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Lee lands dream job

See Page 3

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Editor's Comment



WHAT have been described as 'immoral' pay rises have been approved for senior managers and directors at Warrington Borough Council ranging from between 4-13 per cent while the rest of the town hall employees have had to make do with a one per cent rise.

The pay awards have been condemned by unions as "immoral" and in the "real world" where many people have had to take pay cuts to get through these times of austerity - a pay award of any kind seems a distant dream.

While not siding with the unions,

or any political party - the fact we are told the awards have been recommended by an independent panel doesn't mean they are right.

Responsibilities

I realise restructuring at the town hall has resulted in additional responsibilities for some officers - but I think it is fair to say that no one in a senior role at Warrington Borough Council, or any other public sector role is living on the breadline.

I know for a fact that many small

and medium sized private business owners have not been able to give themselves pay rises for many years as well as having to ask their employees to take pay cuts or work four day weeks.

May be those who are elected to serve in public office should make the decisions rather than taking independent advice - or may be even listen to the people who elected them in the first place.

How anyone in any position of public office can justify a pay award of upwards of 13 per cent in the current climate is beyond me!

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Lee lands dream job

A DREAM has come true for Warrington based architect Lee Birchall after landing a contract to deliver a master plan to help breathe new life into the town centre.

Warrington born Lee, who runs Birchwood based architectural consultancy DV8 Designs, has been appointed by Warrington Borough Council to prepare an analysis, study and draft master-plan for the Garvin Place and former Cabinet Works areas of the town centre.

Both sites, situated within the cultural quarter, are currently unused and the commission will explore and maximise their regeneration and development potential. They are identified as key town centre sites in the Council's regeneration framework, Warrington Means Business.

The aspiration for the area is to

create a mixed-use development comprising residential, retail, business, leisure, hotel and hospitality uses which will complement and enhance the existing town centre and preserve and make a feature of the landmark tower at the former Garnett cabinet works.

Commenting on the project Lee said: "We are very proud to be working with Warrington & Co. to investigate the potential of this area. I am a Warringtonian born, bred and passionate about my town. My colleagues similarly all live locally and our business is based here. We have the advantage of

being able to add our depth of local knowledge, enthusiasm and passion into the commission.

"It is a dream come true for me to be working on such a prestigious project in my home town. Having worked on major projects the length and breadth of the country, it is always nice to work on one close to home."

Plans for the area will aspire to create a hub of activity for businesses in the town, with space allocated specifically for small businesses and so positively changing the dynamics of the town centre. The development will focus around a new public square for outdoor events and alfresco activities to attract residents and visitors into a vibrant and bustling Warrington town centre. Infrastructure and connectivity will be improved and will enable links with Queens Square, Sankey Street, Bridge Street and Barbauld Street to the Waterfront.

DV8 Designs, based at Birchwood Park, won the contract by competitive tender and collectively have over 20 years of experience in urban design and master-planning as well as having worked on numerous retail, leisure and commercial office projects.

Councillor Terry O'Neill, Leader of the Council said: "This is the first step in the Council unlocking the tremendous potential that this area offers. It is in the heart of our historic central heritage area and this study will provide the basis

of a masterplan for the future. I'm delighted to have appointed local company DV8 Designs for this study."

Steve Park, managing director, Warrington & Co., Warrington's partnership for driving growth said: "This is an exciting opportunity to realise the full potential that these sites offer. Key to the scheme will be the production of a masterplan, an analysis of connectivity, a conservation plan and the preservation of the landmark tower at the former Garnett's cabinet work factory.

"The team at Warrington & Co. are excited at the prospect of working with DV8 Designs and taking this forward. This is yet another major progression of the Warrington Means Business framework and the renaissance of the town."



Lee Birchall outside the cabinet works

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Hello and welcome to my monthly column . . .

Hypnotes

by Michael Mahoney

Silence

The busyness of life is all around us, people rushing around, the hustle and bustle of everyday activity. Accompanying this is the constant noise from conversations, traffic, doors opening and closing, footfall, objects being moved, electricity, and so much more. We become accustomed to all this noise and movement around us, so do we ever really switch off from it?

When we are indoors at work or at home we are either talking, using computers, operating machines or watching TV. When we relax we are usually carrying out some activity or hobby or socialising in pubs, clubs, or within other buildings where there is constant noise. If we are out walking in town or in the countryside there is usually still human activity around us creating noise. So do we ever really experience silence?

Many people feel uncomfortable with silence and need to fill gaps within conversation, if silence goes on for too long. If it is too quiet when they are alone at home they will put the radio or the TV on. Many people cannot bear to be alone and always seek company of others.

Underlying assumptions often accompany silence. If a person is comfortable with silence and does

not feel the need to fill the gaps, then they may be perceived to be too quiet or boring. If someone is sat quietly at home reflecting then they may think they are wasting time or being lazy. Silence is therefore often unacceptable and for some people quite scary.

Silence can be powerful and healing if a positive approach is taken to it. Appreciating moments of silence can become an art form. Feeling comfortable with silence in a relationship can be empowering and enables two people to relate on a deeper and more meaningful level.

Within interpersonal communication we use 55% body language, 38% voice tone, and only 7% is the spoken word. We also run our own internal dialogues and emotions, beliefs, attitudes and perception on life which also affects the way we take in information, therefore true communication does not exist.

Learning to be comfortable with silence and becoming more tuned into body language aids more effective communication. Walking in the countryside listening to natural noises or the quietness, practicing relaxation techniques, self hypnosis, meditation, yoga or tai chi, listening to and observing others will help to improve communication skills.

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



Tel: 01925-658322 email
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People tend to talk too much for what they have to say and often the words do not convey the message they are trying to give. There can be lots of meaning without words, using silent observation helps a person achieve greater understanding of what another person is trying to express. Reading body language and checking that you understand what the other person is really saying opens the way forward for more fulfilling relationships with others.

To learn more about communicating effectively with others and how to express yourself more clearly please do not hesitate to contact either myself or Cate Todd on 01925 658322.

