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Issue No. 143    September 2011    FREE EVERY MONTH

## Hungry for title!

Page 3

Picture:  
Eddie Whitham



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# Editor's Comment



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**Have you got a story? Send your news items and pictures to [info@warrington-worldwide.co.uk](mailto:info@warrington-worldwide.co.uk) or phone 01925 623631**

**FORTUNATELY Warrington as a town escaped the riots which took place across the country and the 22-year-old local man who thought it would be a good idea to try and incite rioting on facebook has been jailed for FOUR years!**

I would like to congratulate Cheshire police on the way they reacted to this potentially explosive situation - and the Judge who handed out a sentence to fit the crime.

Too often we hear about the police being criticised for failing to respond quickly or courts being too soft on offenders. But now it is important that they continue as they mean to go on to ensure we can all live in a safe environment.

Even more importantly we need to be educating young people to learn about respect and discipline.

The sights we saw during the rioting which destroyed peoples lives and livelihoods, showed a complete disrespect for law and order and civilised society in general.

Shops being looted and set on fire, injured people being helped to their feet and then being robbed, were some of the most shocking scenes we have seen on the streets of Britain for a long time - and while they were not all young people, there was certainly a large number of children involved - children who have grown up in a nanny state society where discipline can not be enforced in schools due to

the human rights of people.

As a society we need to accept that if people are to have human rights - they need to behave like civilised human beings and know the basics of right and wrong.

When I was at primary school if

you stepped out of line you ended up outside the head teacher's room, waiting in fear of the cane. Fortunately I never over stepped the boundaries were it was required - but some of my classmates did - and they soon got back in line and behaved.

Until we get discipline right in the schools - supported by parents in the home - we will always be fighting an uphill battle to have discipline and respect back on the streets.

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# Wolves hungry for title

**WARRINGTON Wolves are hungry for the Super League title following their Challenge Cup exit to arch rivals and fellow contenders Wigan Warriors.**

Points machine and former man of steel Brett Hodgson, who recently broke his own record for points in a season, smashing through the 300 barrier in the 64-6 thrashing of Bradford Bulls, admits that the Challenge exit left him "shattered" for a week.

Having tasted defeat at Wembley against the Wolves in 2009 when he was at Huddersfield, Hodgson admits he made the switch because he believed it would be a great chance to return to the cup final on the back

of Warrington's repeat success last year.

"That Challenge Cup defeat hurt a huge amount," he told **warrington-worldwide**. "I came here because I thought it would be a great chance to win the Challenge Cup!"

"While I can look back on the points record with affection at the end of my career the main focus now as a team is to get to the Grand Final."

"The silver lining from the Challenge Cup defeat as it gives us the chance to have a couple of

weekends off and be fresh for our assault on the end of season finals.

"Our only focus is the Super League title and we have got to use the cup exit for our assault on the title. Hodgson is currently sidelined with a quad injury but hopes to be back in action in time for the title assault."

For regular video interviews with Head of Coaching Tony Smith and various other members of the team check out the Wolves section on [www.warrington-worldwide.co.uk](http://www.warrington-worldwide.co.uk) and make sure you follow [warrington-worldwide](#) on facebook, twitter and Youtube for all the breaking news stories from the Halliwell Jones.



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## Tailormade eyewear from

**Why compromise when it comes to glasses? British spectacle designer Tom Davies brings the luxury of bespoke frames to Warrington town centre based Richard Shaw Opticians.**

Consumers can spend thousands on their wardrobe.

Yet when it comes to glasses, which are the defining feature of their face, they won't countenance paying more than a couple of hundred pounds for something they will wear everyday for years on end.

That, at least, was the case until British spectacle designer Tom Davies came onto the scene. In a short time, Tom has revolutionised glasses by introducing bespoke frames, expressly

designed and handmade to suit a person's face, colouring, physical characteristics and lifestyle.

### BESPOKE FRAMES?

Having a frame designed and made for you is like a combination of ordering a bespoke suit and re-designing your own face. You get sunglasses or spectacles which fit perfectly, in exactly the colours and materials you choose and designed specifically around your natural



features. They will suit you better than any glasses you have ever had.

Tom Davies Bespoke frames satisfy everyone: spectacle wearers who want a perfect fit, individuals who are looking for style and colour and those who have a clear idea of what they want. The customer chooses their preferred frame and the optician takes a sophisticated series of measurements and photos, chooses colours, shapes and materials and input them into the online design wizard.

The frame is hand - made for the customer using a combination of

traditional techniques and modern machinery. And the finishing touch, one of the features Tom's customers like the most, is their name laser engraved discreetly on the inside of one of the arms.

### HOW ARE BESPOKE FRAMES DESIGNED?


Just as an experienced tailor has a set group of measurements which he uses to assess body type and how the cloth will hang on an individual, Tom's seven principles guide his team of designers when they are working on customers' design portfolios.



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Hello and welcome to my monthly column . . .

# Hypnotes

by Michael Mahoney

## What it takes to be a friend

It has been said that friends are chosen family! So true.

While some friendships may develop quickly, one component to determine a true friendship may be time.

Beyond time, depth and trust are important factors.

But even in the closest of friendships, dynamics can change. Some people just accept the change and move on, while others delve into it and work to mend and preserve the friendship – especially one that has seen not only many years together, but challenges too.

