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Issue No. 139 May 2011 FREE EVERY MONTH

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show on
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**Have you got a story? Send your news items and pictures to
info@warrington-worldwide.co.uk or phone 01925 623631**

ELECTION time is fast approaching and with the controlling Lib-Dem/Tory coalition having a majority of just one, it would be no great surprise if Labour are not back in control after the May 5 elections.

With a Conservative/Lib Dem coalition running the country and various cut-backs and job losses in the public sector, the current administration at the town hall must be fearing the worst.

Here at *warrington-worldwide* we, as always, remain fiercely politically independent, with the philosophy of always supporting those, from whichever political party, who we believe are doing their best for the people of Warrington.

There are good people in all the mainstream political parties, who work hard for their local communities.

I have worked with some of them for the best part of 30 years and seen the town hall run by the Conservatives, Labour and the Lib-Dem/Tory coalition. They have all done good and sometimes not so good things and at the end of the day you are never going to please all of the people all of the time.

So when it comes to putting your x on your ballot paper think long and hard about the best person to serve your local community.

Try to put party politics into the background and vote for the best

person to serve your needs in your local community.

If we end up with a town hall full of hard working community minded people, hopefully they will be able to remove their political blinkers and work for the good of our town - and

most importantly use your vote.

It is no good moaning after May 5 if you don't like the local decisions being made by your elected representatives.

This year you will also get a chance to vote Yes or No on the controversial AV (Alternative Vote) voting system whereby you can, if you so choose, vote in order of preference for everyone on the ballot paper - so make sure you don't waste your vote!

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High net worth insurance claims

When we think of High Net Worth, our mind tends to concentrate on antiques and fine art. The question is always asked as to what something is worth, and of course the answer is what somebody is prepared to pay for the item. This is the same for antiques and fine art, as it is for houses and motor vehicles.

Quite often there are discrepancies between the value at auction and the insurance value. The value at auction is the selling price, and the insurance value is the purchase price. Insurers and Adjusters sometimes feel that this is one and the same, but clearly this is an incorrect stance. If a policyholder is a collector and a precious item is stolen or destroyed, then they want to replace that item with something very similar. The only way to do this accurately and quickly is via a dealer which represents the retail price at any given time. The dealer will source his stock from auctions, from private collectors who will buy and sell and from estates of families who do not wish to be bothered with the prospect of selling it at auction.

If a dealer buys at auction he will of course have to pay the buyers premium plus VAT. Invariably, they will have to have work carried out on the said item, particularly furniture and thereafter have to make a profit to cover their livelihood, overheads and so on. It is therefore this 'retail value' which is the correct value and which

should be claimed against an insurance policy if it is destroyed or damaged.

The next question is to how we arrive at a value, bearing in mind there may not be a readily available supply. Obviously the first port of call is to try and establish what somebody may have paid for the item, and certainly if it has been bought at a dealers then this would give a regularly available value. However, most items are acquired from legacies from family and old friends, and invariably as can be seen on the Antiques Road Show people do not appreciate their potential value. Therefore, it is necessary to obtain as much information about the item as possible from photographs, measurements, provenance, and more importantly whether the item can be attributed to a specific artist, designer or workshop.

A piece from a known maker will always attract a higher premium in the same way that a painting by a known artist will always attract a higher price than an unknown artist.

Consequently, if you do have a collection of antiques or fine art, it is essential to have the items valued, but this can be a costly exercise, and you may feel it may be unnecessary if your collection is relatively small.

Certainly therefore, it would be in your best interests to provide your own brief description of the item, for arguments sake an item of silver, the date, where it was hallmarked, the

size of the item and a photograph will always assist any valuer. If you are able to distinguish the silversmith concerned this again would highlight a potential additional value, a piece by Paul Storr, or Nathaniel Mills in the case of smaller items of silver would obviously attract a higher price. Similarly condition is important particularly for items of glass or porcelain.

Thereafter, any descriptions, photographs and so forth, should be carefully stored, if the item then is destroyed you have a complete record which would assist the valuer.

Insurance claims involving antiques and fine art can be a minefield and any claim should be dealt with by an expert in that particular field. Unfortunately, Loss Adjusters have had their fees drastically cut by Insurers, and rarely have in-house experience and knowledge which they used to be able to call on. Consequently, it is often left to the general Adjuster to try and establish the value of an item, and if this is wrongly described in the first instance, there can be major issues when making a claim.

As well as keeping a description and photograph of any valuable items, you do need to have the assistance of an experienced individual in this field to establish that your claim has been correctly presented, and you receive the settlement which you deserve

Richard Hope ACII FCIA

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Greatest show on Earth-ish!

WARRINGTON GP, Dr Brian Hope took a little while to recover after a recent rehearsal for 'The Greatest Show on Earth-ish!'

Dr Hope, who is to star as Mick Karno, the Circus Ringmaster in Simon Plumb's latest summer production at Lymm Rugby Club, was full of praise for his showgirls.

"If rehearsals are anything to go by everyone is going to have a lot of fun

watching this show," commented Dr Hope.

Famous locally for his performances as crooner, 'Jonny Romance', Brian was cast for his singing and comedic abilities. Show producer, Simon, summed up what

the audience can expect. "Lymm Rugby Club is building a huge marquee this summer and we will perform for three nights, from 21-23 June. I have a very talented cast and the show is full of great songs and hilarious sketches. If you need an antidote for the economy come and see this new musical comedy, because laughter really is the best medicine!"

There will be a fully seated auditorium including a bar. This show is suitable for children aged 14 years and over, with tickets at £16 each.

For tickets email boxoffice@communicadocreative.com, call 01925 755590, or for on-line ticket sales, go to www.lymmfestival.org.uk



Left to right: Showgirls Sara Worton, Rosie O'Connor and Hayley Moston surround Brian Hope who plays Ringmaster Mick Karno, in rehearsals for 'The Greatest Show on Earth-ish!'

Death of local music legend

FORMER Warrington bandleader Eric Pep - who helped kick-start the careers of local singers Edna Savage and Barbara Law - has died, aged 84.

Eric - real name Pepperell - was a veteran of the Warrington music scene in the Fifties and Sixties, a talented pianist, organist and piano-accordionist, who could have gone far in the music industry.

But he preferred to stay in Warrington, running his own band, Eric Pep and his Music.

He played for years at the US Air Force base at Burtonwood, where his jazz-tinged music was a big hit with American servicemen. But he also played at all the main venues in town.

Promoter Dave Warwick, of David Anthony Promotions, said: "Eric was a highly respected musician and helped a lot of people early in their careers. But he was Warrington through and through. He did not want to leave the town. He was more interested in music than money."

Guitarist Ron Picard, who ran the Five Knights dance band in the Sixties, said: "My band and Eric's were often booked for the same event and I knew him very well."

"He was a brilliant musician and composer - in fact he composed quite a few tunes for my band which we recorded. He will be sadly missed. A few years ago he was still running a big band which played at some of the local clubs."

