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warrington-worldwide is published monthly by Orbit News Ltd.

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Printed by TwentyFourSeven

Editor's Comment

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

October 2011

CONGRATULATIONS to Warrington Disability Partnership on reaching their 20th anniversary milestone!

I feel honoured to be a trustee of this ground breaking organisation which is setting examples others should follow during these tough economic times.

Realising revenue funds are drying up from various funding bodies WDP has now set up its own trading company, The Disability Trading Company, offering the sale of disability equipment as well as a repair service to ensure its future survival.

On top of this Golden Square has generously offered a retail unit in the town centre to help further promote the good work of the organisation.

the good work of the organisation.

I knew WDP's Chairman Dave
Thompson prior to his life changing
accident when he broke his neck
playing American Football.

Not content with spending the rest

Not content with spending the rest of his life sitting in a wheelchair doing

After school club

WARRINGTON Youth Club is running a fantastic new After School Club, at the Peace Centre in Great Sankey every Monday and Wednesday - 3.30 pm to 5.30 pm during term time for young people aged 7 – 19.

flower arranging and painting classes, Dave not only helped launch a charity from scratch but also got himself back into employment as a senior manager in the health service.

Yet again another fine example of how to deal with adversity in life.

For any organisation or business struggling during the current economic

down turn can I suggest you look closley at the example being set by Warrington Disability Partnership and Dave Thompson.

The key to their success is partnership - by working in partnership we can hopefully ride the tough economic storm together and come out the other side stronger for it.

Keep up the good work Dave and the team - You are a shining example for us all to follow

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School to become first Academy?

THE new-look £28 million Culcheth High School will become Warrington's first academy school - if agreement can be reached on the repayment of a £600,000 loan.

Council chiefs have agreed to give the school a 125 year peppercorn lease for just $\mathfrak L1$ a year, but say the "public money" must be repaid, with interest, before they agree to transfer.

Éarlier this year the school's governing body voted to seek academy status under the government's education reforms and its application was subsequently approved by the Department for Education.

'The council has now authorised the legal transfer and 125 year lease of the education property to the new school.

The school is seeking to officially become an academy on Saturday October 1.

Chairman of governors Roy Sutton said: "The school governors have passed a resolution to proceed with Academy Status.

"But they will not make a final decision until any existing financial arrangements are resolved satisfactorily."

The government says academies benefit from greater freedoms to innovate and raise standards.

These include: freedom from local authority control, the ability to set their own pay and conditions for staff, freedoms around the delivery of the curriculum and the ability to change the lengths of terms and school days

the ability to change the lengths of terms and school days.

Pinaki Ghoshal, Warrington's assistant director of children and young people's services said: "The council has worked in partnership with all schools in Warrington to build and deliver excellent educational opportunities for all of our children and young people. We will ensure that they continue to receive the best possible education."

Only last March senior councillors from all three main parties and union leaders at Warrington joined forces to oppose any plans for academy schools which they said would threaten existing educational establishments.

In a joint statement, they said that opening the Academies Programme to all could disadvantage other schools in the borough and create a two-tier system.

Cllr Colin Froggatt, the council's executive member for education, said: "The leaders of all three parties have said there is no appetite for academy schools in Warrington and this view has not changed.

"But government legislation has changed and as a responsible local authority we have to go along with the legislation for the benefit of Warrington people, in particular the children."

But he added that the council had borrowed money to enable the new school to be built. This was public money and the council expected it to be repaid with interest

Money saving Mayor!

BUDGET cuts mean that even the Mayor of Warrington is saving money!

The Mayoral car has been traded in for a cheaper, greener car with advanced fuel efficiency technology and lower CO2 emissions. The overall package for the vehicle will save the council almost $\mathfrak{L}23,000$ over three years.

To make the upkeep of the car even greener, waterless car shampoo will be used to clean it in future, saving hundreds of litres of water.

The new car, an Audi A8, has replaced the previous Jaguar.

The three political party leaders in Warrington are backing the more cost efficient and environmentally friendly model. Local residents last year indicated they want the council to retain a quality civic function that is also cost effective.

The Mayor of Warrington Cllr Mike Biggin, said: 'We are committed to maintaining a quality civic function, while still ensuring savings are made where possible.

"Trading the older car which was more expensive to run, for a more economical, greener option is just one of the ways that the council is making savings."



The Mayor and with the new car outside the Town Hall.



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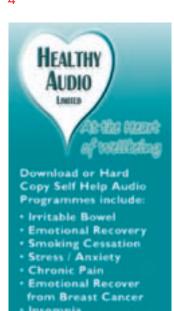
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Hypnotes Hello and welcome to my monthly column . . . by Michael Mahoney

Laughter is the best medicine but it has to be a belly laugh!