One of my clients, we will call her Maureen; had a friend named we will call Sally. They had been friends for almost 30 years. Maureen was by Sally's side during her breast cancer, mastectomies and various family crises. Sally drove Maureen to the hospital for tests and surgery as well. Their children grew up together, their husbands were friends. Sally stood by Maureen during her divorce – and so it went. But something happened to the dynamic of the friendship when over time, Sally did not return Maureen's calls, letters or emails.

When Maureen approached me about this, I sensed what it was. Sally

confided in Maureen about almost every detail of her life – she was Sally's closest friend and she shared things with her that she would never even tell her family. When many stressors were building up in Sally's life, all the pain and frustration was told to Maureen. So Maureen became a subconscious source of Sally's pain when she linked the pain to her. Since Sally wanted to avoid pain, she avoided Maureen. Finally after the urging of her husband, Sally called Maureen.

Sally was sorrowful and tearful and told Maureen that several times she would park her car across the way from Maureen's house trying to get up the courage to speak to her friend to get the friendship back on track. When the two finally did meet after several months, they hugged and cried – Sally realized what happened – and to Maureen's relief, she finally was at peace knowing that the temporary split was nothing she had done or said.

So the final components? Communication and respect.

How many friendships become side-tracked or even ended because one friend believed the other was avoiding them, and all because of a lack of communication? Hurt feelings, resentment and misunderstandings can

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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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easily happen.

But a true friend has learned that trust and communication are key elements to any relationship. Added to this is an understanding that friends are not to be taken for granted. In order to have a friend, you must be a friend and allow for give and take on both sides. It is key that friends' honour and respect each other's interests as well as share in joys and sorrows – to be there when it counts and when times are hard – then the celebrations are so much more joyous!

If you are in need of help understanding, communicating or mending the relationships or friendships in your life, I can help! As a therapist, I am here to listen so that I can help you to mend your broken heart or a broken friendship and to help you see that with balance, caring, trust, depth, understanding and open communication, your relationships can be better than ever – perhaps even the friendship of your dreams!



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# Spitfire draws the crowds

**A SPITFIRE parked outside Warrington Market drew crowds of people who queued up to have their picture taken in the cockpit.**

It was one of the main attractions for celebrations of National Play Day which transformed the town centre.

Warrington Borough Council organised the day which also featured puppet shows, arts and crafts workshops, fairground rides, a fancy dress parade in aid of Warrington Disability Partnership and a helter-skelter from the 1930s.

Mayor Cllr Mike Biggin, who attended the event said: "National Play Day recognises the importance of play and encouraging families to find time in their busy lives to play in the fresh air.

"It's also a pretty fun day out for adults as well. The event was hugely popular and town centre was bustling with excited children all day."

Pictures: James Bryan

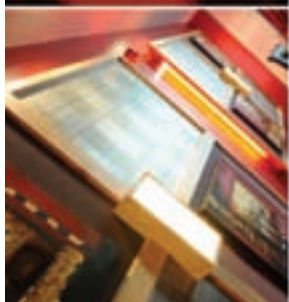
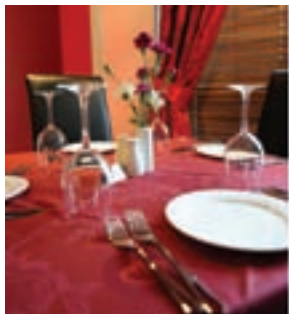


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# G&J Greenall sold for £7.5m

**THE maker of Greenall's gin has been sold in a £7.5m deal involving the management team that saved the company from collapse three years ago.**

G&J Greenall, which includes the second most popular gin brand in the UK and will next month celebrate its 250th birthday, has been sold by hotel group De Vere, which was formed from the Greenalls Group in the 1990s.

Warrington-based Greenalls, which employs more than 100 people, also makes more than 50 per cent of all the supermarket own-label gin and vodka in the UK.

The company is being bought by its management in a deal that is

backed by an unnamed private equity firm.

It aims to build on its recent strong sales by focusing on the Greenall's brand and taking advantage of a resurgence in demand for British gin overseas.

In 2008, the business made underlying losses of £2m but was turned around under the leadership of chief executive Christian Rose,

who will continue to lead the company.

It is now profitable and recorded turnover of £46m last year after enjoying strong sales growth following a re-launch of the brand.

Mr Rose said gin was "becoming cool again", especially overseas where Greenall's 250-year history adds to its allure.

"For many years, gin has bumped along the bottom, it's been a mum and dad's drink and not really cool.

"But now a lot of people's parents drink vodka, so gin is becoming different, while people overseas love the quintessentially British tradition of gin and tonic."

The management team will focus on growing the business' brands, which also include the recently launched premium Bloom and Berkeley Square labels.

They believe there is an opportunity to grow overseas sales, which are growing at 30 per cent after its recent relaunch in the US. They plan to launch in India.

Greenalls will also continue to supply drinks for the big supermarkets and other gin companies, including Bacardi's Bombay Gins.

De Vere, which owns 65 sites in the UK including Village Hotels, has been selling off some operations to focus on its core hotels and leisure business

## Is your company a winning team?

BUSINESSES across Warrington are being encouraged to compete in the Q Hotels Corporate Challenge as part of the Spire Healthcare English Half Marathon taking place on Sunday September 18 at Victoria Park.

This is a perfect opportunity to promote teamwork and fitness in the workplace. Companies can also use the event to raise much needed funds for their chosen charity.

The Corporate package includes 4 runners per team and to make the race more accessible to everyone people can run as part of a relay team. The event has inspired the General Manager of the Park Royal Hotel Paul Gallon to don his running shoes and take part.

