School, from Latchford, Warrington, was told she was "a natural" during a photo shoot at the LMI Photographic Studio in Liverpool, and was encouraged to enter the competition.

She went through her auditions and won through to the final and is now considering a career in modelling.

She will be competing for the

"Miss Little Independent" title and is now on the look out for sponsors to help her progress.

A delighted Lauren said: "I hadn't really thought much about a modelling career until winning through to this final. I was told by the photographer that I am a natural so I am now hoping it may lead to a career in modelling."

The event takes place at the Hilton Hotel in Liverpool on March 23.

Any business interested in sponsoring Lauren can contact her via dad Jason on 0790 1119305 or by emailing lyon2@sky.com

Golden opportunity to 'Engage Warrington'

WARRINGTON Wolves Foundation has teamed up with Golden Gates Housing to "Engage Warrington" with free activities for children and young people.

Youngsters can get a taste of rugby, football, dodgeball, handball, martial arts, art, cricket and much more - all for free.

The events take place at the Ball Hall, Westy on Mondays, 3-5pm, Orford Park Jubilee Hub, Tuesdays, 4-5pm, St Marks Church, Dallam, on Wednesdays, 5.30-6.30pm and Fearnhead Community Park, Padgate on Thursdays from 4-5pm.

Five-seven year-olds must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

There is no need to book in advance, just turn up and enjoy the fun.

There are also volunteering opportunities for 14-19 year-olds with a recognised certificate in volunteering.

Follow Engage Warrington at www.facebook.com/EngageWarrington

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Hello and welcome to my monthly column . . .

Hypnotes

by Michael Mahoney

Achievement

What have you achieved today? This week? This month? Last month? This year?

Are you able to put your hand on your heart and say to yourself or anybody else for that matter, that you have achieved any of your goals, dreams or wishes lately?

It is not long ago that many people were making New Year's resolutions, to achieve this, that or the other and yet, statistically 80% of people fail to keep to them. Are you one of those 80% or one of the 20% who managed to succeed in achieving their resolution? I hope you were one of the latter, because achieving a meaningful goal brings confidence, more determination, increased self-esteem and greater drive to achieve even more.

However if you are in the 80% you may be at the stage where you have finally managed to brush off the importance of the now unimportant goal. You may have managed to blame someone else for your failure, or created tight timeframes which were just too tight to achieve anything outside of them, or you might simply have decided that there is always next year to try again ... isn't there??

Some people however will be

using lots of time and energy in beating themselves up for their failure, once again they have will proved to themselves and to others that they are 'useless' and yet they are most often far from it. All they needed was a little support or guidance. Perhaps they simply needed to have a mentor, or an encourager or guide to give them a little support. In reality you only really fail once you stop trying.

My old high school motto is perseverance, which according to Merriam-Webster dictionary means "the quality that allows someone to continue trying to do something even though it is difficult". Most things worth achieving are difficult. Learning to change can be almost a full time job, if you allow it to become one. Change brings growth, wisdom, rewards, but it also brings unfamiliarity, hesitancy and can sometimes be very scary indeed.

However, in times of change we need to remember that unfamiliarity is not necessarily wrong, it is just unfamiliar. We also need time to rest and absorb the changes so they can become familiar. Whether we are happy or sad, confident or afraid like any emotion, they are simply caused by a thought, so change the

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



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

thought and you change the feeling /emotion.

For many years I have been helping people to change, whether it be professionally or personally. I have helped people to achieve their goals, dreams and wishes. Each and every one of us has masses of potential. Each and every one of us has the power to change those things we want to change, however we need to know it will not always be easy, though often much easier than expected, sometimes it is scary, but often less scary than staying stuck, and sometimes it just needs a deep breath, the will to pick up a phone or click on a mouse, to start your journey. I and Cate Todd have 47 years' experience between us, helping people to achieve their goals. Contact us on 01925-658322 or at www.michaelmahoneyhypnotherapist.com to begin your journey. What do you want to achieve today?



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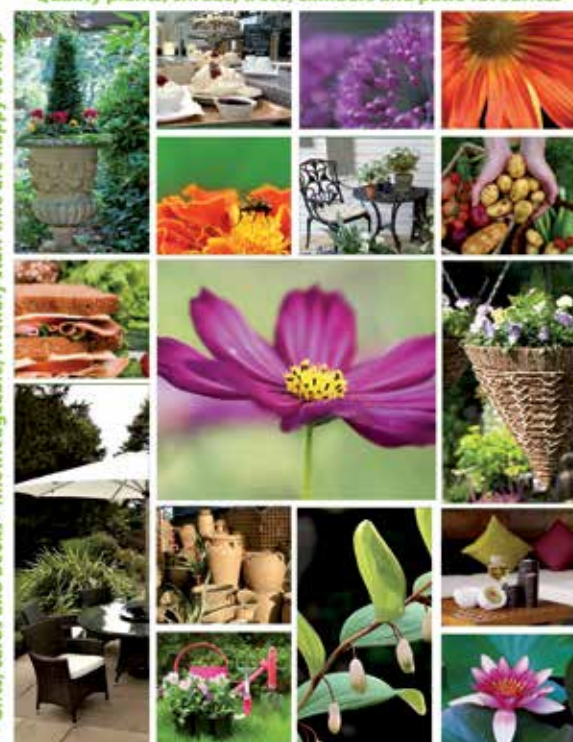
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Hairdressing academy recruiting again

A hairdressing academy launched in Warrington last year delivering apprenticeship opportunities is looking for new recruits again.

Based at Callaghan's hair salon on Sankey Street, Warrington, the Cheshire Academy of Hairdressing, is the first facility of its kind in the area and is now actively looking to recruit apprentices aged 16-24, providing exciting opportunities for highly motivated people to acquire skills and qualifications, while working in the hairdressing industry.

Under the guidance of Salon and Academy Director Stuart Callaghan, Academy Director Claire Aldous and Creative Director Andrea Potts, who between them have more than 60 years combined experience in the industry, apprentices will undertake a programme of training tailored to meet their needs, starting in September.

They will work towards gaining NVQ's at level 2 and 3 and qualifications in functional skills Maths and English, Employment Rights and Responsibilities, Equality and Diversity and Personal Learning and Thinking Skills. Apprentices will have the opportunity to experience all aspects of the hairdressing industry, involving theory to back up the practical skills of cutting, colouring and all other related tasks. Classes will be small, with a maximum of 10 students.

Although based at Callaghan's the Academy will offer placements for other salons within the area.

For more details call 01925 575785 or visit www.callaghanhairdressing.co.uk



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- Apprenticeships are for people of all ages from 16-24 years of age. The apprenticeship programme provides an exciting opportunity for highly motivated people to acquire skills and qualifications whilst at the same time working within the hairdressing industry.
- Apprentices will undertake a programme of training tailored to meet their needs. They will be working towards gaining NVQ's at levels 2 and 3 and qualifications in Functional Skills, Maths and English, Employment Rights and Responsibilities, Equality and Diversity and Personal Learning and Thinking Skills.
- Our apprentices will have the opportunity to experience all aspects of the hairdressing industry. This will involve theory to back up the practical skills of cutting, colouring and all other related tasks.
- Assessment of skills and knowledge will be assessed both at the Academy by qualified and experienced trainers and in salon.
- Classes will be small – with a maximum of 10 students. Students have found this to be a friendlier atmosphere to work in and the tutors have a better relationship with all of their students.

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Business

Warrington – the real place of choice for investors

FURTHER evidence that Warrington is bucking the recession has been revealed in the office market sector which has seen lettings increase by almost a third during the past 12 months.

Warrington's office market has seen a 29% rise in deals with occupiers as office lettings rose in 2013 by 395,163 sq ft.

The most notable two transactions of the year total 69,000sq ft., comprising the letting of The Point in Birchwood where MDS took a lease on the 30,000 sq ft HQ building, and the 38,759 sq ft re-letting of Renaissance House on Centre Park, Warrington to the IPCC.