At an auction in Manchester a wealthy American announced that he had lost his wallet containing £10,000 and would give a reward of £100 to the person who found it.

From the back of the hall a voice shouted, "I'll give £150!"

I will give you time to let the groan subside! But even so, you may have smiled!

Even though most readers have heard that laughter is the best medicine and this isn't really a news flash, scientists continue to research what we already know to be true!

already know to be true!

Earlier this year, the European Society of Cardiology 2011 Congress presented studies defining the role of laughter, positive thinking, anger, and job stress on developing cardiovascular events, verifying that "anger and job stress are linked to higher events, verifying that " stress are linked to cardiovascular event rates, while laughter and cognitive behaviour therapy can lower the risk."

When subjects were exposed to a war scene in a movie, their blood vessels constricted by as much as 30% to 50%, however, when watching a comedy, the effects were not only reversed, but these positive results were maintained anywhere from an hour later to an entire day!

It is well known that laughter can activate our body chemistry to help us in our ability to fight disease, increase endorphins to make us feel better about life and even help us to carry on through adversity. In fact, many people who have faced very serious times in their lives, whether serious personal or family health or financial issues or both, have been able to not only cope, but to carry on much better if laughter was included in their lives. Laughter relaxes the body and mind in such a way, that it can actually clear the mind of problems and put our thoughts in a better place to fight off illness or think of strategies to improve financial or

familial concerns.

The beneficial sensation that we feel during laughter can stay with as even when we have stopped laughing – it has long-term effects.

It has been said that even the sound of someone else laughing can be contagious! Have you ever tried to stifle a laugh while in church or during a lecture?

Of course, we know that all life events are not laughing matters. The serious illness or death of a loved one, financial emergencies and such similar

Michael Mahoney is a Clinical Hypnotherapist. He has research and patient experience. He is a 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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events bring on grief and tears. Even so, tears in themselves can be healing in that they remove toxins from the body that joyful tears do not contain.

But if we can keep laughter in our lives, even in the midst of sad and worrisome times, your body, mind and emotions can heal more quickly, and that healing can be long lasting.

When hard times come into your life, you may wish to consider incorporating laughter into it – whether it be an reading with friends, seeing a comedy play, movie or TV show, or even just reading a joke book or humorous website. This may seem counterintuitive in times of deep distress or pain, but

In times of acep aistress or pain, but laughter can help to diminish pain, sorrow and help you to carry on in life.

There's an old proverb that says: "What soap is to the body, laughter is to the soul," And laughter has no bad side effects — except perhaps the hiccups! If you have forgotten how to min laught feel aced. actificate and smile, laugh, feel good, confident and well, contact me on 01925-658322 or timelineservices@aol.com





Council launch free adult cycle training

WARRINGTON Borough Council is urging people to turn to pedal power after teaming up with Bikeright of Manchester to offer free cycle training to anyone over

Whether you're a beginner, someone returning to cycling after a few years break, a commuter who is nervous about busy roads or just want to improve your technique, this new cycle training scheme is for you.

The courses are designed to get you on your bike so you can enjoy cycling and its benefits such as improved health, more energy, and savings to your travel costs.

Training includes: Learning how to cycle if you are a complete beginner, about road positioning and how to be seen by other traffic, finding great cycling routes for your everyday journeys around Warrington and tips for riding at night-time or in bad weather.

There are also tips on safety, clothing and other equipment, bike maintenance and how to deal with busy traffic.

Councillor Linda Dirir, executive board member for highways, transportation and climate change, said: "This scheme is a great opportunity for more people to get cycling, whether its just for fun or to make a healthier and greener commute to work. The free training will also help ensure cyclists are safe and that more people feel confident enough to get on their bikes for everyday journeys.

All the training is delivered by fully accredited instructors and courses are based in and around Victoria Park on Tafternoons and Saturdays.

To book your place contact Bikeright either via their website: www.bikeright.co.uk/freewheeling or by telephoning 0161 230 7007.

Charity celebrates 20 years



Left to right: Eric James, Dave Thompson, Alan Shaw witht the Mayor of Warrington Cllr Mike Biggin celebrating the 20th anniversary with a special cake.

WARRINGTON Disability Partnership celebrated their 20th anniversary with a special civic reception at Warrington Town Hall.

Founders Dave Thompson, Alan Shaw and Eric James, who all met at the Dallam Day Centre, were on hand to help launch the celebration with Mayor of Warrington Cllr Mike Biggin.

The three men who had experienced exclusion from information and other opportunities launched Warrington Disability Information Services in 1990.

They volunteered to collate data and set up an information base on local accessible shops and services. The group were then approached by Cheshire County Council to work with the group of volunteers on an information data system titled INCHES (Information in Cheshire).