Paul said: "QHotels and The Park

Royal are delighted to be the official sponsors of the English Half Marathon Corporate Challenge.

This is a great event for both Warrington and for all the charities who benefit from the fundraising

efforts of the participants. In the last two years alone over £300,000 has been raised for hundreds of charities and I hope that once again businesses will rise to the challenge and enter their teams into the race. The QHotels charity of choice for 2011 is Asthma UK so I have decided to bite the bullet and have signed up to be part of hotel team and hopefully

complete my first ever half marathon – now I guess I need to get down the gym and start training!"

For more information call 01925 or for standard entry to the race you can apply by visiting [www.english-half.co.uk](http://www.english-half.co.uk)



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# "Outburst of acquisitive crime"

**I WAS listening to radio 4 when I heard our Deputy Prime Minister describe the riots in London, West Midlands, Manchester and elsewhere as "An outburst of acquisitive crime".**

That was a new one on me but it seemed to me to make little of the reality of what had been happening on the streets of our cities recently.

My company have the privilege of employing the management and staff at the Salford City Shopping Centre and on August 10 I visited the site in the aftermath of the rioting there. I saw the damage that had been done not only to the buildings but to customers and staff

who have been affected by the very serious criminal activity where gangs invaded this community shopping centre in order to wreck it and steal as much as they could without any regards to the disastrous effect it was having on the community and the people that work there. I am pleased to say that in the main the security guards and police managed to keep them outside of the centre.

I take the view that we should all learn lessons from this kind of brutal activity, which reminds me of another comment that our Deputy Prime Minister made during the same interview. 'If you delve into criminality you will face the consequences' unfortunately not always true.

No doubt you like me have seen the recent television footage of the riots that took place. One thing that stood out in my mind was how many of the criminals were actually wearing a full hood over their face to hide their identity, in particular the ones that were literally stealing and committing serious crime in full view of the cameras be they CCTV installed or

media cameras. They were blatantly sticking two fingers up at them simply because they knew they could not be identified whilst wearing hoods, balaclavas, ski masks and such like.

No matter what footage of cameras the police may look at these people are unlikely to be identified. So is this one lesson to be learned? Is this something that our MPs should be considering? There was a time when if you were wearing a mask you were seen as a robber or bandit. Is history repeating itself? Maybe you have some thoughts on this?

Many criminals are opportunists either looking for opportunities of vulnerability to commit crime or using or creating diversions to give them a free hand. Group thugs like in the current situation gives the opportunity to all kinds of criminal elements to come out and do their nasty thing with much less risk of being caught.

I have seen criminality like this put the victims out of business and I have seen the hurt and anguish it can cause. It is difficult to prepare for such events but you can limit the problem in some ways. You will almost certainly need a contingency plan whether your business, big or small, is hit by such a disaster such as your premises burning down with

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all that is in it or something that has a massive impact on the business.

I was talking to a business lady just a couple of weeks ago who had a 'very posh' dress shop. Her shop was completely cleaned out of a massive amount of stock by burglars who came in a removal van. She did not have any insurance and was put out of business. There are many security precautions that you can take to reduce the risk. Seek professional advice it costs nothing.

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## Free bus service

WARRINGTON'S bus company Network Warrington is teaming up with Warrington Market and the Borough Council to launch a new free bus link from Academy Way to the bus interchange.







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## Oh Ann is going to Barbados

LUCKY winner of a holiday to Barbados in Warrington Disability Partnerships grand prize draw was Ann Johnston. She was presented with her prize by Craig Whittaker from HeXel Developments who donated two tickets for a luxury holiday to Barbados!

Craig kindly donated the prize to help raise funds for local charity Warrington Disability Partnership (WDP).

Managing Director Craig said, "I have supported WDP for a number of years. When I heard that DAD funding had been cut I offered to donate the holiday as a prize to raise funds. I'm really pleased that the draw was a success."

HeXel Developments are based in Wash Lane, Latchford and specialise in both commercial and domestic areas of IT.

Also included in the prize was a set of suitcases and travel accessories donated by Co-op Travel, Warrington. The

draw raised over £5,000 for WDP and the winning ticket was drawn by Miss Cheshire, Samantha Cross at the Disability Awareness Day (DAD) event.

Ann said: "I was absolutely thrilled to win the first prize and I'm really looking forward to the holiday. I was stewarding for DAD on the day and couldn't believe it when I heard that I had won."

Jayne Horton Chief Officer at WDP said: "HeXel has been providing WDP with invaluable IT support for a



Left to right - Jayne Horton (Chief Officer - WDP), Ann Johnston (Prize Winner), Craig Whittaker (Managing Director - HeXel)

number of years and when Craig generously donated a two week holiday we thought the best place to make the draw was at our 20th DAD event. Our Fundraising Team worked hard to sell the tickets and I can't forget to mention Michele Butterworth from Shelly's and her customers who supported the sales. To sum it all up - it was a great Team effort."

A full list of prize winners can be viewed at [www.disabilitypartnership.org.uk](http://www.disabilitypartnership.org.uk)

## New salon is a big hit

THE Mayor of Warrington Cllr Mike Biggin was on hand to open a new hairdressing salon on Sankey Street creating a welcome jobs boost in the town. Hairdresser Paul Kemp has always had a passion for making his clients look and feel great - which made him one of Warrington's most sought after stylists. Now with his own team of talented hairdressers behind him he's set to become a big name in the hairdressing industry.