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Familiar faces return to Callaghan's

TWO familiar faces have returned to Callaghan's hair salon on Sankey Street, Warrington offering special 50 per cent discounts until the end of October.

Phil State, a stylist of 29 years' experience in many fields of his craft has worked all over UK, Europe and America. A lot of this was teaching and show work including photo shoots.

Originally trained with Vidal Sassoons, Phil worked in salons in Liverpool and then set up his own salon that ran for ten years. When a change was needed Phil sold the salon and became a director of education for England and Ireland for two hairdressing product companies.

This provided a "brilliant experience" of teaching, working on stage at all the biggest national and international hair shows and product development.

The next stage in Phil's career was becoming an art director for Toni & Guy, working and training in London was again an extremely valuable experience.

Phil then moved to local salons and then to Callaghan's, before another move to open a small salon on his own, which allowed for time to be spent within the music industry working on video productions for bands. The feeling for being in a team again and more training opportunities has led Phil back to Callaghan's.

Also returning after maternity leave is art director Genna Beckett.

Genna started her career at Andrew Collinge and now has over 12 years' hairdressing experience. She is an excellent all rounder with specialities in advanced cutting and colouring. Genna consistently strives to exceed customer expectations and her in-depth consultations mean that she listens and understands the needs of her clients. She is able to adapt accordingly to each client's individual needs ensuring that her clients always leave looking and feeling fantastic. Genna has developed a vast and loyal clientele and continues to remain much in demand.

Both are looking forward to seeing clients old and new - with a 50 per cent discount on first visits until the end of October.

Meanwhile the new Cheshire Academy of hairdressing which opens at Callaghan's on September 23 has been inundated with enquiries about apprenticeships.

Academy Director Claire Aldous would now like to hear from any salons looking to recruit apprentices.

For more details contact Callaghan's on 01925 575785.



Miss Teen success for Caitlin

WARRINGTON'S pageant princess Caitlin Holmes is celebrating after scooping second prize at the Miss Junior Teen Great Britain finals in her first ever event.

Caitlin, aged 14 from Woolston, represented the town at the national competition, which aims to build confidence and celebrate the outstanding achievements of young women across the UK, following sponsorship from Golden Square Shopping Centre.

"This is such fantastic news for Caitlin. She's certainly proved herself as a positive role model for other teens in our area and I'm sure that she will continue to be an asset to the Warrington community," said Golden Square centre manager Ian Cox.

Out of 40 grand finalists, Caitlin was crowned first runner up after judges were 'blown away' by her

interview.

Caitlin said: "I'm absolutely thrilled, this whole experience has been a dream come true. I've met some amazing people and I just hope that I can continue to help the charities and organisations that I've had the privilege to work with."

The Miss Junior Teen Great Britain final, for ages 11 - 15, was held at The Globe in Blackpool.



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- Our apprentices will have the opportunity to experience all aspects of the hairdressing industry. This will involve theory to back up the practical skills of cutting, colouring and all other related tasks.
- Assessment of skills and knowledge will be assessed both at the Academy by qualified and experienced trainers and in salon.
- Classes will be small - with a maximum of 10 students. Students have found this to be a friendlier atmosphere to work in and the tutors have a better relationship with all of their students.

For more details contact

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Exclusive networking opportunity

AN exclusive business networking event takes place at The Halliwell Jones Stadium, the home of The Warrington Wolves and one of the host venues for the RLWC 2013 on Friday October 25 from 7.30am until 11.30am.

The event co-ordinated by Marketing Cheshire, will include a networking breakfast, workshops and the chance to engage and interact with key industry professionals including:

Director, for Cheshire, North Wales & Cumbria
 * Graham Dobbin, Director, Perception
 * Mary Murtagh, PR Expert Speaker

* Ewan Sturman, BNI Executive

Topics covered include, "How to

get your Business in the Media", "The Mind behind selling" and "How to get more business from people you already know".

There is also the opportunity to hear an exclusive insight into the RLWC 2013 and the economic benefit from a Warrington perspective.

Cheshire Business Leaders Vice Chair Paul Taylor from Taylor Business Park said: "The aim is to

bring together the many networking groups from across Cheshire and give them a morning where they make new connections and leave feeling invigorated and inspired.

"It will bring together networkers and businesses from all over Cheshire to celebrate their similarities, differences and to discover new opportunities.

All proceeds will fund another pro Cheshire event that will be held in London," added Paul.

The cost of attendance is £25 + VAT per person.

For more information contact Laura Evans, Marketing Cheshire on 01244 405630 or email l.evans@marketingcheshire.co.uk

Hotel team get top award – again

THE Team at the De Vere Village Urban Resort Hotel Warrington are celebrating again after Sous Chef Steven Bray won the hotel group's Hero award for the quarter.

It is the second quarter in a row that the premier hotel in Warrington has picked up the companies top award.

Donn Timmons, General Manager said: "It's great news for the team at the hotel, no other hotel has ever achieved two awards in a year, so to receive two on the bounce is a fabulous achievement".

Steven will join Paul Jenkinson, last quarter's winner at the company awards dinner in January which celebrates the companies people and their achievements through the year.

Village Urban Resorts place huge emphasis on their people and candidates for the award are selected against the companies five High Performance Behaviours – V. inspirational, V. Commercial, V. Detailed, V. Resilient & V. Driven and the competition is tough for the top spot.

The Village Urban Resort Warrington has undergone a huge transformation in the last few years with large investment and the addition of a Starbucks but Donn still believes that its more than just Bricks and Mortar – its all about the people and it's the hotels engaged staff that consistently deliver great guest experiences.

Commenting on his award Steven said: "I'm really honoured

to receive the award, it means a lot to me, I'm proud to work here, but you'll have to excuse me – I have to dash as we busy planning our V.Big Top Marquee for Christmas!"