During 2000 it was identified that the trustees and volunteers of four organisations (Warrington Disability Information Services, Warrington Shopmobility, Disability Sports Forum and the Committee for Disabled People) were virtually the same small group of people. Added to this there was the difficulty for officers from statutory bodies to attend every meeting,

and more importantly to fund every organisation.

The four groups then came together under the banner of Warrington Disability Partnership.

During the anniversary event Dave, now Chairman of the organisation, praised their many volunteers who have helped the charity over the past 20 years, including Eric who dedicated more than 10,000 volunteering hours at the market stall.

£122,000 re-vamp for Peel Park



WARRINGTON'S Poole Park has re-opened after a £122,000 revamp that has made it more suitable for older children as well as

The Mayor, Cllr Mike Biggin, attended the opening event, along with ward councillors Mike Hannon, deputy leader of the council, and

Kate Hannon, executive member for leisure.

Over the last few months, the park, off Winwick Road and named after the late Alderman Joseph Poole, Mayor in 1935-36, has

undergone substantial renovation. In addition to offering facilities for older children, it also more accessible to disabled users.

accessible to disabled users.

The bulk of the funding came via the Department for Education's Playbuilder fund and a Landfill Communities Fund grant provided through WREN (Waste Recycling Environmental Ltd). The borough council also contributed several thousand pounds to the project.

Cllr Kate Hannon said: "The new play equipment has made a fantastic difference to the children and families of the area. Mums

have spoken to me saying it is great to see their children enjoying all of the equipment and that they feel safe there." Richard Smith, grants manager for WREN said: "We are committed

to funding projects that make a difference to the local community. The completion of the new play area at Poole Park now provides access to good quality play for all ages and abilities and I hope it will bring many years of enjoyment for the children of Orford."



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You're hired joy for apprentices!

TEN people were pleased to hear the famous words "You're Hired" when they were taken on as apprentices in Warrington.

Golden Gates Housing Trust (GGHT) chief executive Peter Mercer said the words to greet his new recruits at a welcome event.

The newcomers were joined by three of the apprentices and trainees employed on a GGHT contract by Bramall Construction - including Gareth Williams, who was recently named Apprentice of the Year at a national ceremony.

The new apprentices will work in a range of roles including housing management, business administra-tion, plumbing, plastering and joinery for the next three years.



GGHT is working in partnership with Warrington Collegiate to provide the apprentices with qualifications in their chosen

profession.

Bramall Construction is working on GGHT's capital investment programme, installing new bathrooms, central heating systems, windows and doors. It will increase its number of Warrington

apprentices to eight this month.

GGHT made a commitment to its tenants that it would create employment opportunities for the local community. The recruitment campaign attracted more than 1,100 applications for the roles.

It used social networking site Facebook for the first time to promote these opportunities, helping to successfully target women who are traditionally unrepresented in applying for tradės roles.

Mr Mercer said: "We committed to supporting the local economy and providing opportunities for people to get into work. Of those appointed, six were previously unemployed and two have just left school."

New apprentice Jack Hodgkiss said: "I am a school leaver and my ambition has always been to get a trade I am really looking forward to starting my apprenticeship as a plumber with GGHT."

Cod Father wins Healthier Together Award!

THE Cod Father fish & chip shop in Warrington has won a new Healthier Together Award organised by the Borough Council!

This new award recognises food outlets and takeaway restaurants which offer healthier options to customers by reducing the salt, sugar and saturated fat content of the meals they offer.

Mr Inal, owner of Cod Father's, a traditional British fish and chip shop on Dudley Street, is the first business in town to receive the new award.

The takeaway was already offering healthier alternatives to chips but Mr Inal has now gone even further by altering his menu, but not the taste, to ensure all his meals are healthier and have lower fat, sugar and salt content.

He said: 'I'm really pleased the Cod Father has achieved the high standards required to gain the Healthier Together Award. We hope it will encourage more people to come and enjoy the range of healthier options we have on offer.'

The Healthier Together Award is part of the Council's community food strategy. The strategy aims to improve health and well being and reduce health inequalities in Warrington by enabling and supporting people to access a healthy,

balanced diet through a sustainable approach.



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www.disabilitytradingcompany.co.uk

www.disabilitypartnership.org.uk

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Disability Information Point Warrington Market, Warrington WA1 2EN

Shopmobility Legh Street Car Park, Warrington WA1 1QU



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Uniqwin forging ahead for future development

GOOD things are happening at Uniquin of late and there are clear signs of a promising future ahead for this developing company. Just a few years ago Uniquin were little known in the security business now they are renowned for their high quality services. They currently have 145 employees and are taking on more people weekly.