Simon Roddam, associate director and head of agency at Warrington property consultancy BE Group, and spokesman for Manchester Office Agents Forum

(MOAF), said: "Warrington continues to react well to demand from larger occupiers seeking good quality HQ accommodation. With new buildings for Golden Gates Housing, Phonak and Your Housing nearing completion, and the recent letting in Birchwood to MDS, there are clear signs of an upsurge in the Warrington office market."

Leasehold transactions accounted for 71% of take up in 2013, however a good level of owner occupier demand has been sustained with 14 transactions accounted in total, of which included the 20,000 sq ft sale of Millennium House in Birchwood to a government department.

Steve Park, (pictured right) managing director, Warrington & Co., Warrington's partnership for growth added: "These figures are encouraging and are the latest in

a series of very strong economic statistics, demonstrating that Warrington is a real place of choice for investors."

A recent "Centre for Cities" report comparing the performance of 64 cities and major towns across the country showed Warrington in the top 10 for private sector jobs growth over the period 2010 to 2012.

Warrington also has the third highest employment rate in the country at 77.5 per cent over the period July 2012 to June 2013.

The town also has the sixth highest proportion of private sector employment and the 10th highest average earnings with an average wage of £507 a week.



Drum Business Support leads the way

A SMALL local business providing business support services appears to be the first in Warrington to appear on the Government sponsored Growth Vouchers website as an accredited adviser.

Launched by prime Minister David Cameron, Government Growth vouchers is a Government scheme under which small and

micro business are able to apply for up 50% of costs of help/advice to a maximum of £2000.

Dave Smith of Drum Business Support Services said: "Surprisingly I could find no other Warrington based businesses on the site but they need to get a move on if they hope to help clients at the same time as reducing their clients' costs. Small

businesses seeking help/advice should also register."

Up to £30 million has been made available under the scheme which runs until March 2015.

Dave can be contacted via his profile on the Government sponsored website at: <https://marketplace.enterprisenation.com/marketplaces/businesses/1010>

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Work starts on £2.2m park facelift

WORK on the £2.2 million transformation of Warrington's Bank Park has got under way.

First step was the removal of the holly hedge that cuts across the park along with a number of trees, which will allow the reinstatement of the path layout as set out when the park was originally created more than 150 years ago.

Works are being undertaken at the present time in order to minimise disruption to wildlife.

The Bank Park public consultation exercise held in the autumn received an enthusiastic response and there was general agreement to restoration of the original path layout, which people thought would make the park more open and appealing.

A number of comments were made regarding the need to replace the trees and hedges that have to be removed and this will be undertaken later on in the refurbishment programme.

The borough council intend to replace the bowling greens with floodlit, all-weather greens, refurbish the toilet block, create new playground facilities that are inclusive of older children and, subject to further consultation, build a new pavilion.

The funding for the works will come from the council's capital programme and so will not affect the delivery of front line services.

Cllr Kate Hannon, lead member for leisure, community and culture, said: "This is an historic day. This

is the first step in transforming our much treasured Bank Park.

"It will initially look strange with the hedge removed but this will open up the park and it is necessary to do this work now for ecological reasons. Work will start on creating the new pathways early in the coming weeks.

"We are looking forward to sharing revised plans for the park with the public soon, particularly those for the pavilion, having incorporated the valuable feedback that we received in the consultation exercise held last year into the new designs.

"Like all of the parks in the borough, Bank Park belongs to the people of Warrington and the council is enjoying working with residents and businesses in reinventing its future as a vibrant town 'front garden'.



The Mayor, Cllr Peter Carey, and Cllr Kate Hannon, with the parks team at Bank Park.

Smokers urged to quit for a healthy future

SMOKERS who tried giving up in January are being urged to take advantage of free support available from local leisure provider LiveWire to improve their health and save money.

The message comes as a reminder to the thousands of local smokers who aimed to quit as part of their New Year's resolutions, that there is free help available in Warrington to get you back on track with LiveWire's stop smoking sessions. Here trained advisers will help you create a stop smoking plan including; setting a quit date, dealing with barriers and helping you feel positive throughout your quit attempt.

More than 14 per cent of people in Warrington still smoke and figures released by Tobacco Free Futures show that smoking costs in the region approximately £37,700,000 every year through demands on NHS services, loss of productivity from sick days and early death, as well as litter and fires.

To find your nearest free drop-in session visit www.livewirewarrington.co.uk

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Borough launches flood risk strategy

A MAJOR consultation has been launched at Warrington ahead of the borough's first flood risk management strategy.

The borough council want to hear the views of residents, businesses and other local stakeholders before adopting the proposals.

A draft strategy can be seen online at www.warrington.gov.uk/

flood risk and people can have their say until March 31.

There is an online questionnaire or respondents can email or post their views.

Cllr Linda Dirir the council's lead member for highways, transportation and climate change, said: "The borough council is now responsible for managing local sources of flood risk. That includes

flood risk from groundwater, surface water runoff and ordinary watercourses, such as ditches.

"We've already produced a draft local flood risk management strategy that outlines the responsibilities of the council and other risk management authorities, such as the Environment Agency and United Utilities.

"The draft strategy is available

on the council website and your comments will help us to develop the strategy further."

Cllr Dirir added: "This is Warrington's first flood risk management strategy and it's really important to make sure we get it right. So please do look at the draft strategy and please give us your views."

Fastest growing Toastmaster's club

WARRINGTON Toastmasters have been named as the fastest growing Toastmasters Club in the UK

The club was only formed in mid-2011 and already has 45 members – with more joining every week.

Worldwide, the Toastmasters have more than 280,000 members.

The organising prides itself on helping members to gain self-confidence, have fun, meet friendly new people, overcome fears of public speaking, become more successful in their careers and enhancing relationships.

The club meets at the Village Urban Resort hotel on Centre Park, Warrington on Mondays at 7.30pm.

More details are available at warringtontoastmasters.org.uk or calling Kristin O'Mara on 07929 243 934.

Members of Warrington Toastmaster's Club.



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Jordan is a leading light

A YOUNG technician who has shed light on many a theatrical production in Warrington has secured a place at one of the UK's top universities.

Jordan Simpson, from Great Sankey, has been accepted into the Royal Central School for Speech and Drama, which counts Dame Judi Dench, Stephen Fry and Carrie Fisher as alumni.

The 18-year-old, who is studying Production Arts at Priestley College, is one of only six per cent of applicants who secured a place at the London university.

The former Penketh High School pupil said: "I felt lucky just to get an interview. I'm so passionate about what I want to do that I think that came across when I spoke to them and in my personal statement."

"I told them I felt I was hitting my potential at Priestley and wanted to learn in more detail about production lighting."

Jordan is on course for D*D* in his Production Arts BTEC at Priestley when he finishes this summer.

While at the college he has built up his skills as a lighting technician, illuminating and adding drama to numerous shows including a performance of "We Will Rock You" which he deputy stage managed.

He's also thrown his talent and time into helping at local youth drama group CODYS Productions and in total has worked on 19 shows in Warrington.

It was while he was at Penketh High that he discovered his love of lighting when he was asked to take charge of the illuminations for "West Side Story" aged just 13.

"I enjoyed it so much I took the manual home and learned about it in more detail," said Jordan.

For more than 100 years Royal Central has been renowned for producing some of the finest actors, designers, technicians, performance professionals and educators in the industry.

Professional directors and designers will often work alongside students, or as mentors on projects.

Other alumni include Lord Laurence Olivier, Vanessa Redgrave and Harold Pinter.

Priestley's head of Performing Arts Sarah Graham said: "Jordan's love for what he does has been obvious to everyone he's worked with at Priestley. He thoroughly deserves the place he has been offered at Central."

850 attended jobs fair

A TOTAL of 850 people attended a jobs fair hosted by Warrington South MP David Mowat (pictured).

More than 40 employers were on hand to offer vacancies and apprenticeships - and provisional feedback from the companies who attended suggested that the event had produced over 300 follow-up conversations between employers and potential employees.

The event was sponsored by Ombudsman Services and Sellafield Ltd.

Afterwards, Mr Mowat said: "I'm delighted by the success of the jobs fair. The feedback from the employers was that they were highly impressed with the quality and the enthusiasm of those who



attended. "The numbers of people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance has been falling steadily in recent months and I hope that this will put a further dent in the figures."

