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TWENTY-TWO year on from the Warrington bombing the ongoing work of the Tim Parry Johnathan Ball Foundation for Peace continues to be inspirational.

I covered the events of that terrible day in Bridge Street as a still relatively young photo-journalist on March 20 1993. It is a day I will never forget. It was a life changing day for many people, none more so than Colin and Wendy Parry, whose 12-year-old son died along with three-year-old Johnathan Ball. Young mum Bronwen Vickers, who lost a leg in the bombing which also injured more than 50 shoppers, became a third fatality later.

I can't begin to imagine the grief Colin and Wendy went through but the thought of losing one of my own children under any circumstances, let alone an act of terrorism, is beyond comprehension.

I have followed their pioneering work now for more than two decades, had the honour of



becoming a patron of their unique charity, seeing first-hand the impact of their work here in Warrington and across the Irish sea, where Warrington is held in high esteem and credited with playing a major role in helping the peace process.

The work of the peace centre has now gone international and is at long last receiving government funding to ensure their important work can continue to reach out,

offering the hand of peace and reconciliation and most importantly educating others that there are positive alternatives to conflict.

During a recent visit to Northern Ireland I witnessed how Warrington is held in such high regard.

As a town and a community we need to continue to embrace the work of this internationally recognised charity and never forget that life changing day twenty-two years ago and ensure the memory of those who paid the ultimate sacrifice lives on.

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Jenny joins the top brass



JENNY Worrall, a pupil at Sir Thomas Boteler CE High School, Warrington, has gained a place in the National Youth Brass Band of Great Britain.

The Year 11 pupil, currently studying for her GCSEs, has already achieved her Grade 8 and hopes to study music when she leaves school. Her goal is to attend one of the music conservatories.

A spokesperson for Boteler – a specialist music college – said: "This is an outstanding achievement and staff at the school are extremely proud of her.

"Boteler is very proud of all of our musical achievements and successes, and Jenny is certainly one of our success stories.

"We wish her all the best and will look out for her name in the future."

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Hello and welcome to my monthly column . . .

Hypnotes

by Michael Mahoney

Creativity

There are a lot of misconceptions about 'Hypnosis' and 'Hypnotherapy' and how it can help people. Previous Hypnotes have identified issues which may affect people and have raised awareness of thought processes and how to manage feelings and reactive behaviours. Hypnosis is an altered state of consciousness, a state we all slip into many times during the day when we daydream, carry out actions such as driving on automatic pilot, focus intently on our work, and drifting into sleep when we go to bed. The main aim when using Hypnosis within Therapy is to create desired changes to unhealthy habits, self limiting beliefs, distorted attitudes and inappropriate behaviours, including within relationships. When using Hypnosis we work predominantly with the main 3 of the 5 senses – what you see, hear and feel; assisting the creative part of the mind to become activated. If you think about the masterpiece an artist can create, they are using their creative minds being totally focused on the canvas in front of them, shutting out everything around them. They are effectively working within a hypnotic trance state.

If an artist can create a masterpiece, then everyone has the ability on some level to create something unique and

different for themselves and also for others. You may be thinking, 'well not me, I'm not creative'. As children we all had the ability to be imaginative, therefore creative, and creativity comes in many forms. People can lose their creative abilities as they grow into adults, as their rational minds develop; but the good thing is, the creative mind can always be activated, and in simple ways. Here are three examples of how words can tap into the imagination, and be used to help you to enhance your creative abilities and thus create positive change for yourself:

Imagine the light, in whatever form,
Does it shine brightly or is it dim?
How does the air about you feel,
Is it warm or cool on your skin?
How do you experience silence,
Or the noises around you, is it a din?

Imagine roses, the trees and the
grass,
Be aware of the sky, the clouds or
the stars,
Imagine chasing rainbows, floating
clouds, butterflies...
what about moonbeams, sun-rays,
raindrops?

I believe....
I believe I can cut my own pathway

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

Tel: 01925-658322 email timelineservices@aol.com
www.michaelmahoneyhypnotherapist.com

I believe I can step off the edge and not fall

I believe I can close my eyes and follow my heart and soul

I believe I can walk in the rain and not get wet

I believe in today and have hope for tomorrow

I believe in dreams, I believe in me....

It is important to use positive words and statements as in the 3rd example above. Generally people run self limiting negative messages about themselves in their minds, and these can be replaced by positive statements, which can be read out loud or listened to in a recording when in a state of relaxation or during a focused creative activity. If you wish to discuss how you can work towards becoming more creative, and how to create desired change for yourself, please contact me or my associate, Cate on: 01925 658322 to arrange an initial Consultation.

Employer Incentive Scheme

Positive Change...

Are you a small/medium sized employer in Warrington?

Golden Gates Housing Trust (GGHT) and Warrington Borough Council (WBC) have recently joined forces to offer an Employer Incentive Scheme.

The scheme supports local employers to employ local people by offering a wage subsidy of between £3,000 and £5,000 to provide apprenticeships and jobs with training.

For more information please contact Clare Sing by emailing clare.sing@gght.org.uk or by calling our Employment Team on 01925 45 2464

"I would encourage other small and medium sized businesses to get involved. There are flexible incentives available from GGHT to help you employ local people who need that initial opportunity to get into a job."