Uniquin recently appointed Gary Higgins as their new Operations
Director, having shown an
extremely high performance as a
National Contracts Manager. Wherever possible Unigwin promotes people from within its ranks.

ranks.
Another addition to Uniqwin is
Martin Evans who has recently
stepped into the role of
Development Manager. Martin has
a strong Business to business
background and is very keen to
make his mark at Uniqwin.

like many other companies

Like many other companies Uniqwin had a tough time during the recession with some of their clients going into liquidation, but the clients going into liquidation, but the company managed to come through it all with glowing colours giving their customers what they want and the level of service they expect from a good security supplier. The company has taken on a great deal of new work

particularly adding to their portfolio of security at shopping centres/malls, commercial premises and distribution centres.

The willingness to diversify in the provision of front end service roles they fill with trained people, such as they fill with trained people, such as receptionist's site manager's concierge, administrators and maintenance people etc. has been a key to their success. Much of the new work has come from existing customers who have every confidence in the quality of service, management and systems provided management and systems provided

management and systems provided to them by Uniqwin.

Uniqwin has recently taken on new work at Plymouth, Reading and Cardiff with a further one at Southampton in November this year, filling front end service roles.

The company has been very busy again this year on traveller evictions and has taken on a security role at Basildon, the town where there is a well known traveller problem at the

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moment. The work is for a high profile client.

profile client.

There has been a massive increase in key holding and alarm, response services and a typical example is that a high profile solicitors has engaged Uniqwin to supply key holding and alarm response for nearly 30 of their offices in the North West, with a likely hood of another 10 next year.

Another area of fantastic growth has been in the CCTV installation in partnership with Protive and Uniqwin CCTV off site remote monitoring. This is very popular with clients who do not have the facility to live monitor their own CCTV cameras.

Uniqwin puts its success down to

Uniqwin puts its success down to a dedicated management team, work force and the very high quality of the services and products that it supplies. That is why its current clients keep expanding their requirement for services. Quality comes out of good management, investment in training and the use of investment in training and the use of up to date technology. The selection of well motivated employees at the front end of our services also plays an important

uniqwin



For more information contact Cliff Unwin M.D for Uniqwin Security on 01925 286100

Uniqwin are planning the launch of their new branding in the New Year, retaining the colours of dark green and gold but changing their style particular in the uniform badge.

badge.

Uniqwin take the view that security employees should look very smart at all times, maintain high standards and reach the clients expectations. Looking good creates confidence and pride in their work as well as being effective.

Uniqwin have a motto that says

Uniqwin have a motto that says 'Excellence is our Standard' a motto that was suggested by a security



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Council bids to save £3m with pay cuts

WARRINGTON Borough Council is working to change the terms and conditions of its 8,000 strong workforce to generate savings of more than £3.3m to help reduce the

risk of compulsory redundancies.

The aim is to consult with employees and Trade Unions but if agreement cannot be reached officers are seeking authority to press ahead with the changes, despite fears of strike action, poor staff morale and possible legal action.

The council is already behind with its bid to save \$2m this year by

modernising employees terms and conditions and will now have to look at making further savings for next

The council's Executive Board have approved a 10 point plan for wide ranging changes to employment

These include removal of essential car users allowance, to save an estimated £530,000 a year, a

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reduction in mileage rates to save £130,000, not paying for the first three days of sickness to save £650,000, removal of enhanced redundancy packages, which could save up to £998,000, reducing overtime rates, saving around £260,000 and reducing pay protection to staff who redeployed, from two years to one,

saving £185,000.

Promising a "full, open and transparent consultation", Cllr Mike Hannon, deputy leader of the council, (pictured abové) said proposals were in place to consult all employees and the trade unions on a review of

contractual terms and conditions. He added: "We have already approved a number of measure's designed to make the council more efficient and to focus our spending on those public services that residents tell us matter the most to them. But in order to balance the books, we need to look at ways to reduce the cost of

our workforce.
"We will embark on a wideranging consultation on all options. We will be encouraging all employees to find out more about what these options might mean for them and I will be answering questions directly in a series of staff workshops and taking feedback before we make any decisions.

"We are committed to handling

any consultation exercise in a totally open and transparent fashion. We have promised we will do everything possible to avoid compulsory redundancies and I know staff will want to add to the proposals already on the table to help us all find ways of saving money - money which we can then put back into the community by delivering high quality services."

The consultation is expected to start at the end of this month and will last 90 days. It is anticipated any changes to terms and conditions would be introduced at the start of the next financial year subject to approval by the executive board and full council. The council has to make $£50 \mathrm{m}$ savings over the next three years, including £22m in this financial year.