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Choir welcomes acclaimed Welsh Tenor

HIGHLY acclaimed Welsh Tenor Rhys Meirion will be sharing the stage with Warrington Male Voice Choir for an evening of 'Music & Memories' just weeks after performing at Carnegie Hall, New York.

The concert on March 29 at the Parr Hall, will acknowledge the 20th anniversary of the choir's first of many concerts and other activities across the Island of Ireland, to promote peace and reconciliation through music, following the IRA bombing in Warrington in 1993.

Rhys Meirion travelled over to New York in January to perform at Carnegie Hall as part of a concert to celebrate the 70th birthday of composer Karl Jenkins.

Warrington Male Voice Choir

chairman Bob Williams said; "We are delighted that Rhys will be with us on stage in March. Just like Karl Jenkins, we too are fortunate in having such an outstanding soloist join us. It promises to be a great evening of music and, of course memories, as we recall the choir's work across the island of Ireland over many years".

It was in recognition of the choir's efforts to promote peace and reconciliation in Northern Ireland that in 1996 Terry Waite

CBE accepted the choir's invitation to become Patron. The choir are therefore particularly pleased that, for this special evening, Terry will also be present. Finally, as part of the choir's 'In harmony with the community' programme, Penketh South Community Primary School Choir will be appearing and singing some of their favourite songs.

A collection will also be made on the night for the choir's 2014 charity; Fisher House 'A home from home' providing support for the families of military personnel recovering at Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham.



Starting at 7.30pm, tickets priced at £10 can be bought by ringing 01925 442345, visiting www.pyramidparrhall.com

Open Evening for Fertility and Gynaecology

REPRODUCTIVE Health Group are delighted to welcome anyone with an interest in women's health to their Open Evening at the Centre for Reproductive Health, Daresbury Park, on Wednesday March, 19 6.30pm – 8.30pm.

The team of consultants, specialist nurses, embryologists, counsellors and complementary therapists will be on hand to provide the latest information on the full range of fertility treatments, investigations and diagnostics, plus common gynaecological conditions including endometriosis, polycystic ovary syndrome, fibroids, menstrual disorders, menopause, urogynaecology and recurrent miscarriage.

The Centre for Reproductive Health, conveniently located two minutes from Junction 11 of the M56, is the North West's newest assisted conception centre offering the most up to date technologies and clinical facilities. For more information please see www.reproductivehealthgroup.co.uk.

To reserve places at the Open Evening, please email aekersley@reproductivehealthgroup.co.uk or book online at www.reproductivehealthgroup.co.uk

Free parking and refreshments provided.

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 Middle: L-R: Baron, Poching, Currie, Hill, Waterhouse, England, G Riley, J Monaghan, Laithwaite, Atkins, Marshall, Stirling
 Back: L-R: Harrison, R Evans, B Evans, Grix, Asotasi

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ST. ROCCO'S HOSPICE

news

Starlight

LADIES WALK 2014
Midnight, Friday 20th June

A fantastic night of fun and fitness... all in aid of St. Rocco's Hospice



The St. Rocco's Starlight Walk is the Biggest and Best Ladies Night in Warrington. It's also a great opportunity to raise funds for a very special place.

St. Rocco's Hospice cares for patients with life threatening illnesses and also offers support to their families and loved ones. All of our care and support is given completely free of charge, but we have to raise over £2.9 million every year just to keep going. This is where you come in...

Whether you are walking in memory of a loved one or a fun night out with friends and family this is sure to be 'A Walk to Remember'

What is the Starlight Walk?

The Starlight Walk is a ladies only sponsored walk beginning at Midnight on the Friday 20th June 2014 at Orford Jubilee Park. The walk follows a well-established, well marshalled route through Warrington Town Centre, Latchford, Padgate and Orford. Ladies who participate can walk one circuit of 6.5 miles or two circuits of 13 miles to complete a half marathon!

How to take part

With the early bird offer, registration is just £12. This offer runs until the 30th April 2014, after which the registration fee will be £15. We keep the registration fee low to cover the costs of the event which means your sponsorship really counts!! Every penny and pound we receive from your sponsorship will go towards providing care for our hospice patients. Every walker receives a Starlight T-Shirt, medal, and refreshments on the night and of course A Walk to Remember...

Forthcoming Events 2014

March

- 2nd** Adidas Half Marathon - Silverstone Race track
- 10th** High School Voice - Thomas Boetler School

April

- 3rd** Quiz night & Hot Pot Supper - Statham Lodge

- 13th** Virgin London Marathon

May

- 12th -18th** Will Week

- 18th** Bupa 10k Great Manchester Run

- ▶ Yellow Week

June

- 20th** Ladies Starlight Walk

- ▶ Lymm Garden Walks & Festival

July

- ▶ Cheshire Plains & Peaks Cycle Sportive

- ▶ Proms in the Park

August

- 3rd** Dragon Boat Race

- 25th (Bank Holiday)**

- St. Rocco's Colour Rush

September

- 2nd** Golf Day - Carden Park

- 21st** English Half Marathon - places available

- 25th** It's a Knockout

October

- 9th** The Ultimate Firewalk

- ▶ Children's lantern parade/ moonlit walk

November

- 13th** Ladies Autumn Lunch

December

- 14th** Strictly St. Rocco's

- 7th & 11th** Light Up a Life

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...

Sister Tracy Redmond, Nursing Sister, Inpatient Unit

Tracy has been a nurse at St. Rocco's for almost twenty years, having joined the hospice straight from her nurse training in Manchester.

"When I first came to St. Rocco's the hospice was much smaller, wasn't purpose built and had fewer beds. It's amazing to look back and see how things have changed and how my own role has changed, progressing from nurse, to staff nurse and then to Sister of the Unit – a position I've held now for 10 years.

No day is the same but some things happen as a matter of routine. We always start with a handover in the morning, at which the night staff report how the patients have been during the evening and if there have been any changes. Then we prepare the medicines and help with the doctor's rounds. We try to work around each patient's individual needs. As a Sister I manage the staff who look after patients, as well as looking after the patients themselves. I'm also involved in interdepartmental meetings and meet regularly with the family support and day therapy teams to discuss updates and changes.

My favourite part of the job is being around people. I love the fact that we as nurses can help make a real difference to each family we care for. It's a chance to give something back and to be part of something very special. Being a nurse in an environment where you can take positives from each day and can give those positives back in patient care is part of why we nurse.

Our future plans for the hospice are exciting too. We are about to open a new communal area which is being built as an extension to the existing In Patient Unit. Many of our patients are not necessarily bed bound and want the opportunity to socialise. So this communal area will be perfect. We think it will be fresh, comfortable and also practical.

One of the best ways to describe the difference this area will make is if I reflect back to April 2011 when the Royal Wedding was taking place. It's a day when everyone can remember what they were doing and where. At that time, there was no communal area in our Unit and no TV. We were fortunate enough to be lent a TV for the day which we set up in an area in the corridor and brought



the patients out of their bedrooms to see the wedding. We thought we would 'bring the party to them', so we improvised with what we had. In the next few weeks we will have an area that will be used every day for this purpose and for special occasions too. It will be great for patients to socialise with each other and their families, offering a 'home from home' feel.

Tracy had first hand experience of what it is to give patients and their family quality, special care at such a difficult time when two years ago her mum, Veronica, became ill and was cared for at St. Rocco's. During this time Tracy was able to see things from the relative's point of view and understand just how much the care she and her team deliver means to the families at the hospice.

"Now I've seen things from both sides, I can honestly say the team at St. Rocco's is very special - I feel so lucky and privileged to work alongside such a compassionate, caring and professional team!"



New communal area for St. Rocco's!

This month, St. Rocco's will unveil a brand new communal area which will bring immediate benefit to patients and their families. The area, an extension which has been built onto the hospice In Patient Unit, will provide a shared dining and living area where patients can have meals, socialise and enjoy time with other patients and with their families.

Alison White, St. Rocco's Matron explains why the new extension is so important:

"Individuality and choice are two of the most important things we hope to provide for our patients here at St. Rocco's which is why this new area will be so important. All our bedrooms have ensuite facilities, which are brilliant! But not everyone wants to eat, sleep and socialise in their bedrooms!

