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# Warrington Worldwide

Issue No. 123 January 2010 FREE EVERY MONTH

Warrington Collegiate

## "I owe it to Town"

See Page 3



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# Editor's Comment



## Editor

Gary Skentelbery

## Production

Paul Walker

## Advertising

James Balme  
Tony Record  
Freephone  
0800 955 5247

## Editorial

01925 623631

## Email

info@warrington-  
worldwide.co.uk

## Websites

www.culchethlife.com  
www.frodshamlife.co.uk  
www.lymmlife.co.uk  
www.warrington.tv  
www.warrington-  
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## Address

New Media Centre  
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## TO see Warrington described by the national media as the worst place to live in Britain has sent shockwaves around the town.

As a Warringtonian who is proud of my home town I found the headlines an insult to the people of Warrington.

Of course Warrington has its fair share of problems, just like any other large town or city.

But to describe it as the worst town in Britain based on some mis-guided Government report is a total farce.

It would be a joke if the implications of such headlines didn't pose a serious threat to the continued economic prosperity of our town.

The 83 per cent of Warrington people who, as part of a survey, recently said they were happy living in the borough, could be forgiven for wondering if perhaps they were too easy to please.

Hard on the heels of the Ofsted report which castigated the borough council's for its poor services for safeguarding vulnerable children, we now have an Audit Commission report which hands out three "red flags" to public services which, it claims, are not performing as well as they might.

But the 83 per cent of "happy" residents should pause before they change their view. We think the Audit Commission report has been unduly harsh on Warrington.

The Audit Commission has got it

wrong and there are numerous inconsistencies to prove it. In particular, they point out that there is no level playing field, no common standard by which to compare one area with another. In fact, the Commission has admitted that some areas with only one or two red flags are in fact performing worse than Warrington.

The town gets red flags because of employment and health inequalities between the deprived areas and the affluent suburbs. What does the Audit Commission expect? Particularly during a recession? Does the same problem not exist in every other part of the country?

This report is the first of its type - personally I hope it is the last!

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# World cup winner owes it to Town!

**WARRINGTON'S most famous footballing son Roger Hunt says he 'owes it to Warrington Town' for helping kick start his iconic career.**

Roger was talent spotted playing on Cantilever Park by Liverpool after previously being rejected by Bury!

The rest is history as he went on to become a goal scoring legend for Liverpool and a 1966 World Cup winner with England.

Now Roger is giving his backing to the new partnership between Warrington Collegiate and the town's premier football club which is proving to be a great success, with two members of the Collegiate's team already stepping up to the reserves.

As the club's Principal sponsors, the Collegiate's Academy team is now a feeder for Town's reserves, providing students with a realistic opportunity of playing at a higher level.

Roger said: "This is a great partnership and it will be a big incentive to students knowing that they have got a chance of playing for Warrington Town."

Collegiate Principal Paul Hafren said: "This is a really good partnership which can inspire our youngsters to achieve realistic ambitions."



Principal Paul Hafren and Roger Hunt with a signed Warrington Town shirt with Mike Stoddart Director of Faculty of Sport, Leisure, Tourism, Catering & Business and Warrington Town directors David Mowat and Gary Skentelberg.

## Urban art comes to town

UNDERGROUND urban artist Banksy is among the controversial contributors to an exhibition at Warrington Museum and Art Gallery.

Dismissed at 'crime' by some and 'masterpieces' by others, Warrington residents can now have a chance to make up their own mind, at the '(R)Evolution of Urban Art' exhibition.

The show also features work from Adam Neate, Antony Micallef, Candice Tripp and Jose Parla as well as artist Blek le Rat, one of Banksy's early influences.

The exhibition reveals the origins of one of the worlds most controversial artforms, interviewing the contributors

about their inspirations and dispelling the myth that they are simply 'glorified graffiti artists'.

The exhibit, which runs until March 2010, is keen to point out that most 'Urban Art' has a strong political or social message, and is not simply spray paint and offensive slogans.

Banksy's work has been displayed in (and sometimes on) the world's most prominent art galleries and in some cases without them knowing anything about it.

His guerrilla tactics and the social commentary made by his pieces means there is never a shortage of controversy surrounding the underground maestro.

Many of the contributing artists have strong opinions about the injustice of the world, which is prominent in their work. Capitalism, advertising and other 'social evils' are tackled in the exhibit, which promises to be as fascinating as it is shocking.

One of the artists, Ron English, said: "Is corporate advertising more obtrusive than urban art? Is it more or less a valid form of graffiti?"

Admission to the museum is completely free. It is open Monday to Friday 10am to 4.30pm and Saturday 10am to 4pm. Closed Sundays and Bank Holidays.

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Hello and welcome to my monthly column . . .

# Hypnotes

by Michael Mahoney

## Looking forward

As we start another year we can look forward to the lighter nights, the warmer days and all the opportunities this year will bring us. Looking back on 2009 I think many readers will simply be pleased it is behind us and we can start anew.

This year I am looking forward to a few new projects which I hope will come to fruition as the year progresses. I am going to make it a year I can look back on with a sense of achievement. There are many things I want to do, things I want to learn and teach, people I want to meet and I am going to try my hardest to achieve many of them.

Looking forward positively is healthy and if we really want to do or achieve something, having it in our minds eye, making it real, enjoying the feelings of how it will make us feel once we have achieved our goal helps us to keep focussed and to really achieve it. I am not encouraging readers however to act illogically or recklessly. We have to keep a sense of reality, without limiting our drive to

achieve.

Convincing ourselves we can do or achieve something, just because we say so is not conducive to a life of fulfilment. Some people develop a mantra of positivity that they can and will achieve x,y or z without having the most basic level of competency to be successful. Doing so in my view is a recipe for disaster.

It's like giving the keys to a high powered car to none drivers; it's an accident waiting to happen.

However planning, structuring and learning are positive ways to achieve those things you want to achieve. People often ask why I kept going when things were stacked against me, when I was developing the IBS Audio Program 100. To explain the scenario, when I first started to develop this program in the early 1990s, I was told by several people and organisations it wasn't possible to develop something which could help the IBS condition as I was proposing to do. But I learned, I structured my approach, I recognised my weaknesses and dealt with them, I had rejection after rejection once the

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



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program was produced from pharmaceutical companies, over the counter medicine companies, retailers and others. But I kept in mind how I would feel once I had released it, and in 1998 it was released. Now users in over 40 countries benefit from it. The NHS Nice guidelines in 2008 advises hypnosis is a valid treatment option after 12 months of none effective pharmacological treatment. What a journey. The drive and determination paid off, and many people are living better and happier lives because of it, and so are their families. And that is the feeling I felt in the early nineties, how it would feel when it was completed. And now I know, and it's even better than I imagined. So at the start of this new year, look forward positively, difficulties will pass focus on your goal, decide what you are going to achieve this year, and if you need help, let me know.