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GGHT's Employment Initiatives Team

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£2,000 raised at charity 'Splash for Cash'

SPONSORED challengers of all abilities raised more than £2,000 by swimming the equivalent distance of Warrington to Liverpool.

Warrington Disability Partnership's (WDP) annual Sponsored Swim saw 30 swimmers take the 'Going the Extra Mile' challenge at Orford Jubilee Neighbourhood Hub.

The 'Splash for Cash' challengers completed lengths totalling 35,000 metres in just under four hours.

"Altogether our team of disabled people, volunteers, staff and the public swam more than 22 miles," said WDP Founder Dave Thompson MBE DL who completed 1,100 metres and turned 57 on the day of the swim.

"I couldn't have wished for a better way to spend my birthday than to be with my friends and family - including my grandchildren - supporting people of all abilities to realise the swimming goals they had individually set for themselves, while also achieving our total fundraising target of £2,000.

"I'd like to thank our generous hosts, Livewire Warrington, who donated refreshments and provided use of the pool at charity rates, and of course, Team WDP and all the volunteers and everyone who sponsored us."

The day started early for the challengers, as messages of support

flooded in via Twitter from across the town including from Warrington Borough Council, Warrington Clinical Commissioning Group and Warrington Swimming and Water Polo Club.

'Smashed it'

Mayor Ted Finnegan, who has chosen WDP as one of his charities for 2014-15, was poolside to cheer on all the swimmers - including Afghanistan veteran Tom Coleridge, aged 23, of Chapelford, who "smashed it" (completing a total of 64 lengths).

On the JustGiving page, young challenger Josh Morris, aged nine, from Long Lane who has Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy, received touching and personal words of encouragement from his family and friends, including: "Good luck little man and swim like a fish!" He completed 20 lengths having put everything into his swimming, which allows him to move muscles he otherwise can't out of water.

The Mayoress raised additional funds for the user-led organisation at her Annual Charity Dinner, held at the Town Hall.

Donations continue to be welcomed via the charity's JustGiving page at www.justgiving.com/wdp swim2015



Dave Thompson MBE DL with Gary and Tom Coleridge.

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Outstanding economic performance

By Steve Park

As I've reported on this page many times before Warrington's economic performance is outstanding. As a 'town' we rank in the top ten for performance in virtually every category including having the the highest rate of employment in the UK with the fourth highest jobs growth and, with average earnings at £507 per week, the tenth highest weekly earnings.

Warrington is number one in the UK for high growth SME's, and we rank second - or third dependent on which report you read - in terms of overall highest UK business growth. Warrington's SME's performance is also ranked in the top ten in terms of business expansion and for investing in 'high growth strategies'. Warrington is 'an entrepreneurial hotspot' according to Cabinet Office.

Whilst our big businesses are all faring very well - forty of our businesses feature in the NW list of the top 500 companies and five in the top thirty - it is vital to encourage new blood and nurture and assist our SME's to grow.

Indeed, the latest Hitachi Capital

'British Business Barometer' report suggests that SME start-ups are currently underpinning growth in the UK economy. The SME's surveyed showed far greater optimism for growth over the next few months than bigger businesses and one in four of those surveyed plan to focus on significant expansion in the next three months.

The Warrington Business Incubator at Stadium Quarter is now shooting

out of the ground and it is exciting to see the cladding going up on the exterior. The facility will meet the demand to provide the town's high number of start ups with flexible accommodation and business support in their early years.

It will be finished in June and following fit out, open in September. It will be an exciting asset for the town and for supporting Warrington's growth ambitions.

Warrington & Co.
The partnership for driving growth



Steve Park
MD of Warrington & Co.

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Star rating for housing trust

WARRINGTON'S Golden Gates Housing Trust (GGHT) has been named as the 72nd best Not-For-Profit Company to work for the UK in the annual Sunday Times awards.

It was the fourth year that GGHT staff had taken part in the Best Companies engagement survey, the results of which can result in a place on the prestigious list.

After finally cracking one star accreditation this year, GGHT were named number 72nd on the list overall. It was the Trust's best ever position with a much improved score on previous years.

GGHT spokesman Gary Cookson said: "We're extremely proud to have been awarded a One Star rating for the first time and to continue our rise up the league table.

"The result is a reward for the effort we have put into improving our approach to employee engagement and overall culture at GGHT. Our upward trend is promising and we hope for further improvements in the years to come."

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End of the road for another sixth form?

UNIVERSITY Academy Warrington – the former Padgate High School – looks set to become the second school in the borough to close its sixth form because of insufficient numbers of students.

Officially, the proposal is still being consulted on and no decision can be taken until after the consultation is completed on April 2.

But with the generally accepted viable size for a sixth form being 200 and the Insall Road school only having 23, it is difficult to see how a case can be made for keeping post-16 provision.

However, local councillors and Warrington North MP Helen Jones have expressed concern and say they will fight to keep the sixth form open.

Poulton South councillor Colin Foggatt said: "Although this school is an academy and not under council control, all local councillors are keen to see the best possible provision in the area. We know the sixth form has had difficulty in recruiting sufficient students but we are concerned at the possible loss to the community and want to work with the school to see if anything can be done."

