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New Year
New Look

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Warrington Worldwide

Issue No. 111

January 2009

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Eden's TV drama

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Photograph: nickgiles.com

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Editor's Comment



DURING these gloomy economic times we keep hearing about, it is refreshing to see Warrington pressing ahead with the ambitious Orford Park Project, which will see a welcome injection of investment into the town.

The finish line is now firmly in sight for the community sports village, with

Eden's TV drama

SHE may only be sixteen but teenage model Eden Garrity already has more than a decade of work under her belt - including a role in the hit TV crime drama 'Blue Murder' alongside actress Caroline Quentin.

Eden (see front page), who has been modelling since 1997 is Caroline's daughter in the ITV drama, playing the part of a 'stropky teenager' which she says 'comes naturally!'

Her career has been helped by Warrington based photographer Nick Giles, who supplied her with her first photographic portfolio.

Eden, is set to return to the screens in the New Year in the new series of 'Blue Murder'.

She added: "I have to do a lot of crying scenes but I have a lot of fun. I mean what beats getting paid for playing the role of a stropky teenager!!"

Now she is casting for a role in a film so who knows what the New Year may bring.

confirmation of major cash injections from national and regional sponsors for the multi million pound project.

We are told the £30m project will provide a wide variety of leisure, health and education facilities all on one site complete with football pitches, library, health centre and much, much more!

This will provide a major boost for the area and Warrington in general.

I do hope the whole town will embrace this project ensuring we have a facility we can all be proud of.

State of the art sports facilities will help us at every level of sport whether it be rugby, football or athletics e.t.c

Finally I would like to take this opportunity or wishing all our readers and advertisers and happy and hopefully prosperous New Year and remember we are here to help in whatever way we can by promoting every which is good about our town.

A good positive image can only be good for business.

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Hello and welcome to my monthly column . . .

Hypnotes

by Michael Mahoney

What will the New Year bring?

Christmas has passed, the excitement is all but over and now into 2009, it is time to reflect and also to plan. To reflect on the past year, its negatives and positives, and to plan for this New Year whatever it may bring. We are all aware of the economic downturn, and we all need to do our utmost to make sure that we are making the best plans, in the best possible way to make life as easy as we can.

Perhaps the 2009 New Year resolutions will be more achievable because of a greater need to quit smoking and to cut the high expense which comes with this destructive habit. Perhaps there is more of a need to manage self limiting beliefs, to look after yourself so you can look after those who are dependant upon you. I suspect this year many people will also realise the need for new learning, and the development of new positive thought patterns will be high on the to do list. Learning how to manage stress, reduce anxiety and more for example. It is important to manage these as stress and anxiety can exacerbate conditions such as Irritable bowel Syndrome (IBS), and bring conflict in the workplace.

Of course too, there are issues in the

workplace; unemployment is rising, companies extending holiday shutdown times to cut costs. The threat of redundancy is being felt in literally all areas. And for those who have been made redundant, the financial pressures mount, as do the emotional pressures too.

Following 19 months in research and development, I am launching a new audio programme specifically for those who have lost their jobs entitled 'Laid Off, Move On'. Now available on download or in hard copy, it comprises 2 CDs, covering 7 tracks and a listening schedule. The programme sessions help the listener to first of all understand the emotions that result through being made redundant; it then aids in the development of positive thought patterns, focusing on developing motivation and positive perspectives. This new programme is currently being offered with a generous discount, and readers of this column can claim an additional 10% discount by quoting WWW1. Please visit www.healthyaudio.com for more information. If you are experiencing the frustration of having lost your job through redundancy, this programme

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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can guide you from feelings of panic and desperation to empowerment. Perhaps you are aware of others who are in this position and you may wish to kindly share information about this programme and the special readers' discount with them.

One thing is for sure, we will all survive this economic downturn, things are not good or easy at the moment for most of us, but the recent festive season may have perhaps brought a little more recognition of, and importance to, our friends and family. Where would we be without them? With friends and loved ones around us we can have hope, we have help and support and guidance, encouragement too, and a shoulder to lean on when things go wrong. With friends and family who really care for us, whatever our state of health and circumstances, I believe we are rich beyond measure. Yes it's nice to have the big car, and the latest phone, and the trendy clothes, but the reality is, the old adage is true. The best things in life are free.

Happy New Year!

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Top accolade for bus company

WARRINGTON Borough Transport has won the highest accolade in the industry, UK Bus Operator of the Year.

More than 750 industry movers and shakers involved in the growing success of the UK's bus industry attended a glittering ceremony in London to help celebrate WBT's well-deserved win.

The local Warrington bus operator, which serves many areas including Lymm, Stockton Heath, Thelwall, Latchford and Burtonwood, beat off stiff competition from a shortlist of 11 bus operators in the UK to win the overall Bus Operator of The Year Awards as well as Shire Operator of the Year.

The award judges, some of the most respected public transport professional in the UK, acknowledged how WBT has transformed the quality of bus travel in Warrington with its constant investment in vehicles, and innovative local marketing initiatives.

UK Bus Awards chairman John Owen said that the standard of entries had been "amazingly high".

He added, "Our winners today are delivering innovation and marketing, supported by top quality customer service."

The result is strong passenger growth and a shift from car to bus in towns and cities all over the country."

John Bannister, MD at WBT, said:



Les Hoyle (WBT Chairman) second from left and John Bannister (WBT MD) second from right with the award judges.

"Achieving national recognition for the hard work and dedication to customers of all our staff is fantastic. It has been a real team effort, and the staff can feel really proud of what they have achieved."

"Our recent customer satisfaction ratings of 98% impressed the judges and the UK Bus Awards' mystery traveller who travelled on our local routes confirmed our drivers' commitment to excellence."

He went on to say: "The Board of Directors, who have been tremendously supportive of the

company throughout, realise that receiving this accolade does not mean that the job is complete, and that we can rest on our laurels. We know that there are improvements that can still be achieved to further enhance our service to the travelling public in an environmentally friendly way and we will be working very hard to implement these."

The award judges added: "Warrington Borough Transport is the truly deserving bus operator of the year 2008."

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Barclays wins award for innovation excellence



Ted Fryer,
Barclays Business
Manager

THERE has been a lot of unhelpful commentary over the past couple of months concerning the Small Business sector, and in particular the attitude of Banks to supporting small and medium enterprises through the current difficulties.

Barclays is very much open for small business – more small business customers move to us than leave us, reflecting a growth in our customer numbers despite a general contraction in the marketplace. We are seen as one of the top two Banks for start-ups. In line with this growth we have seen a 20% increase in the lending we have provided in 2008 as compared with 2007. As a recognised safe haven, we have also seen our share of business deposits grow. Our overall approach to small business has not changed. We look to provide a blend

of financial products and invaluable business advice. Take Credit Focus, available to Barclay's customers – This award winning product allows business's to carry out credit checks, set levels of credit, have information as to how quickly a debtor pays, and receive warning if a credit rating drops. This is just one example of how Barclays understands its business customer's needs, and guides its product development to match.