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# Charities given Royal seal of approval

## HRH The Countess of Wessex visited Warrington to officially open new facilities at two local charities, St Rocco's Hospice and Brainwave.

Her first duty was to officially open a new Day Care Unit at St Rocco's which symbolises the completion of the three elements of care including an In-Patient Unit and a Macmillan/Resource Centre.

Guests at both events included The Lord Lieutenant of Cheshire William Bromley Davenport and the Mayor and Mayoress of Warrington Dr Brian and Irina Axcell.

Beth Eccles, Matron, St Rocco's Hospice said: "The Countess was incredibly interested in the work undertaken by the hospice, not only the work we do to provide care for patients but also how we provide support and care for the families. It was a great honour to show Her

Royal Highness our fantastic new Day Care Centre as well as our in patient unit. Her manner with our patients was fantastic and everyone she met seemed to greatly appreciate the time she spent with them.

Everyone at St Rocco's is very proud of the new facilities so I was delighted to show the Countess round on behalf of everyone connected with the hospice."

The Day Care Centre provides support for patients, who don't require twenty four hour care, through various means including practical procedures, psychosocial support, symptom control and complementary therapies."

Following on from her St Rocco's

visit The Countess visited Birchwood based national charity Brainwave, which she is President of.

Brainwave provides home based therapy programmes for children with cerebral palsy and other conditions such as development delay.

Almost 50 guests, supporters, families and staff saw The Countess unveil a commemorative plaque.

The Countess spent time talking to several families with children who have benefitted from Brainwave's programmes of home based therapy and exercise, including Natalie Preston, who has been on the programme for several years and whose mother Sally, is now the new NW Regional Family Co-ordinator.

Natalie presented The Countess with a bouquet of flowers.

Christine Cryne, Brainwave's Chief Executive Officer, said: "Her Royal Highness has been Brainwave's

President for around six years. She is a great supporter and her presence has added a touch of magic to what was a very special occasion for us."

The new centre boasts two therapy rooms, a family room with a kitchen and a state of the art sensory room with an interactive floor. The building was chosen for the centre due to its easy links both by road and rail, being a five minute walk from Birchwood Station.



The Countess of Wessex with St Rocco's Matron, Beth Eccles



Natalie Preston presenting The Countess with a bouquet of flowers

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Spotlight on Business

# Collegiate celebrates success!

**ALL the hard work paid off for Warrington Collegiate students when their achievements were recognised at the Higher Education Awards.**

The ceremony, held at St Elphin's Church, was a celebration of the determination and commitment of students who have completed HNC, HND, NVQ, Foundation Degrees and teacher training.

As well as the academic certificates, several students also received special awards for outstanding achievements in their subject areas. Emma Galliano, who completed the HNC Construction course while also working full-time, received the Graham Lewis Award for Construction and Jumakhan Alizada was awarded the Phil Callaghan Memorial Award for Outstanding

Achievement in IT.

Many of the students have already secured permanent employment or are going on to further education, with several students continuing their studies at the University Of Chester, which recently awarded the Collegiate with Associate status.

Mike Stoddart Director of Sport, Tourism and Catering, said: "We are immensely proud of our students and the ceremony was a great way to recognise their achievements. We wish them every success as they move on to continue their studies or to employment."



## Teeing off for charity

NEARLY 100 golfers teed off for charity raising £2,500 for Warrington's Relationship Centre.

Tailormade, a financial services and overseas property company

based on Arnold Street, Warrington, host a golf day each year and this year chose the Relationship Centre to be its chosen charity.

The event at Lymm Golf club was organised by Big Red Events, a Warrington-based company which specialises in golf and sporting days.

Picture shows Lucy Hindmarsh from the Relationship Centre receiving a cheque from Tailormade's co-director's Alistair Burns and Robert Shaw watched by Peter Barrett from Big Red Events.

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**Spotlight on Business**



# Job club provides jobs boost!

**A JOB Club launched to help people find employment is proving to be a great success.**

More than a dozen people have already found new jobs or training opportunities thanks to the Conservative Party Job Club launched by David Mowat.

Participants were presented with their course completion certificates at a ceremony which marked the end of a second series of courses.

The certificate, equivalent to a ILM Mentoring, Coaching, Leadership & Management Diploma 5, was presented to 12 job hunters.

Several were unable to accept their certificates as they had already started employment and did not wish to take the time off!

Participant Lucia Dunbar said: "I needed brushing up on job hunting skills that I had not used for 15 year.I also needed the moral support and encouragement, this is a great initiative."

David Mowat added: "The club does not get people back into work - they do that themselves. All we can do is facilitate, and add a bit of focus."

The club will run again, in Stockton Heath, in the New Year with the next course starting on January 16. To join contact Elizabeth on 01925 231267.

Picture shows David Mowat presenting James Charteris from Orford with his Certificate of Achievement with a group of mentors and participants.

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**Sally Morgan**  
*Thursday 18 February*

**Barbara Dickson**  
*Wednesday 24 February*

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# New Year, New Line-up

Christmas is now behind us and we're kick starting the New Year with a fresh new line-up. We are delighted to welcome back to Pyramid and Parr Hall, Jimmy Carr.