Art on your doorstep

TWO talented local artists will be showcasing and demonstrating their work at Painted Feather Studio in Stockton Heath (behind Pets Pantry) as part of the 14th annual Cheshire Open Studios Event)

Sue Cartwright and Anita Young will be exhibiting their work at the Cheshire Open Studios event during the weekend of October 1 and 2. from 10am to 5pm.

Sue's work is greatly inspired by travel. Her subject matter is wide and varied including sailing, wildlife, and her real passion – motorbiking, conveying the thrill of exhilarating

power and speed.
Anita celebrates the beauty of the and photography, working from her creative base of Painted Feather Studio. Specialising in wildlife, and with a particular passion for wolves, Anita's paintings depict the spirit and visual reality of her subjects in fine detail.

Take advantage of this rare opportunity to visit and observe the artists in their place of work.

Be inspired – and perhaps take home an original piece bought directly from the artist, or treat yourself to one of their painting workshops! Call 01925 602265 for further

information



- Advertiser's announcement -

Get your leisure time back!

OVEN valeting specialist Paul Clark is offering his professional oven cleaning solution to hard working professionals who want their weekends back.
Paul is the Ovenu franchisee for Warrington and is providing oven cleaning services to those in and around the area who are looking to save their leisure

Paul says: "The working days are so much longer with many people not returning home from work 12 hours after leaving the house. I understand most people want to spend quality time with family and friends at the weekend and not worry about how long it will take to clean and tidy the house.

"Oven cleaning is a dirty, time-consuming job and not the way to spend a "under."

Paul'is also reminding local residents of the health and safety issues of leaving

an oven dirty for too long.

"If grease and grime is left to fester for months it can potentially result in an oven fire which can lead to serious injury or even death. Giving your oven a thorough clean can eliminate the risk of a potential fire and your oven will also run more efficiently. However, don't spend your valuable time cleaning it – leave it to a professional.

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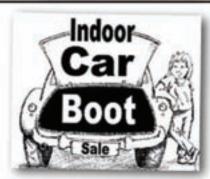
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Food and Drink Guide

PEOPLE in the Warrington area, like most others, are becoming more adventurous over what they eat and drink - so it's hardly surprising that a recent survey showed that

a recent survey showed that a good proportion of favourite dishes are of foreign origin.

It is generally accepted that British food has now lived down its reputation for being rather boring. While this may be partly due to the influence of the increasing number of celebrity chefs who appear on television, it is probably more to do with lesser-known but equally talented chefs who work behind the scenes at local restaurants, pubs, takeaways, etc.

restaurants, pubs, takeaways, etc.
They are rather closer to their
public than the big name chefs on
television so they have to make sure
their creations go down well
literally!
Whether their taste is for

Whether their taste is for overseas food or traditional British

overseas food or traditional British fare, diners want quality food whether they eat it in a top class restaurant, a village pub, a hot food takeaway or a sandwich bar.

Warrington and its surrounding areas has a wide range of quality food and drink outlets and "eating out" has become part of life for many people. For some, the favoured places are in the town centre, close to the town's nightlife, while for others the ideal meal out will involve a drive out into the countryside.

countryside.
What are the favourite dishes,

then?
Well, despite often repeated claims that Chow Mein and Curry are the most popular dishes, a recent survey has claimed that in fact the top choice is Spaghetti Bolognese.

Bolognese.
Perhaps surprisingly, second choice was the good old British roast dinner, comprising of meat and two veg supplemented by Yorkshire Pudding. However, other favourites include Chili Con Carne, Lasagne, Cottage (or Shepherd's) Pie, Beef Casserole, meat or fish stirfries, Macaroni Cheese, Toad in the Hole and, of course, meat, fish or vegetable curries.
Some of the overseas dishes have been modified to cater for British tastes and in a few cases are more adventurous than the originals.

tastes and in a tew cases are more adventurous than the originals.

Of course, many people prefer to cook for themselves and enjoy visiting specialist shops - including farm shops - to source locally produced ingredients. But many of these acquired their taste for the more exotic dishes by visiting restaurants and set themselves the goal of equalling the best the experts can produce.

goal of equalling the best the experts can produce.

When it comes to drink, there is little doubt that in Warrington, as elsewhere, people now appreciate a fine wine as much as a traditional British beer. The popularity of unusual beers created by microbreweries has grown in recent years with the result that discerning beer drinkers are now as difficult to blease as any connoisseur of wine please as any connoisseur of wine.





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- 3. divorce/separation

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Paul Ireland is a Senior Solicitor and Partner at Widdows Mason Solicitors and specialises in all aspects of family work.



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Community



Historic road 'not worth preserving'

HOUSEHOLDERS on one of Warrington's most historic residential roads have been told the road is not considered worth designating as a

conservation area.
Stafford Road, off Wilderspool Causeway pre-dates construction of the nearby Manchester Ship Canal and has a small number of distinctive

But over the years, many houses ave been altered, windows unsympathetically replaced, boundary treatment dismantled and satellite dishes installed.