Taking the lead

Barclays remains very much proactive in the local business market, and has helped shape government thinking on European Investment Bank (EIB) and small firm loan Guarantee (SFLG) lending schemes and are seen as taking the lead in this environment. We were the first major bank to use the

EIB funding (14 years ago) and have passed the entire benefit through to the customer – as indeed we have done with the recent drops in base rate. No changes have been made to our lending fees, and indeed our bank charges generally are lower in real terms than they were 5 years ago. We continue to lend responsibly, and have issued fewer demands for repayment than we did in 2007. We take an individual approach to pricing, treating customers on a case by case basis. We offer the most comprehensive

package for small businesses, and remain focused on supporting small business customers and meeting their needs. To find out more please contact your local Barclays small business team to arrange an appointment on 0845 6052345 and ask to speak to Ted Fryer or Janet Mitchell (for existing businesses) and Gill Hillier or Steve Ward (for start up business)

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Robin Hood and The Babes

Saturday, 3 - Sunday
11 January

Jason Manford

Sunday 18 January

Billy Ocean

Wednesday 28 January

The Comedy Store

Saturday 7 February

Russell Kane 'Gaping Flaws'

Friday 13 February

Mind The Gap

Friday 27 February

Tickets & Information

01925 442345

www.pyramidparrhall.com



New year, new shows at Pyramid and Parr Hall

It's a brand new season of music, drama, dance, comedy and classes here, at Pyramid and Parr Hall, and we have more entertainment than you can shake a stick at!

Saturday 3 - Sunday 11 January - Robin Hood and the Babes in the Wood

We're pleased to be kicking off the new season with Tony Peers' Production of Robin Hood and the Babes in the Wood (Sat 3 - Sun 11 Jan, times and prices vary). This brand new collaboration features spectacular costumes and characters and is guaranteed to be fun for the whole family! Cheer the goodie, boo the baddie and sing out for a happy ending.

Sunday 18 January - Jason Manford



Multi-award winning and star of '8 Out of 10 Cats', Jason Manford, embarks on his first live national tour with this exciting and hilarious show, which will have audiences begging for more (Sun 18 Jan, 8pm, £15/£13).

Wednesday 28 January - Billy Ocean

We are delighted to welcome the legendary Billy Ocean on Weds 28 Jan (8pm, £24). Billy has sold more than 30 million records worldwide and his classic hits



include When The Going Gets Tough and Get Outta My Dreams; Get into my Car! Renowned for his amazing performances on the live stage, this is one show you don't want to miss!

Saturday 7 February - North Cheshire Wind Orchestra

North Cheshire Wind Orchestra go all 'Tangoes & Fandangos' on Sat 7 Feb (7.30pm, £8/£7/£3) with their tribute to Benny Goodman's 1938 Carnegie Hall concert featuring: Don't Be That Way, One O'Clock Jump, Life Goes to a Party, Blue Skies and much more!

Friday 13 February - Russell Kane

Comedic genius, Russell Kane, brings a show of 'Gaping Flaws' to Warrington on Fri 13 Feb (8pm, £12/£10) Old teacups. Anthony Trollope. My Nan's gammy hip. Why are British people fond of all things flawed? Why does love grow in the cracks between cold perfection? Maybe it's a British thing.

Other season highlights include:

- Mind the Gap - Fri 27 Feb
- Freddie Starr - Sun 8 March
- Jimmy Carr - Sat 14 March
- Poles Apart - Thurs 19 March

Mind the Gap



Jimmy Carr



This is just a taster - see www.pyramidparrhall.com for even more events!

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Advertiser's announcement

Top ten tips for first time buyers

(or what we really needed to know before buying our first home!)

THE start of a New Year is traditionally a time for First Time Buyers to start thinking about buying their first home. The Property Team at Widdows Mason have put their heads together and compiled a list of our Top Ten Tips for First Time Buyers. Not just the legal stuff, but the practical things that we would have appreciated being told before buying our first home. Here goes

1. **A house is "sold as seen".** Unlike a used car under warranty, you can't take it back if anything goes wrong. For this reason, you absolutely must obtain a professional survey of the property so that you know right from the outset if the shower leaks through the living room ceiling on a regular basis. And don't forget to have an independent expert take a look at the central heating and electrics to ensure that everything is in good working order. Take someone with you to view the property who already owns their own property – they will also be able to point out any immediate problems! Finally, check the sales particulars carefully. They might say that there is a garage, but if the garage is not included in your Title Deeds, then you won't be buying a garage!

2. **Bills, bills, bills.** In the old days, gas came from British Gas and electricity from Norweb. These days there are literally dozens and dozens of utility providers. Your Solicitor will ask the Seller to complete a Property Information form which will tell you who currently supplies your property. This will save you hours of fun with the Yellow Pages when you move into your

dream home. Shop around and research who will provide you with the best deal on the essentials before moving in.

3. **Guarantees and consents.** Make sure that you are provided with copies of all guarantees for items such as double glazing and damp proof course work at the outset. You also need to find out whether the guarantees can be transferred over to you and ensure that you follow the procedures outlined very carefully to avoid unnecessary expense.

4. **Fixtures and Fittings.** Check that items you think are fixtures and fittings really are! Sounds odd but nowadays a lot of kitchen units can be free-standing and can be taken away by the Seller, leaving you with an empty kitchen. The Seller should provide you with a detailed Fixtures form which will state precisely what is being left. Check this carefully and keep a copy to hand when you move in.

5. **Check out the neighbours!** Visit the area at different times of day so that you can gain an impression of how quiet or noisy the area is. Your Solicitor will obtain a local search but this will only relate to your property and will not

reveal any information concerning neighbouring properties, for example. Your Solicitor can carry out a "know your neighbourhood" search which will provide you with additional information, including proposals for development in the area.

6. **Mortgages.** Get the best advice possible – and read the small print. Make sure you are aware of any expensive penalty clauses and that you know whether the Lender is entitled to make interest rate increases that could affect your budget, or whether your rate is fixed for a set period of time.

7. **Rubbish.** Agree in writing with the Seller that the loft, garage and garden shed will be emptied before completion.

8. **Parking.** Don't be afraid to ask the Seller where they park their car – and where visitors park. Parking on the street causes an incredible amount of arguments so find out at the outset.

9. **Boundaries.** Good fences make good neighbours, and there is no worse time to find this out than after a force 8 gale has ripped down your panel fences! Your Solicitor will advise on the legal boundary structures, but inspect



the boundaries carefully before signing legal Contracts and report any discrepancies to your Solicitor immediately.