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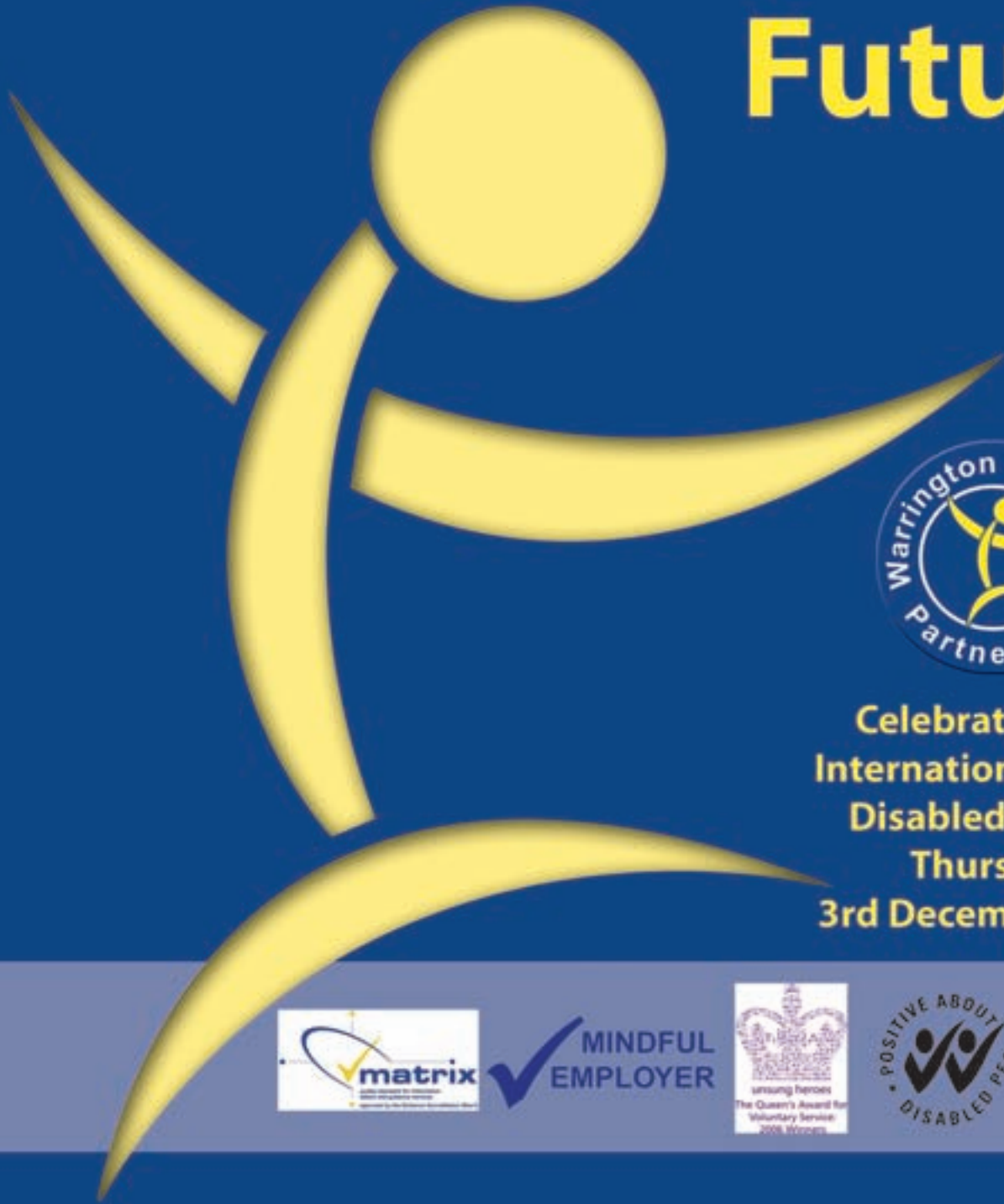
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# Annual General Report 2009

# Building a Better Future



**Celebrating the  
International Day of  
Disabled People  
Thursday  
3rd December 2009**



# Warrington Disability Partnership (WDP)

**WDP is a user led voluntary organisation which actively promotes independent living throughout life and work. Based in Warrington; our team consists of 11 trustees / directors, 110 volunteers and 40 paid staff who together deliver a range of services directly or in partnership with health and social care providers, education/employment services and a wide range of local support groups and services.**

## Chair of Trustees & Chief Officer Report Dave Thompson MBE DL (Chair) & Jayne Horton (Chief Officer)

On behalf of our team we are delighted to welcome you to the Annual Report for 2008 to 2009.

It is with great regret that we start this report with the news that Annette Clemo, one of our longest serving volunteers and ex member of staff, sadly passed away earlier this year. Annette was a true community champion who was responsible for helping to develop WDP and worked tirelessly with a variety of other local and regional voluntary organisations.

The title of this years report "Building a Better Future" was chosen because we believe that it symbolises what we have achieved throughout the year and something Annette continued to strive for.

Last year we reported that together with our partners at Warrington Borough Council we had secured nearly £1million from the National Community Assets Fund for WBC to refurbish our Centre for Independent Living in Beaufort Street off Liverpool Road. In April we relocated our services to the Orford Day Centre in Festival Avenue; a task that involved staff, volunteers and support from various partners.

During the three weeks that saw dozens of trips with an 18 ton truck, 7 ton van and several cars, it was very evident how much office furniture, equipment and information we have amassed during the past few years whilst developing our services. It certainly wouldn't have fitted in the 3m by 3m office where we started at the Dallam Centre in 1990. The refurbishment includes a new roof, doors, windows, boundary fencing, toilets, heating, lighting, extensions and the new community café.

During the refurbishment work we have identified four more opportunities to extend our services including a new workshop which will be used to deliver a mobility refurbishment project, new conservatory style meeting room, an additional extension to the caretakers house to add another community meeting room and a mobility track, which will offer training to users of scooters and other mobility aides. We have launched a Capital Appeal to raise the £175,000 to cover the building work that is scheduled to be completed by late spring next year.

April also saw us extend our services to Runcorn when we opened the doors on the Halton Lea Shopmobility service. We also aim to work with Halton Borough Council to reopen a service in Widnes.

Although the team has been stretched by the relocated, they have continued to deliver, and further develop services and partnerships aimed at ensuring disabled people have a "choice of opportunity". We have expanded our Discover IT Suite and recruited two new post holders including a Mental Health Retention Worker and Business Development Officer. Our Disability Access Auditors have undertaken work with NorthWest Prisons and Warrington Polling Stations, as well as delivering Disability Awareness Training to health and social care staff.

Our services reach out to a wide audience including disabled people, their carers and families, managers and staff from the statutory and voluntary organisations, local businesses, schools, and the public.

Other highlights from the past year include:

- Receiving the Best Independent Living Initiative Award from Breakthrough UK
- Receiving a Cheshire Positive Business Award from Cheshire County Council in recognition for our employment services
- Receiving the highest honor in the NorthWest Cash for Kids Award
- Several of our volunteers received recognition for their work including Doreen Menzies - Safeway Pensioners Award  
Matthew James, Ros Schofield, Phillippa Cannon, Karen Beaton, Christine Hollowell, Eilish Yates and Sandra Maxwell - Adult Learners & NVQ Awards
- Most recently our employment team received the National Avanta Best Partner Award
- During the year Buckingham Palace announced that our Queens Award for Voluntary Services which we received in 2006 has been given the status of an MBE for the organisation.

During the year we have extended our community engagement. Ollie, the WDP mascot, has had great success in various



mascot races and he has made guest appearances at local schools and community events.

We also extended our methods of communication onto Facebook, Twitter, E-Newsletter and Chairman's Blog on our website.

In keeping with our ambition to operate as a "Social Enterprise", nearly a third of our services were "self funded" through a programme of fundraising activities; baby Chloe Thompson got in on the act before she was born as staff ran a sweep to "guess the baby's weight".

In line with our commitment to operate as a community partner we procured services from local sources including printing, advertising, IT support, telecommunications, surveillance equipment, security, office supplies, repairs and maintenance to our premises, van, narrow boat and other facilities.