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Survey reveals fear of traffic chaos

MORE than 350 people have responded to a survey on the impact of the Atlantic Gateway proposals on Warrington – and an overwhelming 95 per cent of them fear they will lead to increased congestion on the town's roads.

The survey was organised by Warrington South MP David Mowat and is still available on his website, www.davidmowat.org.

Atlantic Gateway is a major, £50bn project along the route of the Manchester Ship Canal, including the creation of a Port Warrington, near Moore.

It will provide a huge boost to the economy of the North West.

But canal owners Peel Ports Ltd admit that additional shipping on the canal is likely to mean increased disruption for Warrington residents.

Each time a ship passes along the canal it will mean each of the three Warrington swing bridges –

Knutsford Road, London Road and Chester Road – will be “off” to road traffic for a while.

It has been estimated that it takes more than a hour for road traffic get back to normal after a ship passes through.

Two thirds of those who took part in Mr Mowat's survey were already aware of the proposals and an overwhelming 95 per cent thought that the proposals would increase congestion on the roads.

Opinion was divided over the best solution to the problem with 49 per cent favouring more night voyages, 32 per cent preferring construction of a new bridge and

14 per cent wanting a better early warning system to alert motorists to ship movements.

Mr Mowat said: “I am pleased that this survey has stoked debate in the town about the likely impact of the proposals. I have received a large number of thoughtful letters and emails from residents on how best to minimise disruption and I will be passing some of those comments on to Peel.

“The Atlantic Gateway project is ambitious and deserves our

support, but we need to think very carefully about the impact it will have on Warrington, which will be uniquely affected by the project.”

In recent years, the Ship Canal has caused few problems for road users.

But older residents remember the “bad old days” when shipping was heavier and repeated hold-ups for road traffic brought chaos to the town regularly – and made many out-of-town shoppers go elsewhere.

Theatre company's national tour

A THEATRE company is to go on a nationwide tour – starting from Warrington's Burtonwood Catholic Club.

The Not Too Tame Theatre Company will be touring with their unique play “Early Doors.”

Director Jimmy Fairhurst is particularly excited about the launch because he was born in Burtonwood.

But the cast is brim full of young actors born locally.

The curtain rises at Burtonwood Catholic Club on Friday and Saturday, October 11 and 12.

Tickets are strictly limited to just 150 per night and cost £8.

Other members of the cast include David Mumeni, Warrington-born Katherine Pearce, another local actor, Andrew Scott Butler, Anjana Srinivasan, Rebecca Scott, Adam Scales, Louise Haggerty, Richard Lakos, Hanna Jarmon, Jess Hayles and Jack Brown.



MP David Mowat (left) with Cllr Paul Kennedy, leader of the Conservative Group on Warrington Borough Council, on London Road Swing Bridge.

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Bid to make English Half Marathon an Iconic event

WARRINGTON'S annual English Half Marathon has been hailed a great success after attracting a record breaking 2,700 entries, with organisers now planning to make it an iconic racing event.

Costing around £70,000 to stage, Event Director Rob Griffiths says his ultimate goal is to have the race finishing outside the town hall's Golden Gates.

"This would help make it an iconic event and attract runners from all over the world," said Rob.

"As a proud Warringtonian it is my ambition to bring this event into the heart of the town - to see it finishing outside the Golden Gates is my ultimate ambition."

This year's race, which got off to a flying start as a Royal Airforce display team parachuted into the main arena, was won by Mat Rushbrook, aged 37, from Knutsford Tri club in a time of 1.14.04 closely followed by Will Beauchamp, aged 27 from Sheffield Running Club in a time of 1.14.19.

Third was Craig Mooney aged 31, from South Cheshire Harriers in a time of 1.17.42. First Warrington runner was 4th placed Wesley Durkin, aged 25 in a time of 1.17.42.

First woman to finish was Kelly Crickmore, aged 35, from Chester Tri Club in a time of 1.20.01.

One special guest at the event was well known local runner Derek Verdon - the last man to win the

original Warrington Half Marathon which went through the town centre for the last time in 1988 which he won in a time of 1.07.44.

Derek presented Rob with a photograph of himself taking part in the event which will take pride of place in Contest Sport's new town centre offices on Bold Street.

Meanwhile a puncture after six miles prevented Warrington Paralympic athlete Adrian Derbyshire (pictured right) from completing the race on his new trike but he was not too disheartened after breaking a world record time in training, with plans to make next year's event fully accessible.

The training has also helped him prepare for a major event next year when he plans to tour the length of the country from Lands End to John O'Groats as an anti-hate crime ambassador, as well as promoting the good work of Warrington Disability Partnership, where he is a trustee.

Meanwhile next year's English Half Marathon event has been provisionally arranged for Sunday September 7.



Record numbers entered the English Half Marathon



Adrian Derbyshire



Race Director Rob Griffiths (right) with Derek Verdon

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Curtain comes down on another successful VPX

ANOTHER highly successful VPX experience took place at Victoria Park, Warrington organised by local Community Police Support Officers Tom Reid and Tony Spruce.

Although one event had to be cancelled during the school holidays due to adverse weather conditions, the other three provided free fun packed entertainment for local youngsters during the school

summer holidays.

The final event involving the Rugby League World Cup proved to be a popular attraction as various local organisations and community groups laid on free entertainment to

keep youngsters entertained during the school holidays.

Plans are now in the pipeline for a special one off Xmas VPX - watch this space!



Pictured with the Rugby League World Cup at the Victoria Park Experience from left, Bob the Builder, Wolfie, Tom Reid, Grubber World Cup Mascot, Tony Spruce and Warrington Disability Partnership and Warrington Town Town FC mascot Ollie Owl.