As a result, independent specialists have produced an appraisal in line with English Heritage guidance, which has concluded that while the attractive and

characteristics which should be retained, it is not of sufficient status or quality to merit conservation area designation.

Residents were consulted some opposed designation. Others said the street was unique in Warrington, had retained most of its original features and was worthy of conservation.

But they were not interested in a conservation scheme that would prevent the installation of double-

"We find this an unacceptable misbalance between conserving the street and conserving the planet and health."

The appraisal pointed out that the situation of the properties had been



altered as a result of the construction of the Ship Canal and subsequent treatment of the Black Bear Canal.

As a result, any townscape merits of the area had been lost.

It added: "While individually these buildings are attractive and for an industrial town of this period in the North West, quality examples of attractive middle class housing, individually, householders have failed to conserve the original quality materials that would warrant the implementation of great protection through conservation area designation."

Peat bog expert visits Risley Moss

MEMBERS of Warrington Nature Conservation Forum were treated to a fascinating talk by Dr Paul Thomas at their autumn meeting about peat bogs and the natural history of the

After the formal meeting closed Paul a renowned 'Peat Bog Expert' took them on a two-hour tour of the

He showed them where it had been necessary to construct a system of bunds to contain the water and pointed out examples of controls that have been used or altered to help restore the hydrological integrity of the

restore the hydrological integrity of the wetland i.e. at the right water level.

Such actions have proved very successful and resulted in the reestablishment of Sphagum and cotton grass over large areas of the moss all the conditions needed for bog growth.

Risley Moss is one of the last

Risley Moss is one of the last remaining fragments of the raised bog system that once covered large areas of South Lancashire and North

Dr Thomas works for Natural England who in partnership with Warrington Borough Council has championed the 'Mini Moss Restoration Project' that aims to restore the moss that was damaged

by drainage.
Forum Chairman, Geoff Settle, thanked Paul on behalf of members. He said 'I have always wanted to see what was out beyond the bird hides



Construction work: Plastic piling is keyed into the bank.

but I haven't dared to go beyond the KEEP OUT deepwater signs.

"I feel privileged to have been

shown around the mini moss by Paul. Not only do I now know what is beyond the sign but also I have seen many interesting plants and creatures for the first time including an adder and slowworm.

People just don't realise how much there is to see in Warrington.

The Forum welcome suggestions future talks.Please contact secretary Helen hlacy@warrington.gov.uk suggestions.

Bus drivers in top 50

TWO Network Warrington bus drivers have been named amongst the top 50 drivers in the country following the 45th Annual UK Bus Driver of the Year Finals held in Blackpool.

It was the first year that the company had competed with Dave Morley finishing in 48th place and Charlie Rowley coming 50th.

They competed in written exams to test their Highway Code and industry knowledge, and a driving test along the North Promenade, on a very wet and extremely windy day.

For a first attempt they did incredibly well, beating a number of seasoned competitors that attend each year.

Managing Director, David Squire, commented, "I am absolutely delighted for both Dave and Charlie, they did really well and can hold their heads high. They are within the top 50 of all UK Bus Drivers and at their first ever attempt, we are all really proud of them".

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MARTIN Coleman, General Manager at Stockton Heath's award winning hair salon MC2 is often asked ...what does MC2 stand for?

Martin explained: "At MC2 we take Meticulous Care providing our clients with the Most Charming haircuts that project Magnetic Charisma. It's all down to the

team's Modern Creativity."

MC2's commitment to the team has again been rewarded with stylist Danielle Brookes

claiming this years under 25's Young Total Beauty Award.

Danielle's achievement follows MC2's previous successes in the UK Hair and Beauty Awards with 2009 Winner Vickie Gourley and 2010 Runner Up Stacey Mills. MC2 have always believed in a strong commitment to stylist education and this is

reflected in the number of awards the team have won in the last three years.

Martin spoke of his pride in the team's

achievements. "The awards that the team have won are simply a recognition of our commitment to providing a consistently high level of service for our clients. Word of mouth is invaluable and the fact that we attract new clients who have heard about MC2 from their friends and work colleagues demonstrates that the MC2 experience is one that our clients appreciate and we really appreciate our clients.

Motoring

Partners aim to take the lead in electric cars

Siemens are bidding to take the lead in the development of electric cars through extensive strategic cooperation.

The focus is on the joint development of electrical drive technology, power electronics and charging technology as well as the integration of those systems into Volvo C30 Electric vehicles.

The first electric cars of this model fitted with Siemens electric motors will be on the test tracks as early as the

end of this year. Late next year, the

Swedish carmaker will deliver a test series of up to 200 vehicles to Siemens, which will then be tested and walidated under real-life conditions as part of a Siemens internal test fleet.