10. **Leasehold** properties and apartments. You might find that you need the Freeholders consent before you can build an extension or add a conservatory. There is usually a fee to pay each time you need the Freeholders consent. If you are buying an apartment, there is often a monthly service charge to pay in addition to your usual utility bills, so ensure that you add such items to your budget.

Wishing you a Happy New Year from the Property Law Team at Widdows Mason.



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Pyramid
 & Parr Hall

New healthy lifestyle club launched

A WARRINGTON based charity which helps people with learning difficulties find meaningful employment has launched a special healthy lifestyle club.

SPARC Active is a new venture set up by SPARC (Supporting People Achieving Real Choice) and runs every Monday from the Warrington Wolves' Halliwell Jones Stadium from 5pm-8pm.

Project leader Catherine Mannion said: "This is a great opportunity for people to have fun improving their health and well being and their social skills."

Relaxed

It provides advice on fitness, diet and wellbeing in a fun and relaxed atmosphere for people with learning disabilities and is already proving so popular organisers are considering opening another evening.

Essential

"Places are limited so booking is essential."

To reserve a place at the club or for more information contact Catherine on 0787 612 4863 or email sparc@warrington-worldwide.co.uk



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2008

Mission Statement

“Removing barriers to social inclusion faced by disabled people, their carers and their families”

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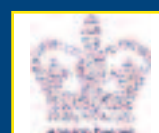
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Service Philosophy

“WDP is an independent, user led, Social Enterprise committed to valuing everyone’s life skills, experience and individuality to enable positive change. We will actively promote Independent living by providing information on peer counselling, housing, equipment, personal assistance, transport & access employment, education, training and other services.”

Our Vision

“To have achieved recognition as being a leading organisation that initiates, delivers and/or develops services that remove the barriers facing disabled people, their carers and their families.”



“Actions – Louder Than Words”

On behalf of our team at Warrington Disability Partnership we are delighted to welcome you to our Annual Report for 2008.

The title of this years report “Actions, Louder than Words” symbolises our philosophy of “supporting independence throughout life and work”.

The best news of the year was the confirmation that the bid we submitted with our partners Warrington Borough Council to the National Community Assets Fund for nearly £1million was successful.

The money will be used to completely refurbish our Centre for Independent Living located in Beaufort Street (off Liverpool Road). On completion we will have a building that is “fit for purpose” to match the quality of the services offered by our excellent team of staff and volunteers..

Building work is scheduled to start summer 2009 and completion is expected summer 2010.

Our services continue to reach out to a wide audience including Warrington’s 34,000 disabled people, 20,000 carers and families, managers and staff from the statutory and voluntary organisations, local businesses, schools and the public.

When we talk about disabled people we don’t just mean wheelchair users, we include mental health, learning disability, physical and sensory impairments, and those with long-term illnesses.

The following are a few of the facts from the past year:

- Of our 46 Trustee/Directors and paid staff, 54% are disabled people, 37% are carers and 52% started as volunteers.
- Over 85% of our 98 volunteers are disabled people.
- In partnership we helped to organise two workshops on Disability Equality Duty and the development of a Disability Strategy.
- Artwork produced by members of our Arts project that we organised with partners from the International Arts Collaborative was exchanged with work produced in Osaka Japan and displayed at this years DAD
- Our aim to explore partnership opportunities across the North West has been met with enthusiasm. We are currently working with Halton Borough Council and Primary Care Trust
- Working with Warrington Radio has resulted in disabled people presenting and producing shows on

their on-line radio station

- In recognition of their work with WDP - Phil Edwards, Pam Thompson and Christine Molyneux received Local Hero Awards from WIRE FM.
- Clive Crossingham received an Employment Award from TNG and Tom Horton was recognised as the Young Citizen of the Month from the Mayor.

Our Centre for Independent Living received visitors from across the UK and Europe including the Czech Republic, Gibraltar and Germany. Key supporters signed up to contracts and sponsorship packages, including Warrington Borough Council, NHS Warrington, TNG and Leonard Cheshire Disability.

In keeping with our ambition to operate as a “Social Enterprise”, a third of our services were “self funded” through a programme of fundraising activities.

North West Regional Development Agency were the principal sponsor for DAD and our Positive Action Awards. Tom Dowling Editor of “All Together Now” hailed the events as the best yet; my wife Pam and I represented the team at a reception held at Buckingham Palace and at the TV Soap Awards, I was invited to speak about WDP services at conferences in London, Blackpool, Liverpool, Halton and Warrington

On behalf of the team we would like to thank all of our partners for their continuing support and our Trustee/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 three Trustee/Directors who have retired this year, Victor Pomfrett, Anne Thorpe and Kate Fox, they played vital roles in developing the services we offer today.

Thank you.

Dave Thompson MBE DL
Chair of Trustee Directors

Jayne Horton
Chief Officer



WDP Trustee / Directors

Dave Thompson • Phil Edwards
Audrey Rogers • Sue Abbott
Pat Kitto • Terry Wadsworth
Simon Banks • Jeff Greenwood
Gary Skentelbery • Chris Molyneux

Services include:

- Centre for Independent Living with 5 showrooms full of the latest equipment including baths, showers, kitchens, beds and stair lifts
- FREE short-term wheelchair and equipment loan service
- Employment services for disabled people, lone parents and anyone in receipt of incapacity benefits – also advice on employment retention, Access to Work and Towards Work Support Fund
- Access and Training Consultancy – providing access audits and disability awareness training
- Disability Helpline – providing information and advice on local and national support groups, services, accessible transport and concessions
- Independent Living Team and Payroll Services – providing services to support you to take control of your life through Direct Payments and the Independent Living Fund
- Discover IT Suite – learn new IT skills using the latest computers and access to a variety of adaptive technology
- Young Ambassadors – providing peer support to young disabled people and raising awareness with schools and colleges around disability awareness and disability & sex matters for young disabled people
- Disability & Sex Matters Project – provides information and works with health, social care, voluntary organisations and individuals
- Leisure, recreation and sports advice including working in partnership to run Planet Blue Youth Club, Disability Inclusive Sports Club and OWCH Pain

Management Group

- Volunteering opportunities – share/learn new skills, gain confidence or meet new friends
- Accessible holiday homes in Pensarn and Rhyl and the Wizard Narrow Boat; providing day trips along the Bridgewater Canal
- Shopmobility Scheme in Legh Street Car Park – providing a scooter or wheelchair loan service - with satellite services in the Warrington Bus Interchange and Warrington Retail Market
- Disability Information Point in Warrington Retail Market – providing information and advice on local and national support groups, services, accessible transport, concessions and benefits advice service
- Warrington Disability Forum & Leisure, Recreation & Sports Forum – get your voice heard locally by attending these monthly meetings
- Disability Awareness Day – an internationally acclaimed Independent Living Exhibition held annual in July at Walton Hall Gardens
- Annual Awards where anyone can nominate employers, businesses, service providers or individuals that deserve recognition for the work they do with disabled people and/or carers – Positive Action Awards (North West) and Appreciation of Efforts Awards (Warrington)
- A calendar full of Fundraising Events – Quiz Nights, BBQ in the Park, Casino Night, Raffles, support us by taking part in a sponsored event

Access & Training Consultancy

(Self financing)

Our Access & Training Team continues to provide advice and support to local businesses, organisations and individuals. This support ranges from general telephone advice to site visits and audit reports.

