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Issue No. 157 November 2012 FREE EVERY MONTH

It's all going on in Warrington
THIS CHRISTMAS!
 See centre pages

Lucie appeals to her fans

See Page 3

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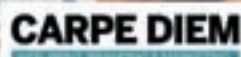
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Printed by TwentyFourSeven

THE investigation by Prof Steven Broomhead, interim chief executive of Warrington Borough Council, into what went wrong when road markings were modified, without warning, at Bridgefoot, has revealed an almost unbelievable lack of care in the council's Transport, Engineering and Operations service.

Major changes at one of the most complex and most heavily congested road junctions in the borough were the subject of an "almost informal dialogue", largely conducted by email.

As a result there was confusion between the project manager and two separate teams of officers leading to a plan clearly marked as "not approved" being given to a contractor to implement.

When the work was done it was found the scheme just did not work -

and motorists were left confused and understandably angry.

We should perhaps not be surprised, as we live in an age when a casual approach to serious matters appears to have become the norm. In fact, we should almost be grateful that in this case the additional cost to the public purse was only £5,000.

But we cannot help but wonder if there are other similar blunders which do not come to light and are perhaps more costly.

The thoroughness of Prof Broomhead's report, produced at a speed we are not accustomed to

when dealing with local government, was impressive.

It was pleasing to note that it cleared elected members of the council of any blame in what can only be described as a fiasco.

Councillors, who should have been kept informed, were left in the dark by officers. As soon as they were alerted to the situation they acted decisively to remedy the problems quickly.

Modesty forbids us reveal who alerted the councillors.



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Having spent nearly 20 years working in the financial services industry, I have witnessed increasing apathy with which clients view traditional ways of investing, compared to the upsurge in the demand for tangible investments such as land, commodities and property.

Most of us like to own additional properties to improve our financial wellbeing, however, this strategy can be flawed; when the property markets are falling, or when voids in rental occupancy are experienced. If you have been on the receiving end of both of these happening simultaneously, then the whole experience can be extremely stressful indeed, resulting in investors

selling their asset for less, as they realise the banks actually control their strategy.

Ensuring the bank is repaid becomes the number one priority regardless of whether or not it is a good time to sell. Thousands of UK investors have, and are still facing this conundrum with their UK and overseas properties, yet still the demand for property remains strong.

What is not appealing, is the thought of obtaining finance to fund the purchase, especially when the borrowing requirement is fairly high, compared to the property value. For these reasons, we are witnessing a huge increase in the demand for FRACTIONAL OWNERSHIP PROPERTY.

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of such propositions is that as a shared owner, investors are allowed access to this high yielding asset class without the requirement of either a large capital investment or the liability of a mortgage to facilitate the purchase. Coupled with the low entry level, these factors also allow investors the potential to diversify their portfolio whilst doing so remains very affordable.

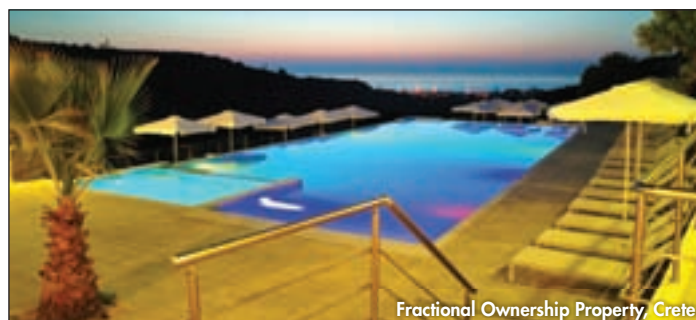
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I am proud to have experienced such an example of this concept in Crete recently, a project, in which TailorMade clients have invested, which is now complete and fully operational, with investors receiving their 8% fixed return on investment.

This has all been achieved during a global recession without an element of bank funding. A wonderful example of how fair and transparent distribution of funds can become a success for all connected parties.

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It's time to act...

Lucie wants fans to run her career

EVER since she can remember, Warrington's Lucie Evans wanted to be a performer -but the story of how she got to be one is full of ups and downs and teenage nightmares.

Now, as she prepares to release her first single on November 5, the 20-year-old from Birchwood has decided to let her 19,000 Twitter and Facebook fans run her career for her.

If that means they choose which single she should release, which outfit she should wear and which artwork and photo to use, then that's just fine with her - because at least she knows they have her best interests at heart.

Lucie, a former Birchwood High School pupil, started to sing at four.

In 2009, when she was 15, she won an online X Factor-style singing competition that netted her a £100,000 package to help her launch her singing career.

But this stroke of good fortune started a series of set-backs that would have disheartened most teenagers.

First, she had to receive her £100,000 cheque in the street because the organisers had chosen a venue she couldn't enter because it had an under-18s policy!

Several weeks later she was recording three songs with acclaimed producer Marshall Altman in Los Angeles, thinking she was getting



wonder if she'd actually been to LA at all.

Still, she was recording some fantastic songs, one of which was heard by Jeff Blue, one of the co-writers, who promised to "make her a star."

The trouble was Lucie was told if she didn't record it with Blue he would give it to Alicia Keys. And this became a recurring theme - she was offered songs, but only with provisos.

It became apparent if she wanted more freedom she had to write her own material - something she didn't see as an option.

She says: "All I want to do is sing and I don't have to have written a song to be able to connect with it."