Sister salon to the award winning 'JAKATA hair & Beauty team' Paul Kemp Hairdressing was devised to accommodate the ever-expanding team whilst creating a fresh new hairdressing brand to appeal to a whole new audience.

Paul said "My aim is to offer an environment where people are made to feel completely at ease. I have a team of amazing stylists that all share my goal. Hairdressing is a 'feel good' industry and that's what Paul Kemp Hairdressing is all about".

Adam Carter, owner of Jakata said: "It's fantastic to be experiencing growth in such difficult times, it proves that with hard work and determination, plus staying focused and positive, anything can be achieved."

The salons will be taking on 8-10 new employees between the two sites over the next year to add to their already 17 strong team.

The salon held its official launch with the Mayor of Warrington doing the opening honours and giving his seal of approval.



Picture shows Paul Kemp and team, plus the Jakata team at the salon launch with the Mayor.

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# Lowton High School

# Adult Education Programme 2011 - 2012

## COURSES STARTING SEPTEMBER 2011

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- ★ Spanish (Beginners)
- ★ Conversational Spanish
- ★ French (Beginners)
- ★ Japanese (Beginners)
- ★ Chinese (Improvers)
- ★ Textiles
- ★ Cake Decoration (Improvers)
- ★ An introduction to Aperitifs
- ★ Computers for Complete Beginners
- ★ Floristry
- ★ Pottery
- ★ Tai Chi
- ★ Tiling (Beginners)
- ★ Joinery (Beginners)
- ★ Plumbing (Beginners)
- ★ Bricklaying (Beginners)
- ★ Painting & Drawing

### Tuesdays

- ★ CV Writing Workshops
- ★ Employability Skills
- ★ Paediatric First Aid Skills
- ★ Customer Service Skills Workshop
- ★ Conflict Resolution & Personal Safety
- ★ Introduction to ebay
- ★ British Sign Language
- ★ Italian (Beginners)
- ★ Holistic Therapies
- ★ Belly Dancing
- ★ Garden Design
- ★ Counselling Skills
- ★ Photography
- ★ Psychology
- ★ Retail Skills
- ★ Emergency First Aid

### Wednesdays

- ★ Confidence Building for Work
- ★ German
- ★ Italian (Improvers)
- ★ French Conversation
- ★ Move on English
- ★ Microsoft Office Word
- ★ Powerpoint
- ★ Baking & Patisserie
- ★ Introduction to Counselling Skills
- ★ Photography (Improvers)
- ★ Green Medicine & Herbal Remedies

### Fridays

- ★ Holistic Therapies

### Saturdays

- ★ Small Business Start Up Workshop
- ★ Gifts from my Kitchen
- ★ Christmas Flowers
- ★ Ceramic Gifts
- ★ Batik Workshop

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12/13/14  
**SEPTEMBER**

## Enrolment for all courses starting before Christmas 2011

Adults wishing to enrol on a course starting before Christmas 2011 are invited to attend the appropriate enrolment evening. The School's enrolment programme will begin on Monday 12th September 2011



Courses starting on a <b>Monday</b>	<b>Monday 12th September</b> between 5 – 7pm
Courses starting on a <b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Tuesday 13th September</b> between 5 – 7pm
Courses starting on a <b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Wednesday 14th September</b> between 5 – 7pm
Courses starting on a <b>Friday</b>	<b>Wednesday 14th September</b> between 5 – 7pm
<b>All Saturday Workshops</b>	<b>Wednesday 14th September</b> between 5 – 7pm

For a full course breakdown  
and further information  
please visit the website listed below

Lowton High School, Newton Road, Lowton, Warrington, WA3 1DU

Tel: 01942 767040 (selecting option 4) • Email: [stephen@lowtonhs.wigan.sch.uk](mailto:stephen@lowtonhs.wigan.sch.uk)



[www.lowtonhighschool.co.uk](http://www.lowtonhighschool.co.uk)

look at our website for more information



# New group to stage 'Sing for Fun' day

NEW community singing group Wired for Sound is to hold its first "Sing for Fun" day on September 17.

Formed in January, the group was born out of an evening class run by Warrington Borough Council at the Pyramid and were previously known as Pyramid Sound.

Now they are independent and meet on Tuesday evenings at The Friend's Meeting House, Buttermarket Street from 7.30pm-9pm.

The group is led by trained music leader Marc Jenyon.

Chairman Eleanor Haines said: "We hope our first Sing for Fun event will be an exhilarating day of harmony singing where participants will learn easy Gospel songs especially arranged for voice only, all taught by ear with no need to read music."

"No previous experience is needed and there will be no auditions and no individual singing. The cost for the day will be £15 and will include refreshments and lunch.

"We have high hopes that we will be able to increase the number of people who join us as we all thoroughly enjoy the sessions and several of us feel we have benefited both physically and mentally from the chance to work together with such a sociable group."

Cost of membership is normally £5-a-week, or £3.50 for people who pay for a block of six weeks. There are no auditions and anyone aged 14-plus can join.

Anyone interested can call Eleanor on 07909 922241 or Christine on 07528 342274 or email eleanor.haines@ntlworld.com

# Fun day set to be annual event

A special fun day organised by Great Sankey residents proved so popular it is set to become an annual event.

More than 500 people attended the event organised by Dorchester Residents' Association which was blessed with glorious weather.



Organisers with Parish Council Chairman Roy Smith.