It was only in January that education watchdog Ofsted labelled the academy as a school that required improvement.

MP Helen Jones said: "Following the recent Ofsted report I met the head teacher and later spoke to the chief executive of the council about

help and support for the school.

"I will now be asking what support is being given. It is vital that the local community has access to good quality education in the area and, in my view, that should include sixth form provision if at all possible."

In January, Ofsted's critical report on the academy, singled out the sixth form as requiring improvement. Teaching was variable in quality and as a result, students did not make good progress other than in vocational subjects.

Ofsted stated: "Across the academy, there is not yet a strong enough focus and impact on developing students' literacy and numeracy skills, including in the

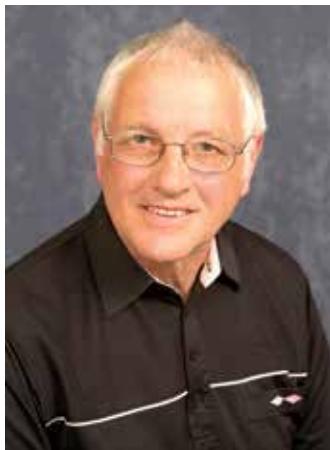
various curriculum subjects.

"Students' behaviour and attitudes to learning are not always positive. Where work lacks challenge, students' enthusiasm wanes and results in some low-level disruptive behaviour."

However, Ofsted noted that the new leadership was impacting positively on the academy's performance.

The executive principal, along with the new head of school, were taking a strong lead on improving the academy, which provided a safe and inclusive environment for its students.

If the closure goes ahead, it will be in August next year – just 12 months after the doors close on the sixth form at Culcheth High School.



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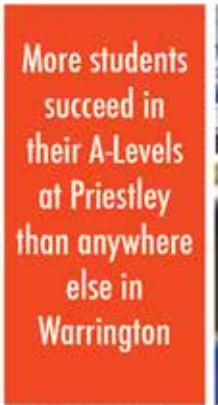
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'Live well with LiveWire'

Warrington's Temple peace mission



TWENTY-TWO years on from the Warrington bombing a small delegation travelled to Derry Londonderry to deliver a symbol of peace and reconciliation as part of a major arts event in the city - involving the creation of a special Temple.

Built on a hill overlooking the city, the Temple is no ordinary building and was created as part of a radical arts project by creative

producers Artichoke with world renowned 'Burning Man' artist David Best from California.

Together with people from across

the local community, the beautiful structure was built to soar up high before being ceremonially burnt.

The build and the burn aims to bring lifelong memories for the City so often at the heart of the troubles in Ireland, including the Sunday Bloody Sunday atrocity.

The building and the burn coincided with the twenty second anniversary of the Warrington bombing.

The Warrington delegation took a symbol of peace to place inside the structure and to represent a collective desire for peace.

The delegation consisted of Nick Taylor, Chief Executive of the Tim Parry Johnathan Ball Foundation for Peace; Ann Bartholomew - Nick's partner making her first visit to Northern Ireland and long-term supporter of the Peace Centre; Harriet Vickers - youngest survivor of the Warrington bombing aged 13 days. Harriet's mother, Bronwen Vickers, was seriously injured and lost her leg while in remission from cancer. The trauma reversed that and she lost her life over a year later. Harriet now works for the Peace Centre; Revd Stephen Kingsnorth - Borough Minister and leader of the Warrington faith community; Gary Skentelbery - journalist and magazine publisher (Warrington Worldwide), director of Warrington Town FC who play the annual Peace Cup with Crewe United and a Patron of the Foundation for Peace.

The symbol combined two elements of life - water and earth. The earth represented by a frame made of branch cuttings taken from the Peace Tree at Warrington Peace Centre.

The tree was planted at the tenth anniversary of the Warrington bombing and every year on the anniversary day, water is brought from the River of Life memorial to the tree to coincide with the beginning of Spring and as the tree buds reflecting renewed hopes.

In the frame was a picture of the Centre, set up in memory of the boys, Tim Parry and Johnathan Ball, killed by the IRA bomb attack on Warrington.

Foundation for Peace Chief Executive Nick Taylor explained: "Water from the River of Life was taken to Temple and mixed with water from Northern Ireland to symbolise how at our basic elements we are all as one of the same. These two symbols of hope and life - water and earth were left in the Temple and then air and fire, the other two elements, will be added at the burn to create a symbolic desire for peace on our islands and beyond."

He added: "The artists hope that the vision is that the combined experience of all inputs to the Temple, and the thousands of hours that local volunteers put into building it, creates a moving space for thought, reflection and contemplation."

"Our visit and peace symbols of earth, water, fire and air, will be a part of that."

After visiting the Temple the delegation travelled on to Lisburn where they were welcomed by Mayor Andrew Ewing, along with representatives from Crewe United FC, the first group to visit Warrington offering the hand of peace in the wake of the Warrington bombing.

The team competes with Warrington Town each year for the Peace Cup, set to take place this year in Lisburn on the weekend of August 1.

