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Issue No. 127

May 2010

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Editor's Comment



YOU may have noticed elections are looming – both nationally and locally.

You can't switch on the TV or pick up a newspaper without being bombarded with political messages.

Here at **warrington-worldwide** we have and always will remain non-political unlike many newspapers who choose to tie their colours to the mast.

But democracy is vitally important and it is more important to use you vote wisely, rather than show total apathy and then moan about the way our town or country is run.

The problem is these days all the major political parties have sleek

publicity and spin machines, often pumping out similar messages making it very difficult to choose who to vote for.

Personally I would always try and adopt a little bit of common sense (sometimes hard to find in the political world) and vote for the person best placed to serve your local community.

This is going to be one of the closest political contests in Warrington for some time - so use your vote wisely

– but do vote – don't let apathy win the day!

Here in Warrington we have a joint administration with the largest party, the Lib Dems, running the corridors of power assisted by the minority Tory party, during one of the toughest economic cycles we have known.

Now is your chance to decide if they have been doing a good job.

Homes vote

TENANTS of nearly 10,000 former council homes in Warrington have voted massively in favour of their properties being transferred to a new housing association.

More than 91 per cent of those taking part in the ballot voted for Golden Gates Housing - the borough council's arms length housing management organisation - becoming a not-for-profit registered provider of social housing and their new landlord.

A total of 9,845 tenants were eligible to vote and 6,215 did so. There were 15 spoiled voting papers and 5,696 people voted in favour of the transfer - 91.9 per cent.

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Celena is all heart

WARRINGTON-born singer Celena Wright has reached the final 100 in a 'holiday honeys' competition run by a national lifestyle magazine and if she wins she has pledged to donate any prize money to charity!

Nearly 14,000 hopefuls entered the competition and the decision is now down to online voters.

So Celina, from Cinnamon Brow -

whose stage name is Celena Amiria - is hoping people in her home town will boost her chances by voting.

Any money she wins will go to five

chosen charities - Marie Curie Cancer Care, Alder Hey Children's Hospital, Headway - The brain injury association, Royal Naval Benevolent Trust and the Sepilok Orangutan Appeal.

Celina, a former pupil at Oakwood Primary School, said: "I am not a model and just did this for a bit of fun, but now I have got this far I thought it would be fun to try and get a bit further!

"I am looking for a little support from Warrington as this is where I consider home. They are being a little vague about the £10,000 prize, in relation to how much is cash and how much is products such as photo shoots, but I can assure you if I were to win, any cash would be distributed between the five chosen charities I hold closest to my heart.

To vote visit Celina's website at www.celena.co.uk



Calling ex-pupils

FORMER pupils of Culcheth High School are being invited back to reminisce about the "good old days" to mark the end of an era.

As the old school buildings disappear to make way for a new state of the art school facility, former pupils and staff are organising a special re-union event which will include pupils from when the school first opened 79 years ago.

One of the former pupils helping organise the event is Helen Weight nee Kember, who attended the school in the 1970's with her twin sister Stella. She said: "This summer Culcheth High will be pulled down to make way for the new impressive state of the art high school that has been built to replace it.

"To mark this historic occasion some ex-pupils have got together to organise a reunion to celebrate the closing of the old school and the opening of the new one."

The old school will be open on June 26 from 12pm to 4pm, free of charge, for people to go back and visit their old classrooms and reminisce with friends from the "good old days."

Each era from the school's history will be depicted in photos and memorabilia. The evening will be ticket only, priced £5, and partners can also buy tickets.

Organisers are looking for school memorabilia including reports, photos, projects and anyone with items should contact Amanda at the school on 01925 762136.

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Hello and welcome to my monthly column . . .

Hypnotes

by Michael Mahoney

Not Stage Hypnosis!

Out of consideration of my readers, I have resisted the temptation to dedicate this column to the forthcoming UK election, simply because this column is too short, also I suspect many people are fed up with hearing about it already.

Recently, I met a chap who was a little nervous about coming to see me. This was because he confused what I do with stage or entertainment hypnosis, which may have folks barking like dogs – you know, the shows where people are encouraged to act as stupid as their moral and ethical code will allow them. He was relieved when he learned that clinical hypnotherapy is entirely different.