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“ Foxhills is surely everyone's dream home, an innovative dwelling of three floors and with numerous unique features. ”



# A dream home which started out as an extension!

**I**t stands in its own spacious grounds in a conservation area at Altrincham - an imposing detached house that is testimony to the skills, care and attention to detail of a Warrington building company.

Mark Smythe, of Rosedale Construction (Cheshire) Ltd., Culcheth, is rightly proud of the property - particularly as it started out as a project to refurbish and extend an existing house and ended up as a completely new dwelling.

Foxhills is surely everyone's dream home, an innovative dwelling of three floors and with numerous unique features.

Mark started his business some 15 years ago after previously being a partner in his father's construction company. He has been building houses and extensions for more than 30 years.

He runs his business with his wife, Georgina and son Steven, who looks after the carpentry side of the business. Over the years they have acquired an enviable reputation for quality.

Along the way they have picked up two prestigious Cheshire Built-in Quality Awards - one for a bespoke building, including a swimming pool and main house link in Kenyon Lane, Culcheth and one for a barn conversion at Moore which required extensive re-building using traditional methods.

The Foxhills project started out as a plan to extend and refurbish an existing five bedroom 1970s house.

After a structural survey the decision was made to start from new, which entailed demolishing the existing house and starting again from scratch.

**“ From the dining room, the stairs appear to rise up through the aquarium! ”**

The clients required some special features, such as an 8ft square water feature - a salt water aquarium built into the wall between the dining area and hallway.

It was also decided to install a composite staircase constructed with steel, oak and glazing balustrades, rising through the centre of the house.

From the dining room, the stairs appear to rise up through the aquarium!

The house has many other imaginative features, including a contemporary wall of folding/sliding glass doors and a balcony from the master bedroom overlooking the garden.

One window rises from the kitchen up through the full height of the building. At the top of the house is a home cinema. Shutters and electric blinds have been installed instead of curtains.

Throughout, Mark worked with architect Keith Summers, of Munro Summers Architects, of Newton-le-Willows, who had worked with him on his earlier award-winning projects. Clearly they make a winning team.



Georgina Smythe



Mark Smythe & Keith Summers



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### Potential risks of using a will writing service

In a recent episode of the BBC's Panorama programme, the potential risks of using a will writing service were highlighted.

The programme reported on the case of Andrew Poole, whose wife Suzanne had used a will writer but the will had failed to include any provision for him leaving the entire estate in trust to his step-daughters.

Appearing on the programme was Caroline Bielanska, who is the Chief Executive of Solicitors for the Elderly and when interviewed she expressed concern that the will writers had failed to advise Mr Poole of his right to bring a claim against the estate for adequate provision.

Mrs Bielanska further commented that 'a specialist solicitor would have asked why a spouse was left out and kept a detailed record of the reasons why. Furthermore a solicitor would have advised of the tax implications and the risk that the will could be challenged.

Many people are under the false impression that a will writer is a solicitor, but unlike a

solicitor they do not have to undergo regulated training and are not overseen by any organisation regulating their conduct or providing a form of redress if things go wrong.

It is often the potential fear of high solicitors costs that prompts some people to use will writers instead of solicitors but this fear is often misplaced as solicitors will prepare wills for a fixed fee with free storage of the wills and any other documents.

At Widdows Mason we are happy to hold a free no obligation meeting in order to discuss your options/possibilities. If you already have a will in place we are happy to review this free of charge to see if this needs updating to reflect your current circumstances or any recent changes in the law.

#### Accreditation Success

Widdows Mason are also delighted to report that Paul Ireland, Partner at its Warrington Office has successfully gained a specialist kitemark from the family group Resolution in the areas of financial aspects of divorce work, children's law and domestic violence.



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



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Contact Jim Edwards
- Wills and Probate: Equity release etc  
Contact Su Wilson or Geoff Stokes
- Accidents: Slipping and tripping, accidents at work  
Contact Michael Stockton
- Crime/Police Station Attendance: (Legal Aid available)  
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Community  
Legal Service



## Helping hand for first time buyers

FIRST time house buyers at Warrington can get a helping hand from the borough council to buy their own home.

The council has joined forces with Lloyds TSB to offer a scheme under which first time buyers can purchase a house with a deposit of just five per cent through the Local Lend a Hand product available from branches of the bank.

Warrington is one of the first councils in the country to make the scheme available. Raising a deposit is often the biggest challenge first time buyers face. The scheme enables borrowers to buy their first home with a deposit less than the 10 per cent required by most mortgage lenders.

## Artists and performers wanted

ARTISTS and performers wanting to join in Warrington Contemporary Arts Festival are being urged to sign up as the deadline is approaching.

The month-long community event starts on September 24 in the Cultural Quarter and will celebrate the wealth of artistic talent in the region.

The festival aims to highlight the growing support and interest in contemporary arts in and around Warrington from the performing and visual arts sector.

It will include exhibitions, a public art trail, performances and displays of a wide range of contemporary arts at various venues including; Warrington Museum and Art Gallery, The Gallery At Bank Quay House and Pyramid and Parr Hall.

Local artists are being asked to join in and further details can be found at [www.thegalleryatbankquayhouse.co.uk](http://www.thegalleryatbankquayhouse.co.uk)

Artists can submit contemporary work in four categories - Contemporary Open Exhibition, Arts and Craft Fair, Artist Engagement and Film Screening.

## Park re-opens after £122,000 re-vamp



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

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.

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."

## Students face tough decision on fees

**Media student Alex Baracscai investigates the likely impact of the raise in tuition fees.**

STUDENTS in Warrington returning in September for their final A-level year will be the first to feel the impact of the new government tuition fee system when applying for university places.