Best known of his protégés were Edna Savage - who made a number of records, one of which got to nine in the UK singles chart - and Barbara Law, who broadcast on radio and television as well as making many records.

When the dance band era ended, Eric continued as a solo pianist and also produced wedding videos and copyright free music for amateur movie makers. He was a long-time member of Warrington Cine and Video Society.



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Hello and welcome to my monthly column . . .

Hypnotes

by Michael Mahoney

Tired of people putting you down? How about some encouragement?

What is it with people these days? Not all people, but some people. They can find time to complain or to put people down or criticize, but when it comes to handing out a little praise, they clam up. Could it be the common explanation, that putting others down makes one feel better about their own lives and less critical of their own shortcomings?

When you really stop to think about it, how ludicrous! I can remember when people wanted to look up to others and aspire to be like them – people with accomplishments, perhaps inventors, sports professionals, maybe an inspirational teacher or parent. Of course we still have throngs of young people who aspire to be the next singing idol, but in general, there was once a feeling of wanting to become 'someone' who was respected, admired, professional, accomplished.

A friend of mine wrote a thesis for a university about young adults and striving for success. It seems there isn't as much striving these days. In fact, she found out that many students were afraid to even try. They preferred not trying because of fear of failure.

However, because they didn't even try, they failed anyway! At least if they had tried, they would have had somewhat of a chance of success, but they didn't see it that way!

This is not good. Why is this happening? Perhaps they received false praise as youngsters for mediocrity or expected achievements. Though one would think praise is a good thing, people know when they are praised for work below their ability and this can have adverse affects later on. And then there are those who have not received praise or encouragement and need it.

Are these two opposites or are there some commonalities going on here?

Well, as human beings we all need encouragement. And the young adult who was saturated with false praise knows the truth. Yet, he or she may be in real need of encouragement all the same. The encouragement to try and perhaps even to fail. Because it is in failing that we learn, and learning is encouraging! Eventually, true encouragement can lead to success.

But whether we are young or growing older, sometimes the occurrences for being encouraged

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

can be few and far between.

I can help with that! If you are feeling in need of encouragement, but don't know where to start, or if you even feel a bit 'silly' at the thought, I can outline specific ways to get you enthusiastic and encouraged about your life and your goals. Over the years I have helped many individuals who have felt discouraged, to renew their passion for their life's goals and achievements. Sometimes it is hard to get motivated, to get started – you may just need a little push and you can be on your way!

I have helped many to become motivated, enthusiastic and driven to achieve, now more than ever, everyone who has to earn a living needs to have confidence in themselves and their abilities to learn and achieve. And of course there are people who were never encouraged to achieve, but it is never too late. You know where I am if you would like any help.

Pyramid & Parr Hall

May

"What's On"

Sat 7 May
North Cheshire Wind Orchestra

Fri 13 May
Johnnie Walker

Fri 20 May
Livewire

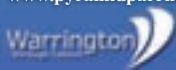
Sat 28 May
What's the Story

Wed 8 June
Gordon Smith

Sat 18 June
Clone Roses

Thur 23 June
Gervase Phinn

Tickets & Information
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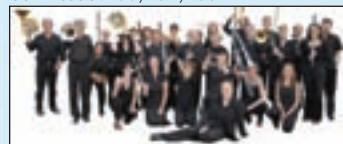


Spring into Summer at Pyramid & Parr Hall!

This summer, our sell-out comedy and legendary music are just the entertainment tonic to keep you energised throughout the summer.

Sat 7 May - North Cheshire Wind Orchestra

Our summer cocktail of classic music and cult comedy really does pack a punch and it all kicks off with *A Night at the Theatre* courtesy of North Cheshire Wind Orchestra. With selections from all your favourite musicals such as; *My Fair Lady*, *Oklahoma* & *Fiddler on the Roof*, this fabulous night of music is one not to be missed! £8/£7/£3



Fri 13 May - Johnnie Walker



Presenter of *Sound of The Seventies* and *In Concert* on BBC Radio 2, the legendary Johnnie Walker hits Parr Hall with his brand new *Musical Milestones* that tells the story of his life and times in Radio and the music that has influenced him from the 1960's to the present day. £16.50

Fri 20 May - Livewire



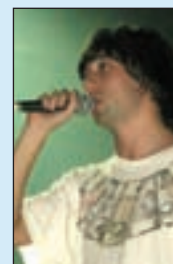
Close your eyes and you'll hear AC/DC; open your eyes and you'll see AC/DC when Livewire take to the Parr Hall stage With all the classics from *Whole Lotta Rosie* and *Highway To Hell*, to *Thunderstruck* and *Back In Black!* £14

Sat 28 May - What's The Story



Fast forward 20 years or so (or just over a week in this case) and we have the North West's finest Oasis Tribute Act accurately re-creating all of the biggest hits from arguably the biggest British band since the *Beatles*. What's more this show features a DJ set from the one and only Bez! £10

Sat 18 June - The Clone Roses



June brings the very welcome return of The Clone Roses plus special guest Clint Boon. "I cant believe its not butter!! The 2nd Best Stone Roses in the World" Mani (ex Stone Roses) – need we say more? £10

Other June highlights include **Gordon Smith**, who is widely accepted as one of the most accurate mediums in the world, Best-selling author, Radio & TV personality, **Gervase Phinn** and a truly hilarious evening with one of the UK's most innovative comedians, the one and only **Mister Dom Joly!**

This is just a taste of what's on in 2011 – see www.pyramidparrhall.com for even more fun and entertainment.

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New buses hit the road

WARRINGTON Borough Transport has unveiled six new environmentally friendly low floor buses that will operate the Penketh route.

The brand new Optare Solo minibuses, which cost £750,000, have taken over from the high floor single-deck buses that have served the Penketh public for the last 13 years.

WBT managing director David Squire said: "Following the testing of a demonstrator bus last year, we

received a lot of feedback from both customers and drivers. Using this information, we were able to work with Optare to design a bespoke Warrington bus that gives a bright and roomy interior, and we hope that our customers on the Penketh routes will benefit from these new buses for many years to come."

The buses are environmentally friendly with Euro 5 Engines and contain full CCVT systems for customer safety. They have also been specified with high backed

seats and updated interiors for customer comfort.

WBT currently operates 118 buses, carrying nine million

passengers annually.

The company was named UK Bus Operator of the Year and Shire Bus Operator of the year in 2008.



Left to right: Operations Director Charlie Shannon, Managing Director David Squire, Chairman Cllr. Les Hoyle, Cllr. David Earle and Commercial Manager Phil Pearson, with the new buses outside Warrington Town Hall.

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Surprise visit for a keyholder

I RECENTLY had an enquiry via our web site, from a business gentleman who seemed rather concerned. He was seeking consultative advice about the key holding aspect of his business premises. He relayed a story to me which didn't surprise me, but it is typical of what can happen with key holders.