As you can see it has been another action packed year at WDP. We know that the coming years will bring new challenges as our funders face the financial challenges that have resulted from the economic crisis. Our aim will be to ensure the least disruption to our services and to support our staff, volunteers and service users through the anxiety and frustrations that this will no doubt cause.

On behalf of the team we would like to thank all of our partners for their continuing support. We would also like to thank fellow Trustees/Directors, our staff and volunteers, the people who use our services and everyone who has supported us during the past year.

We would like to acknowledge the work of Phil Edwards – a Trustee/Director who retired this year, Phil played a vital role in developing the services we offer today.

Finally we would like to invite you to read the following pages and consider if actions really do speak louder than words!

We look forward to working with you all next year.

Thank you

*Dave & Jayne*



## Access and Training

*Self financed through income generation*

### Overview

Our Disability Access and Training Team provides advice and support to local businesses, voluntary organisations and individuals. Ranging from general telephone advice to site visits, audit reports and delivering Disability Awareness training.

### Statistics

Access Visits & Audits, yearly average	234
Disability Awareness Training & Attendees, yearly average	39 / 476

### Making A Difference

*"Many thanks for the Audit report, it is exactly what we needed. The feedback we have had from our Team is that your Advisors were very professional, polite and pleasant whilst carrying out the audits".*



## Accessible Caravans

*Self financed from income generation and donations*

### Overview

Our two 4 year old holiday homes in North Wales provide disabled people, their families or carers the opportunity to take an accessible and affordable holiday.

Grenadier is on the Harts "Little Fields" site in Pensarn and Guillemot is on the Lyons Robin Hood site in Pensarn.

### Statistics

#### Grenadier (Harts)

Number of bookings for 2009 24

#### Guillemot (Robin Hood)

Number of bookings for 2009 18

### Making A Difference

*"Our holiday was absolutely fantastic; we found it inaccessible and enjoyable holiday. We will see you again next year."*



## Appreciation of Efforts 2008

*Supported by Warrington Guardian and Warrington Borough Council*

### Overview

We launched the Awards in 1995; they are aimed at recognising organisations and individuals who provide the very best in local services for disabled people.

### Statistics

Nominations in 2008	48
Awards presented in 2008	11

### 2008 Winners

Barry Collins – Birchwood Lions	Johnathan Ward – Debenhams
David Molyneux	Little Wonders Nursery
Dorothy & Bob Pritchard	Matthew Fairhurst
Families United	Mavis Peacock
George Thornton	Tracey Horne

### Making A Difference

*"I was very honoured to receive an Appreciation of Efforts Award. It's not just a personal achievement it's a team effort and it feels good that the work we do has been acknowledged".*

## Benefits Advice

*This service is un-funded*

### Overview

Our benefits advice service is run predominantly by volunteers meeting clients who require support to complete benefit application forms. The team completes regular online research and attend training to keep their knowledge up-to-date.

### Statistics

During the year our volunteer benefit advisors have helped to secure over £800,000 in benefits which includes Disability Living Allowance, Attendance Allowance, Carers Allowance, Employment Support Allowance, Income Support and Pension Credits.

### Making A Difference

*"Without this service we wouldn't have the confidence to apply for Disability Living Allowance, which we have been awarded. This has enabled me to get a car and regain my independence!"*

## Centre for Independent Living – Equipment Showroom

*Funded by NHS Warrington & supported by Warrington Borough Council*

### Overview

Our Equipment Showroom has a range of independent living equipment on display including bathing, toilet, mobility, stair lifts, recliner chairs and adjustable beds. Small daily living aids can be purchased at the Centre. Our staff and volunteers also offer information and advice on a wide range of other topics including sensory impairments; accessible holidays/days out and work closely with housing services.

In 2010, when we move back to Beaufort Street we will also offer the following services; a children's area, new kitchen and bathroom displays, an ergonomically designed workstation and seating area, and a multi sensory snoozlem room.

### Statistics

Number of visitors to CIL, yearly average	11,740
Telephone enquiries to Showroom, yearly average	3,971
Volunteer hours, yearly average	2,263

### Making A Difference

*"This service was excellent. The staff were very helpful and I was pleasantly surprised at the prices of their disability equipment - great service all round".*

## Disability Information Point, Warrington Retail Market

*Staffing is self funded, the stall space is supported by Warrington Retail Market*

### Overview

Our Team of staff and volunteers provide a wide range of information, advice and assistance about support services available from local and national voluntary and statutory organisations and businesses. They also operate our satellite Shopmobility service. Our volunteer benefits advisors offer practical advice and support on welfare benefits. In addition, small pieces of equipment are available to be ordered from our Centre for Independent Living.

### Statistics

Enquiries – yearly average	2,911
Volunteer hours – yearly average	4,631
Number of scooters hired, yearly average	710



### Making A Difference

*"I was given vital information that I had been looking for and no-one else had been able to help me".*

## Disability Awareness Day (DAD) 2009

*Principally sponsored by the NorthWest Regional Development Agency and supported by 5 Boroughs Partnership NHS Trust, Britannia Building Society, BT Retail, Environment Agency, Jobcentre Plus, Lions Club International, NHS North West, NHS Warrington. NHS Western Cheshire, TNG, Warrington Borough Council, Warrington Collegiate and Warrington & Halton Hospitals Foundation Trust*

### Overview

DAD 2009 was hailed as "the biggest and best" in the 18 year history of this annual event. Attracting over 27,000 visitors from across the region and over 280 exhibitors from across the UK and Europe; including two from Spain and Cyprus. Jonathan Shaw MP Minister for Disabled People praised the work of WDP and said that "DAD typifies the strength, tenacity and flexibility of the voluntary sector". He paid further praise to the joint work between the voluntary, statutory and private sectors in supporting the event as sponsors, exhibitors and supporters. DAD was supported by 12 complimentary events held the week leading up to the big day.

### Statistics

No of exhibitors for 2009	289
No of visitors for 2009	27,000

### Making A Difference

*"It was an outstanding event and we learnt a great deal from the many groups and organisations in attendance on the day. I was amazed at how much information was available on the day!"*

## Discover IT Suite

*Funded by Warrington Borough Council's Life Long Learning and Public Service Agreement Reward Monies; and supported by UK Online, Change Up Consortium and Small Grant Funding streams*

### Overview

Our Discover IT Suite is run predominantly by disabled people for disabled people, their families and carers. Specialist software aims to make this facility accessible for all with adapted keyboards, mice and fully height adjustable desks to accommodate individual needs. The team also offer Camera and Art Groups.