"The new building was designed to be a real home from home environment and it's been built in the perfect location. We can open brand new conservatory doors onto beautiful gardens; making it much more accessible for our patients. It is also about bringing the external environment indoors- a wonderful thing for many of our patients who cannot physically walk outside".

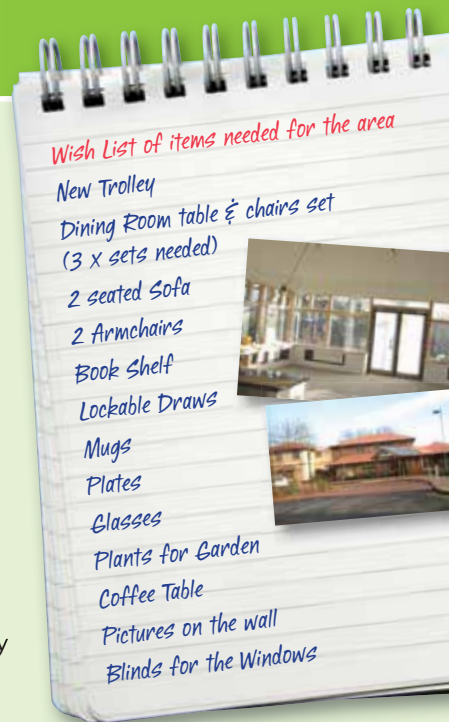
Alison is keen to point out that the room will also serve a very special function in providing an environment for special occasions such as weddings, christenings and anniversaries. "If the patients can't attend these special occasions outside the hospice" says Alison "we can bring these occasions to them inside the hospice."

St. Rocco's received a grant from NHS England towards the new build and also received many generous donations from the community. Alison says, "In particular, the support of companies who were raising funds as part of the Corporate Challenge was really important in helping to build this new communal area. It's wonderful when people are willing to help, willing to raise funds to make a difference to those who they may never meet or know".

Although the new area will be complete within weeks, it will also have an 'official' opening in May, when members of the public will be invited to come and look round. "We are all delighted and excited that the internationally renowned concert pianist and former Warrington resident Stephen Hough will perform the official opening of the new build here at the hospice in May" said Ali.

"We are so grateful to everyone who has contributed to this project and we really hope people will continue to help us as we fundraise for the fixtures and fittings.

If you would like to help by donating funds for the any of the items on the Communal Area Wish list, please contact the fundraising team on 01925 575780.



Strictly St. Rocco's A Glamorous Glitterball Evening



Congratulations to Vicky Stockman of the Warrington Guardian - winner of the inaugural Strictly St Rocco's event -which took place on 1st December 2013 at Mere Golf and Country Club. Over 350 guests watched the ten amateur dancers compete with their professionals in a lavish evening of dancing fun and fundraising. **Over £31,000 was raised on the night.**

See Cheshire Life January edition for more photos!

To book tickets for this year's Strictly event which takes place on 14th December 2014, contact the Fundraising Team on 01925 575780

Adrenaline Rush

Have you got a sense of adventure and fancy a challenge?
 This year why not do something extraordinary
 Push your boundaries and dare to be different whilst
 supporting St. Rocco's at the same time!

You can take part in an adrenaline rush event like a skydive, bungee jump or zip wire;
 a challenge like a marathon, cycle ride or sailing activity or even try a challenge abroad!

Hospice Challenge events and activities have increased dramatically over the past
 five years, with St. Rocco's supporters looking for more exciting and challenging ways
 to raise money. We hope that during 2014 more of you will join our team of Hospice
 Heroes and run, cycle, climb, jump or walk for St. Rocco's!



2014 Challenge Events

- Bupa 10k Great Manchester Run
- Starlight Ladies Walk
- Cheshire Plains and Peaks
- English Half Marathon
- Adidas Half Marathon
- Colour Rush



DONT FORGET...

You can sign up for the **BUPA Great Manchester 10k**,
St. Rocco's Cycle Challenge, Ride London or any of the
 events on this page - just give us a call: 01925 575780
 or Email laurentilston@stroccos.org.uk

Ride
 London
 2013



St. Rocco's Dragon Boat Race. Sunday 3rd August 2014

Last August, St Rocco's hosted one of the most exciting
 Dragon Boat finals in history! Twenty teams, including 3
 teams from Warrington Borough Council's Waste And
 Recycling Department, competed for the St Rocco's Dragon
 Boat trophy. In a nail biting final, the winning team won 'on
 the nose' with only a 0.09 second lead!

Mighty Ducks - a team from WBC - won
 the race, with a second team from WBC
 - **The A team**, coming a very close
 second and **Dainty's Dragons** third.
 Collectively **£26,700** was raised from
 the event - an amazing achievement
 - with all proceeds going towards
 caring for patients at St. Rocco's.



St Rocco's Dragon Boat Race 2014 will be on Sunday
 August 3rd 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

Dragon Boat Racing has established itself as one of the
 country's fastest growing water sports; so if you have not
 tried it - now is your chance!

Anyone can take part. All boats and equipment are
 provided, training is given and no previous experience or
 particular level of fitness is required. It's a wonderful way to
 raise money for St. Rocco's Hospice, and at the same time
 have an action packed day!

**Places are limited; so if you would like to take part,
 please contact the Fundraising Team on 01925 575780.**

St Rocco's Dragon Boat Race 2013...Results

1st	The Mighty Ducks	1.10.35	Boat 2
2nd	The A Team	1.10.44	Boat 3
3rd	Dainty's Dragons	1.10.83	Boat 4
4th	Total Steel Dragons	1.11.02	Boat 1

Here are some ideas...

Zip World Snowdonia

Zip World has the longest and fastest zip line in Europe
"The Nearest Thing to Flying"!!

www.zipworld.co.uk

Zip World is a first for the UK. It offers visitors a totally unique and world-class experience as they fly for over a mile through the skies.

The site contains two specially constructed and amazing zip lines. The 'little zipper' first will take you down to the bottom of the quarry, reaching speeds of up to 40mph. For some people, the activity can be challenging! However, participation in the Little Zipper first provides some useful progression. Here you will then pick up your specialised vehicle for a magnificent quarry tour in what was once the largest slate quarry in the world, before then zip lining back down the 'big zipper' for a mile, reaching speeds up to 100mph.



Bungee Jump UK

www.ukbungee.co.uk/content/5/charity-jumps

With permanent venues nationwide the UKBC operates bungee jumps from both fixed structures and cranes. With the UK's only bridge bungee jump, the UK's only indoor venue and regular jump heights from 160ft to 400ft, the UK Bungee Club has unparalleled experience in bungee jumping activities.

Dates in May and September in Manchester



Skydive UK

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Skyline are the largest organisers of sponsored charity jumps in the UK, working with over 1,500 charities. **In return for raising a minimum amount of funds you can jump for FREE!**



Tough Mudder UK

Tough Mudder events are hardcore 12 mile-long obstacle courses designed by the Special Forces to test your all around strength, stamina, mental grit, and camaraderie. With the most innovative courses and 1,000,000 inspiring participants worldwide to date, Tough Mudder is the premier adventure challenge series in the world

<http://toughmudder.co.uk/events/>



Ultimate Firewalk

Thursday 9th October- 6pm.
The Park Royal Hotel- Stretton



Do you think you could join 100 people to walk over 10 metres of hot coals? Then take part in the Ultimate Firewalk.

The decision to walk across the coals is dramatically life changing, not because of the fire walk itself, but because of the conscious decision not to let fear inhibit your actions. Once you have taken the power away from the fear, there is really nothing stopping you. If you can walk safely across hot coals – what else is possible??

LOTTERY News.

£5,000 Jackpot Winner

One lucky St. Rocco's Lottery player won a £5,000 rollover prize in early December- a fantastic Christmas present! Mrs Davies, from Fearnhead, has been a member of St. Rocco's Lottery since 1995 and has entered the weekly draw ever since she joined.

Mrs Davies was surprised and delighted when Eric Russell, St. Rocco's Trading Manager, delivered her winning cheque a few weeks before Christmas. A long term supporter of St. Rocco's, Mrs Davies said she would be spending some of the money on her family.