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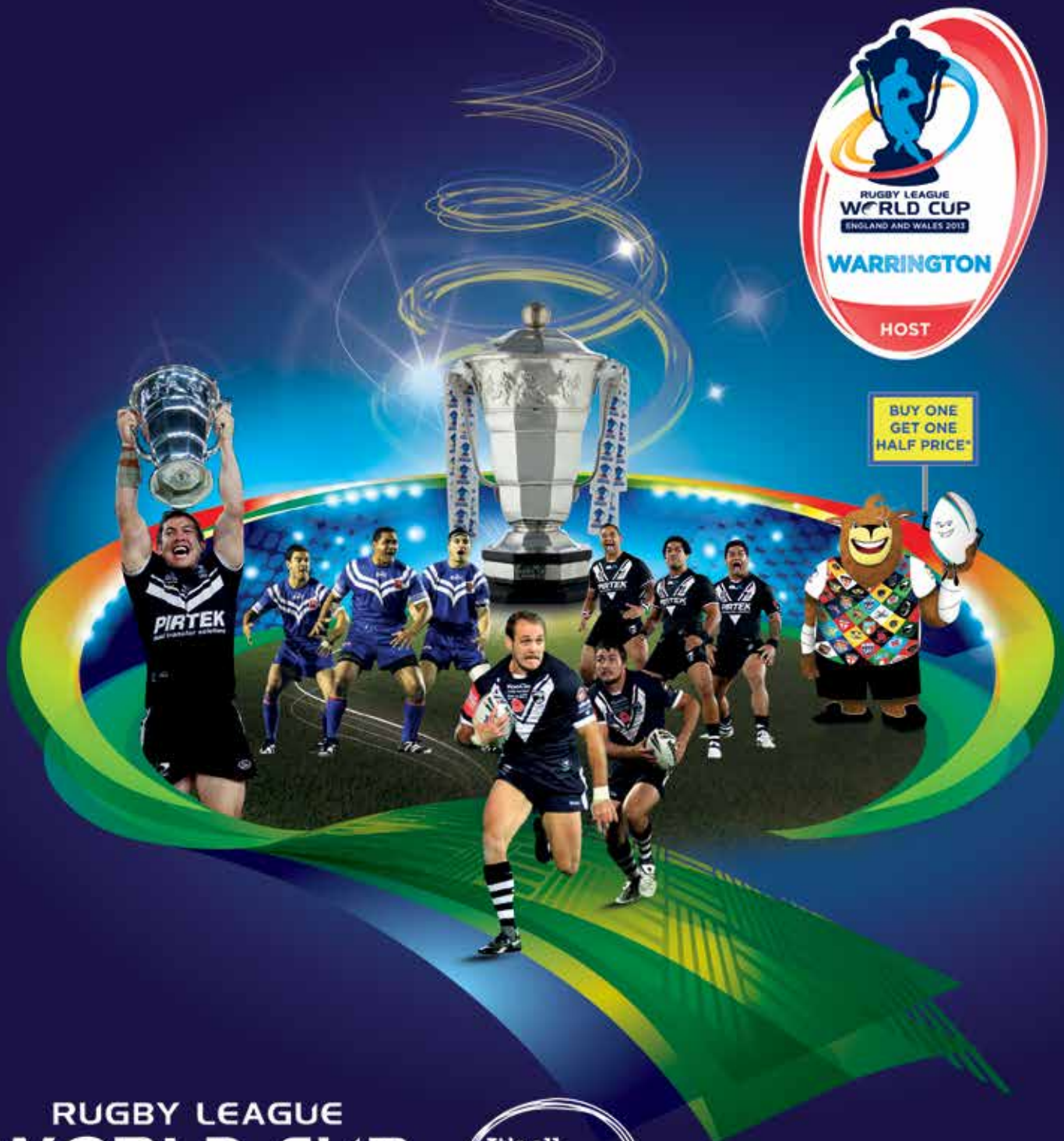
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WORLD CUP
ENGLAND AND WALES 2013

It's all
going on in
Warrington

Hello and welcome to your special Rugby League World Cup 2013 guide to the games.

A major international sporting event is being held right on your doorstep and you can be part of the action! There are lots of opportunities to get involved.

14 nations will compete in RLWC2013 from across the globe, playing in 28 matches. There will be two games in Warrington and the town will host the Samoan team for the duration of the tournament.

Current world champions New Zealand will be taking on Samoa, at the Halliwell Jones Stadium on Sunday 27 October at 6pm, and both teams will be performing one of the most iconic sights in sport – the Haka. Warrington will also be hosting an unmissable quarter-final on Sunday 17 November, so make sure you are there to be part of the action.

Warrington has a history as a Rugby League town, with excellent sporting facilities, and local people who are passionate about the sport, and we know this will mean the games here are a huge success.

So does it all end when the final whistle blows? No, because local children and young people are getting involved through the education programme and we have established a legacy charity that will support sport and physical activity projects in the future.

We are extremely proud to be part of the UK's golden decade of sport, and hope you will come along and enjoy this fantastic event with us. See you at the games!

Jan Souness, Chair of the local RLWC2013 consortium



Welcoming Samoa



The Australasian influence on Samoa, plus the Samoan playing presence in Super League and the NRL, means the nation is well placed to perform well at Rugby League World Cup 2013.

Previously known in Rugby League circles as Western Samoa, the islanders have been competing on the international Rugby League stage for over two decades.

The Samoans' first major competition was the 1988 Pacific Cup, where they made a great first impression by going all the way to the final, before suffering a narrow 19-16 defeat at the hands of New Zealand Maoris.



Samoa's Rugby League World Cup bow came in 1995 and five years later they defeated New Zealand and Scotland to reach the quarter-finals, where their progress was halted by eventual winners Australia.

However with a stronger domestic structure and some high-profile names to call upon from the Northern and Southern Hemispheres, Samoa cannot be taken for granted in 2013.

And one of the players expected to lead the Samoans from the front this autumn is Kylie Leuluai.

Known to his teammates as 'Hulk', the veteran 17-stone prop forward is renowned for being able to bench press 225kg, which is the heaviest weight to be lifted by an NRL player.

Meanwhile, Salford's new recruit, Tony Puletua will add further muscle to the Samoa pack. Puletua made his first-grade debut for Penrith Panthers in 1997 and was captain of the side in 2003 when they defeated the Sydney Roosters in the Grand Final.