He said the alarm was triggered at his premises about 2am and one of his employees who was the nominated key holder, turned out of bed to attend to it. Assuming it was just another fault on the alarm he ambled up to the premises and entered the front door in darkness. On turning on the lights he was shocked to see two intruders in ski masks with laptops under their arms. Unfortunately the employee found himself to be in the way. One of these guys made it clear to the employee that if he did not get out of their way he would have a serious problem (But not exactly in those words). Wisely he stepped aside and they departed with the laptops leaving him with words of wisdom on their way out which I shall not repeat.

They got away with it but what more important so did the employee. You may also think that his boss was lucky on that occasion with his responsibility for a 'duty of care' and his corporate liability. It is a precautionary tale to those people

who as key holders turn out in the middle of the night to unknown circumstances.

So what was my advice?

It may not have occurred to you that an employee in these circumstances is classed as a 'lone worker' and is taking a risk. The employer who has a duty of care needs to assess the risk. The employer must reduce the risk as much as possible or be found wanting.

My best advice was to reduce the risk to an employee or himself in these circumstances, was to give the responsibility of key holding to a professional key holding company that is an SIA Approved Contractor for keyholding.

Choosing a professional key holding company itself has its dangers which I informed him he needed to be aware of.

There are too many 'cowboys' about in the security industry so only use a Security Industry Authority Approved Contractor, which can be checked on the SIA Approved Contractor WEB site and is a must.

Don't choose a company that gives you 'cut price key holding service'. You can lose a lot more than you save if you do. You don't want a company that will 'lose' your keys or cannot respond 24 hours a day any day of the year.

Choose a company that has its own 24/7 Monitoring Centre who are not using someone else's increasing the risk. One who can also respond promptly to the call?

Make sure the key holding company have back up resources at busy times.

Check that the key holding company has adequate insurance in case things go wrong.

If you are handing over your keys to someone outside your company be sure that you can trust them. Don't leave it to chance.

If you want someone to accompany your employee key holder on a call out, effective planning can be put in place at very reasonable cost.

If you are, or have been a key holder you will know that an alarm call by its very nature will always come at the most inconvenient time, when you're in a deep sleep, at a party, had too much to drink, just taken your prescribed drugs or one hundred miles away on some other mission. Always being on call can play havoc with your off duty hours and leave you exhausted the next day. If you have to get a taxi or a friend to 'run you' it can be a pain. Don't let it happen to you.

Uniqwin are SIA Approved Contractors for key holding. 'Security in safe hands'.

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For more information contact
Cliff Unwin M.D for
Uniqwin Security on
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Business as usual for DAD!

PLANS are well under way for the 20th anniversary of the Disability Awareness day event at Walton Gardens, Warrington.

Last year's Northwest Disability Awareness Day (DAD) saw a record number of 28,000 visitors, many of them travelling from across the North West and the UK and despite the loss of its main sponsor, the North West development Agency, it will be business as usual.

Event founder Dave Thompson and other members of the team have already taken the plunge with a sponsored scuba dive which raised in excess of £10,000 in Sponsorship and Warrington Primary Care Trust have

also agreed to become a main sponsor.

Meanwhile DAD 2011 will be supported by a week of complimentary events, leading up to the exhibition on Sunday July 10. The events will be held in a tented village located in the picturesque setting of Walton Hall Gardens situated off the A56 in Warrington Cheshire.

This year the dedicated DAD team will celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the event, which has continued to grow with the support of both local and national organisations.

The event boasts something for everyone, with over 300 exhibition stands promoting independent living, with areas dedicated to Arts, Sports and family entertainments.

DAD covers all disabilities, ages, carers and families, and if you work in the field of health, social care or

disability there will be plenty to interest you.

DAD also offers a free and accessible park & ride service, free admission and programme.

For more information visit www.disabilityawarenessday.org.uk or contact the DAD Admin Team on 01925 240064.

Reward for missing mascot

WARRINGTON Town Football Club are offering a reward for the safe return of their missing club mascot The Legend.

The leopard costume worth £1,500 disappeared after being loaned to a club sponsor who then went out of business.

It is believed the costume created by a local school girl nearly three years ago, may have been sold on to a charity group in the area.

The Legend, named after the club's most famous footballing son - World Cup winner Roger Hunt, was designed by Micheala Whitaker, who was a 15-year-old pupil at Boteler High School at the time, as part of a competition organised by the club.

The mascot proved to be a huge hit with pupils and fans and made a number of special guest appearances around the town.

A club spokesman said: "The costume was sponsored by a local company who loaned it for a charity event. The company then went out of business and it is believed the

costume was sold to pay off some of their debts.

"The mascot was a valuable member of our team and we would like its safe return. We believe who ever has it is not aware of our ownership and we will quite happily pay a reward for its safe return."

Any one with information on the whereabouts of the Legend should email info@warrington-worldwide.co.uk



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Town show their true colours

WARRINGTON Town FC have shown they are Primrose & Blue and Proud.

The town's football club has supported the recent Wolves' special edition scarf initiative helping to raise funds for a number of chosen charities including St Rocco's Hospice, Help

for Heroes and the Wolves Foundation.

The club purchased over 100 scarves and directors Richard Sutton and Gary Skentelbery are pictured



here with Wolves' coach Tony Smith and player Jon Clarke showing their true colours.

The scarves were handed out free to young fans at a Warrington Town home game as a thank you for their support throughout the season.

Richy said: "We aspire to everything Warrington Wolves have

achieved in recent years and wanted to show our support to the rugby team and their chosen charities."

Meanwhile the Wolves have said a massive thank-you must go to Warrington Town and to all supporters and businesses alike for showing their support.

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Warrington Cottons On to Fairtrade

WARRINGTON shoppers were surprised and amused to see Fairtrade supporters going "Loud and Proud" as they paraded round the town with drums and rattles, wearing banana and nut costumes emblazoned with the Fairtrade Mark.

This was part of the "Cotton On to Fairtrade" event held in Golden Square as shoppers helped decorate Fairtrade cotton bunting flags as part of the Fairtrade Foundation's World Record attempt to create the longest ever piece of bunting.

Jackie Hancock a member of the town's Fairtrade Steering Group said "The focus of this year's Fairtrade Fortnight was cotton.

The World Record attempt aims to "flag up" the desperate plight of ten million West African cotton farmers. They are suffering from one of the greatest trade injustices of our time; locked into poverty by massive subsidies paid out by the EU and the USA to their cotton farmers. However, buying goods made with Fairtrade cotton can make a big difference. For instance one co-operative of farmers in Mali has been able to earn 50% more by producing and selling organic Fairtrade cotton.

As a result, 95% of their children are enrolled in school, compared with a national average of 43%.

The new world record will hopefully be announced on World Fair Trade Day on Saturday May 14.

The Warrington Fairtrade Foundation has posted off a huge parcel, weighing 8kg, containing 1,156 decorated Fairtrade cotton bunting flags decorated by adults and children in Warrington, with more flags being sent off independently.