In August 2010 Lucie flew to Nashville to begin recording her debut album. The idea was for her to choose from a list of songs. But again there were conditions - such as having her hair cut so she looked like a "rock chick."

Back in London, Lucie set about rehearsing for a UK tour taking in venues in Manchester, Liverpool and London.

But she did not enjoy the shows as she was being forced to look and sing like a rock performer. Lucie actually cried before the Manchester show as she knew so many of her friends and family would be there.

In April last year, she travelled back to Los Angeles to record two more songs, one of which turned out to be full of expletives and which Lucie

thought was vulgar. She could only conclude it was another attempt to make her appear to have a rock edge.

While there she was told of a wonderful opportunity to do a summer tour taking in every single UK festival. In fact she simply sat waiting for the phone to ring.

Now Lucie is finally ready to meet her public. She's recorded a clutch of great songs which are to be included on her debut album due for release early next year.

Her first single "I Hope You're listening to the Radio" will be released on November 5.

More pertinent perhaps is the decision she has made about letting the people who helped her win the competition in the first place run her career. Her Twitter followers and Facebook fans love Lucie for her music and for the honesty with which she interacts with them.



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Hello and welcome to my monthly column . . .

Hypnotes

by Michael Mahoney

How are you?

How many times a day or week or month are you asked 'how are you?', or, 'are you okay?' and how many times do you reply I'm fine, even when you're not. Even when things are difficult you give a positive reply.

What would happen if you said how you really felt, if you were honest and open and began to express your worries and fears, problems and frustrations? Hopefully the person, who asked you the question, would stop what they were doing, and listen. Or perhaps they are too busy with their own problems, worries and concerns and might not have the time to listen to you.

Something else might happen too. When you give a positive reply when you are feeling down or troubled, you create additional turmoil inside, you know you don't feel 'fine' you wish you did but it is simply not true. So your subconscious asks why you are being dishonest with yourself, and others.

Why are you saying things you know are not true? Then thoughts are triggered wishing things were ok, looking for solutions to problems, but none are found, so frustration and

feelings of inevitability creep in, and lots more besides. The courtesy of the question, and the dishonesty of the reply simply brings us no benefit.

Instead, when you are having difficulties simply reply I'm coping! This brings honesty to your reply; it brings a balance inside, a more congruent reply, which is more helpful to you, and also tells the other person, that things are not the best for you.

It's easier to reply this way, then at least if they do not stop and listen or take an interest you can take comfort in the fact that any internal conflict or frustration has not been added too, because you have answered honestly.

During difficult times in our life we need to be honest with ourselves, and others. This takes some learning, but it is worth doing.

So often we go through life storing our frustrations, worries, fears, anxieties, and self-limiting beliefs; and so much more, carrying our burdens takes lots of emotional energy from us.

These negatives sabotage our self-confidence, and limit our willingness to do something about getting rid of



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

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them. Sometimes it just needs a deep breath, and the taking ownership of the problems. And that is the key, if there are problems in your life, you need to own them, and once you do own them, to deal with them or to find someone to help you deal with them.

Of course you take responsibility for what you do, but very importantly too, you take responsibility for what you choose not to do! If you have problems and you are not doing anything about them, then don't complain if life is more difficult that it should be. Don't blame others for your own lack of responsibility, or for the way you feel, think or behave. It may feel uncomfortable to acknowledge you do this, but once you have acknowledged it, you can make changes, and live life more positively and happily.

You know where I am if you need help or guidance. And I always have time to listen and help!



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New health and wellbeing strategy

A NEW Health and Wellbeing Strategy aims to make people proud of Warrington as a place to live, work and do business.

The strategy is the vision of the Warrington Partnership and Warrington Health and Wellbeing Board, and has recently been adopted by the borough council.

It aims to change public services so they are more focused on promoting and increasing the overall health and wellbeing of people and the borough, over the next three years and beyond.

There are five priorities – closing the gap between deprived wards and the rest of the borough, ensuring the best start in life and transition to adulthood, building safe, sustainable communities, living and working well and promoting wellbeing for older people.

It will look at factors such as living environment, housing quality, feeling safe, feeling connected and employment. It aims to meet key challenges such as reducing the affects of alcohol on the community and dealing with an ageing

population.

Cllr Pat Wright, executive board member for health, wellbeing adult services for the council, said: "Partners across Warrington are committed to promoting and improving the long term wellbeing of the people who live and work here."

"The strategy covers a wide range of topics but essentially it's about us all listening to residents and working together to make constructive changes to the services we provide so that they have a positive affect on people's health and wellbeing."



Santas will run for St Rocco's



THE first ever St Rocco's Hospice "Santa Dash" will take place in Warrington on Sunday December 2 at Orford Jubilee Park - and anyone who enters before November 5 will be in with a chance of winning Warrington Wolves star James Lathwaite's giant teddy.

The Santa Dash will be a 5k sponsored run open to anyone - with families especially encouraged to take part and do something different together.

Entry costs just £10 for adults and £5 for children - including a free Santa suit for Mum and Dad and a hat or reindeer antlers for children.

All entries received before November 5 will go into a draw for James Lathwaite's teddy.

There will be a host of other attractions on the day, including Christmas story time readings for children with Warrington Libraries Service, Christmas merchandise and refreshments and health initiatives from Livewire.