The work I do assists people to achieve their goals, even to help them find their goals. Goal finding and setting can be very empowering in itself, working through issues and developing solutions and applying them is even more empowering and enjoyable. We do not have to be stuck in negative thoughts, routines or beliefs. If we can learn one thing we can learn something else, that's one of the many wonderful things about being human.

Make no mistake; nothing has to remain the way it is if you don't want it to. We can choose to make a difference to our lives or we can choose not to, either way it is our decision. We can decide to say yes to ourselves or no. Some people may think that sounds selfish, but sometimes it's about self-preservation.

Many times, negative thoughts, feelings and routines can keep us captive for the rest of our days. That might be the brave, selfless stiff upper lip approach encouraged by some, but then I have to ask, whose life are you living? You don't get a second chance at life, this is it. It's our responsibility to live our life to the full, helping and sharing and encouraging where we can. Making the best of our skills and talents and gifts to ensure we can look back and say "I made a difference".

We can feel great about ourselves when we do our best, to make the most of what we have, to learn to develop and achieve what we want to achieve, and that includes living the life we want to live not only for ourselves, but those we love.

Sometimes it is scary to make

Michael Mahoney is a Clinical Hypnotherapist. He has research, and patient trials experience. He is a member of the Hypnotherapy Association, an associate of the Primary Care Society for Gastroenterology, he is a non NHS service provider and Private Health Service Provider



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

changes, sometimes something as trivial as "what will other people think" may stop people from making positive changes to their lives. The answer to that is "It's what people know about us, not what they think which matters". When I first started doing hypnotherapy in the mid 1980's, it was new, people were unsure; some thought I had gone 'loopy'. The simple matter was, they did not understand the power of the mind, which really is the authority in our life. But now people are more aware, willing to learn and investigate the possibilities hypnotherapy can bring to making positive changes to their lives. And the chap I mentioned earlier was one of many, and I am pleased to say he now understands the benefits of hypnotherapy. Contact me if you want to change something in your life to something better.

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Top award for Ken Smart

WELL known local businessman Ken Smart has been presented with Rotary's highest honour in recognition of his outstanding charity work.

Ken of Smart Furnishings Ltd, of Stockton Heath, Warrington, has been presented with the Paul Harris Fellowship by Runcorn Rotary Club, where he is a member.

He has donated towards Shelter Boxes and Water Boxes internationally for areas stricken by Tsunami's and earthquakes etc.

Nearer home he has supported



appeals made through Rotary Clubs for assistance during the recent floodings in Cumbria.

He has also donated to the general fund of the club enabling them to support a local boy suffering from Muscular Dystrophy by purchasing a "neater cheater" machine which will enable the boy to feed himself,

thereby giving some degree of independence.

Mr Smart was granted honorary membership of Runcorn Rotary Club for his constant support, which culminated in him being awarded the Paul Harris Fellowship, so named after the founder of Rotary 106 years ago.



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Changing role of the volunteer

A WARRINGTON organisation, formed 100 years ago, is reflecting on how its role in the community has changed.

The Rev Stephen Kingsnorth, chairman of Warrington Council for Voluntary Service (CVS) said the organisation was formed as Warrington Citizens' League of Help in 1909. He said: "Any organisation needs frequently to review its 'fitness for purpose' - an unknown phrase, I'm sure, in 1909 - whilst keeping up the relentless task of

maintaining the daily stream of activity."

The organisation had developed and was a serious player on behalf of the third sector in local partnerships.

"The trustees of CVS, at least, have to be aware of all the competing demands, relationships and committees which CVS needs to address, if we are to advocate on behalf of the vast range of voluntary, community and faith groups in such a complex world," he said.

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Essential Learning offers all levels of training and can skills-target courses to address specific needs. Their expertise encompasses food hygiene and hospitality, management development and health and safety.

All trainers have hands-on career experience in the sectors in which they teach. Jane's expertise was further recognised by her recent appointment as an external verifier with the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development.