See Leuluai, Puletua and the whole team in action on 27 October!

There will be opportunities to see the Samoan team out and about in Warrington. The Samoans will be holding community engagement visits, open training sessions and a coaching master class. Look out for details on www.warrington.gov.uk/rugby.



Salford's Tony Puletua with the RLWC trophy

Window on Warrington

Welcoming Samoa and entertaining the crowds, prepare to be dazzled by hundreds of dancers for 'Window on Warrington'.

'Window on Warrington' is an exciting large scale dance project which will form part of the March to the Match and direct people from the town centre to the stadium.

More than 500 dancers from community groups and schools across Warrington will take part in the action and it's sure to be a spectacular show. The carefully crafted choreography has been influenced by the heritage of Warrington and Samoa with key themes including storytelling, fantastical, industry and waterways.

Stacey Goodall, artistic director for Window on Warrington, tells us more about the project. Stacey said: "It's a really inclusive, diverse project that celebrates Warrington and the people in the town."

A partnership between Culture Warrington and the Warrington Wolves Foundation, it will be a 40 minute performance made up of 500 performers with the youngest three years old and the eldest 84. With support from the town centre innovation fund and funding from Arts Council England it really will wow audiences.

Stacey explained: "This is what Warrington is, this is our heritage, this is what we're about. It's an absolutely amazing opportunity and I am so grateful to be able to say that I was involved."

Spectacular match days

Street performers, pyrotechnics and dancers will entertain visitors around the town centre and in the stadium expect flag parades, choirs, music, more dancing and of course, the Hakas.

March to the match

Get ready because residents and visitors who come to a game in Warrington will be travelling there in style as they 'March to the Match'. Volunteers will be stirring up the atmosphere along the routes, guiding the way with a whole host of exciting activities.

What's on match days?

The route will run from five key locations and ambassadors will be on hand to meet and greet and direct the crowds to the game.

- Bank Quay Station
- Warrington Central Station
- Warrington Bus Station
- Warrington Collegiate
- The Village Hotel

27 October from 2 - 4pm & 17 November from 10.45am - 12.45pm - at Queen's Gardens there will be an activity zone with rugby themed games and arts and crafts.

27 October from 4pm & 17 November from 1pm - head down to Bridge Street for Window on Warrington.

27 October at 6pm at the Halliwell Jones Stadium – Samoa and New Zealand kick-off!

17 November at 3pm at the Halliwell Jones Stadium – Quarter Final kick-off!



Don't miss it! Sunday 27 October at Market Gate Guardians at 4.15pm and Sunday 17 November at 1.15pm.

Contribute to a lasting RLWC2013 by volunteering

RLWC2013 will leave a lasting legacy in Warrington and this is a once in a lifetime opportunity to get involved. You could be directing people to matches, helping out at a game or helping to spread the word in the run up to the tournament - you can be as involved as you like.

40 volunteers have already been successfully recruited but another 60 are needed to bring the games to life! The deadline for applications is Friday 27 September and can be requested from sports@warrington.gov.uk.

Applications can be returned to the Halliwell Jones via the Warrington Wolves Foundation, Contact Warrington, University of Chester, Padgate Campus, Warrington Collegiate and The Gateway.

All volunteers need to attend a World Host training course at Warrington Collegiate. The day-long session covers communications, tourism and customer service and everyone who successfully completes the course will receive a Level 2 qualification (equivalent to GCSE).

Rugby reading fever

Try Reading is a project LiveWire libraries have been running since April to celebrate RLWC2013 coming to Warrington.



Top selling children's author Tom Palmer dropped into Orford Jubilee Neighbourhood Hub in August along with world cup mascot Grubber and the Rugby League World Cup trophy.

• Wednesday 2 October 7pm

Super Hero visit to Orford Park Library – International author and former Marvel editor Tim Quinn presents a unique workshop.

• Tuesday 8 October 7pm

Remembering rugby at Warrington Library – Join award-winning writer Cathy Crabb in a creative session taking inspiration from rugby and local history.

For more information visit
www.livewirewarrington.co.uk/library.

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HALLIWELL JONES STADIUM, WARRINGTON

New Zealand v Samoa

Sunday 27 October

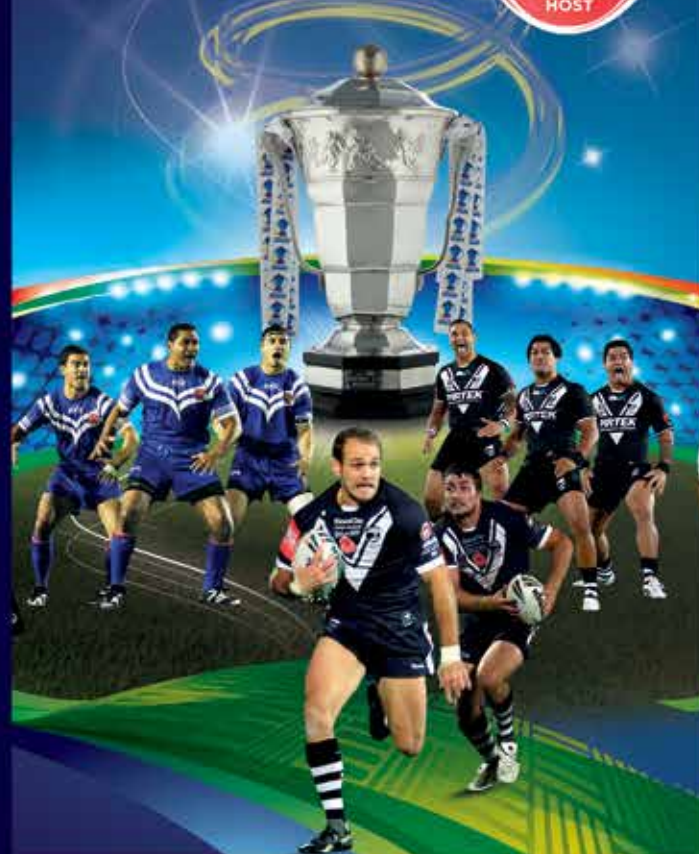
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Quarter-Final Four

Runner Up B v 3rd Place A

Sunday 17 November

Kick-off 3:00pm



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visit www.rlwc2013.com or you can now
buy tickets from local venues including the
Halliwell Jones Stadium and Orford Jubilee
Neighbourhood Hub.