### Statistics

Membership – yearly average	107
Number of attendances – monthly average	220
Usage hours – yearly average	1,159
Volunteer hours – yearly average	416



### Making A Difference

*"When I first came here, I was lacking in confidence, crying all the time. At home I was safe, and I didn't like to leave safe places. Because they were so nice, this became a safe place. In a safe place you can experiment and try new things, nobody says "that's not right" – they say, "I'll show you another way to do that". So this becomes a safe place to learn.*

## Employment Team

**Funded through Routeways into Employment jointly by Warrington Borough Council, Learning and Skills Council and European Social Fund, Pathways to Work sub-contract from TNG and Department for Works & Pensions. Next Step funded by Greater Merseyside Connexions**

### Overview

The team provides an accredited Advice and Guidance service and arranges volunteering, work placements, supported employment, work trials, and supports part and full time work for individuals. The team assists local employers to sign up to the 'Two Ticks' disability symbol relating to best practice in recruitment and retention. We have strengthened the employer focus of our delivery with the appointment of a Mental Health Employment Retention Officer to engage with local employers on issues relating to mental health and wellbeing in the workplace. The team also administers the innovative Towards Work Support Fund.

### Statistics

Total number of registered clients, monthly average	364
New clients from January to September 2009	214
Pathway new clients from January to September 2009	36
Routeways new clients from January to September 2009	81
Next Step advice sessions delivered from January to September 2009	97
Phone enquiries for Employment information & advice – yearly average	4,512
Towards Work Support Fund Referrals & Beneficiaries	93 / 79
Full time job entries from January to September 2009	39

### Making A Difference

*"I found the employment team very, very helpful and understanding to my needs. They gave me support in returning to employment as I felt my age was against me. I'm sorry it's all over but the good news is with their support I am now into employment".*

## Finance & Payroll

**Self financed through income generation**

### Overview

Our team offer a payroll service for Direct Payment users and small businesses; this includes calculating time-sheets, producing payslips and ensuring Tax and National Insurance are paid to the Inland Revenue. The Team produce Account Management Reports for the Board of Trustees and WDP Funders.

### Statistics

Payroll employers – monthly average	266
Payroll employees – monthly average	355
Volunteer hours – yearly average	370
Phone enquiries – yearly average	1,357



### Making A Difference

*"I really am grateful to the finance team because they are always kind and helpful when I have a question about my Direct Payment payroll. They never make me feel silly if I get something wrong and have to ring them up".*

## Fundraising & Promotions

**Self financed through donations and fundraising**

### Overview

Fundraising plays an integral role in supporting many of the self financing or un-funded services offered by WDP. Throughout 2009, we have had a packed calendar of activities supporting local community events. This was only possible with the support from our members, volunteers, staff, sponsors and supporters.

### Statistics

10 Quiz Nights, 15 Community Events/Carnivals/Fun Days were supported plus Sponsored Events – Manchester 10k, Sponsored Slim, Sponsored Back Waxes, Easter and Christmas Tombola and Raffles, Santa's Grotto, Bucket Collection, Mascot Races at Uttoxeter and the English Half Marathon plus Charity of the Year support from Warrington Housing Association

### Making A Difference

*"I enjoy supporting the Fundraising Team as it makes me feel that I am giving something back to my Community and a worthwhile cause. WDP were there for me when I needed assistance".*



## Independent Living Team

*Funded by Warrington Borough Council.*

### Overview

Our team supports clients throughout the whole process of setting up and running Direct Payments that support their independence - this may be with an agency or employing a personal assistant. We support clients to employ personal assistants including recruit, advertising, interviewing, contracts of employment, Employer Liability Insurance and Criminal Records Bureau checks. Working closely with our payroll service to process wages, holidays, tax calculations and pay slips.

### Statistics

Clients in receipt of Direct Payment – monthly average	338
Referrals from January to October 2009	215
Phone Enquiries – yearly average	4,909

### Making A Difference

*"I would be lost without Direct Payments and the support of my Personal Assistant's and the back up of the Direct Payments team."*

## Leisure, Recreation and Sport

*Funded by Warrington Borough Council and Sport Cheshire*

### Overview

*The team have been involved in the delivery of the following projects:*

- Planet Blue – supporting young disabled people to take part in sport and other activities within a youth club setting. Held fortnightly for 11 - 25 year olds.
- Disability Inclusive Sports Club (DISC) - short multi sport sessions allow attendees to adopt a wide range of skills from a variety of sports, including Boccia, Curling, wheelchair basketball, football, judo, and bowling. Weekly sessions for children and young people from 7-18 years.
- Sporting Chances - weekly at Ryland's Recreation Centre for young people and adults with a wide range of disabilities. These sessions, which are well attended, offer multi sport for people of different ages and abilities.
- One Wednesday Can't Hurt (OWCH) Pain Management Group - meets every Wednesday at Fearnhead Community Centre where they offer a range of activities including Basic Yoga, Relaxation Techniques and Breathing Exercises.
- Kids Inclusive Swimming Club – started in June 2009; meets fortnightly to give disabled children and young people aged 5 to 18 an opportunity to try inclusive swimming sessions.
- Wheelchair Inclusive Sports Club – commencing in 2010; this will allow disabled children and young people the opportunity to explore wheelchair skills and sports.
- Kids Inclusive Cricket Club - commencing in 2010; this will allow disabled young people an opportunity to engage in cricket activities.
- 5 Hour Offer - re-commencing in 2010; developing an 8 week initiative highlighting inclusive activities for young disabled people.
- Leisure, Recreation & Sports Forum – meets quarterly and looks at ongoing provision in the area and aims to avoid duplication of services.

### Statistics

Planet Blue attendances, yearly average	1,039
DISC attendances, yearly average	754
Sporting Chances attendance, yearly average	899
OWCH attendances ,yearly average	617
KISS attendances ,yearly average	162
LRS Forum attendances, yearly average	70

### Making A Difference

*"I just wanted to let you know that I am made up that I found DISC, my son really enjoyed the experience of being able to join in the fully inclusive activities".*



**WDP are represented at over 100 meetings locally, regionally and nationally to ensure that disability matters are on the meeting Agenda. Meetings range from local Support Groups to Warrington's Local Strategic Partnership and the national Sexual Health & Disability Alliance. This ensures that we are promoting social inclusion and breaking down barriers.**

## Positive Action Awards 2009

*Sponsored by the Northwest Regional Development Agency*

### Overview

Launched in 2004, the Awards provide an opportunity for disabled people and carers living in the Northwest to nominate employers, businesses, service providers or individuals that deserve recognition for promoting independence, delivering accessible and/or inclusive services, or maintaining exemplary employment practices for disabled people and/or carers. 97 awards have been presented since 2004.