Testimony to their commitment to high standards is an impressive customer-base, including leading commercial and public sector names such as Ikea, Iceland Frozen Foods and Cheshire Constabulary.

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Five star catering success

WARRINGTON'S Crazy Hog Catering Company has retained its Five Star Hygiene rating on "Scores on the Doors" – the borough council's guide to hygiene in catering establishments – for the third year running.

Food businesses are given a rating ranging from no stars (major improvement required) to five stars (excellent) and are issued with a certificate to display.

The number of stars awarded depends upon hygiene standards at the time of the inspection, including cleanliness, structural condition, compliance with regulations and the inspector's confidence in food systems and management.

Crazy Hog managing director Ian Robinson said: "It is very important for us to demonstrate to our customers that we take pride in the services we provide, having independent acknowledgement gives our customers peace of mind. We are delighted to retain the five star hygiene status."

Networking success for contract cleaners



IN just eight months, BNI Viking Chapter at Daresbury near Warrington has recorded over £927,000 of business exchanged – a remarkable achievement for a chapter that only launched in May 2009!

Its rapid success is in no small part down to the efforts of its first Chapter Director, Lloyd Ansermoz, whose chapter colleagues are delighted that Lloyd himself has benefited greatly from the chapter's excellent performance.

In a 60 second presentation, Lloyd specifically asked for referrals into companies based at the Daresbury Business Park. As so often happens when presentations

are clear and precise, the request was answered – in style! Steve Worrall of EBL (builders) arranged for Lloyd to visit a potential client, a substantial company dealing in green technology and automation. In fact Lloyd's company, In Depth Managed Services, were already talking to a contact at the prospect's premises, but without success. What they really needed was to talk to a senior decision maker – and Steve's referral did the job perfectly, putting Lloyd in front of their National Buyer and Facilities Managers.

It was perfect timing: the prospect wanted cleaning services for their Daresbury Head Office, a Cambridge office and two sites in



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Yorkshire. In Depth tendered against the current incumbent and three other companies – and won the business. On Christmas Eve 2009, the In Depth teams set to work on the £330,000, three-year contract for office and window cleaning and washroom management.

"Prepare every second of your 60 seconds," recommends Lloyd. "Clarify what you want and what you don't want: it really does work. Thank you Steve and BNI for such fantastic support!"

Lloyd Ansermoz: lansermoz@indepth-cleaning.co.uk

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Fri 21 May
Barbershopera

Sat 29 May
Warrington Rhythm and Blue Festival

Fri 4 June
Frank Sidebottom

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Pyramid's doors open as Parr Hall closes for refurb

As Parr Hall officially closes for its refurbishment, our attentions are drawn to the rich offerings of Pyramid – from iconic comedy and music to cabaret and drama!

The Tiger Lillies

Those in need of some dark, deviant theatrics will relish those Godfathers of alternative cabaret The Tiger Lillies - The Songs of Shockheaded Peter and Other Gory Verses (Fri 30 Apr, 8pm, £15). Also, if you're a fan of off-the-wall comedy, check-out Edinburgh Festival sweethearts Idiots of Ants (Sat 8 May, 8pm, £14.50).

Lucy Porter

Back (Fri 14 May, 8pm, £14.50) with her brand new show 'Fools Gold' a tribute to Mr T and all things gold! Don't miss this frighteningly gifted comedian.

Barbershopera

(Fri 21 May, 7.30pm, £11/£9) is a delightfully madcap show packed with laughs, tears and stampeding cows – all in four-part harmony. This musical comedy will have you laughing in the aisles.

Warrington Rhythm and Blues Festival

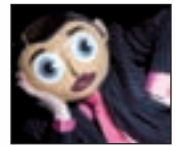
(Sat 29 May, 3pm, £20) brings together the cream of the rhythm and blues crop with this day-long event, which offers three bars, an acoustic stage and featuring The Nimmon Brothers!

Frank Sidebottom

Next up is the iconic papier-mâché headed comedy legend Frank Sidebottom (Fri 4 June, 7.30pm, £13/£10). Known for his inimitable style, he has achieved cult status, his highlights include headlining the comedy stage at the Reading Music Festival.