The team have worked with the following local organisations:

- Golden Square
- Chester University (Padgate)
- Mid Cheshire College
- Warrington Collegiate
- Barrowhall Lane Primary School
- Green Lane School
- Warrington Baptist Church
- Mobberly Methodist Church
- Northwich Youth Club
- Warrington Town Football Club
- Hough Green Scouts and Guides
- St Luke's Scout Hall
- Winwick Leisure Centre
- Warrington Sports Club
- Warrington Borough Council

Accessible Caravans

(Self financing)

We have operated an accessible and affordable holiday home from the Harts site in Pensam North Wales for the past nine years. A new caravan was purchased in 2004, and due to the popularity we have purchased a second fully accessible caravan which is located on the Lyons Robin Hood site in Rhyl, North Wales.

Bookings for both caravans are already being taken. The caravans have recently been named Guillemot and Grenadier in memory of the late Ted Lafferty (Retired Mayor of Warrington).

One family who recently used the caravan said,

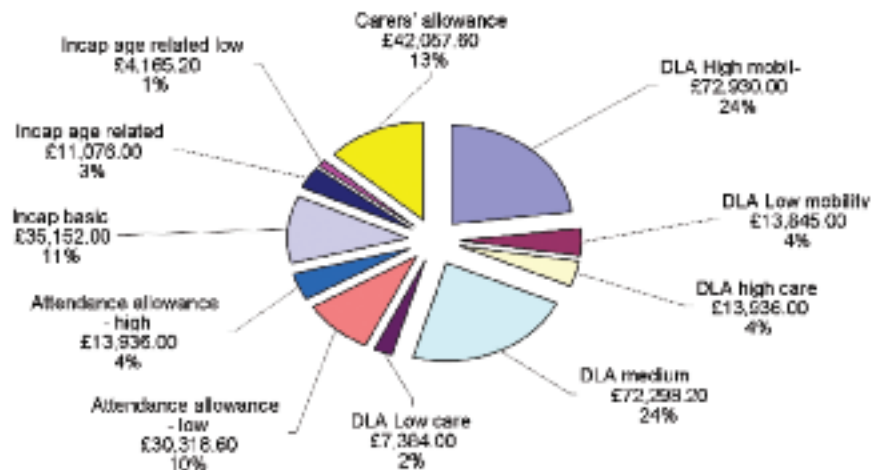
"We really enjoyed our 2 weeks in the caravan in Pensam. It was a pleasure to live in and we certainly will come again. The site was lovely and quiet and we became quite friendly with the people across from us".

Welfare Benefits Advice

(Self financing)

Our Benefits advice service is run by two WDP volunteers. During the year they supported over 140 disabled people and carers with applications that secured a combined annual income totalling over £250,000.

The following chart shows the amount of benefits in £'s that they have helped to secure for local people during the past 12 months, this income also has a positive impact on the local economy.



*One client said,
"Thank you for being so caring and tactful whilst helping me with my claim. What could have been a very stressful experience was made easy by your professionalism. I truly appreciate all your hard work and kindness shown to me and my partner during this particularly traumatic time in our lives."*

Disability Information Point, Warrington Retail Market

(Self Financing in partnership with Warrington Borough Council)

Our Disability Information Point, situated within the rear hall of Warrington Retail Market offers a range of information and advice, and operates as a satellite to our Shopmobility service.

This service attracts many local disabled people and carers who would otherwise have limited access to disability related

Centre for Independent Living – Equipment Showroom

(Supported by NHS Warrington & Warrington Borough Council)

Our Equipment Showroom consists of five rooms dedicated to Independent Living. They offer a wide range of products including bathing, mobility, seating, toilet, beds, stair lifts, kitchen and other daily living aids. Small items can be purchased at the showroom and advice on local suppliers is available.

During the year we received 3,759 visitors to the showrooms and 4,481 telephone calls which reflects a growing need and popularity of the Centre for Independent Living.

One recent visitor said,
"I didn't know that the centre existed, a friend told me about it, I have struggled for years, but the small pieces of equipment I bought has made such a difference to my life, and my husbands".



**Log on to our website for
regular news items
www.disabilitypartnership.org.uk**



Finance & Payroll

(Self Financing)

Our team offer a Payroll Service for Direct Payments users, small businesses and disabled people who want to employ their own support staff. The service includes calculating time-sheets, producing payslips and ensuring Tax and National Insurance are paid to the Inland Revenue at the correct time.

Facts:

Over 90% of local Direct Payment clients employing a Personal Assistant access this service.
250 Employers and 300 Employees are currently being supported by our Payroll Team.

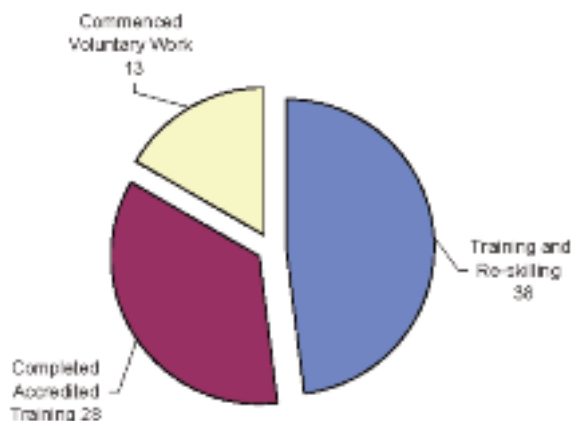
Employment Team

(Supported by Warrington Borough Council, Learning & Skills Council, Pathways to Work sub-contract with TNG, Job Centre Plus and Next Step through Connexions)

Our team provide an accredited Advice and Guidance service and arrange volunteering, work placements, supported employment, work trials part time and full time work for disabled people, lone parents and people with long term illnesses.

We work with people to develop new skills including interview techniques and job coaching. We also work with employers in developing packages of support to help retain staff who acquire a disability and want to return to work.

Our unique Towards Work Support Fund has received national interest.



Fundraising & Promotions

(Self Financing)

Fundraising plays an important role in helping to maintain many of the self financing services offered by WDP. Throughout 2008 we have had a packed calendar of events including regular Quiz nights, Casino Nights, community involvement, Raffles & Tombolas.

In July we launched an 'Appeal' to raise funds to provide a second fully accessible and affordable holiday home. We were able to secure a caravan in North Wales. This appeal is still open to cover the full cost.