The council and Crewe United were presented with special commemorative shirts from Warrington's historic FA Cup journey.

During the visit the delegation put on record their gratitude for the continued work both areas continue to undertake in furthering peace and reconciliation.



The peace delegation with artist David Best (centre)



The peace delegation in Lisburn presenting the Warrington Town shirts.

Impact Report 2014-2015



The Warrington Wolves
Charitable Foundation

Building a stronger community through sport



Trustees Team Talk

On behalf of the Board of Trustees we are pleased to report the continued success and growth of the Warrington Wolves Charitable Foundation throughout 2014 – 2015.

We have been able to engage with many participants using the power of sport, leaving a huge wolfprint on our community.



This year has seen **TRYs** scored all across our **strategic aims**.

Both on the field with our participants, and off the field with staff and structural developments.

The winning of two prestigious awards highlighted what a successful year 2014 was.



Warrington and Cheshire Sports Award for Social Impact



Super League's Man of Steel Best Community Programme



With the launch of a **3 year plan** for The Foundation and the **appointment of new Trustees**, next season will provide increased drive to deliver:

a passionate approach to Sport, Education, Health and the Arts.



Thanks to all of our Patrons, Funders, Sponsors, Partners and Volunteers who continue to Believe.

The Big Hit!

Rugby League is at the forefront of The Foundation's work due to our strong affiliation to Warrington Wolves Rugby League Club. Following the announcement of funding from SKY to develop grassroots Rugby League through the SKY Try Initiative, 'The Big Hit Strategy' was launched.

Each of the Super League Clubs have received funding for 7 years to increase the participation levels in Rugby League.

Working with The Warrington and Cheshire Rugby League Management Board, the aim of the strategy is to get **more people, playing more Rugby League, more often.**

The Community Rugby League team will work with the 72 Primary Schools and 12 Secondary Schools in Warrington to deliver FREE Rugby League coaching and offer regular competitions to encourage young people to continue to play and watch the sport.

Launching The Big Hit Strategy was the Inaugural Warrington Man of Steel Awards, which recognised those who excel or go above and beyond to develop the community game in the town. Former Super League Men of Steel were in attendance, including Jamie Peacock, Paul Sculthorpe and Warrington's own Ken Kelly, to present the winners with their awards.



6,000
young people coached



Engage

Golden Gates Housing Trust

Effective partnership work is at the forefront of many organisations and The Wolves Foundation prides itself on creating strong links with others around the town.

Golden Gates Housing Trust first joined the team in 2010 through the delivery of the 'Get Britain Working' Programme, encouraging their residents aged 16-24 to participate in Sports Leadership Training to gain a qualification to signpost them to future employment.

Participant Jake Ryder decided that, upon completion of the programme he would volunteer with The Foundation to put his skills into practice.

Jake had previously been involved in criminal activity and was also at risk of going down the wrong path, and so a change of environment and positive mentors were extremely beneficial for him.

In 2011, Golden Gates Housing Trust extended the partnership further, as 'Engage Warrington' was created and the idea simple; to deliver FREE diversionary activities within



Bewsey, Orford, Longford and Dallam for young people to discourage them from taking part in anti-social behaviour. Jake was employed by The Foundation on an apprenticeship to run the project, and also complete an NVQ in Business Administration.

Jake has also been on a personal journey, gaining more responsibility and now working closely with Meadowside Primary School in a coaching and mentoring role for

some of their pupils. He has also been successful in receiving funding from Lloyds TSB, to create the BOLDER Project to train people to become sports leaders in the same way that he has.

The partnership is set to develop further in 2015 as they team up with the TRY Hard Project to deliver an inter-generational project of seated exercise sessions within their Retirement Living Schemes.



After engaging with over 3,500 children over the years, the project is still going strong and running in the same locations around Warrington.

Empower

Young Trustees

Working in partnership with Youth Discovery Ventures, The Foundation have a team of young people who meet on a monthly basis to aid our work.

The Young Trustees provide a voice for young people using their own experiences to decide how best our resources can be used.

An important part of their work is also to liaise with The Foundation's Board of Trustees with a representative also attending each of the charity's full Board Meetings.

Alice Kelly is a founder member of the Young Trustees and has come on a remarkable journey. Not only has she gained valuable experience through the activities and the projects that the group take part in, but they have helped shape her to make important life choices regarding her future.

2010 Alice joined the Young Trustees as one of the youngest members of the group.

2011 At age 13, embarked on a Peer Education trip to The Gambia

Applied for funding from o2 Think Big and successfully received £2,200 to create a community Giant for the Chester Giant Parade.

2012 Completed Child Exploitation Online Policing (CEOP) training and delivered this to other youth and community groups to inform them of the importance of internet safety.

Was selected to represent the Young Trustees and carry the Olympic Torch.

2013 Took part in disability awareness training and used these skills to volunteer with various Foundation groups.

2014 Became joint Chair of the Young Trustees – a remarkable journey from being the youngest member to now the most senior member.

2015 Revisited The Gambia after four years and delivered arts and dance sessions in the local schools and community.



Along with her experiences, Alice has also worked towards various qualifications including Level One Hockey Leadership, Makaton training, First Aid and ASDAN Youth Achievement.