With current university fees being a maximum of £3290 for a year, this could rise to £9,000 in 2012. With the added cost of accommodation and living costs this figure could be in excess of £45,000 over a three year course - leaving students facing a huge debt.

Many local students are outraged by this increase in fees.

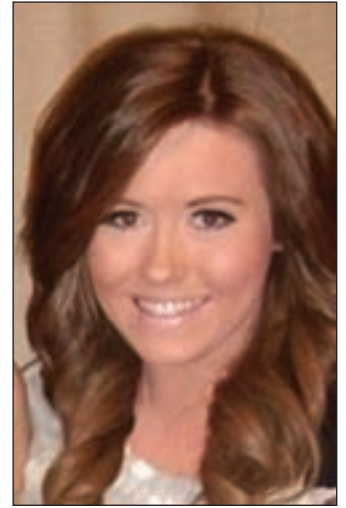
Helen Culleton, 17, (pictured right) a student at Great Sankey's Barrowhall College, will be applying to university in September. She said: "It's my year that will be the first affected but I'm still going to go. I know it will cost a lot but I think it will be worth it to get a good job."

However, Amy Devine, 18, (pictured bottom right) has left the college and is due to go to university this September. She said: "I'm lucky that I'm in the last year of students that won't be charged the higher fees. If I was being made to pay the new fees in 2012, I would definitely consider more carefully whether it's worth going. In fact, I doubt I would be going at all."

David Mowat, MP for Warrington South, hopes the new fees won't put students off applying. He said: "What I hope will happen is the number of students going to university will continue to increase. There were similar concerns about students going to university under the Labour Government about six years ago but a decrease in numbers didn't happen then. A feature of the new fees is it's not like a mortgage, if the students are unable to pay the money back it will eventually be wiped."

But Helen Jones, MP for Warrington North, said: "By trebling the cost of going to university, I believe that students from less affluent backgrounds will either be forced to choose courses based on affordability or simply be unable to attend any university. Here in Warrington we have also seen the impact of the Government's changes to higher education on the University of Chester. The teaching budget of the university has been slashed by 85% and will force them to raise their fees for students."

Alex Williams, senior communications officer at the



University of Chester, said: "We are unable to predict student choices in advance of new tuition fee arrangements being introduced." However Alex did indicate that there has been a 20 per cent increase in applications for this academic year.

Whether this is students taking the final opportunity of the lower tuition fees or not is uncertain. What is for certain is the benefits of a degree are no longer guaranteed, with the possibility for many of a lifetime of debt.

## Do You MC2?

STOCKTON HEATH based 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 in the footsteps of MC2's previous successes, Stacey Mills 2010 and Vickie Gourley 2009.

MC2's programme for stylist education is certainly paying off. General Manager Martin Coleman said: "Awards are fantastic for the team, but it all stems from working really, really hard to simply improve and provide a better service for our clients."

"This is how we work: We give Mary from West Avenue a good hair cut and she tells her daughter Kathryn from Denbury Avenue who comes along and loves the MC2 experience and she tells her work mate from Thelwall and that's how it all works."

"That's why we're successful. Winning International Awards is great but it doesn't mean a thing if it's not improving the service we give our cherished Warrington clients; who do MC2."



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# Whole new ball game for Town

HISTORY was created when Warrington Town combined rugby training with some soccer skills as they teamed up with their Rugby League neighbours Warrington Town for the first time.

The rugby coaching staff put both teams through their paces with some training drills, testing tackling skills and more at the Wolves training camp based at the University of Chester Warrington Campus.

Warrington Town also tested the Wolves' football skills with a few drills of their own.

Both squads enjoyed the experience bringing both sporting teams of the town together.

It was a dream come true for home grown Warrington Town striker Chris Gaghan, who grew up alongside Warrington Wolves' winger Chris Riley.

Gaghan spent eight years as a youngster at Bolton Wanderers, but has been a lifelong Wolves fan.

After sharing a training session with Riley and his Wolves' heroes Gaghan said: "It has been a great experience training alongside the Wolves – and a dream come true for me.

"It has given the whole team a lift. I enjoyed some of the rugby drills but when it comes to football Riley has got two left feet!" he joked.

Town manager Joey Dunn said: "It has given everyone a real buzz being able to train alongside the Wolves

who are world class athletes. It has put a real spring in our step as we prepare for the football season ahead."

Wolves' Head of Coaching and Rugby Tony Smith said: "Sessions like this give you a great sense of appreciation. It keeps professional sportsmen grounded when they play alongside those at an amateur level.

"It is fitting that different sports teams within the same town come together and look out for one another. There were plenty of benefits that we gained from the session as I'm sure they did. It was a win, win situation and very enjoyable."



Town manager Joey Dunn (left) with Tony Smith.



Chris Gaghan tackles Louis Anderson.



Whole new ball game for Ben Westwood.

## Town retain Peace Cup



WARRINGTON Town kept a firm grip on the Styles & Co Peace Cup with a 0-4 victory in Northern Ireland over Crewe United.

During the weekend Town visited Lisburn City Hall for a Civic reception. They then saw Northern Ireland's top team Linfield, play in a pre season fixture before heading over to Crewe Park for the Peace Cup.

In an evenly matched first half Warrington eventually took the lead with a well taken effort by Chris Gaghan.

In the second half two goals for Chris Thompson and one from Mike Duffy secured the victory as Warrington retained the Peace Cup.