We have received donations from groups and individuals who have organised events or taken part in marathons, bike rides and walks.

Independent Living Team

(Supported by Warrington Borough Council)

Our team supports disabled people and carers across Warrington who wish to have greater choice and flexibility over the delivery of their personal and day care.

Facts:

102 referrals received since 1st April 2008 up to the 31st October 2008 - an increase of 26 for the same time period last year.

288 people are currently being supported to receive and manage their Direct Payments.

41 clients are currently working towards the process of setting up a Direct Payment

Our Independent Living Team supported Warrington Borough Council with their successful bid for a Dignity in Care Award.

One carer said, *"The support offered by the team took away the stress and anxiety of recruiting 2 support workers for my son". "He can now go where he wants, when he wants without waiting for agency staff".*

Discover IT Suite

(Supported by Lloyds TSB, LifeLong Learning and Leonard Cheshire Disability)

Specialist software within the IT Suite aims to make computers accessible for all, with adapted keyboards, mice and height adjustable desks to accommodate individual needs.

The Suite now has over 300 registered members, with a variety of sessions held on a regular basis, including courses for members who are blind or visual impaired. Our tutors have also developed a camera club.

Work produced by members has been displayed in Warrington Market, the Centre for Independent Living and at Disability Awareness Day.

Leisure, Recreation and Sport

(Supported by Warrington Borough Council) & Sports Unlimited



Our team is involved in the delivery of three projects, the 'Disability Inclusive Sports Club (DISC)', 'Planet Blue' (held at the Peace Centre) and 'Sporting Chances' offering local disabled people the opportunity to take part in a variety of leisure activities.

The team works with a variety of partner organisations including local disability sports clubs, youth clubs and general sports clubs.

One member said, *"I had a serious accident 5 years ago and never imagined what I could do until I met the team".*



Log on to our website for regular news items
www.disabilitypartnership.org.uk



Information and Advice

(Supported by Warrington Borough Council)

All of our services spend a large amount of time offering information and advice on a wide range of topics and services. Information and advice is provided to disabled people, their families and carers in a variety of ways via phone, email or by visits to our Centre for Independent Living, Disability Information Point, Shopmobility service and Websites.

Meeting Room Facilities

(Built by Bovis Lend Lease)

Our meeting room is available for low cost hire to local organisations for the purpose of training, meetings and conferences. It has state of the art audio and visual equipment.

The meeting room has also hosted a number of equipment demonstrations for local professionals on a wide range of independent living products.

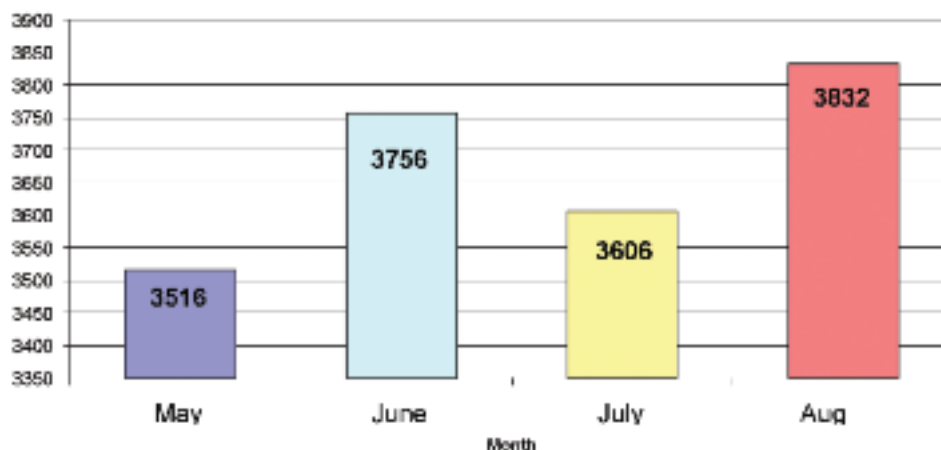
Disability and Sex Matters

(Supported by NHS Warrington and Leonard Cheshire Disability 'In Touch')

Our unique service is nationally recognised for designing an information file containing leaflets on sex and relationships from a wide range of leading support groups.

This year the team have been involved in a national 'In Touch' Sexual Health project with Leonard Cheshire.

Total number of enquires May - August 08



Websites

(Self Financing)

We offer three websites, all of which are built to a high standard of accessibility:

Disability Awareness Day

(www.disabilityawarenessday.org.uk)

Our most popular site saw more than 578,000 hits in 2008 including visitors from all over the world.

Positive Action Awards

(www.positiveactionawards.org.uk)

Designed to collect nominations for this important North West award, the site also offers photographs and information of previous winners and a background to the awards.

Warrington Disability Partnership

(www.disabilitypartnership.org.uk)

Our own website, all about WDP and the services we offer.

Our Mascot 'Ollie Owl' also has a Facebook profile, with two facebook groups for Disability Awareness Day and WDP. WDP are also registered to EBay, Mission Fish and Easysearch.

Shopmobility

(Supported by Warrington Borough Council, Golden Square Management, Bovis Lend Lease and Warrington Bus Interchange)

Our Shopmobility services offer vital support for people who have mobility difficulties and want to remain independent whilst shopping in Warrington Town Centre. The service relies heavily on the continued support from all its volunteers.

Over 400 members access the service, with around 160 regular users every week.

Shopmobility users spend an average of £32,000 per month in Warrington Town Centre, supporting the financial infrastructure of Warrington Businesses.

Wheelchair and Equipment Loans

(Supported by NHS Warrington)

Our wheelchair loan service now has 313 wheelchairs in a range of types and sizes to suit children and adults alike. This service is free, donations are welcomed.

1018 items were loaned out during the year. One client said, "Many thanks for the use of the wheelchair. Without this I would not have been able to go out as we have no car! I cannot thank you enough."

Warrington Disability Forum

(Self Financing)

Our Disability Forum meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month at Bewsey Old School. A wide range of local organisations and individuals are represented at these meetings. Topics covered include transport, housing, leisure, health and social care.

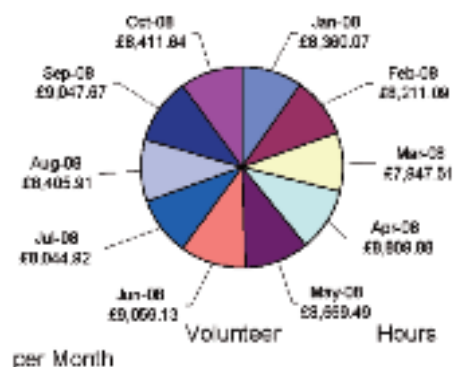


Log on to our website for regular news items
www.disabilitypartnership.org.uk



Volunteering (Self Financing)

Our team of 98 regular volunteers contributed thousands of voluntary hours during the year. Its worth considering that the value in £'s per number of hours they completed totals almost £85, 000 if they were being paid by the National Minimum Wage. The support of our volunteers is paramount to the success of the organisation.