Most of all, anyone taking part who raises sponsorship for their run will be helping to give patients at St Rocco's a better Christmas

For more information contact Helen Latham at St Rocco's on 01925 575780 or email helenlatham@stroccos.org.uk

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Business

MP helps Sharples Group celebrate 10th anniversary

WARRINGTON North MP Helen Jones joined staff and directors of Sharples Group, the North West's biggest independent print and copier supplier, to celebrate their tenth year in the town.

After being introduced to Sales Director David Griffiths and Company Secretary Aimee Timmins, the MP toured the Kingsland Grange complex and chatted to some of the 30 staff about their work.

David told Mrs Jones that

Sharples had been founded 35 years ago but had chosen Warrington as its base in 2002. Since then the company had enjoyed steady growth with turnover in the current year breaking the £3 million mark.

"We are a customer focussed business and we believe that is why we have enjoyed continued success despite the challenging economy. We developed our Quick View print audit system to help clients identify how much value for money they were getting from their existing

document management systems.

"Quick View has enabled customers to achieve significant savings on their print and copier costs – up to 70 per cent in some cases," he added.

David told the MP that when they were not working he and fellow director Mark Brocklehurst are often involved in fund raising events for local charities. He had completed a number of half-marathons and last year cycled from Lands End to John O'Groats to raise £35,000 for a local 'Lads and Girls Club' to celebrate his 50th birthday.

Next year Mark will join a small team of rowers for a gruelling 3000 miles trip across the Atlantic.

After the tour of the building Mrs Jones joined staff in the Sharples board room to cut a cake to mark

the company's 10th anniversary in Warrington.

After the ceremony the MP said: "It is good to hear that the Sharples Group is enjoying success and continued growth. This must be one of the few companies that is managing to progress in the current economic climate and continuing to grow."

"I am always interested in companies that provide work for people in Warrington. It was a pleasure to meet the staff who genuinely seemed to enjoy working at Sharples. I hope to be able to help them celebrate many more anniversaries in Warrington in the years to come."

MP Helen Jones (centre) with Director David Griffiths (left) and some of the Sharples team.



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Business

Wire flying high with Big Storage

WARRINGTON Town hope to be flying high thanks to a sponsorship deal with local storage company Big Storage.

The company based on Manchester Road, Woolston, are sponsoring the club's mascot Ollie the Owl, who also represents local disability group Warrington Disability Partnership.

Big Storage have also kindly provided netting which helps

prevent balls ending up in the Manchester Ship Canal which runs alongside Warrington's Abacus Solicitors' Community Stadium and special fixture cards.

Big Storage partner Kevin Murphy said: "We are always keen to continue our support for community led initiatives and are happy to strengthen our relationship with Warrington Town."

"As sponsors of the club we would like to wish Shaun and the

lads all the best for the rest of the season after a good start."

Warrington Town Chairman Gary Skentelbery said: "We would like to thank Big Storage for their ongoing support. They do a lot of great work in the local community and we are extremely proud to be associated with a successful company."

For more information on Big Storage visit www.bigstorage.info



Bus company short-listed for "Oscar"

LOCAL bus company Network Warrington has been short-listed in the finals of the 2012 UK Bus Awards, the industry's Oscars!

The Company has been named in the "Buses in the Community" category, which is a new category for the awards, for its work in the local community for supporting local charities such as the Warrington Disability Partnership and the charitable work of its staff.

A delighted David Squire, Managing Director, said: "It is absolutely fantastic that we have made it through to the short list of the UK Bus Awards, and, in particular this new category at the awards recognises the excellent work that bus operators are doing across the UK in their local communities. We are particularly proud of our achievements locally, whilst we are up against some tough competition in our category we are keeping our fingers crossed!"

The UK Bus Awards are now in their 17th year, and recognise the achievements of bus operators and their staff across the country, this year there are 22 award categories, including a special one for the Olympics.

The Awards reflect optimism in the industry despite the face of recession.

The results will be announced at the London Hilton Hotel, Park Lane on Tuesday November 20.



"During this difficult time for the economy, I am acutely aware of the problems faced by many of the people in Warrington who are in low income jobs or who are jobseekers. Since 2009, I have been running a Job Club and so far 150 people have been helped back into employment or education."

I will be holding a Jobs Fair on **Friday 8th February, 2013** at The Hollowell Jones Stadium.

"This is a fantastic opportunity for employers to meet talented local people looking for jobs."

David Mowat - MP for Warrington South

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MP backs fight against breast cancer

WARRINGTON South MP David Mowat is backing the fight against breast cancer by taking part in Breast Cancer Campaign's award winning fundraiser, wear it pink day – and is urging constituents to join him.

Now in its 10th year, wear it pink takes place on Friday, October 26 and will see supporters from all over the country in schools, colleges and businesses embracing the event's new theme, superheroes. The theme stems from the charity's belief that everybody who joins the fight – from people affected by breast cancer, to Breast Cancer Campaign scientists and all wear it pink participants – is a superhero.

Breast Cancer Campaign is asking everyone to pull on something pink and donate £2.00, whether it's a superhero cape, pink socks or pink pants you wear over your tights, you can help the charity achieve its target of raising £2

million, so they can continue to fund ground-breaking research.

With support Breast Cancer Campaign can improve survival rates for the one in eight women who experience breast cancer during their lifetime.