She now hopes that, as a senior member of the Young Trustees, she can help the other members to become more confident and experience the things that she has.

5 life-changing years

Compete

2012: The Year of Our Legacy

Handball Club: Following on from the 2012 Olympic Legacy, the popularity of Handball has soared not only in Warrington but nationally.



Through increased partnership work with England Handball Association, the profile of the sport and the participation levels are at an all-time high.

2014 marked a successful year for the Warrington Wolves Handball Club as they played at their first ever international fixture at their home in Manchester.

The sport is also thriving at a younger age group, with satellite clubs running in four of the local High Schools, attracting the young people to experience playing the sport on a weekly basis.

82 registered players

Through the increased work with these groups, 35 players have now joined the Warrington Wolves Junior Handball Club. The popularity of Handball is certainly on the increase, and through the delivery of educational workshops and training courses it will be part of The Foundation for the foreseeable future.

Volleyball Club: As a result of the increasing popularity of Volleyball within the town, The Warrington Wolves Volleyball Club has now initiated a thriving junior section to develop the players of the future.

40 junior members
4 adult teams 

Following a structured programme of coaching within local schools, the Club has seen a surge in new participants who are keen to learn new and develop existing skills in a supportive environment.

The Warrington Wolves Volleyball Club have also been awarded Volley 1 accreditation by Volleyball England

Volley 1 Accreditation

which recognises and rewards clubs who exhibit consistently high standards of good practice.

By offering a quality experience for both junior and adult sections, the weekly sessions provide opportunities to keep active and participate in a fantastic team sport.

Inspire

BBC Children in Need

The Foundation were delighted to secure further funding from BBC Children in Need in 2014, to enable them to grow and develop their inclusive work for young people with disabilities and additional needs.

The funding was first secured in 2009, when The Foundation devised and delivered a varied programme of visual and performing arts activities, workshops and performances within Warrington. The Wolfprint Project went from strength to strength, holding weekly creative arts and dance sessions for young people, unique holiday activities including drumming, singing, puppetry and drama supported by a comprehensive afterschool activity within various SEN schools and provisions throughout the town.

We have engaged with over **600** young people

The Children in Need Project has grown to now incorporate both the Total:Sport Project and the Wolfprint Project through a combined approach; developing the existing programme whilst creating further opportunities for these young people to take part in such as football / sports tournaments, dance performances, theatre visits, days out etc.

Working alongside:

9 separate community groups and
15 different education establishments



Get Involved!

Whether you are a local business looking to give something back to your community, or an individual wanting to challenge yourself and raise some funds – we need you!

As a registered charity, we rely heavily on goodwill and donations in order to continue our fantastic work.

Our Community Business Patron Scheme involves local and national businesses who want to contribute something to their community and also a local charity. The Patrons hold quarterly network meetings with a difference and we use this as an opportunity to present on what we have achieved, forthcoming activities and also allow the businesses to network and make much needed connections.

2014-2015 has seen the customers of Sainsbury's Church Street select The Foundation as their Charity of the Year for a second year running. Not only have their staff been involved in raising funds for the organisation, they have also contributed their time voluntarily to assist with a variety of projects and events and challenged themselves physically through bike rides and mountain climbs.

From crazy challenges to silly sports, we are always looking for people who want to go that extra mile and we guarantee that your support is invaluable!



**Over £30,000
was raised through our
fundraising efforts in the
past year**

For more information please contact:

Warrington Wolves Charitable Foundation
Halliwell Jones Stadium
Mike Gregory Way
Warrington, WA2 7NE

📞 01925 248894
✉️ community@wolvesfoundation.com
💻 www.wolvesfoundation.com

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**The Warrington Wolves
CharitableFoundation**
Building a stronger community through sport

New and exciting stage school opens its doors

A NEW and exciting stage school, the Fun Star Academy is opening its doors at the New Media Centre in Warrington.

Founder Cat Edwards has been performing all her life after studying performing arts and appearing in many professional theatre shows throughout the country.

Cat then gained a recording contract, also working as a session singer for many major record labels. She still continues to perform in venues all over the UK and abroad as well as performing in many different theatre shows she produces with her own production company.

She also enjoys regularly working in TV and film.

It has always been a dream of Cat's to open her own stage school and share her wealth of experience to help encourage and motivate youngsters to start a career in the entertainment industry, covering all aspects of singing, dancing and drama.

Funstar Academy offers this and more including dance and studio parties.



Throughout the school holidays Funstar runs different themed workshops.

For more information visit www.funstaracademy.co.uk

Rail electrification boost for town

THE Liverpool to Manchester, via Warrington Central, railway line has been prioritised for electrification – a major boost for the town.

A cross-party group set up by the Government to advise on rail investment has published a report recommending which routes to improve first.

Twelve lines across the north of England have been prioritised for electrification – and the Liverpool-Warrington-Manchester line is second on the list.

The Warrington Bank Quay-Chester line also sneaks in at number 12.

All 12 lines are dubbed "Tier One" lines and should be considered for the next funding cycle of 2019-2024, the cross-party group said.

Electric trains accelerate faster than their diesel equivalents and would allow for shorter journey times, according to the report.