"I have worked at WDP for nearly 13 years and have enjoyed every minute of it. My self confidence has grown and I get great satisfaction from helping other people, the other day someone phoned back just to thank me for the information I had provided, it was good to know I am making a difference."

Wizard Narrow Boat (Self Financing)

The Wizard is our wheelchair accessible, 40' narrow boat that offers free day trips to the disabled people within the local community along the scenic Bridgewater Canal.

The Wizard provided 95 trips for disabled people, carers and families from Warrington and the surrounding areas during the 2008 season.

Our small team of volunteers gave 1,331 hours of their time during 2008.

Young Ambassadors 'In Touch' (Supported by Leonard Cheshire Disability)

Our team of Young Ambassadors include disabled and non disabled young people. They work closely with local schools, colleges and youth groups to promote inclusion and raise awareness equality and diversity issues. They aim to champion disability related issues and become peer role models, whilst raising the profile of young disabled people.

Our first Young Ambassador has succeeded in her ambition to secure a place at university; our second Young Ambassador is now in post and is involved in a National Project with our partners at Leonard Cheshire Disability.

Disability Awareness Day 2008 (Principal sponsor North West Regional Development Agency)

DAD 08 was our 17th Independent Living Exhibition and family fun day. It's Europe's largest voluntary led disability event attracting 22,000 visitors and 300 exhibitors from across the North West.

DAD is a partnership between:

- Northwest Regional Development Agency
- 5 Boroughs Partnership NHS Trust
- BT
- Britannia Building Society
- NHS Northwest
- Environment Agency
- Jobcentre Plus
- Leonard Cheshire Disability
- North Cheshire Hospitals NHS Trust
- North West Regional Assembly
- TNG
- Warrington Borough Council
- Warrington Collegiate
- Warrington Guardian
- Warrington Retail Ltd Partnership
- Warrington Primary Care Trust
- Western Cheshire PCT
- Lions Clubs International
- Thom Cross Young Offenders Institute
- Walton Hall Gardens Rangers and staff
- DAD's Army of stewards and helpers

Appreciation of Efforts Awards (Supported by Warrington Guardian & Warrington Borough Council)

The Annual Appreciation of Efforts Awards, now in their 14th year, aim to recognise local individuals or organisations who have provided exceptional services or promoted good practise that has helped to improved the lives of disabled people in and around Warrington.

2008 Award Winners

- Mavis Peacock
- Dorothy and Bob Pritchard
- Families United
- Barry Collins
- Jonathan Ward
- Debenhams- Warrington
- Little Wonders Nursery
- Matthew Fairhurst
- Tracey Horne
- George Thornton
- David Molyneux

Positive Action Awards 2008 (Supported by the North West Regional Development Agency)

The Positive Action Awards, now in their 5th year recognised best practise in promoting independence, delivering accessible services or maintaining exemplary employment practices on behalf of the 1.4 million disabled people and 750,000 carers throughout the North West:

2008 Winners:

- Tony Wheeler
- Twinkle House
- Long Lane Garden Centre
- Stephen Brookes MBE
- The Frog and Bucket Comedy Club
- Jacqueline Dewhurst
- NHS East Lancashire
- NHS Central Lancashire
- Andrew Coleman
- Pathways Community Interest Company
- Sign of Our Times
- Brighter Future Workshop Limited
- Chill Factor'
- NU Shoes - Formby
- Urbis - Manchester



Log on to our website for regular news items
www.disabilitypartnership.org.uk





For further information on any of our services please phone or call into:
Warrington Disability Partnership
 Centre for Independent Living, Beaufort Street, Warrington, Cheshire WA5 1BA

Telephone: **01925 240064**

Fax: **01925 241852**

Email: info@disabilitypartnership.org.uk

Website: www.disabilitypartnership.org.uk

Warrington Disability Partnership would like to thank the following for their continued support:

Warrington Borough Council • NHS Warrington
Northwest Regional Development Agency • TNG
Next step • Leonard Cheshire Disability
and everyone who has supported our work during 2008

Make a donation

Name.....

Address.....
.....

Postcode.....

Signed..... Date.....

I would like to make a general donation to Warrington Disability Partnership

I enclose cash/cheque to the value of: £

Please make cheques payable to 'Warrington Disability Partnership' and return to:
Warrington Disability Partnership, Centre for Independent Living, Beaufort Street,
Warrington, WA5 1BA

giftaid it

Gift Aid your donation (please tick)

I have given my details above and ticked the box entitled 'Gift Aid'. I would like Warrington Disability Partnership to reclaim tax (28p for every £1 donated), on the donation detailed above.

For Warrington Disability Partnership to reclaim the tax you must be paying income tax or capital gains tax at least equal to the tax we claim on your donation.

We would like to keep you informed of other events we run at Warrington Disability Partnership;

Please tick here if you do not wish to receive this information

Tom is top teenager

A teenager who dedicates his time to charity work and volunteering has been awarded 'Young Citizen of the Month' by Warrington's Mayor Coun Graham Welborn.

Eighteen-year-old Thomas Horton was nominated by Warrington Disability Partnership, in recognition of his volunteering within the community.

During the past three years the Woolston youngster has helped raise much-needed funds for the partnership.

One of his main duties has been persuading businesses to donate prizes for charity auctions.

He has also helped out at the

charity's Centre for Independent Living.

Tom has also been heavily involved with the award-winning Disability Awareness Day, firstly as a volunteer in the sports area since the age of eight.

He was a young steward from the age of 14 and he has been a full steward for the past two years.

Tom was also a volunteer with Woolston's Church of the Ascension's Youth Club from the age of 14 to 17.



VHO

Put your smile in the hands of the professionals



Orthodontics is a specialist form of dentistry that treats dental and facial irregularities providing you with a healthy, perfectly formed smile. At VHO our orthodontists have been creating new smiles for over ten years and are both registered with the General Dental Council as specialists in orthodontics. Offering the latest treatments such as Lingual (invisible braces behind the teeth) and the ever popular Invisalign, from state of the art premises.

Why would you trust your smile with anybody else?

Call today to arrange a consultation on 01925 232 010 or www.vhorthodontics.co.uk

Victoria House Orthodontics
72 Dewsey Street
Warrington, Cheshire
WA2 7JE

Finance options now available



Enjoy spring in the garden this year...

Call Martin at Fairview today on 01925 234400

Voted North West Conservatory & Windows Installer of the year 2008



Also a full range of windows and doors



www.fairviewwindows.co.uk

Warrington Showroom, 645 Knutsford Road, Warrington, Cheshire WA4 1JQ. Tel: 01925 234 400

Revive your car's paintwork!