Building for the future

MAYOR of Warrington Cllr Peter Carey was on hand to officially open the brand new Urban Building Project's Legends' Lounge at Warrington Town FC's opening home league game of the season.

The sponsors' lounge has been given a complete makeover by Carl Palmer and his team from the Warrington based construction company, which includes former Warrington Wolves' flying winger Mark Forster, who was involved in the joinery work.

As well as sponsoring the lounge, Urban carried out the re-fit

at no cost to the club which recently unveiled its 2020 vision to be in the Football League in seven years' time.

Carl said: "We are delighted to be able to support our local football team and wish them every success on their journey."

Club Chairman Gary Skentelbery said: "Thanks to Carl and his team

we have a sponsors lounge we can be truly proud of.

"It has enhanced the match day experience for our club sponsors who are vitally important for our future success."

Meanwhile the club also

donated £500 to Malcolm Kindon from St Rocco's Hospice from the Emmerdale charity game held earlier in the year, which also helped raise funds for the club's community development programme.

Paul puts his shirt on Warrington

WARRINGTON businessman Paul Taylor has traded in his Bolton Wanderers season tickets to get behind his home town club's 2020 vision for the future.

Paul who runs Taylor Business Park near Culcheth, has followed Bolton since his school days and been a season ticket holder for the past eight years.

But now he has signed up as a Platinum Vice President at Warrington Town to support the club's bid to move up the league pyramid system towards the Football League by the year 2020.

As part of his deal he received two season tickets for the Urban Building Project's Legends' Lounge and an England shirt signed by soccer legends Bryan Robson (Ex Man Utd and England) Peter Reid (Ex Everton and England) and Gary Owen (Ex Man City and England Under21).

"There is a much bigger sense of community spirit at Warrington Town and I love the touchline atmosphere," said Paul, who will be sharing his tickets with his old

school friend and fellow former Bolton season ticket holder Chris Hayes from Skanska Construction Group.

"I would urge other business people to get behind the town's football club," added Paul. "A successful football team in the town will boost the local business economy."

"The club is full of colourful characters and it would be great to see Warrington in the Football League one day."

Any one else interested in signing up to the club's 2020 vision should email club Chairman Gary Skentelbery at garys@warrington-worldwide.co.uk



At the launch are (L-R) Mayor of Warrington Peter Carey, Director of Football Toby Macormac, Urban Buildings Project's MD Carl Palmer, Warrington Town Chairman Gary Skentelbery, Chief Executive Richard Sutton and former Warrington Wolves' winger Mark Forster.



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Collegiate reports surge in apprenticeships

WARRINGTON Collegiate has reported a 100% increase in applications for apprenticeships.

The figures are in line with the growing trend of youngsters choosing the employment route over traditional education, which has seen more than 1.4m applications for apprenticeships in the past 12 months nationwide.

Myrtle Northage, Director of Apprenticeships at Warrington Collegiate said: "This year we have seen over a 100% increase in 16-18 year olds applying for our vacancies."

"We're really encouraged by the interest of young people in Apprenticeships and the level of applicants coming through; clearly many would previously have gone onto A Levels or university. With a growing demand from employers for high level technical skills it's important that teenagers are looking towards an apprenticeship as a viable alternative."

Enthusiastic

Social Media Apprentice, 19 year old Kirsty Clarke, from Dallam, is enthusiastic about the opportunities her course brings. She said: "After sixth form college, I felt that I wanted to be more connected with the real world and after taking a long hard look at the options available I chose the Social Media apprenticeship at Warrington Collegiate."

"Working and studying at the same time makes real sense to me. I love it; it's challenging but really

exciting to be involved in cutting edge technology. I'm gaining a lot of skills that many people just don't have at the moment."

Warrington Collegiate is planning to repeat the highly successful 100 apprenticeships in 100 days in the New Year following exceeding the target by 50% in 2013.

Myrtle added: "We are

looking to expand our range of apprenticeships including some of the growth areas such as Logistics, Warehousing and Social Media as well as higher level apprenticeships."



Students Cambridge-bound

HIGH Legh students Charlotte Senn and Sarah Slattery – who attended Withington Girls' School – are thrilled to be heading to Cambridge University after scoring impressive results in their A Levels.

Charlotte, 18, achieved an exceptional 5 A* grades – for Maths, Further Maths, Chemistry, Physics and German. She will now go on to study Natural Sciences at Magdalene College, Cambridge. Charlotte is an accomplished musician – to Grade 8 distinction level – having played the cello for the Halle Youth Orchestra and leading the cello section in the Senior School orchestra. Charlotte received a school award for her long-term commitment to sport and is the Ladies Singles Champion at High Legh Tennis Club.

Sarah, aged 17, scored A*s in Maths and Latin and A grades in Greek and French. She is looking forward to studying Classics at Churchill College, Cambridge. Sarah was editor of

the pupil-run school magazine "Scrawl" and also led the school's Amnesty International society through which she enjoyed raising awareness amongst other pupils of contemporary issues. As well as participating in the Mock Trial competition and several Model United Nations conferences, Sarah is also a keen horse rider.

Charlotte and Sarah are among a group of 7 Withington girls who are going on to study at Cambridge this year whilst a further 5 are going to Oxford.

Withington Girls' School has posted outstanding A Level results this year bucking the national trend to achieve a significant increase in A* grades. Overall, from a group of 75 sixth formers 37.6% achieved A*s, 80.4% secured A* or As and 94% achieved A*, A and B grades. The overall pass rate was 100%. Withington was recently named as the top secondary school in the North West by the Sunday Times.