Skipper Tom Hankinson is pictured receiving the trophy.

## Youth team celebrate at the double

WARRINGTON Town's new look youth team is celebrating at the double after being accepted into the Premier Division of the North West Youth Alliance and linking up with new sponsors Priestley College.

The youth team, managed by Chris Wells, is set to face some of the best non league youth talent in the region alongside the likes of Altrincham, Chester, FC United of Manchester and Northwich Victoria.

At least four members of the team are currently students at Priestley College, who have signed up to become main shirt sponsor.

Admissions and Marketing Manager Adam Bird said: "We are delighted to have had the opportunity to sponsor this year's youth team kit at Warrington Town FC.

"The kit looks extremely professional and exactly what the lads deserve. We look forward to working with the club in the future and to see further development of what is already a strong youth team."

The agreement means students and staff from the college will gain free admission to all Warrington Town home league games during the current season.

Check out the latest bixtures at [www.warringtontownfc.co.uk](http://www.warringtontownfc.co.uk)



Picture shows the Youth team with Priestley's Admissions & Marketing Manager Adam Bird and Sport Tutor Richard Donnelly with the team.

# Back to School – special offers for students

WARRINGTON bus company Network Warrington has a range of cheap price offers available to students as they return to school or college.

A number of Colleges and High Schools, including Warrington Collegiate, Priestley College, Lymm High School and Birchwood High School have the ability to issue tickets on site, or you can visit the Network Warrington Travel Office at Warrington's Bus Interchange, conveniently located next to Golden Square.

All you need is a passport sized photograph and proof of age, these tickets are valid all day, every day and offer exceptional value at £29.00 per month for the full network, or £22.50 for the Warrington Town Area.

Commenting on the tickets, Managing Director David Squire said, "We have always offered good value half price tickets to students up to the age of 19, we are now seeking to encourage greater use by making them easier to purchase at a range of schools and colleges across Warrington."

Students can also use saver cards at all Warrington Town home games to gain free admission.

# Oldest chapel to open to public

WARRINGTON'S oldest chapel is to open to the public on Saturday, September 10 - the national Heritage Open Day.

Cairo Street Unitarian Chapel will be open between 10am - 4pm and at 11am, the Mayor, Cllr Mike Biggin is visiting to unveil a commemorative plaque which recognises the chapel's historical importance.

Founder in 1662, it contains memorials to many famous former members and the links it had with Warrington Academy - the dissenting educational establishment which once earned the town the title "the Athens of the North." Writer Anna Barbauld was a member, prison reformer John Howard worshipped there, philosopher and discoverer of oxygen Joseph Priestley was both married and ordained a Unitarian minister there and Frederick Monks, who gave the Golden Gates to Warrington, is buried in the graveyard.

On Sunday September 18, at 3pm the chapel is holding its annual Academy Service when there will be talk on the life of the Rev Pearsall Carpenter, a 17th century Free Church minister and expert on molluscs and shells. More information on the chapel can be obtained from the Rev Lynne Readett on 07885 414410 or email revd.lynet@fsmail.net

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## Motoring

# The car with a smile on its face

THE Corsa is Vauxhall's second best-selling model after the Astra and is a near-permanent fixture in the UK's top-three best sellers' list.

Recently it has been given a makeover with many of the premium styling cues from other Vauxhalls, such as the Insignia, Astra and Meriva now features a signature chrome bar carrying the new Griffin badge.

It stretches across the front grille and, with a re-styled front bumper with a more prominent, wider lower grille has given the Corsa a smiling appearance.

Framing the Corsa's new face are "Eagle-Eye" headlamps, which have also made an appearance on the recently launched Meriva.

The units have a chrome finish and include daytime running lights as standard across the range. New chrome-finished fog lamps and housings complete the picture at the front of the car.

Complementing the Corsa's fresh look are five new exterior colours in

the range.

Vibrant new colours also dominate the Corsa's cabin, brightening the interior.

Also inside, is Vauxhall's new optional Touch and Connect multimedia system, which replaces the existing CD60 unit.

Touch and Connect uses a five-inch touch screen display featuring both 2D and 3D maps for the navigation system, as well as a CD/tuner, aux-in, USB and Bluetooth mobile phone connectivity.

Outside, the new Corsa benefits from new 16-inch alloy wheels on both SE and SXi models, while the 192PS VXR receives a new 18-inch alloy wheel, modelled on the design of the optional 20-inch wheel worn by the Insignia VXR.

Corsa's new appearance complements recent upgrades to chassis and powertrain.

With its fresh new look, it is now a very different car to the one on sale little more than a year ago. Before the

latest exterior and interior design changes were made, the Corsa had already benefited from a long list of significant upgrades to its chassis and powertrains. For example, certain ecoFLEX engines now feature Vauxhall's Start/Stop technology, which has reduced emissions on the 1.3 CDTi (95PS) ecoFLEX model to just 94g/km,

combined with fuel consumption of 91.1mpg on the government's extra urban cycle (80.7mpg combined).

Vauxhall's engineers have also made important revisions to the car's steering and suspension set-ups. Softer springs were employed in the front suspension, mate to an anti-roll bar with new bushes and an increased diameter, improving ride

and control characteristics.

Complementing this were revised damper setting all round, an optional re-tuned ESP system and enhanced steering geometry, ensuring that the Corsa remained as pleasurable to drive as it was economical to own.

The new Corsa range starts at £9995.