These have been completed at special events in Golden Square, Warrington Market, Warrington Museum, the Pyramid and by a good number of Warrington churches,

schools and voluntary organisations. The total number of flags needed to beat the current World Record is 12,500, so Warrington has made a significant contribution to the attempt.

The 1,156 flags would stretch for approx 231 metres once sewn to Guinness World Record requirements, which is more than double the length of the Halliwell Jones Stadium pitch.

Other activities on offer at the event were free Fairtrade Mark face painting, and a public vote for the winner of Warrington's "Design a Fairtrade T shirt" children's competition. Many Wwolves supporters bought raffle tickets for the Fairtrade rugby ball signed by all the current team.



Wolfe shows his support for Fairtrade Fortnight

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the Tim Parry Johnathan Ball
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PeaceTALKS

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Conquering Kilimanjaro

18th Anniversary Edition

Messages from our Chairman and Chief Executive



It is quite remarkable that this organisation has not only survived but has grown organically . . . from the saddest and most humble of beginnings . . . to become a well-respected authority and leader in its field of activity . . . that of non-violent conflict resolution.

Our reputation is founded on excellent products...which are dynamic and capable of evolving to meet changing circumstances. This means that we ensure they remain relevant to the needs of successive UK governments and to the wider society in which we live.

We have rightly adopted a 'steady as she goes' approach to growing this charity to date, but the real challenge from here on is not only to prove but also to sell our excellence and our pedigree.

This will call on the combined effort of not just the staff team under Clare White, our Chief Executive, but of everyone else who has a stake in our future. Saying we care, and doing all we can to show we care, requires a step change: it requires us all to ask ourselves the question: 'What more can I do to make a difference?'

Colin Parry
Chairman

A brief review of 2010

I would like to begin with a heartfelt thank you to every member of the Foundation team for their efforts and support this year. It has been a challenging year in terms of new partnerships and new programmes and when I look at the summary of activity completed in the year it is amazing that all this has been achieved by just 14 people.

2010 saw significant development in the delivery of our programmes on an international platform. The Foundation continued to be involved in the Network of Associations of Victims of Terrorism, taking our participants to speak at events in Brussels, London and Lisbon and participating in the International Congress for Victims of Terrorism in Spain.

With funding from the EU and NWDA we were able to host an International programme which brought young Israelis, including religious Jews from West Bank settlements and secular Israelis from Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, who joined Palestinians from Hebron, Ramallah and Bethlehem and young people from Ireland, England and the Basque region of Spain. The programme saw participants working through topics ranging from conflict indicators to sustainable development.

More locally, within Warrington, our 'Full On' programme working with young people at risk of exclusion from education continues to be much in demand. This programme is really successful with learners achieving an 87% pass rate for accreditation.



Still 'at home', our first long-term Warrington partnership was developed this year with the Warrington Wolves Foundation on the REACH programme. This programme, funded by the Big Lottery for two years, proved particularly challenging during the first 12 months but through the persistence and ingenuity of the programme team it has achieved some fantastic results.

There is no doubt that the work the Foundation undertakes is needed, is effective and does make a difference. We

are increasingly being asked to advise both Local and Central Government on issues such as emergency planning, working with prejudice and discrimination as well as delivering the Preventing Violent Extremism agenda at local level in areas such as Leeds.

In 2011 the team will continue to deliver this fantastic work and the focus at senior management level will be to ensure that the Foundation receives public recognition for its work.

We continue to improve the lives positively affect the lives of those with whom we work and through this fantastically dedicated team we look forward to another challenging but fulfilling year ahead.

Clare White
Chief Executive

'Our reputation is founded on excellent products...which are dynamic and capable of evolving to meet changing circumstances.'




A new look for the Foundation

During 2011 the Foundation will be making a concerted effort to increase its profile locally, nationally and within Central Government so that it begins to get the recognition for its work that it truly deserves.

In addition to our new logo the Foundation has produced a new DVD produced by Mediman free of charge. We are also developing a new website which will explain our work more clearly and enable us to better position ourselves in a highly competitive economic environment. The new website is being developed by I-COM one of the largest online, web design and development companies in the North West. Managing Director of I-COM, Tim Roberts, who lives in Warrington and is an avid supporter of the Foundation, said: "Having looked at the plan and initial concepts, we are so excited and cannot wait to launch the new website."

Speaking of the rebranding, Chief Executive, Clare White said: "We have spent a number of years developing our work and focussing on delivering programmes that make a difference to the lives of our participants. The time is now right for us to begin to focus on marketing the Foundation more effectively so that we gain recognition for this fantastic work. Along with a re-brand we shall be increasing our marketing and PR activity to raise the Foundation's profile during 2011."



the Tim Parry Johnathan Ball
foundation for peace

Kinesis & Uber Creative Design create The Foundation's new logo

The Foundation reached out to the local community of marketing and design companies to see if any were interested in providing their creative time free of charge to take the Foundation through a rebranding exercise. After a fantastic response and careful deliberation by the Board of Trustees, Kinesis Marketing came out on top and was officially congratulated at the Foundation's Valentines Ball in February.

The new design is a mixture of old and new, it incorporates the images of both Tim and Johnathan yet brings another dimension with the use of stylised artwork, appropriate imagery and bold modern fonts.

Steve Nurdin, Head of Marketing at Kinesis comments: "We were absolutely delighted to be asked by one of the Foundations' Trustees to look at logo options – it took us about 5 seconds to agree this was a worthwhile use of our time and we are over the moon to have been chosen as the winning agency"

Kinesis commissioned Nigel Murray, Senior Graphic Designer at Uber Creative Design to work on the project. Nigel gives some background to the rationale: "It was important to respect the values of the Foundation at all times whilst creating a brand that would do them justice. Birds are seen by many as the embodiment of liberty and the dove in particular is seen as a symbol of love between human beings and for peace. The olive branch signifies peace and forgiveness in many cultures – particularly in the Roman age where it signifies 'seeking peace in times of war'. We felt this completely embodied what the Foundation is all about and we set about creating the logo around this concept."

The Board of Trustees were delighted with the design produced by Kinesis. It fulfilled the brief exactly and the new logo reflects how the Foundation is developing as an organisation.



Climbing KILIMANJARO

After 12 months of training, and thinking about how we were going to cope with this huge challenge, the time had come for us to travel to Heathrow where we would meet our travelling companions and brace ourselves for the task ahead.

Our challenge was to get to the top of Mount Kilimanjaro, which is the highest mountain in Africa standing at 5,895 m (19,341 ft). A combination of high altitude and low temperatures makes climbing Kilimanjaro difficult, and acclimatisation is essential as even the most experienced climbers can suffer some degree of altitude sickness.



Departing from Heathrow on Thursday evening, we arrived in Nairobi on Friday morning, changed planes for our onward flight to Tanzania and picked up the minibus to our hotel in the village of Marangu where we stayed overnight.

First day of our challenge
Saturday 20th March

The hotel was 2 km from the park entrance at Marangu Park Gate which was the route we would take to the summit. After breakfast and a briefing by our guides, tour

manager and doctor, we started on our way. This was the first day of our climb and everyone seemed quiet and apprehensive about the task in front of us.

