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**Sonya's  
song  
goes  
global!**

**Page 3**

Picture: Paul Jackson

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# Editor's Comment



I was delighted to attend the relaunch of Warrington Civic Society and look forward to working closely with the organisation to help ensure our town's historic buildings are protected for future generations to enjoy.

Looking at much of Warrington now it is hard to believe that in the 1950s it was described as a fine example of a Georgian town.

The recent demise of the Mr Smith's building made it hit home how important it is to try and preserve what we have got left, although there were mixed views on how important the former Ritz cinema building was to the local skyline.

But over the years we have certainly lost many important buildings.

You can read more about the relaunch of the Civic Society on page 21 of this issue which provides details of how to get involved.

It is great to see the younger generation taking an interest in the

history of our town.

Meanwhile I had the dubious honour of Chairing the first ever local elections hustings at the Quaker Meeting House in the run-up to the local and General elections.

Feelings ran a little high at one point but again it is great to see people engaging in local politics and raising issues close to their hearts.

Next year sees the whole council up for re-election so it was a pleasure warning those being

elected this year to make sure they do a good job – or face losing their seat next year.

Finally congratulations to our town's two MPs, Helen Jones (Lab Warrington North) and David Mowat (Con Warrington South) on being re-elected in the General Election, both with increased majorities.

I am sure they will both continue to work hard to ensure our town is well represented in the House of Commons, while at the same time dealing with local issues.

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# Sonya's song going global

A WARRINGTON mum of two is celebrating after seeing a song she wrote as a 15-year-old schoolgirl go global!

Now aged 29, Sonya Hurst from Burtonwood has been singing and composing music since being a little girl.

Despite a varied style including pop, jazz, rock and gospel - it is country music which is her true love.

With a range of experience in her teens including performing as a solo artist in pubs, clubs, holiday camps and events she also enjoyed performing in residential homes.

Sonya, who has two sons, left college in 2004 with a triple grade distinction in Music practice and went on to perform dinner music and some session singing/backing vocals in her spare time, while continuing to write songs and play piano. She is classically trained to grade 8 with the ABRSM.

She is currently performing in boy/girl duo TKO while working on recording some of her own music.

But it is her country songwriting that is creating quite a buzz at the moment and her first single 'Emily' which she wrote when she was 15 years-old has been released on all major digital music distributors.

She is already enjoying rotation on several radio stations across the



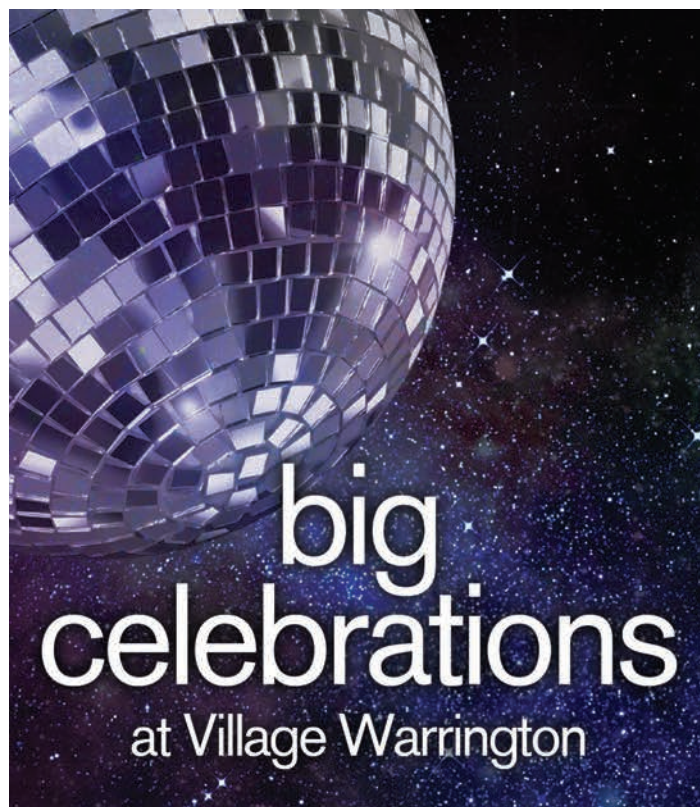
Picture courtesy: Paul Jackson

globe with her recent tracks.

"The most exciting part of all this for me is that people all over the world are listening to songs I have written myself!" said Sonya.

"It's very surreal to think that people in Australia and America are hearing my songs on the radio. I have always dreamt of going to Nashville and my biggest ambition as a young girl was to sing at the Grand Ole Opry. I love country music and always have. I was inspired by people like LeAnn Rimes and grew up listening to Charlie Landsborough and Patsy Cline. Now I'm enjoying being able to do what I love most and my goal is to keep on doing that."

You can keep up to date with Sonya via social media and listen to her singing on Reverbnation.



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Hello and welcome to my monthly column . . .