SS • STOP PRESS • ST

St Rocco's has 150 weekly winners in the Lottery, with a guaranteed £1,000 winner each week, in addition to a rollover prize which can rise to £5,000 if not won over a 10 week period. All these chances to play and win- for just £1 per week!

To join St Rocco's Lottery and help support the hospice, please contact the Lottery Office on 01925 579222, or download an application form from our website at www.stroccos.org.uk



Community Fundraising

with Malcolm Kindon

Christmas Raffle 2013

We are pleased to announce the winners of our 2013 Christmas Raffle. The 1st prize was won by Mr. D of Burtonwood (Ticket 028846), 2nd prize was won by Mrs GD of Great Sankey (Ticket 146647). Third prize was won by Mrs. SH of Great Sankey (Ticket 148756). Congratulations to the winners and a very big thank you to all who bought tickets, helping to raise an amazing £12,600 for the Hospice. Thanks also to the generosity of all who provided the prizes.

Christmas

We were again very well supported by 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.

2013 was our 2nd year of our sponsored 'St. Rocco's Reindeer Dash'. 7 schools and 1 Scout Group took part and overall, we raised around £7000. This is a fun activity, enjoyed by all. We are hoping more schools and Scout Groups will join in the fun in 2014!



The theme for the 2014 St. Rocco's calendar was based on photographs of Warrington, kindly provided by the Warrington and District Camera Club. Following on from last year's sell-out, we increased the number this year and the sales again proved to be very successful.

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 £7500 from loose change boxes – search your pockets for a final push for the financial year!. 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 2013. A very big thank you to all volunteers who have helped and also to ASDA Birchwood, ADSA Cockhedge Centre, ASDA Westbrook, for allowing us to have space and time in their stores.



Can you help... Sainsbury's Warrington have very kindly offered a bag pack to us for the weekend of Feb 22 and 23. Can you help? In total, we are looking for around 60 bag packers over the weekend, so any time you can give will be greatly appreciated. Please contact Malcolm (details below).

Coffee Mornings

Our 'regular' coffee mornings have raised nearly £6000 this year! 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.



Food & Gift Fayre

Suzette Pulman organised a Food and Gift Fayre at Lymm High School and raised over £3200.00 for the Hospice. Many delicious items were available, a perfect treat in the build up to Christmas!



Crown Green Bowling

As mentioned in the last issue, a third Bowling Main has been added to the calendar, with bowlers competing for the Mike Dolan Memorial.

The annual Mike Roach Memorial Bowls competition at the Royal British Legion at Woolston was again very well organised and supported by local businesses and by bowlers from near and far.

The Mavis Horton Memorial Bowls competition for Ladies Pairs was held at Monks Sports Club, Woolston. Again, a very well organised and well supported event, with many local companies showing their support by providing many raffle prizes.

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, Monks Sports Club and St. Oswald's Club for the use of their bowling greens and facilities.

Community Events Galore!

Other community events organised in the last few months include: 75 Engr Regiment TA's annual 'Proms in the Barracks' and 'Community Carol Service'. Lt. Col. Veitch has now been transferred and we wish him well for his future and we look forward to continuing our relationship with the Regiment.

Warrington Town Vs Emmerdale Stars charity football match. A very big thank you to 'The Town' for donating the proceeds from this game and good luck for your '2020 vision' and your continued success through the leagues.

Fiddlers Ferry Power Station, donating proceeds from their 'Summer School'

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

If you would like 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

Corporate Challenge



£119,000 raised for St. Rocco's.

A year long challenge to raise funds for St. Rocco's which started with just £50 per company raised over £119,000. The Corporate Challenge saw 33 companies each given a £50 stake and asked to turn that into as much as possible for St. Rocco's. Companies organised a whole host of events, from raffles to bake sales to 3 Peaks challenges. They also took part in the St. Rocco's organised events, including It's a Knockout, Dragon Boat Event and Starlight Walk.

Awards were given for Individual champion (Nicky Mitchell of Lloyds) Innovative idea (Capita) and Team of the Year (WBC) as well as a final award for the winner of the Challenge Total Steel and Fabrications who raised **£13,757.75!**

Each company was presented with a special Corporate Challenge Book.

The Corporate Challenge was sponsored by Assura - who provided the £50 stake, the trophies and the Books

The money raised all year has helped towards the Hospice communal area for patients and their families.



Alison White, Matron at St. Rocco's said...

"We are truly humbled by the generosity and tireless hard work of all our corporate partners. Everyone pulled out all the stops to help St. Rocco's this year- many of the companies raised four and five figures sums –whilst having great fun. Lots of those who worked with us also did volunteering projects like gardening and leaflet drops- all fantastic means of support. Overall everyone who took part in the Challenge has helped to make a huge difference to the families we care for. We can't thank our companies enough!"

May 12th-18th Will Week 2014.

Have you been thinking of making a will and keep putting it off? Want to make provision for your family but not sure how?

If you've been thinking of making a will and not sure where to start, 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 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.

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

How does Will Week work?

- Solicitors donate their time to support St. Rocco's;
- Instead of paying them a fee for writing a basic will, you will be invited to make a donation;
- Suggested minimum donations are £40 for a codicil, £75 for a single will or £110 for a pair of mirror wills.

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

The Corporate Challenge will continue into 2014-2015 with extra challenge events for 2014- including a Snowdon Challenge and Trek Fest5- a 24 hour walk over 54 miles. For more information contact clairehoughton@stroccos.org.uk

St. Rocco's shops go online!

New eBay shop for St. Rocco's

St. Rocco's has been selling a variety of interesting and unusual donated items on eBay for some time. Usually these are items which are valuable or collectable, with an expectation that they will raise more money for St. Rocco's if sold on eBay than they would in our charity shops. We have sold a huge range of products, from window frames, to a Top Hat and even a gas mask!

In the past few months we have increased the number of items listed on eBay which has helped us to raise substantially more than in previous years. We now have a St. Rocco's eBay shop, where all of the items listed on behalf of the Hospice are displayed together.

**You can find our shop at www.stores.ebay.co.uk/575stroccoshospice
Log on to bag a bargain!**

Vacancies on the team!

St. Rocco's is recruiting volunteers to help research and list all eBay items and to help with packing and despatching the items once they have sold. If you can spare a few hours a week to help with this exciting project, **please call the Volunteers office on 01925 575780 to register your interest!**

On line book sales

St. Rocco's Shops receive large quantities of book donations every week. We have successfully sold novels, biographies and general interest books in our shops but increasingly, the special interest or reference books have a niche market which is difficult to target.

So our volunteers have started to list these specialist books on Amazon and other on-line book sales sites. This gives us an opportunity to advertise them nationally and to sell them to specialist buyers who would not necessarily visit our shops.

We have only been running this project for a few months, but are already selling books to customers all over the UK on subjects as diverse as Philosophy, Engineering, History, Veterinary Medicine and car maintenance. Our shops are sorting books as they arrive and sending the specialist books to volunteers at a warehouse, who then value and list the books for sale on the appropriate sites.

If you have any old reference or specialist books that you no longer need, perhaps from courses you have studied or hobbies you have been involved in, please donate them to any St. Rocco's Shop in Warrington. They could raise lots of money for patient care at the hospice!

List of Shop addresses

Furniture & Interiors Shop
30-42 Knutsford Road
Bridgefoot
Warrington WA4 1AG
Tel: 01925 650800

Birchwood
47 Dewhurst Road
Birchwood Shopping Centre
Birchwood WA3 7PG
Tel: 01925 825561

GoldenSquare
Golden Square Shopping Centre
Warrington WA1 1QB

Hood Manor
Unit 2, Hood Manor Centre
Raikes Close
Off Dorchester Road
Great Sankey
Warrington WA5 1UH
Tel: 01925 629494

Latchford
Unit 9
The Bridge Shopping Centre
Maybrook Place
Latchford
Warrington WA4 1JR
Tel: 01925 415414

Orford
105-107 Longford St
Warrington WA2 7PJ
Tel: 01925 411626

Lymm
The Cross
Lymm
Warrington
Cheshire WA13 0HU
Tel: 01925 758057

Stockton Heath
99 London Road
Stockton Heath
Warrington WA4 6LG
Tel: 01925 602932

Thank You...