Mandara

The trail took us through dense rain forest where we were surrounded by towering trees, giant ferns and wild forest flowers. Within 10 minutes the heavens opened and within another 5 minutes we were soaked to the skin. The rain was unbelievable and made walking hard and very slippery. After 5 hours we arrived at Mandara huts where we were to stay overnight.

Horombo

Today we have a 7-8 hour trek to our next stop. We start out early and it's uphill all the way passing through cloud level. The landscape takes on a more rugged and rocky terrain and, because we are now at 12,339 ft, it's really hard to breathe.



Kibo

Kibo huts are the last destinations before the summit. Today the guides have given us a packed lunch and after 4 hours we stop to picnic at the Kibo saddle. This area is beyond the water point as we enter the

'desert zone' and it's really cold due to the high altitude. The saddle is quite flat and it's a welcome break from walking uphill, the ground is really dry and dusty and we feel like we're walking on the moon.

Summit Day

Early morning we do our acclimatisation trek. Hank, our tour guide, would make us do this at the end of every day, his saying was 'climb high sleep low' to help you get used to the altitude but, when you have been walking for 6, 7 or 8 hours a day, the last thing you want to do is walk uphill for another 1 or 2 hours!



At 11.00pm on the 23rd March we embark on our slow ascent up to the steepest and most difficult challenge to Gilman's Point. Everyone who reaches Gilman's Point qualifies 'to have climbed Kilimanjaro' but you do have the option to carry on for another 2 hours to Uhuru Peak. We arrive at our destination at 6am: we are all extremely tired and celebrations are at a minimum despite the fact that we have just completed a challenge of a lifetime. The Foundation team gather together, give each other a celebratory hug and burst into tears.

The temperature is well below freezing but we reached the top of Kili just in time to see the sun rise. The views are extremely beautiful and the fact that we are exhausted, cold and hungry doesn't seem to bother any of us.





Climbing Mt Kilimanjaro was a challenge of a lifetime, it pushed me way beyond my comfort zone and beyond anything I thought I was capable of achieving. Reaching Gilman's Point was unbelievable and something I will never forget plus the fact that I did it with Abbi was a bonus.

Wendy Parry

We made it to the summit of Kilimanjaro and I can quite safely say that it was the toughest challenge I've ever done in my life but I loved every minute of it (now that I'm back, clean & rested!). I can't begin to explain how it feels properly, but I'm so pleased that I didn't give up. I challenged myself physically and mentally, raising lots of money and I know that Tim would be extremely proud of us.

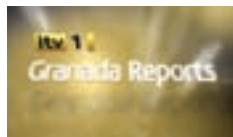
Abbi Parry

It was the hardest physical challenge I have ever undertaken. It is difficult to describe the total assault on the body and mind that takes place when you're at such an altitude and trekking in such an amazing place. Reaching the top was the greatest feeling ever – words can't describe it, I just felt numb. I never once stopped feeling privileged to be able to do this – it really was a once in a lifetime experience and every little aspect of it helped to make it just that. I will never forget it.

Kelly Simcock

The Mt Kilimanjaro Challenge was not only a life changing experience but also raised a substantial amount of money for the Foundation. Also, in my case, it shows that age is no barrier to achieving your goals.

Alan McKie



REACH 4 CHANGE Conference 2010



In December 2010 the first REACH Conference was held at the Peace Centre. REACH, a partnership project between the Tim Parry Johnathan Ball Foundation for Peace and the Warrington Wolves Foundation, worked with young people from schools and agencies across the town to enable them to develop the knowledge, understanding, skills and confidence to create a network of positive young leaders across the town.

Designed and delivered largely by participants on the first REACH programme and attended by parents, professionals and community leaders, the Conference, entitled 'REACH 4 CHANGE', was a chance for people to come together to discuss important issues around Communities, Conflict Resolution and Developing Leadership skills.

Many of the young people from the project took part in a performance showing how conflict can affect young people and demonstrated what they had learned to help them deal with difficult situations.

The Conference received overwhelmingly positive feedback and plans are already underway to build on the successes of this day for the REACH 2011 Conference.



The Tim Parry Leadership Development Programme

The third and final phase of the Tim Parry Leadership Development Programme took place at the Peace Centre from 17th-20th February. The four day residential programme saw a group of 20 young people from England, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland come together for the final leg of their learning programme. Participants had already taken part in two residential programmes at this stage, with the first programme at the Glencree Centre for Reconciliation in Wicklow, Republic of Ireland, and the second at the Corrymeela Centre, Ballycastle, Northern Ireland.

The programme, funded by the DFA in the Republic of Ireland, is the longest running programme of the Foundation and is targeted at working with young people to develop their skills and understanding in relation to conflict and the non-violent resolution of conflict. Exploring themes and topics ranging from international conflicts and sectarianism, and contemporary challenges such as racism and Islamophobia that exist in all our communities, the programme works to increase young peoples' understanding of those issues that divide and threaten to divide our communities. Crucially, the young people also look at issues in their own communities and how their own individual actions can effect change.

The residential programmes are highly participatory with participants engaged in activities ranging from games to formal lectures. Programme Manager Kelly Simcock

said, 'The aim is to equip the young people with the skills and understanding to go back into their communities and effect positive change. Whether that be that they challenge discriminatory comments and prejudice, or that they take on a formal leadership role in their communities with their peers, it's all about doing things differently.'

The young people experienced activities ranging from political tours in Northern Ireland, cliff jumping in the South and, during the final residential, the group were visited by Colin and Wendy Parry who reinforced the importance of trust and understanding in peace building. Colin encouraged the group to 'keep in touch' and remember the experiences that they had shared - and to use these in whatever way they can to contribute to the achievement of peaceful communities. The group also heard some of the Foundation's Survivors Project participants - Lisa French and Lutha Magloire. Former soldier Lutha shared with the group his experiences of the armed forces and violent conflict, whilst Lisa - a survivor of the Tavistock Square bus bomb (7/7) - shared her story of how she has used her experiences to help others and make a difference.

Speaking of the programme, participant Sarah Short (16) said, 'Wow, where do I start? Doing the Tim Parry Leadership Programme was one of the best experiences of my life. I found it so interesting and it definitely opened up my eyes and made me aware of a lot more things. I learnt what makes a good leader, I learnt about prejudice and discrimination and where we see it in everyday life, and I learnt a lot about myself and my own identity. I met some amazing people that I hope I never lose touch with, and I know I'll never forget the experience; it's definitely made me a better person. I really enjoyed going over to Ireland and Northern Ireland and seeing just how different places can be to my own community.....I'm so glad I took part in the programme and I would recommend it to anyone.'