David said: "Every year in the UK, around 48,000 women and 340 men are diagnosed with breast cancer. This is why we all need to support wear it pink day on 26 October, so that Breast Cancer Campaign can continue to fund research which will one day lead to a cure."

To take part in the UK's original and best pink day visit wearitpink.co.uk and register to receive your free fundraising pack now. Vanish is backing the fight against breast cancer for the third year running by raising an incredible £250,000 for wear it pink.



Collective failure led to Bridgefoot fiasco

A "COLLECTIVE failure" by officers at Warrington Borough Council led to a blunder resulting in a traffic management scheme that had not been approved being implemented at Bridgefoot.

This was the conclusion of interim chief executive Professor Steve Broomhead, who carried out an investigation into what went wrong.

Implementation of the scheme, which involved changed lane markings, without warning, caused significant inconvenience for road users and, said Prof Broomhead, it necessitated further modifications causing additional costs.

Cost of the original scheme was £25,923 and cost of modifying it was £5,006, making a total cost of £30,929. No elected members of the council were informed of the proposed changes as they should have been.

Prof Broomhead said it was common knowledge the council intended to renew the lane markings at Bridgefoot. But no changes were proposed.

At some stage in an "almost informal dialogue" between the project manager, the Urban Traffic Management and Control team (UTMC) and the Accident Investigation Unit (AIU), it was decided to modify the markings.

Some more senior officers knew of the proposed modifications but believed

them to be "minor" and did not involve themselves.

There was confusion about responsibilities and ownership of the proposed modifications. AIU considered the plan to be advisory. The project manager considered the scheme as agreed because it involved dialogue between AIU and UTMC.

"UTMC reviewed the plan but clearly didn't give it the scrutiny I would have expected and misinterpreted the scale of the changes involved," said Prof Broomhead. The scheme when completed simply did not work and required immediate change.

Prof Broomhead added: "There was clearly a lack of quality control with this project. The composite plan that AIU prepared, although of good quality, was clearly not a plan that should be used to instruct a contractor.

"I consider there has been a process, quality control and a project management failure here - where a 'draft ideas plan', clearly marked as 'not approved' and not fit for purpose has been passed directly to the contractor for delivery."

Prof Broomhead said the problems could not be laid at the door of one particular officer. There had been a collective failure.

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Organ builders amazing journey

THE story of an organ builder from Warrington who took one of his instruments as a present from Queen Elizabeth I to the Sultan of Turkey, is published in a new book.

"The Sultan's Organ" is the personal diary of organ builder Thomas Dallam, from Dallam, who in 1599 took the self-playing organ to Constantinople (now Istanbul).

Best-selling travel author John Mole came across the diary in its original Elizabethan English. He was enthralled with the tale and so translated it to modern English, giving the feeling that it is being told today.

The organ was 16-feet high and included a talking clock with moving figures. It was run by clockwork and bellows and could play by itself for six hours. The Sultan was so impressed that he offered Dallam a permanent job and granted England trading concessions. The book tells of Dallam's six months journey to Constantinople on an armed merchant ship, calling at Algiers and several Greek islands. It is published by Fortune Books and is available from selected bookshops, in print and Kindle from Amazon and from ePub stores. Print price is £7.99 and eBook £2.

Appreciation of Efforts awards

NOMINATIONS are being sought for Warrington Disability Partnership's annual Appreciation of Efforts awards.

They go to individuals and organisations that have demonstrated excellence in support, services or employment for disabled people or their carers.

Nominations close on Friday November 2, and awards will be presented at WDP's annual general meeting on Monday December 3. Winners will be invited to the presentation ceremony and will receive a framed certificate.

Chairman of Trustees, Dave Thompson said: "We invite you to nominate an organisation or individual who you think has excelled in providing innovative or exceptional services that have helped to improve the lives of disabled people living in and around Warrington. The aim of the awards is to reward and promote good practice."

Nomination forms are available from the Centre for Independent Living, Beaufort Street, Disability Information Point in Warrington Market, Warrington Mobility and Independent Living Store (Golden Square Shopping Centre) and Shopmobility, Leigh Street Car Park. For more information phone 01925 240064 or visit www.disabilitypartnership.org.uk

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Chief officer leaves charity

WARRINGTON Disability Partnership's (WDP) Chief Officer Jayne Horton has announced that she will be leaving the organisation after 8 years and a variety of roles.

She joined WDP in April 2004, initially as the Volunteer Coordinator, working with WDP's team of volunteers to support and develop their skills.

Following this, she continued to put a great emphasis on the work of the strong team of volunteers and has always been keen to recognise their work and development.

Under Jayne's leadership, WDP saw the transformation of the Centre for Independent Living, following a successful bid to the Big Lottery. She was instrumental in organising the large-scale relocation to temporary premises, communications with builders and council partners as well as leading the team to continue with their work supporting local disabled people, their families and carers.

Since 2004, the organisation has grown considerably, with over 40 paid staff members now supporting more than 200 volunteers (60 in 2004) and in recent years seeing annual organisational turnover reach in excess of £1 million. The launch of the 'Disability Trading Company' in 2011, also aims to make improvements in the financial sustainability of the organisation. All of these, Jayne has been instrumental in developing during her time with the



organisation.