# Hypnotes

by Michael Mahoney

## The Mind-Body Connection

**It is becoming more widely recognized that there is a connection between our thoughts and feelings and how they affect us physically, and ultimately determine the state of our health.**

There is a lot of media attention on the foods we eat and how our environment can affect us. Issues such as obesity, stress, depression, anxiety and chronic health problems are regularly highlighted on the radio and TV. Therefore we have no excuses not to address our own environmental concerns, i.e. what we do and how we live affects our mental and physical health. However, if it was so easy, we would all be doing it. So what stops us changing the things that affect our health?

We are very complicated beings and are influenced by our environment on many levels, externally and internally. The external factors may be more easily fixed, however, that depends on circumstances and the internal factors, i.e. your irrational mind.

You may be aware that the mind and body are connected by the Central Nervous System from the Enteric Nervous System in the Gut (called the second brain) to the brain in your head. Think about the

statement 'I know it in my gut', then you may get some understanding how communication travels between our two separate brains. Are you confused yet? Maybe part of you understands this, and if that is so it is most likely your gut feeling, rather than your head.

How does how environment affect this communication between gut and head? What you may find most surprising, it is mostly your internal environment, i.e. your own thoughts and belief system, which has been further influenced by your own DNA. This will have been externally influenced by our ancestors, and the environmental factors that were around in past generations as well as our own.

Do you often feel that life is moving too fast, and you can't keep up, are you still being influenced by your parents and grandparents beliefs and actions whilst attempting to move with the changes around you. An example, in point, technology – can you keep up with it?

All the factors discussed here influence our coping mechanisms and ultimately our levels of stress, resulting in health concerns. If our 'gut feeling' doesn't match up with what our head says, then chaos erupts. Our internal beliefs, attitudes and responses are

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.



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[www.michaelmahoneyhypnotherapist.com](http://www.michaelmahoneyhypnotherapist.com)

triggered and usually we revert back to the norm. This can result in inappropriate or child-like coping skills leaving us feeling helpless and out of control.

The good news is that change is always possible. Education is well documented as a way of creating positive change in people. If we learn new things about ourselves as well as about our environment, that new awareness opens doors for us. Reading this article may have already started the process for you, and started you on a journey into finding out more about the mind-body connection and how it affects you and your health.

There are also many ways that you can learn to listen to your body and to recognize the signs it gives you about what needs to change to improve your health.

If you wish to learn more about this, please contact me or my associate, Cate on: 01925 658322 to arrange an Initial Consultation.

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# Rotary gearing up for charity banger rally



MEMBERS of Warrington Rotary club are gearing up for a charity banger rally in September travelling across eight countries from the Manchester Ship Canal to the Grand Canal in Venice.

President Eric Russell and four other club members will be travelling in two old bangers covering 1,250 miles over five days – aiming to raise £3,000 to be split between three charities, St Rocco's Hospice, St Joseph's Family centre and the international Rotary appeal to help eradicate polio.

Eric and fellow Rotarian Joe Chiappa launched the fund-

raising appeal at St Rocco's 30th anniversary open day.

They will be taking part in the annual Motorscape Rally Road trip, with two other Rotary clubs.

Eric said: "I was sat in the pub having a pint when I spotted something on twitter about the rally and thought "We can do that" and the rest is history!"

Sponsorship can be pledged at <https://www.justgiving.com/rc-warrington/Sponsorship> opportunities are also available on the cars.

## Rixton-with-Glazebrook Carnival returns

BUILDING on the success of last year's event, the first in over 30 years, the Rixton-with-Glazebrook Carnival will be held on the Village Green on Saturday 27th June from 11am to 4pm.

Entry is free to the Carnival; a family fun day out with attractions for all ages.

Music will be provided by Cadishead Band, Bateria Barulho de Cima samba band and other local, talented musicians. Many varieties of dance are being brought by Dance Rhythm, Warrington Wolves Fusion and Manchester Morris Men.

Full details of the Carnival, including how to enter the competitions, can be found at [www.rixtonwithglazebrook.net](http://www.rixtonwithglazebrook.net)

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# Demolition work starts on Bridge Street quarter

IT'S been another very busy month with lots of development activity, the most visible of which has to be the start of the demolition works on the Bridge Street Quarter project.

The bulldozers are in and very soon all of the old Time Square buildings will be down. Construction will start later this year.

Just up the road at Stadium Quarter the external works for the Business Incubator are nearing completion and the internal fit out will soon begin in readiness for a September opening. The next few weeks will see a start on site on the construction of UTC Warrington which will be situated next door.

Across town at Omega the

external cladding is now visible on the huge 685,000sq ft HQ for The Hut Group and most of the cladding is now on the 240,000sq ft unit for Plastic Omnium. The extension of Skyline Drive which will connect Junction 8 of the M62 across to Omega Boulevard by the Royal Mail Depot is set to complete in August.