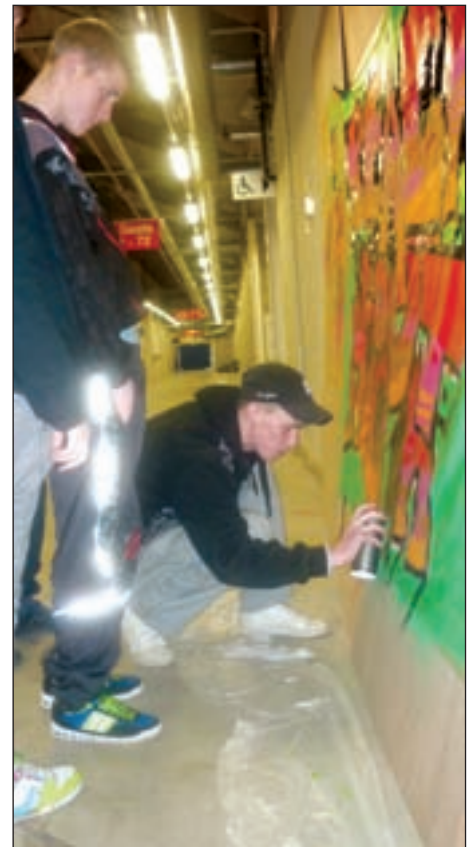
Programme worker Gemma Benns said, 'It was great to see how the young people developed over the course of the three residentials - by the end of the programme, you could see how much people's attitudes and mindsets had shifted and that the new skills that they had learnt were being put into practice!'

The next programme, aimed at young people aged 18-26 yrs, will commence in May 2011. Recruitment is underway for those interested in participating. Please contact Kelly Simcock on 01925 581 237 or kelly.simcock@foundation4peace.org



Putting their skills to good use

Young people from REACH have been putting their artistic skills to good use to help brighten up parts of the community. Reflecting a new found interest in their community, local lads Shane Pindard, Bobby Pomfrett, Liam Adams and Josh Fance used skills developed by working with professional artists on the Reach programme to design and produce artwork to adorn a hitherto unloved set of shipping containers in the grounds of the Orford Day Centre.



External Mentoring Programme

Young People on the REACH project have been provided with opportunities to receive one-to-one mentoring from volunteers from the local business community. Members of staff from Galliford Try Construction Limited undertook formal mentoring training with the Foundation and have since been working with selected students to develop positive working relationships and to support, motivate and encourage them to achieve personal goals and targets.

Although this is a relatively new programme there have already been some exciting success stories. Lauren requested a mentor to help her to develop the skills and motivation to regularly attend college and to deal with any difficulties that she faced there. Within

three months Lauren dramatically increased her attendance at college, has successfully completed her NVQ Level 2 in Childcare and is working part time while she seeks full-time employment working with children.

"It has actually made me go to college. Dave makes me think that things are my idea and I want to do stuff. I now want to get more qualifications."

Through the Foundation's involvement with the Warrington-wide Mentoring Programme, two mentors are visiting their students at school which enables us to continue a link with the REACH participants even after they have completed their programme.

The Foundation is extremely grateful to mentors who have so kindly dedicated their time to supporting the young people on the REACH project.



Young people organise a minute's silence

Remembering the sacrifices our soldiers have made, past and present, young people involved in the Foundation's REACH programme organised a minute's silence at the Peace Centre to show their respect.

In 1918 on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month the 'The Great War' came to an abrupt halt and at this precise moment every year throughout the UK, we honour the soldiers who gave their lives and the ones who returned with life long memories of their fallen comrades.



Foundation hosts International Peace Conference



In January, the Foundation hosted a two day international conference entitled, 'International Approaches to Building Peace: From Global to Grassroots'.



The first day of the conference, chaired by Professor Oliver Ramsbotham, focused on global approaches to building peace, considering various approaches in different countries but using common principles adapted to each situation. The morning session saw speakers from South Africa, Ireland and Norway outlining Government perspectives, looking at the role and responsibilities of countries to provide assistance and space for dialogue and negotiation. Speakers in this session were Roelf Meyer, former Minister for Defence in South Africa, Barbara Jones, Deputy Head of Mission at the Irish Embassy in London and Anders Vethe, First Secretary for Political and Economic Affairs at the Norwegian Embassy, London.



The afternoon session focused on the pivotal role of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGO's) and the practical interventions made locally, nationally and internationally giving examples from Northern Ireland, the South Caucasus, Israel-Palestine, East Africa and the UK. Speakers included Duncan Murrow from the Community Relations



Council in Northern Ireland, Simon Tiller from International Alert, Marigold Bentley from Quaker Peace and Social Witness, Elizabeth Drew from Conciliation Resources and the Foundation's Jo Dover and Kelly Simcock.

The second day of the conference, chaired by Dame Helen Reeves, focused in particular on the role that victims can play in building peace and was also a celebration of the culmination of the Foundation's three year BIG Lottery funded 'Survivors for Peace' programme. Speakers looked at the importance and moral authority that victims of conflict have in addressing and transforming peace processes. The morning session featured speakers including Colin Parry, Chair and Foundation co-founder, Neil Ferguson from Liverpool Hope University, Jo Dover from the Foundation.



The session also featured testimonies from Pam White, Ted Aubertin and Lisa French, all of whom had been affected by conflict, explaining their role as peacebuilders.

The afternoon session featured workshops run by Foundation participants and explored storytelling and dialogue, experiences of peacebuilding and how people can be drawn into conflict. The themes from the day highlighted the important role that can be played by people directly affected by conflict in building and sustaining peace.

Feedback from the delegates showed that the two days were very successful and met the Foundation's aim of bringing together those involved in building peace at different levels to share their experiences.



Training and support for professionals

In 2010 the Foundation was able to provide new training programmes and seminars for professionals working in the field of Emergency Response following major incidents. In November, two seminars held at the Peace Centre focused on 'The voices of those affected by critical incidents'. Both days attracted professionals from Local Authorities, Police, Fire Service, Ambulance Service, British Red Cross, and civil contingency organisations involved in responding to incidents. The seminars featured an overview of the medium to long term needs of victims and how the Foundation meets those needs. Participants were able to share their experiences, comment on the support they have received in the medium to long term and what worked well or what not so well. This helps the professionals plan more effective future provision.

Thanks to Mo Norton, Evelyn Bitcon, Annie Bowman, Sudhesh Dahad, Susan Verghese and Colin Parry for sharing their experiences.



Further Lottery funding announced!



As we went to press, the Foundation learned it has been successful in its application to the Big Lottery Fund to continue the support of its work with victims and survivors of politically motivated violence and terrorism.

The funding will support the Foundation's storytelling and dialogue programmes, online forum, conflict resolution and leadership training programmes, as well as the further development of our specialist training for professionals working in the field of Emergency Response.

Speaking of the funding, Chief Executive, Clare White, said: "Obviously, we're delighted to receive the news that we will receive further Big Lottery funding for our work. The Foundation is the only organisation in the U.K. that supports victims and survivors of political violence and acts of terror through learning programmes, these explore the causes and effects of conflict and its resolution through non-violent means. The funding will enable us to develop that work further and help many more people."