Trustee, Sue Bentley, said: "Jayne gave 100% of herself to WDP as her charity of choice and has a passion for making a charity work. She gave a lot of her free time for WDP for more than 8 years and helped to raise many thousands of pounds with the efforts of both her and her husband and sons. Her ability to untangle complicated projects into a sensible set of processes and communicate that to her team was outstanding. We wish her well in her future career."

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Warrington's got real talent



Kaitlen after the show with one of the judges Andy Zepha from Blue Vine Records

WARRINGTON'S Parr Hall was packed to the rafters for the final of the annual Warrington's got talent show as family and friends cheered on 26 acts who competed in two age categories.

The show, organised by Alison Young and Melissa Jackson from Golden Gates Housing Trust and Police Community Support Officers (PCSO) Tom Reid and Tony Spruce was broadcast live on Radio Warrington.

Contestants who had previously auditioned at one of the four heats and passed through the semi-final in July included dancers, singers, gymnasts, musicians, a magician and comedian who all entertained the audience and judges during the three hour show.

The evening was split between two categories with 6 year old street dancer Kaitlen Williams taking first place in the 5 - 11 age group and singer / song writer and pianist Emily Parr winning in the 12 - 19 year old category after impressing the judges with her own song 'leaving home.'

Warrington mayor Cllr Steve Wright was on hand to present the winners and runners up with prize money and trophies.

Last year's winner, dancer Romario Dunne also returned and performed.

P.C.S.O Tom Reid said: "This event gives local young people the opportunity to perform on a big stage. The attitude of all the contestants has been fantastic and the support they give each other is overwhelming.

"In times when so many people are quick to give young people a bad name it is great to see young people from all backgrounds coming together and encouraging each other in something positive."

Organisers are already starting to



Pianist Emily Parr.

plan next year's competition and anyone wishing to take part is asked to monitor the Golden Gates Housing Trust website for more details visit www.gght.org.uk/

Radio station back on the air

WARRINGTON'S community radio station Radio Warrington is set to broadcast on FM again following a successful nine day FM broadcast in July.

Run by a team of dedicated unpaid local volunteers the station, which is currently broadcasting online throughout the year will be back on 87.8fm from November 12 until December 9.

The online radio station have once again been granted a Restricted Short-term License (RSL) from Ofcom and will broadcast from studios inside Warrington Market and Cinnamon Brow Farm Community Centre.

Steve Lewis the station manager said: "We received a lot of positive feedback from our last FM broadcast in July. We carried out several outside broadcasts including Warrington Music Festival, Warrington Market's Classic Transport Show and Disability Awareness Day. Although we are available all year round on the internet, being on FM makes us so much more available."

This RSL broadcast is being funded by Warrington Borough Council as part of the "It's All Going On In Warrington" campaign.

Mike Mason, Radio Warrington's Programme Controller said "We are extremely grateful to the Council, especially Warrington Market for allowing us to show the people of Warrington how a truly local community radio service sounds. We hope to be promoting and broadcasting from as many events as possible in the run-up to Christmas including the Christmas Lights Switch-on and the Christmas Markets. Plus we are proud to be involved in promoting the NEW Hatters Wedding and Lifestyle Centre in the town centre.

For more details visit www.radiowarrington.co.uk



It's all
going on in
Warrington

THIS CHRISTMAS!

Your 'pull out & keep' Guide



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CHRISTMAS
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Christmas Lights Switch On - Friday 16 November
Golden Square / Market Gate - From 3pm

This year promises to be as big as ever, with website announcements to follow on who will be this year's special guest lighting up Warrington for Christmas. Activities taking place from 3pm for all the family.

St. Andrew's Day Festival – Saturday 1 December
Bridge Street / Market Gate

St. Andrew's Fair was once the highlight of the town's Christmas celebrations. Bringing the past to life, visit the colourful market stalls, exciting circus and street performances.

Christmas at the Children's Zoo – Sunday 2 December
Walton Hall & Gardens

Visit the animals of Walton Children's Zoo this Christmas including Bobo the donkey, Shetland ponies, miniature pot bellied pigs and rare red squirrels.

The Nutcracker – Saturday 8 December
Parr Hall - 2.30pm

Tchaikovsky's world famous classic ballet is performed by the highly acclaimed Vienna Festival Ballet. This best-loved ballet is everyone's favourite Christmas story.

Walton Winterland – 8-9, 15-16, 22-23 December
Walton Hall & Gardens

Santa returns to Walton once again this Christmas along with his enchanting grotto. There will also be the chance to take part in Yule log making and seasonal activities, as well as the chance to enjoy our festive fayre and nativity scene. Call us on 01925 601617 (option 2) for further details.

Christmas Carvery Lunch – 9, 15 & 23 December
Walton Hall & Gardens

Indulge yourself with a mouth-watering traditional Christmas feast and many festive treats. Booking is recommended. For more information call 01925 262908 (option 1).

Warrington Lantern Parade – Thursday 13 December
Queen's Gardens

Come and join in our magical Christmas lantern parade. Enjoy visiting the traditional nativity animals, the sounds of the Samba band and festive carols.



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Ken Dodd - Thursday 13 December

Parr Hall - 7.30pm

Christmas wouldn't be Christmas without Ken Dodd's visit to the Cultural Quarter and this year he's back with his unique hairstyle, flashing teeth and of course, the trademark tickling stick! This is one Christmas tradition you don't want to miss.