This is just at taster of what's on offer – make sure you sign up to the free email newsletter to be first in the know with info about 'just confirmed' events , opportunities to win tickets for shows, and Parr Hall refurb news. Simply visit the website at www.pyramidparrhall.co.uk and sign up or have a look around at what's on. Tickets and information 01925 442345.

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Hospital workers' act of sympathy

WORKERS saddened when a colleague lost her baby daughter have raised funds to help patients in the neo-natal unit at Warrington Hospital.

The £1,000 donation has provided extra help for the breast feeding room just off the unit - allowing mothers to relax.

Money was raised by staff at Warrington Pension Centre/Hilden House Sports and Social Club on behalf of colleague Angela Pennington, who sadly lost her daughter Anya after she was born prematurely at the hospital last year.

The donation has funded a two-seater brown leather sofa bed, a matching reclining chair and a dimmer light. The unit was also able to purchase a family size freezer to store expressed milk.

The room will also be used as a bereavement room for parents to spend time with their baby away from the ward during their last moments.

Julie Harris, neo natal breast feeding lead nurse, said: "This donation has allowed us to turn the room into a comfortable and relaxed environment for mothers to express and spend time

with their babies away from the unit. "It has been beneficial in getting mothers and babies ready for going home after a long stay on the unit, by allowing them time alone at night, but with support on hand.

"Donations like this make all the difference to our unit by providing additional equipment to support us in our work."

Marie Brophy, chairman of the Hilden House club, said: "Warrington Pension Centre has always been proactive in their fundraising, supporting various local and national charities nominated by the staff on a monthly basis.

"On this occasion Angela's colleagues suggested a fundraising event to help support the Neo-Natal Unit at Warrington Hospital following the heartbreaking news. Various activities included a 'push up' day where staff glammed themselves up, cake sales and various small collections realising a generous total of £1,000."



Left to right: Sam Greenall, club treasurer, Marie Brophy, from the club, Julie Harris, neo natal breastfeeding nurse lead, (seated) Alison Johnson, ward manager and League of Friends chairman David Eden.

Free hairdressing winner

LUCKY winner of Callaghan & Moran's free hairdressing for a year competition was Debbie Leatherbarrow from Cinnamon Brow, Warrington.

Debbie is pictured with stylist Andrea and Stuart Callaghan receiving her prize at the Sankey Street salon.



Help needed for nesting birds

RESIDENTS living near a Warrington park are being asked to help nesting birds while a £30 million improvements package is carried out.

Work is progressing on the Orford Park project and a number of trees will soon have to be removed as building begins. A new tree will be planted for each removed after construction is completed.

A council spokesperson said: "With several species of birds looking for nesting places soon, this is an ideal opportunity for people to see nature close up by hanging up bird boxes in their gardens."

Boxes are available at a low cost from the nearby charity-run Long Lane Garden Centre.

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Straw commends 'remarkable people'

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Everyone at WDP would like to thank the Warrington residents for their continued support.



JUSTICE Secretary Jack Straw commended peace campaigners Colin and Wendy Parry, who lost their son Tim following the IRA bomb attacks, as "absolutely remarkable people" when he gave a special peace lecture to mark the 10th anniversary of the Warrington Peace Centre.

He said the terrorist murders of Tim Parry and Johnathan Ball, in whose name this Peace Centre was established, "profoundly horrified the whole of the civilised world."

"These children were too young to have ever played a part in politics. In any event there is never any excuse for terrorist violence. The terrorists did not care about the casualties they inflicted; tragically these children lost their lives. Nothing can heal the abiding grief of their families.

"As one film I recently saw said, the loss of a child is a life sentence.

"But these murders had two effects, wholly unintended by the terrorists who perpetrated them; first, the atrocity was so shocking that it gave added impetus to what was then a very fragile peace process; and second, the deaths were the inspiration for the Foundation.

"Over the past 17 years you have worked to promote non-violent resolution to disputes, and to encourage tolerance and respect for diversity. These are the building blocks for a peaceful world.

"You have asked for my observations

on the pursuit of a peaceful society, both from the vantage point of my current role as Justice Secretary but also by reflecting on my previous incarnations as Home Secretary and Foreign Secretary. The rule of law is vital to the creation of a peaceful world."