The North of England Electrification Task Force said new electric trains would also mean less overcrowding on the routes.

A number of routes across northern England are already being electrified, including Liverpool to Wigan and the Manchester-Bolton-Preston-Blackpool line.

But electrification work will be dependent on Network Rail.

Transport Secretary Patrick McLoughlin said: "I want to see a rolling plan for further electrification and this study will have a vital part to play in setting the agenda for 2019 and beyond."

"Network Rail will take the task force's findings into account as it develops its nationwide plan to



improve the nation's railways."

Warrington Chamber of Commerce has campaigned for electrification of the Liverpool-Warrington-Manchester line for some time – not least because it could preserve Warrington's direct rail links with Leeds, York and Scarborough which have been under threat.

Chief executive Colin Daniels (pictured above) said: "We welcome the report and recommendation of the cross-party group set up by the government to advise on the rail investment and that this line is considered as a 'Tier One' line and No 2 on the priority line."

"Following a campaign by the Chamber of Commerce this change of heart is a positive move."

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Just in Time - Iconic clock rescued from demolition!

AS work on the first part of the multi-million pound Bridge Street Quarter Project gets underway in Warrington town centre an iconic clock that has been a local landmark for years has been saved from demolition by local jewellers PJ Jewellers.

The "Time for Business" clock has hung in Time Square since 1984 and over the years has become a recognisable local landmark. It was originally positioned in Bank Street as part of the Warrington Trading Standards office.

Rather than let it be destroyed, local business, PJ Jewellers - who started their business in the market from a small stall 15 years ago and are now a successful independent working jewellers in the market - have offered to renovate the clock ready for installation at their stall within the new temporary market when it opens.

The temporary market hall is set to open in two years' time. Until then the market will remain fully trading within its existing home where it is business as usual. The temporary market hall will be operational from January 2017 until 2019 when the new permanent £10 million market hall will then open and utilise the

fabulous Grade II listed frontage of the former Boots building as its Bridge Street entrance.

Warrington Borough Council is very keen to retain the heritage values associated with the market place and the town centre. Warrington Market itself has a very long local history and has been located within the town centre since the year 1255.

The Bridge Street Quarter Regeneration project is being delivered by Warrington & Co., on behalf of Warrington Borough Council with development partner Muse and will provide a new market hall, a multiplex cinema, a number of family friendly restaurants, a new council office building and will create a new public square.

Councillor Mike Hannon, Deputy Leader of Warrington Borough Council said: "Demolition works are soon to start to make way for the construction of a new temporary market and the clock is now definitely ticking as we enter this exciting stage of development. The existing market will remain fully open for business throughout this period and will offer many special deals for customers.

"We are very keen to promote



Alistair Walker from PJ Jewellers with the clock which is being restored.

and support local businesses and would encourage all residents to 'think local' when shopping. Discover the wonders of market shopping".

The progress of the clock

renovation can be followed over the next few months as it is taken apart piece by piece ready for reconstruction with regular updates posted on the Warrington Market Facebook page.

Close the Gap initiative lifts community

EIGHT out of every 10 residents in an area once considered one of Warrington most deprived communities are now "satisfied" with it as a place to live.

In 2011, when an investment programme was launched in the Longford area, only six out of 10 residents said they were satisfied.

The remarkable turn-around has taken place since Golden Gates Housing Trust (GGHT) and its partners embarked on a five year programme designed to improve the quality of life for local residents.

The project aimed to "Close the Gap" between the area and more affluent parts of Warrington.

As well as improving the look

and feel of the Longford area, the project also targeted high levels of crime and anti-social behaviour. Many residents were unwilling to report issues to either GGHT or the police about the minority of residents who were causing the problems were affecting the lives of the majority.

In consultation with residents, GGHT agreed to deliver a multi million pound investment programme including the replacement of the old "castle walls" and the installation of new driveways, dropped kerbs and security packages to GGHT homes.

The programme also included funding to transform the run down

Densham Park into a community garden.

GGHT and its partners did not want to just invest in improvements to properties and green spaces but also recognised the need to tackle the minority of anti-social residents, improve employment opportunities and improve resident's health and well-being.

To help address these issues they put in place more neighbourhood officers than ever before.

The officers use the latest digital technology, allowing them to spend more time in their specific patch and provide a visible presence to tenants and members of the community. It also allows them to spend more time supporting and safeguarding the Trust's most vulnerable tenants and their families, helping them make an even bigger difference to their lives.

Additionally, GGHT part funded two Police Community Support Officers to give everyone the confidence that GGHT and its partners wanted to resolve many of the issues that affected Longford residents.

To measure progress GGHT have carried out four surveys over the last three years. In 2011 only 62 per cent of Longford residents were satisfied with their neighbourhood. This has risen each year to a high of 81 per cent at the end of 2014.

In 2011 only 37 per cent of residents felt safe when going out after dark. This rose to 69 per cent last year.

Across all the measures, resident satisfaction has improved

significantly and police have seen crime and anti social behaviour reduce significantly.