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Rare treat for steam train buffs

Pictures: Eddie Whitham

RAILWAY enthusiasts at Warrington were given a rare treat when a steam train passed through Central Station.

The train was "The 15 Guinea Special" – run by a railway preservation society to commemorate British Rail's final steam train which ran 45 years ago when the ticket price was 15 guineas – or £15.75 for the benefit of younger readers!

The special train ran from Liverpool Lime Street to Manchester Piccadilly and then on to Carlisle, via the famous Settle to Carlisle line. Fares ranged from £109 to £259 for the day trip – and the train was packed with railway buffs.

After passing through Central Station it passed Warrington Wolves' Halliwell Jones Stadium – but it didn't give the train crew as good a view as they had when it used to pass the old Wilderspool Stadium.

The picture (below) of the 1967 Australian touring side when they played The Wire at Wilderspool shows, in the background, a steam train waiting for the signals at Arpley – giving the crew a first class view of the pitch.



Free wi-fi for tenants

WARRINGTON's Golden Gates Housing Trust has been awarded £40,000 towards the cost of providing free Wi-Fi for tenants in one of the most deprived parts of the borough.

The Longford On-Line project is an initiative which aims to tackle digital exclusion among residents.

The funding, awarded as part of the Government's Digital Deal, will be match funded by the Trust and will see GGHT install and manage a Wi-Fi network in Longford, providing free wireless broadband to its tenants and low cost access to other local residents.

The project will also provide tenants who do not have their own computer, laptop or smartphones with a Digital Den Android mini-PC free of charge. This new product will turn their existing TV sets into an Internet access device.

GGHT is the largest provider of social housing in Warrington and is currently leading a major regeneration project in Longford, an area ranked within the 4 per cent most deprived in the UK.

The Trust recognises the increasing importance of web

access and skills for its tenants. It's Digital for All strategy sets out the role that the Trust will play in supporting its tenants to access on-line services, making savings on their household bills and linking into greater employment, education and training opportunities.

Delivered in partnership with local voluntary organisations, colleges and businesses, the project will introduce hundreds of residents to the Internet for the first time and encourage others to make greater use of this in their daily lives through the roll out of popular Internet activities and sites that are relevant to them.

This will include providing support in accessing the Trust's on-line rewards scheme, energy advice and links to street based competitions.

GGHT director of housing management Peter Fitzhenry, commented: "We are delighted to have been chosen as one of the 12 organisations across the country to secure Digital Deal Challenge Funding. We believe this is an exciting opportunity that will benefit a significant number of digitally

excluded customers living in one of the most disadvantaged areas in the UK.

"The 'Longford On-line' project offers an innovative solution to bringing down digital barriers and will enable hundreds of our customers to experience the wonders of the Internet in their own home, without having to purchase a computer or pay for broadband

access.

The successful roll out of the project will help these customers and their families to unlock employment, training and education opportunities and tackle social and financial exclusion. It will also help to support the Trust in delivering its commitment to Digital for All."





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Terrorism and police powers

by Jonathan Conder

Most people would agree that the police need adequate powers to combat terrorism. The fact that there has been no repeat of the 7 July 2005 bombings suggests that the police have been doing an effective job in monitoring suspects and curtailing terrorist activity.

However the recent detention of David Miranda has raised concerns about the use of anti-terrorist laws. Mr Miranda, the partner of Guardian journalist Glenn Greenwald, was detained for 8 hours and 55 minutes by police officers as he travelled through Heathrow Airport on his way to Brazil. His mobile phone, laptop and other items were seized. Mr Greenwald had received a large quantity of material from Edward Snowden who is wanted in the US for leaking classified information suggesting that the security services were involved

in widespread phone and internet surveillance of private individuals.

Mr Miranda was detained under Schedule 7 of the Terrorism Act 2000 which allows border authorities to detain and question an individual for up to 9 hours without charge in order to 'determine whether he appears to be' a terrorist. There is no right to legal representation and no right to silence. Mr Miranda may or may not have been in possession of unlawfully obtained material. But the police might have difficulty in arguing that he was a 'terrorist' suspect even though the term is broadly defined in the Act.

This is not the first time that concerns have been raised about the improper use of anti-terrorist legislation. In 2005 an 82 year old man was detained briefly under the 2000 Act as he tried to regain entry to the

Labour Party conference following his ejection for shouting 'nonsense' during a speech by Jack Straw. Section 44 of the Act (now repealed) enabled police to search persons and vehicles and seize items without the need for reasonable suspicion that an offence had been committed. It had been used to control protestors and, on a number of notorious occasions, to seize cameras and mobile phones from the likes of trainspotters who were innocently taking photographs in public places.

Warrington has its own sad history of terrorism and all right thinking people will want to ensure that the public is protected from any similar incidents in the future. But we must remember that laws intended to protect us from terrorists should not be used to curtail entirely unrelated activity, whether lawful or otherwise.



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(Sixth Form - by appointment)

Sat 16th November 10am – 12.30pm

(Whole School - ages 4 - 18)

Thu 21st November 10am – 12.30pm

(Whole School - ages 4 - 18)

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Advertiser's announcement

From watches to rodents!

Many of you may already be familiar with Nigel Caves if you've ever visited Earlestown Market – he's probably repaired your watch or sold you a new one during his fourteen years behind a market stall.

Now Nigel has set out a stall of a very different kind by setting up the first Prokill Professional Pest Prevention business in the Warrington and surrounding areas. Prokill is a national network of Pest Controllers who represent the most highly accredited Pest Control Company in the country – undertaking work with both the commercial and residential sectors.

You might think this a strange departure for a Market Trader but Nigel underlines the similarities.

'I believe that I'm a people person through and through,' says Nigel, 'and that the best way to succeed

is to understand people's needs and offer them what they want at a price that fits. Prokill does exactly that – it solves problems for people, protects their health and income and delivers a fantastic service at a fair price. What more could you want?'