After presenting his peace lecture Mr Straw added: "The Tim Parry Johnathan Ball Foundation for Peace is a vibrant educational peace charity. The charity inspires people to lead more peaceful lives by participating in educational programmes which help them to understand conflict and reduce or eliminate violence. It reaches young people who are on the fringes of society, excluded or at risk of social exclusion and helps them to re-engage in learning and social opportunities. It is tackling grass-roots problems in communities such as racial tension and violence borne out of inter-community prejudice.

"Wendy and Colin have made their own unique contribution for peace and reconciliation. They are absolutely remarkable people, who are to be warmly commended for all their efforts."



Jack Straw with Colin and Wendy Parry and Trust chief executive Claire White.



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What our customers say

I just wanted to say many thanks to you and your chef Andy for Saturday night, our party was a great success and the food was fantastic - 30th Birthday Big Pan Experience Party - Chester

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 - 1 medium egg, beaten
 - 1 fresh, chopped red or green chilli
 - 3 spring onions
 - 1 squeezed fresh lemon
 - 3 tbsps of chopped coriander
 - 1 bag of wild rocket
 - 1 tub of shaved parmesan
- Balsamic glaze

1. Squeeze all the water out of your crab meat. If you can buy blue swimming crab meat in tubs from the supermarket, this will give you an enhanced flavour and texture.
2. Chop all your boneless fish fillets into chunks. Add prawns with fresh garlic, salt, black pepper and Reggae Reggae sauce. Blend for a few seconds until forma rough paste.
3. Add your dry crab meat and egg to the mixture in a food processor and blend for a few seconds. Then remove the mixture and place into a bowl and add, freshly chopped chilli, coriander and freshly squeezed lemon.
4. Now the fun bit! Pat the mixture in the palm of your hands and shape into small fishcake-sized portions. If they're a bit sticky, just coat in a little seasoned flour to shape better. Ideally, you're trying to make 8 x 8cm (3inch) bites. When shaped brush with olive oil.
5. Pan fry the shaped mixture in olive oil on both sides for 2-4 minutes or until golden brown.
6. Serve on a bed of fresh wild rocket, sprinkle with shaved parmesan cheese, and then drizzle with Balsamic glaze.



Chairman Les Hoyle and Operations Director Charlie Shannon.

Raising the Flag on the buses

Following the Audit Commission's Comprehensive Area Assessment, Warrington Borough Council received Green Flag status for its exceptional performance in public transport in the town.

The award recognised the council's many contributions to public transport over recent years - in particular, the Bus interchange, 450 bus stops upgraded for easy access and Real-time information installed at 225 bus stops.

Warrington Borough Transport was pleased to play its part in the award. Special mention was made of the increasing usage of bus services, high levels of customer satisfaction, the innovative Chapelford Connector service, close partnership working with the council and the ongoing investment in the bus fleet - leading to social inclusion and reductions in pollution and CO2 emissions.

WBT Chairman, Councillor Les Hoyle, said "It was gratifying to learn that the Council had received Green Flag status for public transport. We at WBT were pleased that we were able to contribute to the award."

Green flag stickers have now been placed on WBT buses in recognition of the achievement.

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Advertiser's announcement

'Marriages should be renewed like dog licenses'

by Paul Ireland

A FAMOUS ex-Fawlty Towers actor has been making the Headlines in recent weeks. If you are thinking I mean Andrew Sachs following the now infamous 'Manuel Gate' saga you would be wrong. I am in fact talking about John Cleese.

As a Family Solicitor I was most interested by the ex Fawlty-Towers and Monty Python actor's comments about marriage and children when he suggested 'marriages should be renewed like dog licenses'. He went further to say, 'I think you should have to renew marriage licenses every five years unless you have children and I think before you have children you should have to go and pass various tests and get a license to have a child'.

Given that the actor is on his third divorce he is hardly speaking from a position of strength with his views on marriage. However, his comments also came in the week where new figures were published suggesting that something in the region of 40% of marriages end in divorce. I have to be honest this figure astonished me and in my experience that is not an accurate reflection of the true position. However, sadly it is a fact that the number of relationships breaking down or marriages ending in divorce is increasing.