Christmas in the Cultural Quarter - 13-16 December

Palmyra Square - From 7.30pm

Get in to the festive spirit with the sights, sounds and tastes of Christmas. Queen's Gardens will be bustling with activity including Christmas cabins housing the best of Warrington's restaurants, bars and food producers and you can also take a ride on our Christmas Carousel.

Christmas Comedy Store - Saturday 15 December

Pyramid - 7.30pm

Looking for a Christmas night out or an escape from shopping? Look no further than The Comedy Store this Christmas. Pyramid hosts the best live stand-up from The Comedy Store.

Kate Rusby - Tuesday 18 December

Parr Hall - 7.30pm

Kate Rusby showcases classic Christmas carols with a selection of new variations of familiar festive tunes.

Merry Christmas Warrington - Saturday 22 December

Hats & Scarves Music Festival 2012 with special Light Spectacular!

Town Hall

This year's Hats & Scarves Music Festival will take place with Warrington's iconic Town Hall as the backdrop. A variety of acts will once again get you in the mood for the Christmas period. An amazing not to be missed festive treat will feature during the evening with the best Christmas lights in the town - that's all we are saying! Get your hats and scarves at the ready for some festive fun!

Mother Goose (Panto) - 4-13 January

Parr Hall

Warrington's annual Christmas pantomime this year is Mother Goose. Check out our website for great offers for all ages!



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What's On Where



For further information and details of other activities taking place throughout the festive season, visit www.itsallgoingoninwarrington.co.uk

Church Services

There will be Christmas seasonal services at all of the town centre churches. For more information please contact the church directly:

- Cairo Street Unitarian Chapel - 01925 419693
- St Albans RC, Bewsey St. - 01925 634849
- Methodist Mission, Bold St. - 01925 635594
- St Elphin's Parish Church, Church St. - 01925 635020
- St Mary's RC, Buttermarket St. - 01925 635664
- Salvation Army Citadel, Academy St. - 01925 244636
- Warrington Baptist, Sankey St. - 01925 414039
- Wycliffe United Reformed Church, Bewsey St. - 01925 413298
- Friars Green IM, Cairo St. - 01925 482937





Rugby legend celebrates Older People Day

RUGBY League legend Alex Murphy OBE was special guest at a Celebration of Older People Day held at the Gateway in Warrington.

Alex, and his wife Alice were joined by the Mayor and Mayoress of Warrington Cllr Steve and Mrs Julie Wright at the special event organised by the Older Peoples' Engagement Group (OPEG).

The event, which was celebrating its fifth anniversary, celebrates older people in the community and included music, health checks, activities and entertainment, supported by Warrington Voluntary Action and NHS Warrington.

Pictures shows Alex and Alice with the Mayor and Mayoress and Eileen Fitzgerald from event organisers OPEG and Alex and the Mayor with the Challenge Cup.



Work starts on 20th anniversary event

WORK has started on planning a special commemorative event to mark next year's 20th anniversary of the IRA bombing of Warrington which claimed the lives of three-year-old Johnathan Ball and 12-year-old Tim Parry.

The Tim Parry Johnathan Ball Foundation, based at Warrington Peace Centre and Warrington Borough Council, have started planning for the significant milestone for those who were affected at the time of the bombing, and for those who have since contributed to, or benefited from, the work the foundation has carried out.

The two boys died following the Bridge Street bombing while more than 50 other shoppers were injured.

The civic commemorative event is due to be held in Bridge Street on Saturday, March 16 next year from 11.30 am which will mark the start of a week of activities.

Planning is still in the early stages, however, and organisers want to make sure that those people who were directly affected on that day and as many people as possible are aware of the anniversary event and have the opportunity to come together in reflection and remembrance.

In the months following the tragic day, a number of local school children contributed designs that form part of the River of Life memorial in Bridge Street.

Event organisers would like hear from those who contributed who can contact Rev Stephen Kingsnorth from the town centre ministry via skingsnorth@googlemail.com

Scan here to view the website on your smartphone.

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- Mental health diagnoses and symptoms.
- How to get support and treatment.
- What to do if you, or someone you know is in crisis.

Wolves fans are simply the best

WARRINGTON Wolves have thanked their ever-loyal fans for once again supporting the team at home and on the road throughout a successful 2012 which saw the team lift the Challenge Cup for the third time in four years, finish second in the league and reach their first ever Grand Final.

Chief Executive Andy Gatcliffe says every supporter is a vital piece in the club jigsaw and plays a huge part in making it the success it is today.

Year on year the club's fan base grows and none more so than this year with the Wolves surpassing the 8000 Season Ticket milestone.

Other success has included the under 20s lifting the League Leaders Shield and winning the Valvoline Cup Grand Final.

Mr Gatcliffe says the successes are all a result of great teamwork, with the club and fans working together towards the same end goal: Warrington Wolves being the best in Super League both on and off the pitch.

Proud

He added: "Once again you have made me proud to be part of this great club. The team successes on the pitch have been matched by your continued support off it and for that the club are eternally grateful. It has been a sight to behold on numerous occasions as Primrose and Blue descended on the Etihad Stadium, Wembley and Old Trafford.

"On behalf of the club I would like

to say a massive thank-you to each and every one of you, as together we have achieved another successful year at the Wolves. I, for one, am looking forward to another great season in 2013 and seeing International Rugby League return to The Halliwell Jones Stadium for the Rugby League World Cup."