## 'Oldies' more likely to be Good Samaritans

OLDER drivers are much more likely than younger drivers to stop to help if they saw someone broken down at the roadside, according to a recent AA/Populus poll.

Almost one quarter of drivers would not stop to help as they would suspect that the breakdown was a con trick.

Participants were asked: "If you saw someone by the roadside (not a motorway) by a vehicle that looked like they had broken down, what would your reaction be?"

Sixty one per cent would stop if they felt comfortable it was safe and thought they could help - 65 per cent male and 55 per cent female.

Of those that definitely would not stop, 16 per cent were in the 18-24 age group and only 10 per cent over 65s.

Twenty two per cent think most people have mobile phones so can seek assistance themselves and 24 per cent would be concerned it was a con trick. Londoners would be least likely to stop.

More affluent drivers would be more likely to stop than semi-skilled or unemployed drivers.

AA president Edmund King believes it is perhaps surprising that 61 per cent of motorists would stop.

He said: "Our poll shows that the 'Good Samaritan' is alive and well and driving along the highways and byways of Britain. On the other hand it is disappointing that almost 40 per cent don't feel able to stop.

"It is interesting that older drivers seem much more likely to stop to help other drivers."



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# Financially yours

By David Watkinson

## Tax saving ideas

There are a number of ways that may be considered if you want to save tax. These may not all be suitable for everyone, and we always advise clients that the tax tail should not wag the dog. Tax is, after all, simply an overhead that is incurred in reaching your goal. Some ideas are as follows:

1. If your customers are generally VAT registered then it may be advantageous to register for VAT yourself even if you are below the limit for compulsory registration. You will be able to pass on VAT on your own sales, as your customers can reclaim it, whilst at the same time being able to reclaim VAT on your purchases.

2. For VAT registered businesses, it may be further advantageous to calculate your VAT using the flat rate scheme. In this case you pay VAT at a flat rate on your VAT inclusive turnover, whilst at the same time being precluded from reclaiming VAT on the majority of your costs. This is only available if your turnover is below a certain limit, and may or may not result in a lower VAT liability than the normal method. Each case must be considered on its merit.

If either of the above is to your advantage then your profits will increase. In turn, this will increase your income tax or corporation tax, but you will still end up with up to 80% of the gain made.

3. Contributing into a pension scheme can be a very tax effective way of investing. To obtain an investment worth £100 then you need only pay £80, the pension company claiming the other £20 from the tax office. If you are a higher rate taxpayer then you can currently claim back even more tax relief. Also, if you are above the earnings limit for age allowance then making a pension contribution will reduce the income that is taken into account by the tax office in calculating the allowance available.

4. If the choice is available, then it may be tax effective to choose to receive a tax free mileage allowance for the use of your own car and fuel rather than to have the taxable "benefit" of a company car. Whichever is the best choice depends on the model of the car as well as the number of business miles driven, and must be checked on an



David Watkinson and Margaret Black

individual basis.

5. If you operate through your own limited company then it will often be more tax effective to meet the costs of benefits from your own income, obtained through taking a dividend from the company, rather than the company suffering National Insurance on the cost of the benefit, and you paying the additional tax.

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

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Advertiser's announcement

**Wasps – handle with care**

THIS spring and summer have been quite dry - perfect for wasps! Over the next few weeks wasp activity will peak. A large nest resembles a huge intricate sculpture and may contain many thousands of workers along with the queen. Early in the spring it is possible to treat a small nest yourself as long as it can be accessed safely, but in later summer it is absolutely essential to have it destroyed professionally.

Adult wasps rely on the wasp larva (or grubs) to feed them a sugary excretion, when the queen stops laying eggs the food supply gets cut, and the wasps go foraging for anything containing sugary liquid - children's ice creams, soft fruit and even your pint! It's at this time that most stings occur and problem nests should be treated in advance.

Although they can occur almost anywhere, a great majority of wasp nests occur within roof spaces. A reputable pest controller MUST, BY LAW, inspect the loft space for open water tanks and bat roosts. This is in order to satisfy the legal requirements of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and the Control of Pesticides regulations 1986. It is also good practice to determine the position of the nest. Just because wasps are seen going under the eaves, don't assume this is the nest, it may be anywhere within the loft. For this reason the householder must be present to allow access for inspection. A lot of failed treatment attempts are due to lack of professional procedure, and re-treatment may be necessary at extra cost to the homeowner. Disturbing or poisoning bats could result in fines of thousands of pounds, a simple check is all that's required.

Atlas Environmental Solutions, are a local pest control company based in Warrington. Technicians are fully trained and hold the latest Royal Society for Public Health qualifications, along with all necessary public liability insurance. For help and advice, please phone 01925 445222 or 07999 487925.

Email: enquiries@atlas4u.co.uk and website; www.atlas4u.co.uk

**Truck firm on the move**

A NORTH West truck dealership has moved into a new £2 million premises in Warrington.

Warrington Vehicle Centre, an Isuzu Truck dealership, has moved into the two acre site adjacent to the M6/M62 motorway network at Hardwick Grange, Woolston and expects to create new jobs by its expansion.

The award-winning dealership now operates from a purpose-designed site and offers full sales, parts and service facilities for both the Isuzu truck and Isuzu pick-up (Rodeo) product ranges. The centre also offers an all makes used van and truck sales, service and repair operation.

Managing director Richard Cook said: "In terms of new vehicle sales I believe that a large part of our success is due to the fact that we are dedicated to the Isuzu brand."

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