Foundation hosts 'residential' for army officers

In September 2010, the Foundation hosted the first overnight debrief residential for Army Officers based in the North West who are responsible for notifying and supporting soldiers' families following a death or injury in service.

The residential allowed the officers to share experiences with each other about what it is like to undertake that vital role, create a support network with each other should they need it, help identify when they or someone else may be impacted by their work and also make suggestions for future improvement of supporting families affected in the future. Further residentials are planned for 2011.

Foundation's work highlighted at International Conference

In March 2011, the Foundation's Chief Executive, Clare White and Programme Manager, Jo Dover, spoke at a European conference on 'the role of victims of terrorism in preventing violent radicalisation'.

The event, organised by the European Network of Victims of Associations of

Victims of Terrorism (NAVt), took place in Brussels on the 7th E.U Day for Remembrance of Victims of Terrorism. It was attended by representatives from Associations across Europe, E.U officials and the world's media.

Clare spoke about the work of the Foundation in relation to the role of civil society in preventing radicalisation, with Jo providing details of the Foundation's dialogue and storytelling processes and the participant involvement with our programmes.

Speaking of the event, Clare said: "We were delighted to be invited to speak at this conference about our philosophy and practices. Our work is beginning to gain the international recognition that it



deserves and this was a fantastic opportunity to promote the Foundation's principles and philosophy."



The Festive Season starts at The Peace Centre



A great time was had by all at the Foundation's Charity Christmas Party held at the Peace Centre on Saturday 4th December 2010.

Sponsored by Forshaws Davies Ridgway Solicitors, 200 guests were treated to a four-course meal, fantastic entertainment by a Robbie Williams tribute act and disco by Nigel Littlewood who helped everyone party till the early hours of the morning.



Wendy Parry said, "Our Christmas Parties have been a great success with excellent comments after every event. I think people want value for money and they certainly get that at our events."

Jonathan Ford Accountants "We had a great night at the Christmas Party. It has already become a permanent fixture on our Christmas Calendar."

Jane, Debbie & the Little Acorns Team "It was a brilliant night, fantastic food, excellent entertainment and an amazing atmosphere."

The Foundation would like to thank TPB Ltd, Freshfayre Products, SET Produce, Alan and Ann Robinson, Anne Bateson and Barbara Leech from Taylorshaw Catering Ltd,

Gina Hallows, Liz Howarth, Wendy Catton, Nicola Wilson and Tracy Morini from M&S Money who created the fantastic table decorations.

Next year's Christmas Party will take place on Saturday 3rd December.



Warrington Half Marathon

Thank you to everyone who took part in the Warrington Half Marathon on behalf of the Foundation, and to Galliford Try Construction who part sponsored our places.

Commenting on the day Wendy Parry

said: "The atmosphere was amazing and despite the bad weather everyone was in good spirits. Dangerous Dave, who won the competition to become 'Toto' in Andrew Lloyd Webber's new production of the Wizard of Oz, also made an appearance and ran the last

lap to the cheers of young people in the stands. I would like to thank everyone for choosing the Foundation as their chosen charity and helping to raise £5600".



Chris Flowers, Dangerous Dave, Carl Mars and Dominic Glennon.

THIS YEAR'S WARRINGTON HALF MARATHON TAKES PLACE ON SUNDAY 18th SEPTEMBER.

L'OREAL GOODY BAGS FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS RUNNING ON BEHALF OF THE FOUNDATION.



Dangerous Dave.

The Valentines Ball

On Saturday 12th February, The Foundation hosted its annual Charity Valentines Ball at the Park Royal Hotel. Sponsored by Tailormade Group, M&S Money and Widnes Vikings, the event raised £21,000 to help us continue our work throughout the UK.

Entertainment was provided by Take That 2, along with casino tables, racing car simulators and disco. Paul Crone from Granada TV, who acted as MC for the evening, made sure that everyone had a fun-packed evening.

Wendy Parry, co-founder of the Foundation, said: "The evening was a great

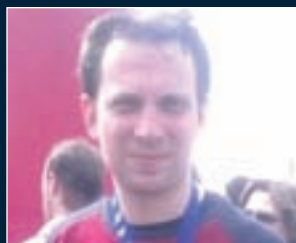


success and we are delighted with the support we received from our event sponsors and our guests throughout the evening".

Next year's Charity Valentines Ball will take place at The Park Royal Hotel on Saturday 11th February 2012.



Colin & Wendy Parry with event sponsors Jeni & Andrew Underhill, Clare & Steve O'Connor, Alistair & Victoria Burns, and Claire & Robert Shaw.



Colin's marathon for Foundation

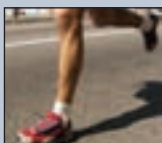
Thank you to Colin Ferguson for completing the Reading Half Marathon in 2hours / 2mins on behalf of the Foundation and raising over £1,115.

Colin is the nephew of the late Mike Sanders and Hilary, his wife, who have supported the Foundation since 1995. Mike was the Chief Executive of Warrington Borough Council at the time of the bombing and became a Trustee of the Foundation and good friend for many years.

The Foundation would like to thank the following people for their help and support:

The BIG Lottery Fund
John Zochonis Trust
The Rank Foundation
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Tailormade Group/Robert Shaw & Alistair Burns
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Events for 2011



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Christmas Party
Saturday 3rd December
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Valentines Ball 2012
Saturday 11th February
£55 per person includes welcoming drinks of Champagne, 4 course meal, entertainment & disco. (Tables of 10 or 12)

For more information regarding events please ring 01925 581234 or email info@foundation4peace.org

You can keep up to date with news and events by visiting our website view www.foundation4peace.org



You are invited to enter a team in the
The Tim Parry Johnathan Ball Foundation for Peace

Charity Golf Day

on Wednesday 8th June 2011

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wendy.parry@foundation4peace.org for more information

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Jordan (right) and Charlie (left) who have both been offered places at London Theatre Schools for September 2011.

Students offered capital chance

TWO talented Media and Performing Arts students from Priestley College, Warrington are celebrating after both being offered prestigious places at London Theatre Schools.

Jordan Carr, a former pupil at Bridgewater High School is currently completing the BTEC Level 3 programme in Performing Arts alongside an A-level in Dance and has been offered a place at Laine Theatre Arts to study Musical Theatre.

Meanwhile, Charlie Willis-Osborne, a former pupil of Woolston High School is currently studying a BTEC Level 3 in Production Arts, A-level Electronics and a BTEC Certificate in ICT. He has been offered a place to study at Rose Bruford College of Theatre and Performance on a degree programme in Sound Operations for Live Performances.

Both of the students have been

involved in a range of hit College productions with Jordan playing Bert in *Mary Poppins* and *Jimmy in Thoroughly Modern Millie*, whilst Charlie has provided his range of technical skills behind the scenes.

Jordan, said, "I am really thrilled to have been accepted at Laine as it is such a prestigious place. I have loved every minute of my time at Priestley with the tutors helping to really further my learning and skills."