Prokill's accreditations mean that it's pre-qualified to operate within any commercial environment as well as undertake residential pest control. Nigel believes that Prokill's highly professional reputation aligns well with his own approach.

'Ultimately,' adds Nigel, 'it's all about reliability and service. If a

customer has a problem, they want it solved immediately by someone they can rely upon to do the job properly. If the pest problem is in your business, your livelihood and reputation depends upon us doing the job efficiently and if the pest problem is in your home, you need piece of mind that you, your family and home is protected effectively. So my promise to customers now

is to fulfil their pest control needs without a hitch which means as much to me as did my attitude and determination on Earlestown Market in repairing the countless watches that thousands of customers entrusted me with over the years.'

Look out for the distinctive liveried silver Prokill vehicles or Nigel can be contacted at Prokill on 01925 571440 or 0752 5442564.



All set for Oktoberfest

WARRINGTON Rotary Club's annual Oktoberfest returns to the town's Parr Hall from October 10-12 when over 70 cask ales plus ciders and bottled beers from around the world will be on sale to raise much needed funds for a number of charities.

There will be live music at each session at the event which has so far raised over £200,000 for local and international charities.

Warrington Rotary President, Alan Ainsworth commented, "This year should be another bumper year for our charities with interest being shown by people from all over the northwest and further afield."

This year's event will be supporting Warrington Food Bank, Crossfields ARFC Juniors, Warrington Visually Impaired, Warrington & Halton Hospital NHSFT Lung & Palliative Care Fund, Canal Boat Adventure Project, St. Rocco's Hospice and international charities Lend With Care and Hope & Homes for Children.

Oktoberfest 17

Rotary Club of Warrington

Charity Beer Festival

Thursday 10th
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By David Watkinson

Staff parties and their tax exemptions

So the weather has turned cool, and our thoughts now move from summer holidays to Christmas and in particular the works Christmas Party.

The tax office is quite generous in the way it views staff entertaining. Not only is the cost of providing a party free of both tax and national insurance, there is also no need to report the benefit on a P11d. However, there are a number of conditions that must be met in order for the exemptions to apply. This beneficial tax treatment is not restricted to a Christmas Party, but applies to all functions provided that the conditions below are met.

Firstly, the function must be an annual event and not a "one-off". In order to avoid confusion care should always be taken in describing an event. In one case the tax office attempted to tax the cost of the annual Christmas party provided to employees because the employer decided to combine it with a 10 year anniversary party and invited major customers and suppliers. This confusion could have been avoided by careful wording of the invitations.

Secondly, the cost must not exceed £150 in any tax year. This limit is not

per function but per employee. If the cost exceeds the limit then the whole amount becomes taxable and not just the excess above the limit. For instance, a Christmas Party costing £160 exceeds the limit, and the whole cost of £160, not just the surplus of £10, is taxable. Similarly, if there is an annual summer function costing £60, followed by a Christmas Party costing £100, then the summer function is within the exemption limit, but the Christmas Party takes the total annual cost above the limit of £150 and so the whole cost of £160 is taxable.

Thirdly, the function must be open to all employees. If you have more than one business location then this condition would be met if all locations had their own function which was open to all employees at that location. However, it would not be met if the office staff at a location went to a different function than the warehouse or factory staff. For example, if the summer function in the example above and costing £60 was open only to office staff then this would not meet the conditions and would, therefore, be taxable. The Christmas Party costing £100 would then be within the



exemption provided that it was open to all employees.

One thing to note is that there is no requirement for a minimum number of employees before the exemption applies. Therefore, the cost of a function provided by a company to its sole director/employee, or to a husband and wife if both are employed by the company, would fall within the exemption provided the other conditions were met.

WatkinsonBlack are pleased to advise on these and other matters. They have considerable experience in all areas of taxation and business services, 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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Community transport group need new home!



WARRINGTON Community Transport is in urgent need of a new home for its Dial-a-Ride mini bus service for the health and well-being of staff and their vehicles.

Brian Wilson, General Manager of the charitable organisation which provides a door to door accessible minibus transport service operating locally within the boundaries of Warrington Borough Council using friendly, helpful staff and volunteers, said: "Under present circumstances it is extremely difficult to cope with the dusty environment, keeping the vehicle interiors clean and dust free which is so essential as many of our members have breathing related difficulties. In addition to which the cement accumulates under the vehicles, and as a result adds substantially to our vehicle maintenance costs."

They are currently based in what have become unbearable premises in Athlone Road.

Cllr Geoff Settle (pictured) said: 'As an asthmatic I couldn't work here because we are sited between the dust and noise of a cement company and a recycling business banging away all day. The vehicles are visibly getting damaged by the conditions and it can't be good for people's long term health. Our last meeting in the portakabin was like being in a sweat box, how Brian and his staff can work here all day is a mystery to me.' Chair Denis Collins agreed saying: "At every Trustee's meeting I find it difficult to re-assure the staff representative of our empathy with the staff in their Dickensian working conditions. This unacceptable state of affairs has continued for a number of years, and to continue to offer the fine service to the public by staff and volunteers it is essential that we re-house them".

Warrington Community Transport aims to provide a reliable, flexible and sustainable transport system to meet individual need, thereby ensuring that disabled, vulnerable and older people are not marginalised or isolated. The service provides its members with the opportunity to access essential services such as: employment, education, training, healthcare appointments, shopping, social and leisure activities. It also helps to remove barriers of social exclusion within the community by encouraging voluntary sector groups to use community transport for social and educational purpose. As trustees the Directors have a clear responsibility for sorting these issues out for the charity and they have been working extremely hard to find somewhere suitable at an affordable cost. They have currently exhausted all the suggestions put forward by Warrington Borough Council's asset manager. If anyone has any suggestions or ideas, the WCT would like to hear from you no matter what they are." Please contact Brian Wilson on 01925 419977 or email dial1@btconnect.com or call Councillor Geoff Settle tel: 07768 542 635, email gsettle@warrington.gov.uk

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