Staff from DHL did the Three Peaks Challenge and raised over £600 for St. Rocco's pictured here with Maureen Ineson from St. Rocco's.



Staff from Avacade Investments presented St. Rocco's Matron Alison White with a cheque for £2000 towards Wish List items at the Hospice.



Web Help raised £1450 from a dress down day and raffle a fantastic effort!



Staff from the Nationwide Building Society held a weekly bake off to raise over £1400 for St. Rocco's!



Dave and Mandy Hutchinson ran a Christmas Dinner Dance in December which raised over £4000 for St. Rocco's, Can Treat, Clatterbridge and Halton Haven hospice.



Christmas came to St. Rocco's early in December in the form of the Chief Ombudsman from Ombudsman Services who dressed as Santa and presented toys and gifts for families cared for at the hospice.



Ryders of Warrington handing over the keys to a Hyundai i10 car to St. Rocco's. The car will be used for hospice use.

Warrington punches above its weight in fight to get UK economy back on track

WARRINGTON is punching well above its weight in the fight to get Britain's economy back on track and the town can look forward with confidence to the next few years.

This emerges from the seventh annual report of the influential Centre for Cities which compares the performance of 64 cities and major towns across the country.

It shows Warrington in the top

10 for private sector jobs growth over the period 2010 to 2012 with an increase of 4.5 per cent and for business start-ups with 44.9 per 10,000 population.

Warrington has the third highest employment rate in the country at 77.5 per cent over the period July 2012 to June 2013.

The town has the sixth highest proportion of private sector employment and the 10th highest average earnings with an average

wage of £507 a week.

Only on CO2 emissions does Warrington fare badly, coming 61 out of the 64 with emissions per capita of 7.7 compared to the UK average of 6.9. The report stresses that the performances of cities is crucial to the performance of the UK economy. They account for nine per cent of land, but 54 per cent of population, 59 per cent of jobs and 61 per cent of output.

The report states: "Cities matter to society because they are where so many people live; with austerity continuing well into the next Parliament, taking advantage of the scale and scope cities offer to change the way public services are delivered and engage with some of the hardest to help as well as the most economically advantaged will be vital to balancing the books."

Centre for Cities says although there is much more to do, the UK finally seems to be undergoing a sustained recovery from the deepest peacetime downturn in the last 100 years.

Chief executive of Warrington Chamber of Commerce Colin Daniels (pictured) said: "I welcome this report which is a good reflection of where Warrington is and where it is going. Our employment figures have always been better than the regional and national average and this continues to be the case."



"It reflects real partnerships locally between the private sector and local authority."

"While I understand the Government's regional city policy it does very little for Warrington - and yet Warrington is contributing so much to the region."

"Neighbouring towns are looking to Warrington for employment and with the Omega development now going ahead our neighbours will be looking closely at that for more employment."

"The approval of the University Training College will kick-start development in the Stadium Quarter which will create more jobs. It is great news and gives us every reason to be confident about the future."

£1.3m investment into road improvements

MEPC Birchwood Park has committed £1.3m to support improvements to Warrington's roads, cutting congestion and boosting road safety in the town.

The investment is the sole private contribution to a £3.6m plan developed by Warrington Borough Council to tackle traffic congestion in the Birchwood area. Birchwood Park has also provided information and support for the development of the bid. As a result, the Council was recently able to submit an application for £2.17m of central Government funding from the Department of Transport's Pinch Point Tranche 4 Fund. Should the bid be successful, the final 10% will come from the Council's capital programme.

Jonathan Walsh, Managing Director of MEPC Birchwood Park, said: "Birchwood Park has grown massively over the past 15 years, and is now home to 150 companies employing over 5,000 people. While we have a number of initiatives in place to encourage people to cycle or use public transport to come to work, unfortunately one of the consequences of our success has been an increase in congestion."

"Having benefitted from its growth, we were keen to give something back to this great community and to support all those who live and work here."

"As the sole private investor in this initiative, we are proud to be playing our part in the economic growth of Birchwood for years to come."

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The Living Years 25th Anniversary Tour
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- Sun 9 Mar** **51 Shades of Maggie**
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- Thu 13 Mar** **Camel**
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- Mon 17 Mar** **Miles Kane**
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Mark beats the Atlantic rowing 3,000 miles to raise £250,000!

WARRINGTON businessman Mark Brocklehurst spent two months at sea in an open boat, rowing 3,000 miles and negotiating 50 foot waves helping raise £250,000 for charity.

Together with three other "bedraggled businessmen" Mark, who is MD at the Warrington based Sharples Group took on all this and more in the aptly named Talisker Whisky Atlantic Challenge.

Mark and his three companions undertook this challenge of a lifetime to raise £250,000 for the Bolton Lads and Girls Club.

The Talisker Whisky Atlantic Challenge is tagged the toughest race of its kind on earth. It's more

than a handful for even the most experienced professional rower. Yet three of the four businessmen who took on the 3,000 mile slog from La Gomera in the Canaries to Antigua had hardly rowed any further than across their local park lake!

Passionate about a project at the Bolton Lads and Girls Club to provide life-changing guidance to local youngsters, they took on this ultimate challenge to raise much-needed funds.

Serial challenge enthusiast Mark and his crewmates knew right from the beginning that it was going to be no pleasure cruise.

However, even they did not



bargain for quite how tough things were to work out.

In fact, when their 29' boat capsized, some sincerely wondered whether their time had come!

Still, 59 days, 18 hours and 9 seconds later, the guys crossed the finishing line a very creditable

eight.

Now the only figure they need to think about is the £250,000 target for the project. Contributions are still very welcome, which can be made at any time by visiting www.boltonatlanticchallenge.co.uk or www.boltonladsandgirlsclub.co.uk



Above: Mark, third ight with fellow team members and above right celebrating the finish of their marathon row.

New experience for the elderly

A NEW social experience for older people has been launched at Latchford.

The Silver Service Club provides social activity for people aged 50-plus at Westy Community Centre, Bridgewater Avenue every Friday from 10.30am to 1.30pm

Run by volunteers who make a delicious range of treats to tickle your taste buds, the club aims to provide older people with an extra special social experience – from music and sing-alongs to lively conversation and companionship.

For more information call Westy Community Centre on 01925 572072.

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Whites Sports calls 'full time' on trading in town centre after 113 years!

AFTER 113 years of trading in Warrington town centre Whites Sports is blowing the full-time whistle.

Current owner Susan White said: "It's now time for me to retire and spend more quality time with my family and friends. I'm looking forward to getting out in my garden this summer and being able to have time off to hopefully watch Warrington Wolves win the Challenge Cup and Grand Final."

She said it hadn't been an easy decision to call it a day but it has become increasingly difficult to compete with website based shops and the out of town multiples.

"One hundred and thirteen years is quite an achievement to sustain any family business and on behalf of all the White family I'd like to say a huge thank you to all our past and present customers, staff and fellow traders that have been loyal and good friends to Whites Sports Shop over the years."

Adam White, Susan's youngest son added: "We may be leaving the town centre but will still be trading and sharing our 113 year heritage online at www.whitesports.com. The website will allow customers to continue to purchase their favourite flags, darts, bowls and snooker accessories from Whites Sports."

Established in 1901 on Sankey Street by Mr J.E. White the shop was officially opened by Warrington Rugby League clubs top try scorer of the time, Jackie Fish. Over the years the Wire used the Whites Sports shop window to display their silver wear to the people of Warrington. This included the Challenge Cup in 1905, 1907, 1950, 1954 and 1974. The cup made it's the long awaited return to Whites Sports Shop in 2009, 2010 and 2012.

In 1974 most of Sankey Street was demolished to make way for Golden Square. Since then Whites Sports have been trading from their shop in Warrington Market.

For the past 113 years four generations of the White family have owned and run the shop along with sponsoring many local cricket, snooker, darts, football and rugby competitions and community

events.