Charlie, added, "I guess the opportunity of studying in London is a little daunting, but I'm sure the work I have done at College will put me in a good position. I'm really happy to have received a great offer."

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Community
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Motoring

Who needs artificial potholes?

TWO harsh winters have wrought havoc with local roads and potholes have become big news. So it may come as a surprise to some that there is a need for artificial potholes.

Who needs them? Car manufacturers, of course!

An example is Ford's Lommel Proving Ground in Belgium where there are miles of test track that specifically re-create potholes and the other sorts of damaged road surfaces drivers can expect to encounter.

Ford engineers know that not all roads are created equal. Some are pockmarked with potholes. Others simply consist of merciless off-road-like tracks. Only a few roads are kind to the vehicles driving over them.

Engineers know that too many drivers speed over four-inch-deep potholes or take turns too fast on cobblestone roads.

So Ford simulate road conditions ranging from the moderately rough roads to be expected in the UK, Europe and the US to the severely rough roads in emerging markets, taking into account that weather conditions can make these roads even worse.

Public spending cuts have added to the problems caused by the two cold winters so Ford aim to ensure all their vehicles are built to cope.

All new Ford models are put through a tough testing and development process to ensure they not only offer class-leading levels of ride, comfort for occupants but are easily capable of withstanding the

loads placed upon components by damaged road surfaces.

The Lommel Proving Ground subjects new vehicles to a variety of highly demanding road surfaces and features some 50 miles of test track, many of which are designed specifically to put suspension systems to the ultimate test.

"We have created some of the worst potholes in Europe on our own test track. If our cars can pass these tests, then they can cope with almost anything they encounter on public roads," said Eric-Jan Scharlee, technical specialist at Lommel. "You name the road surface - we have it at our proving ground."



Alfa's sporty Giulietta

THE latest incarnation of the Alfa Romeo Giulietta was launched last year to celebrate the Italian car manufacturer's centenary.

As one would expect from Alfa, it's a sporty model, designed to compete in the mid-size C-segment which now contributes one out of every four new cars sold across Europe.

It incorporates a range of advanced engineering and technical solutions to ensure the Giulietta can

meet the needs of all customers in the sector, combining impeccable safety credentials, Italian style, comfort and functionality and, of course, oomph!

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Market flags up Fair Trade

THERE was a buzz of excitement at Warrington Market for Fairtrade Fortnight's special one day Fair Trade Market.

More than 25 visiting traders had a huge variety of fairly traded goods including handmade toys, greeting cards, jewellery, scarves, incense, etc. The items came from many parts of the world including the Philippines, India, Palestine and a variety of African and South American

countries. Masses of Fairtrade cotton bunting, decorated with messages of support by people from all over Warrington, including children from various schools and churches etc. The bunting will be sent to the Fairtrade

Foundation to become part of their World Record attempt to create the longest ever piece of bunting.

Adults and children enjoyed activity organised by Fair 4 All, the permanent Fair Trade stall on the

market. Market management provided free bananas to shoppers which all added to the carnival atmosphere.

A Fairtrade rugby ball, signed by all Wolves players was raffled.



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Financially yours

By David Watkinson

Business record checks

Some time ago HM Revenue & Customs announced a consultation exercise in respect of proposed "Business Records Checks", where smaller traders were to be visited to check the quality of their records.

Should the tax office discover that the records are not adequate then this could result in more than a slapped wrist or advice on improving them. This could also give rise to assessments being raised on the grounds that returns were inaccurate or unreliable, with the resultant increase in tax liabilities and penalties.

The consultation stated that the Business Record Check programme would start in autumn of this year with 50,000 checks per year being carried out. HMRC also announced that they would report on the outcome of the Business Records Check consultation on 31 March, but despite this the first letters have already been issued by HMRC trying to arrange a meeting to carry out a Business Records Check (BRC).

It would appear that there are currently 4-5 HMRC offices issuing the letters, including Blackburn and Plymouth, and that taxpayers from specific geographical

locations are being targeted. These areas include Sheffield, Oxford, Swindon, Stockport and Scotland, with over 1,500 letters being issued.

Whilst this may not have an immediate impact on people in this area, taxpayers should certainly treat this as an "early warning" of potential problems and use the time available to ensure that their records will stand up to scrutiny. The type and form of records to be kept will vary depending on the size and nature of the business.

For instance, guidance issued by HMRC on their website states that the basic records to be kept by sole traders must include "a record of all your sales and takings" as well as "a record of all your purchases and expenses". However, they then go on to include a long list of more detailed records, such as bank statements and purchase and sales invoices, that "will be useful for completing your Self Assessment tax return and answering any questions that HMRC may have about it". Our experience suggests that the basic records alone will fail to convince HMRC that those records are complete and accurate.



David Watkinson and Margaret Black

We are always happy to advise clients on how best to keep records, whether it is manually, using a computer spreadsheet, or purchasing a computer based accountancy package. We are very happy to offer clients a simple bookkeeping package that meets all of the requirements of most small businesses, whilst at the same time being much easier to use than either Sage or Quickbooks. Further details are available on our website: www.warringtonaccountants.co.uk

WatkinsonBlack are pleased to advise on these matters at their offices in Manchester Road. Accordingly, 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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Peter receives his 'gong'



PETER Astley, Warrington's head of public protection, has officially received his MBE at Buckingham Palace.

His award, for "services to consumers in the North West", was presented by the Prince of Wales in front of 300 guests.

Peter said: "This was a once in a lifetime experience, not just to receive the award, but to visit the Palace and walk where Kings, Queens and numerous Heads of State have."

"To be recognised for my work is a real honour in itself, but to receive this at the Palace in front of my family was an experience I will never forget".

As well as his role as head of public protection Peter works, regionally, nationally and internationally to protect consumers and businesses from the dangers of counterfeit products.

Despite this however, the MBE was awarded for the excellent and innovative work he and his team do in Warrington to protect consumers, which is often a benchmark for others to follow.

Boost for pothole repairs

A HALF million pound boost has been given to Warrington to tackle problem potholes in the town.

Warrington Borough Council has received £550,000 from the Department for Transport - part of the £200 million fund confirmed in the budget by the Chancellor George Osborne.

David Boyer, assistant director for transport, engineering and climate change at the council, said: "We welcome any additional funding to help us repair damaged roads."

"Like many other councils across the country we have seen a steep rise in the number of potholes."

Officers say the borough's roads are fully inspected but, because there are hundreds of miles of highways to maintain, they appreciate residents reporting problem areas. This can be done by calling the Customer Contact Centre on 01925 443322 or online via the "say it" section of www.warrington.gov.uk

Warrington South MP David Mowat said: "I'm delighted that Warrington has been awarded a share of this money. We certainly need it. The borough's roads have been hit hard by two harsh winters and they badly need some relief. I was delighted the Chancellor and the Transport Secretary recognised this in the Budget and doubled the size of the fund available. The council and I lobbied hard for a share of these funds and I hope that we will soon see the benefits."

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