### Statistics

Nominations in 2009	107
Awards presented in 2009	14

### 2009 Winners

Bolton Kidz2gether	Cheshire West & Chester Disabled Children's Team
Claire Pritchard, Coffee Aroma, Wirral	Eileen McDonald, Warrington
Halton Zipper Club	HM Prison Wymott, Preston
Lesley Matthews, Asda Radcliffe	Mark Hill, Chorley
Nick Toon & Mary Brooks, Eurcrest Catering, Warrington	Salford Young Carers Forum
Rick Stubbs & Streetwise 2000, Bury	The Everton Foundation
Workbase, Cumbria	

### Making A Difference

*"It was an honour for me to receive my award from you in recognition of the efforts I put into volunteering and campaigning. The award has given me an enormous boost and will do my best to continue working on behalf of those less fortunate than myself".*

## Relationships, Sex & Disability Matters

*Funded by NHS Warrington, NHS Halton and St Helens*

### Overview

This innovative service is nationally recognised for tackling this very sensitive subject. Enquiries are received via our Centre for Independent Living, Disability Information Point (Warrington Retail Market), website and telephone.

Our 'Relationship and Sex Matters' information packs were revised and re-launched in April 2009. The packs now include a new Young Persons Section. The wide range of information provided in the packs is used by professionals or individuals to offer support and advice on the issues concerning sex and disability. WDP is a member of the Sexual Health and Disability Alliance (SHADA) Group and members of our team were part of the organising committee for a National Sexual Health Conference in London in November where our Chairman was the opening speaker.

### Statistics

Training sessions delivered for 2009	25
Number of people attended training, yearly average	210
Relationships, Sex & Disability Matters Information Folders distributed	38
Volunteers trained to give advice	9

### Making A Difference

*"I needed to ask someone for support on a very delicate topic and I managed to speak to someone without feeling judged. The information that was given to me was given in a very professional but discreet manor".*



## Shopmobility Halton Lea

*Funded by Halton Borough Council and supported by Halton Lea Shopping Centre*

### Overview

Shopmobility Halton Lea offers people with temporary or permanent mobility impairments or disabilities the chance to experience greater freedom and independence throughout the Halton Lea Shopping Centre. We provide manual and electric wheelchairs and battery-powered scooters to enable visitors to make the most of the centres facilities. Small pieces of equipment are available to be ordered from our Centre for Independent Living.

### Statistics

Number of scooters loaned – monthly average	202
Number of scooter hours – monthly average	330
Volunteer hours – monthly average	384

### Making A Difference

*“Thank you so much for the invaluable service you deliver. Not only with Shopmobilit but without you I would not have known where to start looking for Accessible Holidays.*



## Shopmobility Warrington

*Funded by Warrington Borough Council and supported by Golden Square Management, Bovis Lend Lease and Warrington Bus Interchange*

### Overview

Like Halton Lea our Warrington service provides a vital life line for those who require mobility support to shop in the Warrington Town Centre. Small pieces of equipment are available to be ordered from our Centre for Independent Living.

### Statistics

Number of scooters loaned – monthly average	609
Number of scooter hours – monthly average	1,583
Volunteer hours – monthly average	239

### Making A Difference

*“The Shopmobility service gives me a lot of independence – otherwise I would have to be pushed around in a wheelchair and then I would have to rely on someone else”.*

## Volunteering

*Self financed from donations*

### Overview

Our volunteers are directly involved in the delivery of many of our services. Co-ordinated by Volunteer Support Workers they receive regular support and access to opportunities to develop their skills. Five of our volunteers achieved NVQ ‘Volunteer Accreditation – Level One’ with the Warrington Volunteer Centre and a further 15 volunteers are undertaking NVQ’s in Customer Care and Business Administration through YMCA Training.

### Statistics

Volunteer hours – yearly average across all services	29,268
If paid at minimum wage (£5.73) – yearly average	£167,705
Switchboard phone calls taken by volunteers	44,749

### Making A Difference

*“Volunteering with WDP has given me a new lease of life and an interesting life again instead of sitting at home doing nothing”.*



## Trustees

Warrington Disability Partnership Board of Directors/Trustees ensures that the organisation operates within the legal framework laid down by the Charities Commission and Companies House.

### The 2009 Board consists of:

- Dave Thompson MBE DL - Chair
- Pat Kitto – Deputy Chair
- Sue Abbott – Treasurer
- Audrey Rogers – Secretary
- Gary Skentelbery
- Terry Wadsworth
- Jeff Greenwood
- Simon Banks
- Chris Molyneux
- Dave Cheetham (co-opted 2009)
- Phil Edwards (retired 2009)
- Ian Richardson (co-opted 2009)

## Warrington Disability Forum (WDF)

*This service is un-funded*

### Overview

The Forum provides monthly meetings for consultation and information exchange with guest speakers ranging from The Shaping the Future of Care Together to Garven Place and Orford Park Projects Consultation to local transport arrangements. The Forum has a lively agenda for discussion and an active membership of over 70 individuals and organisations.

### Statistics

Attendances, monthly average 17

### Making A Difference

*“The WDF is a major Warrington Forum for sharing information on all aspects of disability matters. All organisations and interested individuals in this field benefit from attending and receive news of current happenings and initiatives in Warrington”.*

## Websites

*Self financed from donations*

### Overview

WDP operates four websites, all of which are built to a high standard of accessibility:

#### **Disability Awareness Day** - [www.disabilityawarenessday.co.uk](http://www.disabilityawarenessday.co.uk)

Our most popular site which provides information on all DAD activities. The site features local information pages giving details of accessible transport, hotels, shopping, sightseeing and tourist facilities. The site has colourful galleries of past events, and a toolkit to download for organisations wishing to run their own DAD.

#### **Positive Action Awards** - [www.positiveactionawards.org.uk](http://www.positiveactionawards.org.uk)

Designed to promote the Awards scheme and collect nominations, the site offers photographs and information of previous winners and a background to the awards.

#### **Warrington Disability Partnership** - [www.disabilitypartnership.org.uk](http://www.disabilitypartnership.org.uk)

Giving information on WDP services, which has this year been re-designed. It now includes content management for news and events as well as most of the front page features and the interactive blog from our Chairman. This is a busy and useful website through which WDP receives local and national enquiries.

#### **Warrington Access Guide** - [www.warringtonaccessguide.org.uk](http://www.warringtonaccessguide.org.uk)

A new addition to our online service, this interesting site was developed from in-house data about local accessibility. This website is currently being updated.

### Statistics

WDP	monthly average	1,466 monthly visitors	7,545 page impressions
DAD	monthly average	1,755 visitors	8,654 page impressions
PAA	monthly average	299 visitors	850 page impressions
WAG	monthly average	1,300 visitors	4,100 page impressions

### Making A Difference

*“I have recently been doing a piece of work around benefits and was looking at your website. I am letting you know how good it was to be able to find my way around the site easily - it was clear and concise, with the listings easy to get to”.*

## Wheelchair and Equipment Loans Service

*Self financed through donations*

### Overview

Offering free short term loan of over 300 items including wheelchairs, lightweight travel scooters, compact travel hoists, high back chairs, lightweight travel ramps and various other pieces of equipment. We also offer a delivery service within the local area.