The two companies' goals and core competencies in electric mobility are perfectly matched.

The partnership gives Siemens the chance to extend its industrial leadership in electric drive technology into the automotive market together with a top vehicle manufacture

Volvo will be relying on proven and

electrification of its future vehicles.

Stefan Jacoby, president and chief executive officer of Volvo said: "We are very happy to have Siemens as a partner. Their world-leading knowledge and experience will bring the technology in our electric cars up to an entirely new level.

"We are moving ahead quickly in this area. Our aim is to be first with the latest technology electrification. The pa The partnership reinforces our aim to pursue the fastgrowing market for electric cars."

powertrain,

technology are regarded as key technologies in the development and production of electric cars and Siemens see co-operation with Volvo as an important milestone in the development of top-quality components and systems for electric cars subsequently intended for series

Volvo starts small-scale production of the Volvo C30 Electric this year, and next year the company will start selling the Volvo V60 Plug-in Hybrid.



THE Alfa Romeo 4C Concept only made its public debut at the Geneva Motor Show, in April but by the time its special "fluid metal" version appeared at the Frankfurt Motor Show last month the eye-catching coupe had been refined and

Fluid metal refers to the exterior colour, which dynamically enhances the

smooth lines of the car.

But the refinements do not stop there. Since April, Alfa engineers have been busy enhancing the technical contents to match the car's sinuous lines. Vehicle weight is confirmed at around 850kg, the engine delivering more than 200bhp and a power to weight ratio less than 4kg per hp - bringing it into super car

The car showcases the formula of the two-seater, rear-wheel drive coupé with central engine, a length of approximately four meters and a wheelbase of less than 2.4 meters. These dimensions on the one hand emphasize the Alfa 4C

than 2.4 meters. These dimensions on the one hand emphasize the Alfa 4C Concept's compact attributes, while on the other accentuate its agility. The Alfa 4C Concept uses technology and materials derived from the 8C Competizione - carbon, aluminum, rear-wheel drive - and technology from Alfa Romeo models currently on sale: the 1750 turbo petrol engine with direct injection, the ALFA TCT twin dry clutch transmission; and all the best of Alfa's DNA technology, obviously including the Alfa DNA dynamic control selector.





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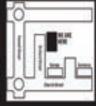
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Wolves make a splash in training



He arranged for the first team to spend the day with firefighters at Liverpool Watersports Centre to simulate still water rescues in lakes, canals and

The rigorous training programme covered survival strategies, positive thinking, teamwork ability under intense pressure, breathing techniques and rescue skills.

Damian, who has worked with Warrington Wolves for over two years through the Challenge Cup wins of 2009 and 2010, and also helped to guide the players to the top of the Super League table, said: "Our players find themselves in a situation that is not entirely different to that of the fire and rescue service in that every day they have to overcome the stresses of working in a hazardous environment."

working in a hazardous environment.

"Of course, they don't necessarily find themselves in a death-defying scenario but this training equips them with self-protection techniques and the application of low to high risk solutions.

"In a high drama situation, you can sink or swim! And this exercise is a

great way to prove that panicking is wasted energy. Our players are mentally and physically strong – and they know how to survive when the

going gets tough."

Head of CoachingTony Smith added: "Primarily the water training focuses on developing teambuilding and improving group dynamics. The players wear personal flotation devices as would the firefighters in a real situation.

"But Merseyside Fire and Rescue have also added a competitive element

into the day so that part of the programme includes an "It's a Knockout" style challenge. The team will certainly be out of their comfort zone – or depths - and will have to push themselves to the limits to win. It bears more similarities to life on the rugby field than you would initially realise!"

"We hope to take what we have learned about the survival of the fittest

Ver hope to take with we have learned about the survival of the fillest to win the last game of the season at Hull on September 9."
Paul Kay, from Mersey Fire and Rescue Service, added: ""We are pleased to be working with the Wolves team. The day was designed to push them to their limits both mentally and physically in preparation for the

play-offs.

"It is vitally important that the fire service can operate effectively as a team under stressful conditions, carrying out 'game plans' to deliver successful outcomes – we're hoping to pass on some of these skills to the rugby team."

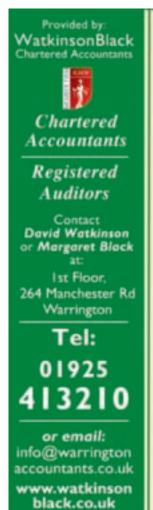
Monaghan celebrates at the double!

WARRINGTON Wolves' Aussie star Michael Monaghan is celebrating at the double after being named Player of the Year and Players' Player of the Year at the club's annual end of season dinner.