Revive! is one of the country's leading mobile car body repair specialists who are committed to providing a professional, reliable service to motorists in the North West.

The quick and convenient repair service is available for motorists who have bumper scuffs, minor scratches or scrapes and damage to their alloy wheels. Revive! will happily undertake these repairs at the customer's home or office when it suits them, and this can be completed within a couple of hours.

North West area manager, Chris Webster says, "Our technicians are

highly skilled and trained and we promise to deliver an expert, high-quality repair for a fraction of the cost of a body shop and without any of the inconvenience."

Revive! offers a convenient and cost-effective way of keeping your car looking good and also adds value and appeal for motorists who are thinking of selling or part-exchanging their vehicles.

Present this voucher and receive 15% OFF
Telephone Revive! on 0800 849 5652

Revive!
setting new standards in mobile car care!

Your Car Paintwork Expertly Repaired in Under 2 Hours!

Professional, durable repairs: ✓ panel scratches
✓ interior trim ✓ bumper scuffs ✓ alloy wheel scrapes

Don't Replace It - Revive It!

- We come to you, home or office, when it suits you
- The very best finishing technology, at a fraction of the cost
- Professional, commercial service, fully guaranteed

Call us first! bfa OFT

0800 849 5652 www.revive-uk.com
27 Barrowfield Drive, Great Sankey, Warrington, W93 5DZ

Young volunteers spruce up blind centre

YOUNG volunteer workers who helped spruce up the headquarters of the Warrington and Widnes Society for the Blind have received special certificates from the society.

The Mayor and Mayoress of Warrington, Graham and Elaine Welborn, presented the certificates at a ceremony at the Rex Furness Centre in Museum Street.

The youngsters, members of The Princes Trust Groundwork Team, organised through Cheshire Fire Service, painted a mural in the stage area of the centre and also carried out work in the garden.

It was part of a general improvement scheme for the premises, with the interior being painted earlier as part of a project organised by Warrington Probation Service.

Society chairman John Taylor said the building looked "much better" as a result of the work.

However, because of the age and condition of the centre, the executive had decided the society had to look, in the longer term, to relocate to a more suitable building in the Warrington area.

Mr Taylor said: "A new building will enable us to better serve the needs of our members, attract new people and provide new services.

"Initial costings suggest that we will need around £1,000,000.

"We have now started to look at fund raising for this major project and anyone who would like to help should get in touch with me.

"As a non-profit making charity dealing with the everyday needs and problems of visually impaired people and their families, our main interest is the well being of our members and the effectiveness of the support we can give them."



Provided by:
Third Marketing Ltd

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Marissa Hankinson

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01925
212904

Email:
info@third
marketing.co.uk



How to market your business for free

IT is a difficult time for businesses, especially small ones, so how does hundreds of pounds worth of free advertising sound? Well, you could have that for hardly any effort at all.

If you are proud of what you are doing and want people to know the difference you are making to clients, businesses or the community, then here is the secret. Step in a little closer, I am going to whisper, "get a journalist to spread the word for you". I think a lot of people fear the media, especially journalists but they are not all tabloid monsters and most of them are just looking for a story.

Many business people stay

well clear of using the media, but they are missing a valuable competitive trick. Getting a story into newspapers, magazines, on the internet, radio or TV or in trade publications relating to your specific industry is free PR. Free advertising with credibility, as it is presented as editorial which is perceived to be more honest and impartial and let's be truthful, no-one buys a magazine for the adverts unless it is the Autotrader or Italian Vogue - well, we can all dream, can't we.

Engaging with any form of media presents risks as well as opportunities but as long as you plan and follow some top tips, you can gain both commercial and competitive advantage.

It is impossible to predict if your story will interest a journalist, however, even if it doesn't this time, keep trying! Make sure your story has impact, is it the first, biggest, best, fastest because if there's one thing reporters like better than today's news, it's tomorrow's.

Third Marketing is a unique organisation that was formed to enable small charities, social enterprises and businesses to achieve more through affordable PR and Marketing Solutions. If you would like more top tips then please visit www.thirdmarketing.co.uk or give us a call on 01925 212904.



THIRDMARKETING
www.thirdmarketing.co.uk

THE ADVENTURES OF WARRINGTON MARKET

Warrington Market is set to star on television throughout 2009 thanks to a new creative initiative backed by Brian Blessed.

"The Adventures of Warrington Market" is a series of 20 television commercials featuring characters in the market and highlighting the many and wide ranging products on offer. With Warrington having one of the largest indoor markets in the Northwest, employing over 600 people and using over 1,100 local suppliers, there is a never ending source of material to write about.

Brian Blessed is one of Britain's favourite and most accomplished actors and when he was approached to present the voice-overs he was delighted to be involved.

The commercials are the brainchild of the market manager Stephen Pickering who has written, produced and directed the work in his spare time. The series is based on a comic strip cartoon series that Stephen produced in 2001, which featured in the local press each week for a year.

During the new television campaign viewers will get to know a number of characters such as Rachel, who loves to eat a healthy diet but has some quirky eating habits. Dr Robert, who is always on hand to give friendly advice, and Jimmy, the keen fisherman who likes his fish as fresh as possible. Mark Olly from ITV's "Lost Treasures" also takes part as he shows his fondness for a good book.

Filming started in the market last September with support from the council's Cultural Services Department who provided a large number of extras and several members of the film crew. The main characters are played by experienced

television actors, many of which have a long list of television and theatre credits.

Stephen Pickering commented, "It has been quite an ambitious task to film the complete series of commercials, and I am delighted with the result. Everyone who has taken part has been so helpful and we have all thoroughly enjoyed making the different episodes. I am extremely grateful to all the actors, extras and crew for their efforts".

"The absolute highlight for me was the opportunity to direct an acting legend. Brian Blessed was genuinely one of the nicest men I have ever met. He kept praising the quality of the script writing, which was a great thrill for me since he did not know that I had written them"

"On the way to meeting Brian in London for the day, I read several articles about him and one writer commented you do not interview Brian Blessed, rather you witness him! This was quite true, during the entire day I could hardly get a word in edgeways".

"In case any fans of Brian Blessed are wondering, Gordon is Alive in Warrington Market"

The commercials air from January each evening on Channel M in Manchester for an entire year. Channel M can be viewed on Sky 203 or Virgin media 878. Alternatively, visit the market web site at www.warringtonmarket.co.uk or customers can view them on the television screens inside the market.



Open: Monday – Saturday 9am-5pm

The adventures of Warrington Market featuring Corner Coffee Bar

www.warringtonmarket.co.uk

University sponsor Wolves

WARRINGTON Wolves have clinched a deal for the University of Chester to be the club's 'back of shirt' sponsor for next season.