### Statistics

No of wheelchairs loaned – yearly average 850  
No of pieces of equipment loaned – yearly average 85

### Making A Difference

*“Just a short note to express our gratitude for arranging the loan of a wheelchair recently. We were very impressed with the help and co-operation we received from your volunteers, who also advised us to contact Social Services who then supplied us with numerous aids to help around the apartment, making life a lot easier for both of us”.*

## Wizard Narrow Boat

*Self funded from income generation and donations; supported by Thorn Marine and the Barn Owl Lymm*

### Overview

The Wizard is a unique wheelchair accessible 40' narrow boat that offers low cost day trips to the disabled people, their families, carers and support groups within the local community along the scenic Bridgewater Canal.

### Statistics

Number of trips booked for 2009 106  
Number of people using the Wizard for 2009 742  
Volunteer hours – monthly average 178

### Making A Difference

*“We had a very relaxing stress free trip, the crew were very pleasant and helpful and there was good lift access for disabled people.”*

*“Thank you for a lovely trip we enjoyed it very much and hope to be back soon.”*



## Young Ambassadors

*Funded by Leonard Cheshire Disability In Touch Project*

### Overview

Our Young Ambassadors work with schools and colleges not only raising general disability awareness with young people but also around relationships, sex and disability. Working towards preparation for removing the barriers faced by disabled people throughout their working life.

### Statistics

Presentations to schools & colleges for 2009 23  
Average number of pupils attending each presentation 45

### Making A Difference

*“This training has made my friends and class mates include me rather than exclude me, thank you so much”*

In addition to those mentioned throughout this report WDP would like to thank our volunteers, trustees and paid staff along with individuals, organisations and businesses who have supported us throughout the year (a full list is available on our Website).

**LOG ON TO OUR WEBSITE FOR REGULAR NEWS ITEMS**  
**[www.disabilitypartnership.org.uk](http://www.disabilitypartnership.org.uk)**

## Become a 'Friend of WDP' and help us raise funding for our Centre for Independent Living Refurbishment Appeal

### CIL Facts:

- Over 11,000 local disabled people and carers receive free face to face advice and support each year from our dedicated teams.
- Everyone is welcome, young or old, any impairment or disability, students, employers, staff from health & social care, education, employment, transport or service providers.
- Open Monday-Thursday 9am to 5pm, Friday 9am-4pm & Saturday 9am -12 noon.
- In addition to our equipment showrooms a range of other independent living services are available including volunteering, employment, IT training, Direct Payments, welfare benefits, wheelchair and equipment loans, etc.

### Big Lottery Funded Service Improvements:

- During 2009 / 2010 the CIL will be fully refurbished including the roof, windows, toilets etc.
- A larger area for the showroom services with wider independent living equipment choices.
- A larger Discover IT Suite within our new fully accessible Learning Centre.
- Create more meeting & activity room facilities.
- Open up a larger Community Café with learning opportunities.

### Additional Work Identified by WDP:

We would like to add the following facilities and need your support to raise £175,000 to develop the additional services – workshop, further meeting room extension, conservatory meeting room off the community cafe and mobility test track.

To find out more about support us please contact our Fundraising Team  
on **01925 240064** or  
Email: [sg@disabilitypartnership.org.uk](mailto:sg@disabilitypartnership.org.uk)

Address:  
Fundraising Team  
Warrington Disability Partnership, Centre for Independent Living,  
Orford Day Centre, Festival Avenue, Warrington WA2 9EP

or sign up for our newsletter by going to the website  
[www.disabilitypartnership.org.uk](http://www.disabilitypartnership.org.uk)  
click on the newsletter page and enter your email address.



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# Code-breaker with a difference!

**WARRINGTON Wolves' latest new recruit could be creating history as the first player to represent his home town club at football and rugby league!**

Mike Stewart is believed to be the first player to have represented Warrington Town FC and Warrington Wolves.

Mike was a regular at full-back for Warrington Town last season before hanging up his football boots to concentrate on Rugby League with Bank Quay Bulls.

Now Mike, who was on Everton's books as a youngster and former Bulls team mate Jamie Peasnell have been signed by the Wolves.



Mike and Jamie joined the Club during the 2009 season on terms and conditions contract and earned part-time contracts for the 2010 season on performance and application. They both have potential to achieve much more in the game and develop into talented young players.

This will only be achieved if they dedicate and commit themselves to the training programme and perform consistently on the football field.

Mike knows that he needs desire, determination and dedication to achieve his goals. "I will have to put in a lot of hard work and effort."

"This is a big thing in a short space of time for me."

Footnote: One other Warrington Town player who went on to achieve great things in Rugby League was former Great Britain, Wigan and Widnes Winger Stuart Wright, who played for Town during the 1966/67 season.

He made his debut for Town on 11th February 1967 as a 16 year

old when he came on as a sub replacing Dennis Winter who had to leave the field and go to hospital for treatment when he was attacked by a stray dog at Moulton.

Wright marked his debut with both goals in a 2-0 victory.



## Rugby aces show support for Town

WARRINGTON Wolves' stars Chris Riley and Paul Wood showed their support for their footballing neighbours Warrington Town and brought along the Challenge Cup for good measure.

The Wolves kindly agreed to bring the Challenge Cup to Town's match v Chorley, as they share their success with other organisations around the town.

Warrington Town Chief Executive Gary Skentelbery said: "When Warrington Wolves won the Challenge Cup it provided a major boost to the town."

"It put a smile on the face of Warrington."

"It is a fantastic gesture by the Wolves to allow the Challenge Cup to go on display at Cantilever Park and also good to see a local lad like

Chris Riley showing his support for the football club.

"Many of our fans and a good number of our players are all Warrington Wolves' supporters, so it made it a very special occasion for the club."

"A lot of hard work has been going on behind the scenes at the football club and occasions like this make it all worthwhile."

Crowds have steadily been increasing since the introduction of free admission to all youngsters aged under 16 and student card holders at the club's principal sponsors Warrington Collegiate.

Town now have their own "barmy army" and Riley and Wood helped cheer on Town to a 2-0 success with the goals coming from Warrington born Chris Gahgan and Darren Kinsey.