The popular hooker, who has been in outstanding form throughout the season, was an overwhelming favourite for the Players' Player of the Year award.

He collected his award from Head of Coaching Tony Smith who paid tribute to the player who has also been acting skipper during the absence of Adrian Morley.





Linancially yours

Provision of childcare facilities to employees

This month we are revisiting the provision of childcare facilities to employees. These can be a very tax effective means of remunerating employees. There are, however, some amendments to the regulations for this

Firstly, the rules concerning workplace nurseries are unchanged. This is where the employer provides an actual nursery for the use of employees. The provision of places in a workplace run facility is free of any tax or national insurance liability. However, this option would only be available to the largest employers, whether in the private sector or, more likely, in the public sector.

The vast majority of employers and employees would need to rely on one of the other two schemes, namely childcare vouchers or directly contracted childcare. vouciers of directly conflicted childcare.

In both cases the employee is provided with a free or subsidised nursery place in an externally run facility. Under the childcare voucher scheme the employer provides a voucher to the employee to a certain value, and the employee can then exchange it for a place in a facility of their Under the directly contracted scheme the employer arranges and pays

for the nursery place directly, and then may receive a contribution towards the cost from the employee.

In both of these cases there are

conditions attached, but if these are met then there is an amount of relief available against both the tax and national insurance otherwise chargeable on the benefit. Many of these conditions are unchanged. The provision must relate to:

- a qualifying child, ie a child who is maintained by the employee or for whom the employee has parental
- responsibilities

 qualifying childcare, ie in a facility regulated by Ofsted, and
- be available to employees generally or to employees at a specific location.

The changes introduced in the current year take effect from 5th April. They do not apply to existing members but only to new members, even if they are transferring into the scheme under TUPE or COSOP arrangements. The main change is that standard rate taxpayers can claim relief on £55 per week as previouly, but higher rate taxpayers can now only claim relief on £28 per week and ditional rate taxpayers, ie earning over £150,000, are restricted to claiming on £22 per



David Watkinson and Margaret Black

This, however, has resulted in a further change which affects all new members, even those who are on basic rate. An employer must carry out a "basic earnings assessment" on all new members to ascertain the amount of relief available. The employer must retain evidence of that

The employer must retain evidence of that assessment and of the result. Failure to do this will result in relief being denied.

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 noobligation initial meeting on any taxation or accounting matter then 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



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Students recipe success

TWO culinary students from a Warrington College have shown that they have the recipe for success after being hired by two of the country's leading Michelin Star restaurants Michelin Star restaurants.

Alex Pendelbury, aged 17 is the newest recruit to celebrity chef Lisa Allen's kitchen staff at her Michelin Star restaurant, North Cote Manor, in Blackburn. Lisa has been seen on TV competing in BBC2's The Great British Menu for the honour of cooking for Prince Charles in a Royal Banquet. Alex completed a VRQ 2 in Professional Cookery at Warrington Collegiate and had previously shown his talent as a regional finalist in the last 2 year's Future Chef competitions.

Alex was invited to complete a weekend trial at North Cote Manor and impressed Lisa with his tasty delivery of her menu. He has since been hired as a commis chef and has been working to serve up contemporary British cuisine.

Meanwhile his 23-year-old classmate Charlotte Duncan has also secured a job at Michelin Star restaurant Angelique, based in Dartmouth. Her culinary skills were noticed by head chef Alan Murchison while she competed in the Toque D'Or competition where she completed cookery demonstrations creating delicious and carefully crafted plates. Charlotte was subsequently offered a position at the restaurant and she was recently promoted to Restaurant Angelique's Head of Pastry and her strong patisserie skills are fast making her a rising star in the culinary world.

On being hired to work at North Cote Manor, Alex Pendelbury said: "I love cooking and it's an honour to be hired by a chef like Lisa Allen and work in a professional kitchen with a creative head chef.

"It was pretty nerve racking doing the trial but I'm really pleased that Lisa saw my potential. Getting this opportunity has been incredible and I couldn't have done it without the support from my mentors at Warrington Collegiate.

Lecturer Claire Lowbridge, said: "We are very proud of what our students have accomplished. Both Charlotte and Alex have shown such joy and enthusiasm for their work and they really deserve the success.

"They have both worked very hard and we look forward to having them back at the college to do some talks and demonstrations and to inspire the next generation of students on the

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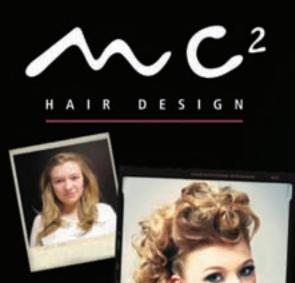
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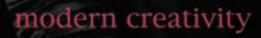
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