From the late 1960's to the mid 1980's they also had shops in Stockton Heath, opened by Liverpool and England '66 world cup winner Roger Hunt and Knutsford, opened by rugby league legend Alex Murphy.

Meanwhile in celebration of their 113 years of trading as a family business in Warrington, of which 40 years have been in Warrington Market, Whites Sports have resurrected the 1974 'Whites Sports Darts Trophy Challenge'.

On Saturday March 15 between 12.00 - 3.00pm customers young and old, past and present are invited to come along and try and win a range of sporting prizes and trophies. If you're lucky you might even get drawn to play against Wolfie or one of Warrington Wolves players from the past 4 decades that have agreed to come along to the celebration event.

Last year Whites Sports were invited to enter the Guinness World Records as the 'Worlds Oldest Family Run Sports Shop'. The judges are now doing their final investigations whilst assessing the supporting evidence. The White family are now just weeks away from finding out if they have made it into the record books.

Mr J.E. White established the shop in April 1901 and eventually handed the business onto his eldest son, Norman White in 1940, who then past it onto his two sons John and Paul White in 1969.

Since losing John and Paul in 2009 and 2007, Paul's wife Susan (68) has successfully run the business in Warrington Market.

She was a keen badminton player in the 1960's and after marrying Paul in 1969 became a big Wires fan and took up competitive fencing during the 1970's. She was then an aerobics instructor across the town during the 1980's and in more recent years she has taken up yoga, pilates and aqua aerobics and was joined by several Samoan Rugby World Cup

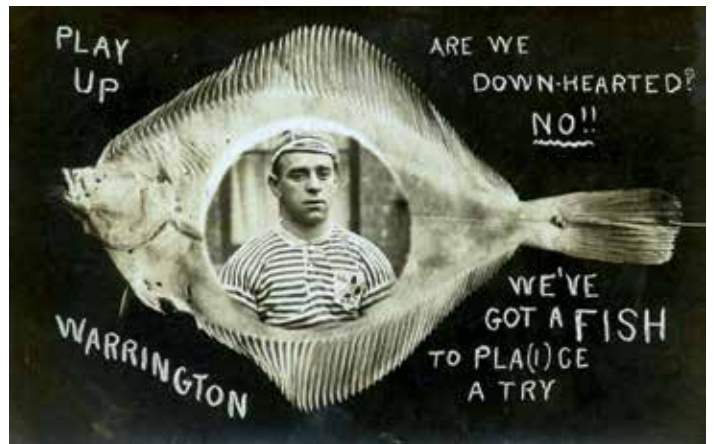
players in 2013.

Fourth generation family member Adam White with help from brother, Roger and cousin Nick White have been busy helping Susan organise the closure and also take the shop online in recent months. They are

really keen to capture stories, memories and pictures of Whites Sports over the years. If you would like to share a photo or story about the shop either visit their Facebook page or drop them an email at shop@whitesports.com.



Susan White outside Whites Sports



Jackie opened Whites Sports - 1901



Whites Sports Shop in 1964



Whites Sports Knock Out Cup - Presented by founder Mr J.E. White



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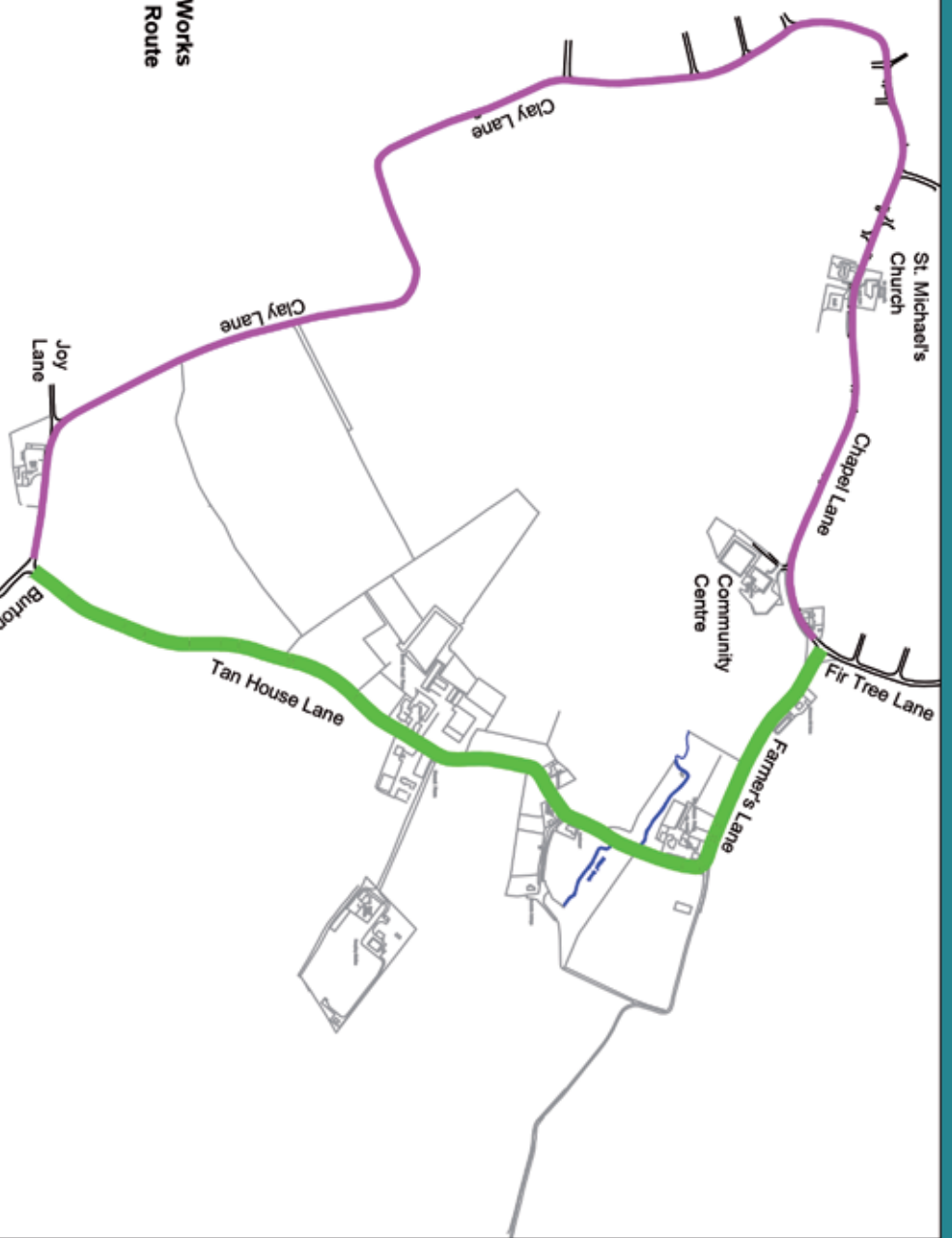



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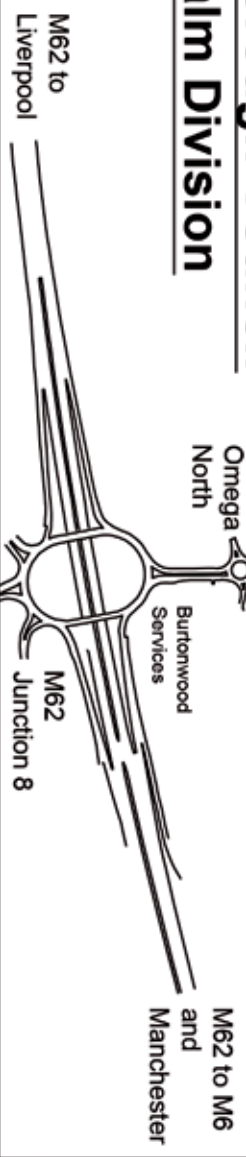
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WARRINGTON
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 Assistant Director
 (Transport & Environment)

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Motorists, Residents and Businesses are advised that major road works to resurface TAN HOUSE LANE and FARMER'S LANE in Burtonwood, are programmed to commence in March 2014 and will take up to 4 weeks to complete.

Daily Road Closures between 9:00am and 4:30pm, Monday to Friday, will be used to allow resurfacing of the roads.