GGHT's head of inner neighbourhoods, James Bacon said. "The work we have done in Longford shows what can be done when partners work together in a focussed way to make real improvements to a neighbourhood. We are not naïve in thinking that all problems have been resolved but our resident survey shows that it is a very different place than it was in 2011. Some of the positive things we have done in Longford are now being implemented in other areas of Warrington."

Cllr Kate Hannon, the borough council's lead member for leisure, community and culture, said: "This is a great project as it has delivered real and tangible results for the people of Longford. To see a rise in satisfaction rates shows how important this is to people and highlights how important it is to be able to work in partnership and make changes within the community. It's clear that by bringing in new resources such as the job club or improving the pavements we can make a real difference to people's lives and make changes for the better."

Pictured: From L to R: Cllr Kate Hannon, GGHT chief executive Peter Mercer, James Bacon, Longford Residents Association chairman Roy Humphries, Cllr Kerri Morris, Cllr Mike Hannon and GGHT neighbourhood manager Jane Lauchlan.





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Borough gateway to get greener



Cllr Allin Dirir, Cllr Linda Dirir, Sharon Walls, service manager public realm and Cllr Kathryn Brennan chairman of Penketh Parish Council discuss the transformation of the Penketh Gateway.

A KEY gateway into Warrington will be getting greener and smarter thanks to a new borough council project - and a seven metre high fir tree will be the centre piece of the gateway.

The council is carrying out environmental improvement works along the A562 Warrington Road to improve this major route into town.

The transformation of the area will be taking place in two phases during the year.

Phase One involves tree planting along the A562 Cuerdley Roundabout and along the A5080 Farnworth Road roundabout.

A variety of flowers and trees are being planted within the Cuerdley Roundabout and along the side of the roads and there will be vegetation screening added along lengths of fencing to the highway boundary.

The fir tree will be put in place during this phase and thanks to a power feed it will be covered in lights for the festive season.

Phase two is still at the planning stage, but it is intended to begin in September to coincide with next available planting season.

It will include tree and low level planting within the central reserve between the A562 Cuerdley Roundabout and Heath Road, dressing the central reservation surfacing and a general review of the street furniture and signage along this corridor.

Running in parallel with Phase 1, the council's street lighting team will be carrying out column and lantern replacement works.

The project is joint funded by the council, through its capital programme and Penketh Parish Council.

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Adrian plans global awareness campaign

AS he approaches the first anniversary of his one man anti-hate disability awareness campaign around Britain Warrington's former GB sword fencing champion Adrian Derbyshire is now planning to go global!

In the past year Adrian, who has an inoperable brain tumour, has taken his message to 39,000 school children around the country, hand cycling around 3,000 miles in the process, raising awareness around bullying, hate crimes and disability.

Adrian, a Trustee at Warrington Disability Partnership, has now been in talks with 14 different countries about taking his campaign global and has already been invited back to the Isle of Man where he completed the famous TT Circuit in one hour 38 minutes.

He has been backed by Cheshire Police and Crime Commissioner John Dwyer and various local businesses.

Adrian gets his motivation from inspiring others, with an amazing philosophy on life - considering every day could be his last!

He was left confined to a wheelchair when his life was turned upside down when the lights literally went out as he was finishing a day at work at Starbucks.

He suffered a brain haemorrhage, caused by an inoperable tumour, that left him critically ill.

But he bounced back showing true determination as he took up wheelchair fencing.

In 2012 he had hoped to compete in the Paralympics and was given the honour of carrying a torch but had to withdraw from the event through injury.

Previously he won two gold and three silver medals for Great Britain.

Such is his condition he could have another brain haemorrhage at any time.

"Each day could be my last so I want to use my time inspiring others," said Adrian.

"I now have plans to take my campaign around the world and have already spoken to 14 different countries. If I can go international next it will be an amazing challenge."

The work of Adrian and Warrington Disability Partnership has inspired local businessman Carl Oates from MBS Site Supplies to donate 2.5 per cent of all revenue generated in Warrington to the charity.

Carl said: "Adrian is such an inspirational guy and helps put things into perspective."

To find out more about Adrian and his campaign visit www.adrianderbyshire.co.uk



Adrian is pictured with MBS Site Supplies MD Carl Oates

www.AdrianDerbyshire.co.uk

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Great Britain Fencing Star and Ambassador Adrian Derbyshire will be completing a 4,000 mile hand-cycling tour making stops along the way to talk to schools, colleges, universities and after school programs about sports, health and well being, disability awareness, going the extra mile to help others, being positive role models for one another and educating children about what a Hate Crime is and the affects it has on its victims. Adrian will start his tour in his home town of Warrington then move through Cheshire, the North West, the UK and Internationally. To date Adrian has spoken to 35,000 children.

If you would like Adrian to visit and talk to your school or group please contact him by email, follow him on Twitter and Facebook. This 3 year campaign, which started in 2014, continues throughout 2015 and 2016 and is a multi-partnership tour including police, borough and county councils, charities, organisations and businesses. If you would like to take part and even fundraise, Adrian would welcome your support.

 www.justgiving.com/AdrianDerbyshire

Financially yours

By David Watkinson

Auto enrolment is coming!

Every employer and every employee in the UK will be affected. Large employers, and their employees, are already within the system. However, there is a staged implementation of the regulations, and smaller employers and their employees will start to be affected within the next 12 months.