Fostering with pride

WARRINGTON Borough Council Fostering Service is working to raise awareness and generate interest in fostering among members of the gay community.

A recruitment stand was operated at the first Warrington Pride event, held at Queens Gardens.

Although there is a growing number of LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender) people applying to foster, or already successfully caring for children, they remain an under-used resource both here in the North West and across the UK.

Cllr Colin Froggatt, the council's

executive member for children and young people's services, said: "We are always looking for foster carers from all walks of life to provide much needed homes for Warrington's children in care.

"We were happy to be part of Warrington's first Pride event in an effort to encourage more people from the LGBT community to come forward and consider this life changing opportunity. Over the last few years, Warrington Fostering Service has approved and successfully placed children with LGBT foster carers, and we hope to continue this in the future."

The fostering service also supports

LGBT foster carers as they are one of the few local authorities in the North West to be subscribing members to New Family Social - a charity for LGBT adopters, foster carers and their children. This gives LGBT carers in the borough free membership of the charity.

Further details can be found at www.newfamilysocial.co.uk

More details about fostering generally can be found by calling 01925 444 100, visiting www.warrington.gov.uk/fostering or following the service on facebook at www.facebook.com/warringtonfostering

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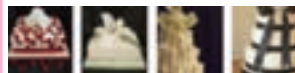
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Deputy leader condemned to the stocks



DEPUTY leader of Warrington Borough Council Cllr Mike Hannon was 'trapped' in the stocks during a Medieval Market on Saturday.

But it was all in good fun and the "town centre champion" was soon rescued by a couple of knights in shining armour.

Large crowds attended the successful event in the town centre. There has been a market in Warrington since 1255 and it was arranged to celebrate the market history from early years to modern day.

On the day the indoor market had the highest footfall this year with many out of town shoppers visiting.

Customers had the opportunity to shoot a bow and arrow at a medieval knight and to make a medieval coin. Other attractions included birds of prey, Viking ships, swing boats, medieval craft stalls and historic cannon exhibited at the market entrance.

In 1255 the population of Warrington was around 600 people. Today the market employs around 600 people serving a local population of over 200,000.

Cllr Hannon said: "This is the first time we have run a medieval market and we are delighted with the response and enthusiasm shown by visitors to the town centre – and being rescued by knights was also a first for me!"

New wedding and lifestyle shopping destination

HATTERS Wedding and Lifestyle Centre in Horsemarket Street is set to launch itself as the ideal shopping destination for all your wedding and lifestyle needs.

Formerly known as Hatters Row, this new shopping centre has already attracted interest from customers across the North West as shops have started to open prior to the official launch.

The official opening takes place on Saturday October 27, which will include a wedding fair and attractions to help put the centre firmly on the town centre retail map.

Earlier this year, the council set up an initiative to re-brand the centre and attract new businesses to this town centre location.

There was a great response to the initiative with over 100 enquiries from businesses wanting to locate in Hatters. Applicants were then put through a dragon's den style selection process to ensure the best quality tenants were picked for the centre.

Now for the first time in over 10 years the centre is fully occupied with many new and enthusiastic businesses keen to set a high standard for retailing in Warrington town centre.

Deputy leader of the council and town centre champion Mike Hannon said: "I am delighted with the enthusiasm shown by all the tenants in the new Hatters centre, they are definitely creating a buzz which is infectious to anyone having a look round, and the launch event is something we are all looking forward to."

Michelle Phin who recently opened the new Bridal Boutique at Hatters commented: "Even before we opened the shop we were getting customers visiting from Manchester and Liverpool keen to look at our exclusive range of Alfred Sung, Callista and Jade Daniels wedding dresses. This whole retail centre has got everyone so excited."

The launch event will take place between 10-4pm with plenty of entertainment including music, Laurel and Hardy lookalikes and much more!

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Vehicle owners beware!

by Jonathan Conder

If you are the registered owner of a motor vehicle you need to be aware of your obligations especially if your insurance allows others to drive it.

You could face prosecution even if you have done nothing wrong. If the police suspect that your vehicle has been involved in a motoring offence but they cannot immediately identify the driver (for instance where a speed camera is involved) they will take steps to establish who the driver was. This is done by sending a notice under section 172 of the Road Traffic Act 1988, initially to the registered owner of the vehicle. The notice requires the owner to confirm who the driver was at the time of the alleged offence. Failure to respond within 28 days of the date of the notice can lead to prosecution even if the recipient did not commit the original

offence. Conviction for the offence will result in a fine and, for private individuals, 6 penalty points. It is therefore essential not to ignore such a notice. If a driver is named, then a notice will be sent to that individual who must then confirm whether they were the driver at the relevant time, with the same consequences for failure to respond.

But what if you were not the driver at the relevant time and you cannot establish who was? If so you need to make this clear in your response to the notice. It is likely that in due course you will receive a summons to attend a magistrates' court but there is a defence available where the owner cannot with reasonable diligence ascertain the identity of the driver. You will need legal advice about whether you are likely to succeed with such a

defence. Note that the legislation applies to businesses as well as private individuals. Businesses that own vehicles are expected to have adequate systems in place to ensure that employee drivers can be identified.

Do not be tempted to be untruthful in your response to a section 172 notice as this might lead to prosecution for the very serious offence of perverting the course of justice which if you are convicted will almost certainly result in imprisonment.