Alternative Routes: The alternative route will be Burtonwood Road, Clay Lane, Chapel Lane and Fir Tree Lane.

Pedestrian access will be maintained at all times during progress of the works.

Vehicular access will be under the control of the contractor as directed on site.

Cones, barriers and signs are there for a reason - to protect our workers from danger and to keep the public safe. We urge drivers to pay close attention to safety when driving near roadworks.

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Cabinet Minister hears how Warrington is more than just a rugby town



Marie Miller meets Richard Sutton (right) and other club officials and sponsors.

WARRINGTON is bucking the national trend when it comes to playing football dispelling the myth it is just a rugby town.

During a visit to Warrington Town FC to hear about the club's 2020 vision to deliver a Football League Club to the town, Government Minister Maria Miller said it was "fantastic to hear" about increasing participation in the national sport in Warrington, at a time when it was on the decline nationally.

The Minister for Culture Media and Sport was special guest of Warrington South MP David Mowat at the town's football club which boasts 27 junior teams, along with youth and reserve teams and a first team currently pushing for promotion from the Evo-Stik Division One North.

With the club requiring four promotions in six years to reach the Football League club Chairman Richard Sutton admitted the 2020 Vision was "Ambitious but not impossible."

He then produced compelling statistics to dispel the myth that Warrington is just a rugby town highlighting that the Warrington Junior League is the biggest in the UK, the Warrington and District Adult League was one of the biggest in the North West and that for every child who played rugby in Warrington, six played football.

Sutton told the Minister: "I have a copy of the 2013 FA report on participation levels in football and out of 38 similar sized local authorities across the country Warrington is top of the league."

He went on to highlight that there were 75 affiliated football clubs in Warrington, with 492 actual teams made up of 87 adult, 218 youth teams and 187 junior/mini soccer teams.

"Across the whole spectrum of participation in football the national average is 5.2 per cent – in Warrington it is 10.6 – more than double the national average."

Sutton added: "We are passionate about the fact that football as a sport can have a hugely positive effect on the whole community if it can be harnessed in the right way."

"In the last 12-18 months we have been in constant dialogue with the council to try and find a site for better facilities so we can make our ambitions become a reality. We've looked at the old Wilderspool Stadium, the Omega site in the North of the town and also explored the Halliwell Jones Stadium. But so far we have been unable to secure any of these options."

He urged the minister to look at ways to encourage the FA to help fund community development officers at clubs like Warrington Town.

"Despite great support from our sponsors we are struggling to fund community development and commercial roles to help move the club forward."

Sutton concluded: "Vast amounts of money are handed out at the top of our game, where the average player is on £30,000 a week, and some on £30,000 a day. Securing just £30,000 a year would help transform clubs like Warrington Town."

Commenting on what she heard the Minister said: "It is fantastic to hear of Warrington's increasing participation in football at a time when it is declining nationally."

She added that although the F.A did some good work in the community, they had their "strengths and weaknesses" when it came to funding grassroots football.

Mr Mowat, who has already raised the issue in the House of Commons of how Premier League and FA funding is distributed throughout the sport added: "I believe this is a genuine issue for the Government."

Meanwhile Warrington are having there best ever season in the Evo-Stik Division One North competing at the top of the table and pushing for promotion.

For all the latest news and match results visit www.warringtontownfc.co.uk

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HOME energy bills have rocketed by an average of 168% over the past 10 years and it is expected that they will continue to rise in the future.

Recent price changes have left many consumers confused about choosing tariffs and suppliers. It is also difficult for householders to understand their energy bills and to compare prices between suppliers.

To help householders to take control of their energy bills, Low Carbon Lymm (LCL) is organising a community event on Saturday March 8 in Lymm Village Hall from 10am to 3pm. Lots of information, money saving tips and independent advice will be available on topics such as switching energy providers, energy efficiency and renewable energy. Local suppliers will be on hand to discuss their products and services.

The event will also feature the Green Trail – the website that



enables you to read, see and hear about installations on real homes in the Warrington area including solar electricity, solar hot water, heat pumps, external wall insulation, LED lighting and voltage optimisers.

The winners of LCL's Climate Week Awards will be announced at the event and there will be information on other LCL projects including the Spud Wood Allotment scheme, Local Food and Recycling.

For more information or enquiries, visit www.lowcarbonlymm.org.uk or email info@lowcarbonlymm.org.uk

Deadline for the April issue is March 11



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Financially yours

By David Watkinson

A day to remember

This year, Valentine's Day was a day to remember for a couple of reasons.

Firstly, senior HMRC staff went on strike over changes to the three tier performance management scheme that was introduced last year. These changes meant that a fixed 10% of staff would fall into the bottom tier of "Must Improve" whilst 20% would be in the top tier of "Exceeded Expectations". A spokesman for their Union said that "Our members are not faceless bureaucrats... The work they do builds schools, hospitals, libraries and playgrounds." It would be interesting to know how many people missed them!

Secondly, and affecting a great many other people, HMRC announced that they had decided to stagger the start of the penalty regime under Real Time Information (RTI). Originally, "in year" penalties and interest for late filing and late payments were all meant to be introduced in April. However, the new timetable is as follows:

- Interest on payments of PAYE/NIC not made by the due date will start in April 2014

- Automatic penalties for the late filing of RTI Returns will start in October 2014
- Automatic penalties on payments of PAYE/NIC not made by the due date will start in April 2015

These changes will mean that employers who bring their submissions up to date on or before 5th October 2014 will not face any penalties.

In announcing these changes HMRC's Director General, Ruth Owen, said "The introduction of RTI is going extremely well for the majority of employers but there are still some who need a bit more time to adapt fully to the changes." This appears at first to be a most unusual appreciation by HMRC of the difficulties faced by many people in understanding the complexity of the tax regulations. That is, until you know that there was a huge outcry from taxpayer's representatives a few days earlier when HMRC sent out hundreds of incorrect "no-filing" notices. Refusing to accept that they are themselves facing difficulties, and passing the buck instead onto the taxpayers, is much more typical HMRC behaviour.



No doubt you were already aware of the above. Or were there other things occupying you on Valentine's Day?

WatkinsonBlack are pleased to advise on these as well as other matters, including providing a very cost-effective payroll bureau service. If you want to arrange a no-obligation initial meeting on any taxation or accounting matter then please contact us.

Please note that these ideas are intended to inform rather than advise and you should always obtain professional advice before taking any action.

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Housing Trust create 20 jobs

TWENTY new trainee jobs have been created by Warrington-based social landlord Golden Gates Housing Trust.

They will start work in the coming months gaining valuable work experience and training with the Trust and its partners, including Warrington Public Health and Cheshire Fire Service.

The new trainees will be the third full year group to join GGHT after the Trust's board made a three year commitment to help tackle unemployment in 2012.

The Trust have helped over 220 of its tenants and their family members into employment in this period and remain on target to support up to 450 local residents into employment, education and volunteering by the end of next year. GGHT are committed to giving the town's younger residents and those who have been long-term unemployed the best possible opportunity to access all positions with the Trust.

To help achieve this they have marked the start of their latest recruitment process by working in partnership with Warrington Collegiate to deliver a four week pre-employment course. The Trust are offering guaranteed interviews for all residents who complete the course, which has been funded through Warrington Borough Council's Life Long Learning team. The course will include sessions on interview skills, exploring expectations within the world of work, communication skills, confidence building and team working.

The course has been promoted by GGHT's Employment Initiatives Team through its weekly job clubs across the town and on social media. They were overwhelmed by the interest from local residents.

GGHT offers a range of free training opportunities for its tenants and their family members. Anyone who lives in one of the Trust's properties and would like additional support getting into employment, training or volunteering can register with GGHT's Positive Change initiative by visiting www.gght.org.uk/positivechange, calling 0800 25 26 27 and asking to speak to the Employment Team.

A new social experience for top organist to give recital

DISTINGUISHED organist Ian Tracey is to give a recital on the historic Cavaille-Coll organ at Warrington's Parr Hall on Wednesday, March 12.

Professor Tracey is Organist Titulaire at Liverpool Cathedral and regularly gives recitals in this country and abroad.

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The recital starts at 7.45pm.

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