If you think you will not be affected then think again. Failure to comply with the regulations could lead to severe penalties. You cannot avoid this even if you are considering "opting out". You will need to take action within certain time limits, and then repeat it regularly. Even one-man limited companies are affected. Unless the owner/director complies then he will be penalised.

And it is only a question of time before the right to opt-out is withdrawn. The General Election is in May. Most employers will not be affected until 2016 or 2017. It is highly likely that this currently voluntary tax will become compulsory within the next few years; that is what has happened elsewhere!

So, how will you be affected? The Pension Regulator has published a number of guides on-line covering the following topics:

1. When will I be affected. If you know the employment PAYE reference, which will be found on any P60, then you can find out the employers staging date by following the link www.thepensionsregulator.gov.uk/employers/tools/staging-date.aspx.

2. What employers must do at the staging date can be found at www.thepensionsregulator.gov.uk/employers/tools/employer-duties.aspx

3. How employers should automatically enrol their staff is explained at www.thepensionsregulator.gov.uk/employers/tools/automatic-enrolment.aspx

4. How much it will cost you is available at www.thepensionsregulator.gov.uk/employers/tools/employer-contributions.aspx

One thing is certain. There will be substantial costs involved for both employers and employees. We currently operate payrolls for over 100 clients. Whilst we are currently looking into this, the cost to employers of complying with the regulations in software costs alone seems to be in excess of £1 per month for each employee, and that is before paying into the pension!

WatkinsonBlack are pleased to advise on these as well as other matters, including providing a very cost-effective payroll bureau service. If you want to arrange a no-obligation initial meeting on any taxation or accounting matter then please contact us.

Please note that these ideas are intended to inform rather than advise and you should always obtain professional advice before taking any action.



David Watkinson and Margaret Black



Council support for Youth Zone project

TOWN Hall chiefs at Warrington have agreed to offer support in principle to the plan to establish a Youth Zone in the former Mr Smith's building at Bridge Foot – a scheme that would involve a £3 million capital investment by the borough council.

But they are to receive further legal advice on the security of the land and building, in view of the investment involved and will receive a further report in the summer.

In the meantime, the council will continue to work with Warrington Youth Club and Onside Youth Zones, the two bodies involved in the proposals, in order to consider the business case.

Members of the council's executive board have also noted the positive outcome of a consultation with young people in the town regarding the project.

Onside have already created six successful Youth Zones across the North West and more are in the pipeline.

The Warrington venture will be run by a charity formed out of the existing Warrington Youth Club with backing from Onside and local businesses. The building – originally built as a cinema – will be purchased by Onside and local businesses and leased to the youth club for a peppercorn rent.

Based on existing Youth Zones, the Warrington facility will have a wide range of sporting and artistic activity spaces, including a multi-

use 3G outdoor pitch, a four court indoor sports hall, a climbing wall, a dance and performing arts studio, a martial arts/boxing gym, a fully equipped fitness suite, a music room, film and multi-media suites, arts, craft and fashion areas, a girls room, café, and other spaces.

It is expected the site and building can be purchased for £1 million and the council's £3 million will be required to adapt and re-develop it, with only the front facia remaining untouched. The development is seen as contributing to Warrington's own plans for reviving the town centre and the Mersey waterfront.

The council's investment is expected to unlock further private sector investment of about £2.25 million and possibly European and charitable grants.

A survey of nearly 2,000 young people in the 9-18 age range showed that more than 64 per cent of them thought there was not enough for young people to do in Warrington. Nearly 87 per cent felt young people would use a Youth Zone – although this figure fell to 74.5 per cent when asked if they would use it themselves.

Top five activities listed by young people who took part in a survey were watching television (63.8 per cent) going to a friend's house (54.1 per cent), social media, (53.6 per cent) socialising (47.2 per cent) and staying at home (34 per cent).

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How the council could save £135,000 on elections

ESTIMATED savings of up to £135,000 would be achieved over a three-year period if Warrington Borough Council switched to having elections only once every four years.

And a majority of people who took part in a consultation exercise run by the council are in favour of making the change.

Fifty nine per cent of respondents favour whole council elections once every four years, 38 per cent favoured the present system of elections by thirds – which means elections three years out of every four.

Three per cent of respondents stated they had no clear preference.

But there were only 89 respondents which, in a borough with an adult population of more than 160,000 suggests that the vast majority of people don't care one way or the other!

A report on the outcome of the consultation will go to a meeting of the full council on March 30.

Officers have pointed out the advantages and disadvantages of the two electoral systems.

All-out elections would give the council a clear mandate for four years, allowing it to adopt a more strategic long term approach to policy and decision making and spend less time on election campaigns.

They would produce results that would be simpler and more easily understood by the electorate. There would be a clear opportunity for the electorate to change the political composition of the council once every four years.

It would be cheaper for the council – and for political parties.

But elections by thirds would avoid the risk of a complete change of councillors, bringing in too many members with no experience. There would be a greater likelihood of elections being influenced by local issues.

People would have to vote for only one person rather than two or three.

Voters would be able to pass judgement on the council annually, rather than once every four years.

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