Regrettably, whilst there are exceptions to every rule it would be fair to say that the phrase 'amicable divorce/separation' is a paradox but that does not in my view mean that unlike Mr Cleese and his soon to be ex wife or Paul and Heather

McCartney before them that divorce has to be acrimonious or expensive. I am always at pains to emphasise to those that I represent that they should always retain a degree of focus and where possible try and be sensible and civil about matters. It is always important to remember that the financial issues of a divorce do need

to be resolved and however the money is shared and in whatever proportions it is much better off in the parties pocket than in the court's.

The reality is that divorce is often a stressful and emotional experience for those individuals who are going through it.

I would strongly recommend that if you are ever experiencing difficulties in connection with any personal family issues that it is important that advice is obtained from a solicitor

who is an expert and more importantly can detach themselves from the emotion of the situation and provide an independent and emotionless overview and guide you along the right path.

This article is meant to assist or be informative rather than advise.

Paul Ireland is Head of the Family Department and Equity Partner at Widdows Mason Solicitors situated at 12, Rylands Street, Warrington, Cheshire, Telephone 01925 632 267.



Paul Ireland and the Family Team at Widdows Mason



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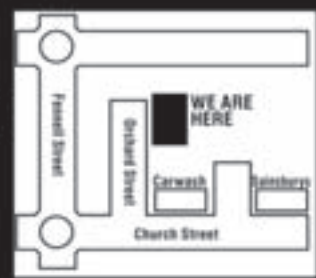
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Wolves cook up a feast

WARRINGTON Wolves stars left the pitch and headed for the kitchen to learn all about healthy foods and cooking.

Chris Riley, Lee Mitchell, Kevin Penny, Alex Thompson, Ben Harrison, Matty Blythe and Richie Myler all took part in a nutrition and cookery session at Birchwood Community High School.

Nutritionist Wal Herring visited the club to offer guidance to the players when shopping for food and cooking the best meals at the right time.

The session saw the players work in teams to cook two dishes including all the preparation: cottage pie and coconut milk chicken curry.

The session was arranged by Wolves Head of Strength and Conditioning Chris Baron who was looking to offer something a bit different to the younger players.

Wal explained: "I've focussed on pre and post match meals and the use of fresh herbs and spices within cooking. There is this preconception that cooking healthy food is time consuming and difficult so I wanted to show them how easy it is to cook from scratch."

Wolves Ben Harrison said: "It was a really enjoyable and beneficial experience. Diet plays a big part in a healthy lifestyle and helps us to maintain the physical fitness needed to achieve consistent performances at this high level."

A civilised way to make new friends

AN organisation offering fine food and good company is seeking new members.

The Dinner Club describes itself as an up-market national organisation for discerning singles and is based in Chester and operates throughout the northwest.

Founded in 1986, it stresses it is not

a dating or introduction agency but rather an organisation which offers members a civilised way to make new friends and widen their social circle.

Membership is made up of people of all ages, mainly from professional or business backgrounds, who are single, divorced, separated or widowed. Most are in the 45-60 plus age group. There is also a younger group for ages 30-45.

Events organised include dinners, dinner dances, black tie balls, theatre evenings, horse racing and holidays.

A Dinner Club spokesman said: "Making new friends should be a rich and rewarding experience but often, when you're single and tied to the home or have a demanding job, there's little opportunity to expand beyond your immediate social circle.

"Wouldn't it be nice to meet like-minded people you can get on with? That's exactly the concept - a civilised way to make new friends."

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Tyson floored by carpet man!



FORMER World heavyweight boxing champion Mike Tyson was floored by local carpet shop owner Craig Bennett at a recent sportsman's dinner.

Craig bid for a signed Tyson 'Help the Heroes' t-shirt during the dinner at the DW Stadium in Wigan raising £400 for the charity.

"To meet Tyson and support help the heroes at the same time I would have kept bidding all night," said Craig who runs the Carpet Clearance Warehouse in Warrington.

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