As part of the agreement, the university will have its logo on the back of the Wolves' home and away shirts throughout next season's engage Super League campaign.

Dr Chris Haslam, the university's Pro-Vice-Chancellor (External Affairs and Corporate Development) said: "The university's sponsorship of Warrington Wolves epitomises the close and pioneering partnership that has been successfully developed between the university and one of the North West's top professional sports teams.

"The Warrington Wolves first team

and academy teams are now using the university's state-of-the-art sports facilities at our Warrington campus, and further developments are planned, including a joint centre of excellence. We wish the Wolves every success for the coming season."

Wolves' director of commercial development, Dave Hutchinson, said: "We are delighted to enter into a partnership with the University of Chester. Their academic and sporting expertise is a perfect fit for our club. The next few years are exciting for both parties, with plans afoot to further

cement the club and university's partnership."

The deal further strengthens well-established links between the university and Wolves.

The club recently began using the Warrington campus as a training centre, spending three to five days a week using the campus' pitches, sports hall, changing rooms and DVD/video analysis facilities, and agreement has been reached for the development of a new, state-of-the-art gym, as part of a Warrington Wolves centre of excellence at the campus.

The gym, which will house a range of weight training and fitness equipment as well as space for floor exercise, will be available for use by both the Wolves and staff and students.



Warrington Wolves star Michael Monaghan (centre), models the club's new home and away shirts, which will bear the University of Chester's logo throughout next season. Michael is pictured with Sunny Kang, Students' Union vice-president (Warrington), and James Kirkby, Students' Union president.

Great Britain star, Jon Clarke, is currently completing a part-time undergraduate degree in Sport and Exercise Sciences at the university.

Your Town... Your Team!

Kids Go Free
(under 16)



Adults £5 Admission
with this voucher

To all Warrington Town FC Home Games For 2008/09 Season

Forthcoming Games:

Home - Saturday 10 January 09 - Mossley 15:00
Unibond League

Home - Saturday 24 January 09 - Newcastle Blue Star 15:00
Unibond League

Full fixtures can be seen at www.warringtontownfc.co.uk

REGENT COSMETIC DENTAL PRACTICE

NHS

We have NHS places available

We also offer Private and Preventive Treatments

- We welcome all patients new and old, NHS (including exempt patients) and private to Regent Cosmetic Dental Practice.
- Our principles remain preventative, healthy foundation and offering choices of restoration where necessary.
- We have grown to three dentists, a dental therapist and a hygienist. Also joining the practice soon are the podiatrist, physiotherapist and orthodontist (braces).
- We also have an on site beauty therapist.
- Specialist practitioners are available for root canal and periodontal (gum disease) treatments.

Treatments available:

- In surgery & home bleaching.
- White fillings, veneers & porcelain inlays.
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Trawling the town for sea anglers

WARRINGTON Sea Anglers are trawling the town for new members.

The club - which has just celebrated its 10th birthday - has lost a number of members over the last year and is anxious to attract new blood.

Spokesman Ken Whibley said: "We are a friendly bunch, drawn together by a love of sea angling and not put off by the fact that Warrington is a good way from the sea."

"Many of us are also members of local angling clubs but happen to like sea angling as well."

The club meets on the last Wednesday of each month at the Marquis of Granby pub in Church Street, Warrington to discuss trips out, swap stories and offer tips.

Trips are organised in England,

Wales and Scotland - but mainly in Wales which is why the club is affiliated to the Welsh Federation of Sea Anglers (WFSA).

In fact, the current WFSA record for Spurdog - 18lb - is held by the late Trevor Lockwood, who was a long-standing club member.

Ken said: "We would welcome any new members. We already have 10 trips organised for 2009, including a three-day trip to the Isle of Man."

The club's annual meeting is on January 10 at 1.30pm at the Marquis of Granby.

Anyone interested can contact Ken on 01925 417294, Dave Lawless on 01925 653700 or Alan Hilton on 01925 487360.



Olympic welcome

TWO Warrington Olympians were given a civic welcome at Warrington town hall.

The Mayor or Warrington Coun Graham Welborn was joined by councillors and officers who were delighted to give a warm welcome and congratulations to two of the town's Olympic champions John Stubbs and Olivia Whitlam.

Paralympian John, who won gold in Archery in the men's individual compound open was presented with a tankard and Olivia who achieved sixth place in the women's pair final in the Olympics, received a vase.

Coun Welborn said: "It's not often you are in the presence of Olympic heroes who are an inspiration to future generations in Warrington. We felt we had to offer our own particular congratulations to our home grown talent and to mark their dedication and commitment to their sport."

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Financially yours

By David Watkinson

New Year Tax Return

Another New Year, and no doubt a good proportion of you you have made, and broken, New Year Resolutions. Most accountants resolve every year to get their client's tax returns in earlier, and we are no exception, but their success rate with resolutions is no greater than average. WatkinsonBlack, however, have always submitted their client's returns before the deadline provided that the information necessary to do so has been provided in time, and everyone in the firm is this month working hard to maintain this record.

A Self Assessment Tax Return must be submitted if a notice to submit one has been received from the tax office. This can be for a number of reasons. You may be self-employed or a company director. You may receive other forms of untaxed income such as rental income, or you may receive investment income and be liable to tax at higher rate. In all cases, if you may be liable to pay more tax than it is your responsibility to tell the tax office otherwise you will face penalties.

If you are already within the Self assessment system and have submitted a return for the year to April 2007 then there is some potential good news this month. The tax office only has until the end of

January to inform you that they intend to examine your return in detail. Unless they do so then you can assume, under normal circumstances, that the return is safe from enquiry.

But what if you are selected?

You've done nothing wrong? That is very laudable. It may also be true. But it is also very irrelevant! With the best will in the world the tax office cannot possibly know this before they look into your return. And if they do select your return for enquiry then it is not a sufficient defence. The days when the tax office wanted to reach a just and equitable conclusion to an enquiry often seems to be long gone, and their sole aim now frequently seems to be to get the largest settlement possible from the taxpayer.

Even if the tax office get nothing extra out of you, and this will only happen with the help of a professional advisor, then in most cases you will have a bill of about £1,000 or even more from your accountant for fighting your case!

At WatkinsonBlack we recognise that this is not acceptable. Whilst we do our best to avoid putting our client's under this stress we cannot avoid it in all cases. However, we do offer a good scheme to indemnify clients at least against the costs of receiving the



David Watkinson and Margaret Black

very necessary professional representation. Because of our excellent claims record we were able to offer this cover for the current year at a cost to sole traders as low as £45, and in all cases clients paid less than £100.

We would suggest that everyone contacts their accountants for details of the cover – they should all be able to offer it. If you have cover elsewhere then you should check that any costs incurred by your accountant is covered. Remember, even replying to the initial letter and contacting you for instructions may cost you more than paying for the cover unless the insurance company meets these costs.

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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