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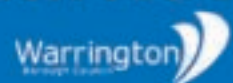
Karen Daniels from the market office wins Wire FM award for charity work

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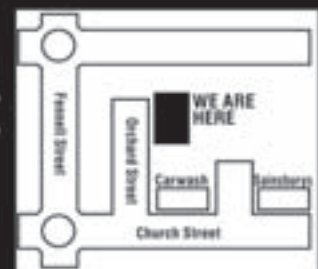
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# Financially yours

By David Watkinson

## Fuel scale charge

We recently looked at the advantages in certain instances that a director/shareholder can obtain from having a company car. Generally, company cars are an expensive perk but they can be tax effective in certain very specific circumstances.

One benefit that is almost always punitive is, however, the car fuel scale charge. As with most other benefit charges this is an 'all or nothing' charge to tax. If a company pays for any private fuel whatsoever, however little, then the full benefit scale charge will apply. The argument that you only claim a certain percentage of your fuel bills (ie every other bill) is unlikely to succeed as a defense against the scale charge. The only safe way to avoid a scale charge is to keep meticulous records of all journeys and to reimburse the company in full for the cost of all fuel used for private journeys.

The only certain way to do this to the satisfaction of the tax office is to ensure that you record all necessary journeys accurately. If the company pays for fuel then this will require you to keep records of all journeys, both private and

business, to ensure that you repay exactly the correct proportion of all fuel purchased to the company for any private miles. However, if you pay for fuel personally, then you need only keep a log of journeys made on company business, and for which reimbursement is claimed. You can then claim the fuel costs on the basis of a rate per mile. The rate is for the employer and employee to agree, but the tax office have issued a maximum 'tax free' rate per mile, above which any reimbursement received would be a taxable benefit.

These rates are reviewed twice a year by the tax office. As of 1st December 2009 the maximum rates are as follows:

Engine size	Petrol	Diesel	LPG
1400cc or less	11p	11p	7p
1400cc to 2000cc	14p	11p	8
Over 2000cc	20p	14p	12p

Petrol hybrid cars are treated as petrol



David Watkinson and Margaret Black

cars for this purpose.

These rates are also accepted for the purpose of reclaiming VAT on fuel. However, it is always necessary to comply with the other record-keeping requirements in order to justify including these costs as recoverable input VAT on your VAT return. These rules have been covered in previous columns.

After the Christmas break may we now take this opportunity to wish everyone a healthy and prosperous year. Whether you are an employer or employee, this will be more likely if private fuel costs are kept well away from any employment!

*WatkinsonBlack are pleased to advise on these matters. 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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# Full-blooded derby for Wood

**TEN years loyal service by Warrington forward Paul Wood has been rewarded with a 'full blooded' testimonial against local rivals Wigan Warriors -his home town club!**

The derby rivals will meet in a high profile friendly fixture on Wednesday January, 27 kick off 7.30pm, at The Halliwell Jones Stadium with all of the Wolves' proceeds going to Wood's Testimonial fund.

Wood, who says he has experienced the best pre-season training since joining the club, is celebrating ten years as a professional with the club after joining from Ince St Williams in 1999. The local derby against his hometown club will be the first event in a year of celebrations to honour his ten years at the club.

Wood said: "I am delighted to secure a fixture against Wigan Warriors. Getting the chance to play my home-town team in my testimonial game is very special to me. A Warrington versus Wigan game is always a feisty affair and this game should be no different. This game comes at a really good time of the year as it is only ten days before Super League XV kicks off. This will be the last chance for both clubs to see their strongest available side ahead of the new season. Hopefully the fans from both clubs will turn out in good number to take a look at their new look sides before they kick off their respective Super League campaigns."

Tickets for the game will start from

just £13 for adults standing and £5 for concessions and juniors. Family tickets will be available from £30 (two adults and two juniors). Full ticket prices are as follows: North Stand - adults £ 16, concession £ 7, family tickets £ 35. (Reserved seating)

Martin Dawes East Stand - adults £ 14, concession £ 6, family tickets £ 30. (Unreserved seating)

South Stand - adults £ 13, concession £ 5.

Hospitality will also be available and you can register your interest now by emailing [sales@warringtonwolves.com](mailto:sales@warringtonwolves.com).

The Doodson West Stand will be closed for this fixture.

Paul has amassed over 200 appearances for the Wolves since making his debut in September 2000 against Wakefield.

He was won caps for both Great Britain and England was rewarded with both Players' Player and Coaches Player of the Year in 2006.

Paul works tirelessly within the local community and has recently taken up a head coach's role with the Wolves' scholarship programme.

\*To see an exclusive video interview with Paul log on to [warrington-worldwide.co.uk](http://warrington-worldwide.co.uk) and click on the video news section.



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**IN SUCH TIMES - CASH IS KING!**

You might have items of old, damaged, unworn or unwanted jewellery in gold, silver or platinum

**CASH IS KING - SO CASH THEM IN!!!  
PAWNBROKING SERVICE AVAILABLE**



10 Cairo Street, Warrington Town Centre WA1 1ED  
Tel: 01925 633706

also at

6-8 Walton Road, Stockton Heath WA4 6NL. 01925 601455



# GREEN MEADOW

## INDEPENDENT PRIMARY SCHOOL

AFFORDABLE, HIGH QUALITY, LOCAL EDUCATION  
THE IDEAL SOLUTION FOR THE BUSY WORKING PARENT!

Age 4 - 11 Years

**NOW ENROLLING ALL AGES INCLUDING 2010 IN TAKE**

**COME TO OUR OPEN DAYS  
TO SEE WHAT MAKES GREEN MEADOW SO SPECIAL**



**COME AND VIEW OUR FANTASTIC FACILITIES**  
**OPEN DAYS:**  
13th, 14th & 15th Jan  
5pm - 7pm  
3pm - 7pm



### WHY CHOOSE GREEN MEADOW FOR YOUR CHILD?

- ✓ Fully qualified specialist teachers.
- ✓ Small class sizes - max. 24 children per class.
- ✓ After school / breakfast club on site.
- ✓ Open from 7.15am - 6.30pm.\*
- ✓ FREE healthy snack.
- ✓ FREE healthy cooked lunch and optional evening meal.\*
- ✓ FREE transport (within 5 mile radius).\*\*
- ✓ Open 51 weeks a year including an optional holiday club, providing activities and additional care during the school holidays.\*
- ✓ Use of fantastic local sports facilities.
- ✓ Diverse programme of extra-curricular activities, tailored to challenge and stimulate.
- ✓ We welcome working in partnership with parents as we believe it is beneficial to children's learning and development of self esteem.
- ✓ State of art technology.



Robson Way, Lowton, Nr. Warrington WA3 2RD Tel. 01942 671138 [www.greenmeadowschool.co.uk](http://www.greenmeadowschool.co.uk)

Please call for a prospectus or pop in for a chat with our experienced staff

Affiliated to First Steps Private Day Nursery

\*Some activities/facilities may cost extra. \*\*Transport outside the five mile radius is available at a small extra cost.