If you do receive a section 172 notice prompt advice can help you to avoid the pitfalls. Widdows Mason has a number of solicitors who will be able to advise you about this area of the law and about other motoring offences. Please contact the criminal law department on the telephone number listed below.



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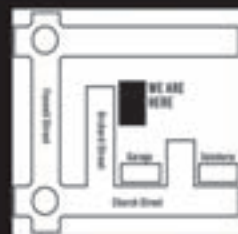
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Financially yours

By David Watkinson

Workers holiday rules

An employment tribunal has recently awarded £4,000 to a part-time worker after she had been denied holiday pay. It is, therefore, perhaps time to review the rules relating to holidays. These rules apply to all workers, and may even apply to "self-employed" workers if they undertake to perform the work personally. Employers cannot exclude part-time or casual workers.

Workers are currently entitled to 5.6 weeks statutory paid holiday, including public holidays, meaning that people working 5 days a week are entitled to 28 days statutory holiday in any holiday year. If they are employed for only part of the year then they are entitled to one-twelfth of the annual entitlement, rounded up to the nearest half day, for each month or part of a month of that year. The actual holiday year can be agreed, otherwise it runs from the first day of employment and can, therefore, vary for each worker within the organisation.

This statutory entitlement must be taken within the year and cannot be carried forward. If a worker leaves having taken more than their entitlement for that year then the excess can be deducted provided this is included in an agreement.

If a worker leaves having taken less than their entitlement then they should be given pay in lieu of the holiday.

An employee is required to give written notice of their intention. The required notice is double the length of the requested holiday. If the employer decides not to allow that holiday then this refusal must be notified to the worker in writing, and this must be done within a further period equivalent to the requested holiday. As an example, if a worker wishes to take a holiday of 8 working days then they must give written notice at least 16 working days prior to the first day of the holiday, and the employer then has 8 working days from the receipt of the request to decline the request.

An employer can fix some or all of the holiday entitlement. Written notice must be given to each worker, the required notice period being at least double the length of the holiday period to be fixed.

Statutory holidays must be paid at the same rate as the workers normal pay calculated on the basis of that workers normal hours. Payments for holidays in excess of the statutory entitlement can be paid at any rate by agreement. If the worker does not have a normal pay rate



David Watkinson and Margaret Black

or normal hours of work then holiday pay is calculated on the basis of the average pay received in the 12 weeks prior to the holiday.

All employers should ensure that they have an agreement with each worker covering the holiday year, deduction of excess holidays upon termination, and the notification requirements.

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

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LiveWire board members (L-R) Chairman Alan Yates, MD Jan Souness and board member Paul Taylor.

LiveWire boost for Town

WARRINGTON Town FC have received a major boost thanks to a new partnership with the town's largest provider of leisure facilities.

LiveWire leisure facilities include six state-of-the-art fitness suites, seven swimming pools, fitness classes and sports activities for the whole family.

With the club nicknamed The Wire the partnership with LiveWire makes the perfect partnership!

LiveWire's new Orford Park Jubilee Hub, which was officially opened by Her Majesty the Queen earlier this year and includes a full size 3G pitch has become the club's training base.

In return for use of the facilities the football club helps promote healthy lifestyles in the community by helping increase awareness of everything LiveWire has to offer.

LiveWire Managing Director Jan Souness said: "LiveWire are very pleased to be working in partnership with Warrington Town Football Club. The opportunities for both organisations are exciting, working on joint initiatives to promote excellence in sport health and active lifestyles in Warrington.

"The club does great work in the community to support young people, the game of football and promote Warrington as a town with lots to offer."

Warrington Town Chairman Gary Skentelbery: "Our partnership with LiveWire has provided our football club with the best training facilities in non league football.

"In fact we have probably got better training facilities than a lot of Football League clubs.

"It is another piece in the jigsaw towards helping bring a successful football club to the town of Warrington, which can help benefit the local community in a variety of different ways.

"We are very much a community club and are delighted LiveWire have joined our growing band of community partners."

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MP calls for expert review

WARRINGTON North MP Helen Jones has called for an outside expert to review the council's planning department which she claims is a "shambles."

The MP says people have "lost faith" in its credibility, and has asked the interim chief executive for an expert to look at its operation and recommend improvements. She claims lessons have not been learned.

She said: "Enforcement is a continuing problem and my constituents have simply lost confidence in the planning process. Internal efforts are not enough to sort out this shambles."

Ms Jones said she has seen "too many" mistakes by the department.

She said: "Years ago, I took up a complaint about housing which was built as affordable housing being sold to people who already had a house. It was then rented out in the private rented sector, depriving someone of a home of their own. Then we had the fiasco over Marton Close where documents had been destroyed, including documents that the council had a statutory duty to hold. Residents had to fight for years for justice and the ombudsman found an 'extraordinary and inexcusable act of maladministration.'"

She also cited Peel Hall where the council said they had only met developers once. Following a Freedom of Information request it was revealed there had been six meetings in eight months.

"Council officers said that they had not seen the plans for the whole development but this statement is at odds with the notes of the meetings. Who was responsible for the misleading statement?" she said.

"Residents in Petersfield Gardens have also complained about a 'lack of fair play' by planning officers because no enforcement has been carried out despite the development management committee insisting there should be," she added.

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