Warrington is a town in demand by business that's for sure. A recent report by JLL singled Warrington out as having the highest economic growth in the North and the fifth

highest overall in the UK. They predicted that Warrington will have second highest employment growth in the UK in the office sector over the next five years, largely buoyed by the strength and growth of the town's nuclear cluster.

The JLL report was reflective of the findings contained in Warrington's Annual Property Review which reported that 2014 was a record year for investor take-up, its second best year for deals and third best year for offices.

It was interesting then to see that further new research by Colliers International has indicated that the supply of available large scale Grade A industrial and logistics space of more than 100,000 sq ft in the North West of England will run out in early 2016, with the region having just nine months' worth of supply left.

The area zoned for industrial and logistics space at Omega is rapidly running out but I'm sure that the Colliers findings will encourage take up of the last remaining plots. Similarly the JLL report will, hopefully, spur and encourage a start on the office element at Omega and also within other locations across the area.

## Tongues are wagging in Warrington



WAGS Doggy Day Care School of Excellence is coming to Warrington and promises to bring lots of joy and happiness for all our furry friends, whilst creating new job opportunities in the local area.

Wags have now been open and successfully operating in the Worsley day care centre for four years and are now well established with over 850 members.

Colin Owen, one of the Wags Team members said: "We are extremely excited to be bringing Wags to Warrington, the interest in our new site has been overwhelming, but places are limited so we are encouraging dog owner to contact Wags early."

A Wags education for our furry friends initiates a lifelong love of learning and development. This is achieved through our stimulating surroundings and our professionally designed programme of activities. Dogs are encouraged to develop abilities such as social interaction, imagination, observation, exploration and investigation and above all to enjoy learning.

The techniques implemented at Wags has made them one of the most respected and unique independent dog schools in the UK, achievement is highly valued

at Wags and dogs learning programmes helps develop all of their doggy skill sets.

Wags website gives you a small insight into a dog's school life and a glimpse of what's on offer. Only by visiting the Wags centre, will you experience the true atmosphere created by the staff and dogs themselves.

In these ever changing times of social responsibility Wags are aware that as the leading force in day care they too are responsible. They aim to help guide the legislative bodies to create any new laws for dogs and their owners, which is inevitable in the next few years.

The Wags Team are very excited to be able to continue their talented work with our Woofers of Warrington who will only benefit from the experience at Wags Doggy Day Care.

The new venture will be opening this summer in Taylor's Business Park, Warrington in between Birchwood and Culcheth and they would be delighted to show everyone around.

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# Golden Gates win top award at Housing Excellence Awards

WARRINGTON based Golden Gates Housing Trust's (GGHT) Employment Initiatives Team is celebrating after picking up a top employability award at the Housing Excellence Awards 2015.

The team won the award for the 'Best Tenant Employment/Training Programme' at the prestigious event held in Manchester.

The award, which was presented to GGHT Chair, Roy Smith and Communications & Regeneration Manager, Neil Martin, celebrates housing organisations which have helped people back into employment and schemes that have been successful in improving residents' prospects, from CV writing and practical workshops to supporting people to apply for jobs.

Since its launch in 2012, GGHT's Employment Team has supported over 500 residents into employment through its innovative Positive Change programme, working in partnership with local businesses and training providers to deliver a range of effective interventions including one-to-one support, training and tailored trainee and apprenticeship opportunities.

GGHT was also shortlisted in the 'Best IT System or APP' for its Housing Support Pro system in partnership with Footprint Solutions. Not stopping there its

Alder Green project also received two nominations including 'Best Regeneration Scheme' and 'Sustainable Housing Scheme of the Year'.

GGHT Chair Roy Smith said: "We are so proud to have won this award and I'm delighted the teams success has been recognised. It recognises our commitment to residents that we are there to support them into employment or training in today's challenging job markets and our ability to quickly react to ensure people are supported to access current opportunities."

The award for the 'Best Tenant Employment/Training Programme' underlines the significant achievements made by the GGHT Employment Team, in supporting more than 500 local residents into employment.

Commenting on GGHT's success, Torus group chief executive Rob Young said: "Creating opportunities and improving life chances is a primary focus for Torus. The North West is a fast developing economic hotspot and we're poised to help our customers take advantage of that fact."

As individual housing associations, Helena and GGHT have already achieved impressive results, as this award demonstrates, but as Torus we can - and will - do

so much more."

The Housing Excellence Awards is the industry event of the year and highlights and rewards those who are leading the way in the social housing sector.

Anyone who lives in one of GGHT's properties and would like additional support getting into employment, training or

volunteering can register on Positive Change. The programme has already helped over 500 local people into work over the last 3 years. For more information visit GGHT's Employment and Volunteering Support website page at [www.gght.org.uk/positivechange](http://www.gght.org.uk/positivechange)



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# College students eye-opening day at St. Rocco's

HEALTH and social care students from Priestley College learned about end of life care during an educational day at St. Rocco's.

The 20 pupils, aged 17-18, spent the day learning about service provision and the role of hospices in the management of life-limiting illnesses, in preparation for college exams in June.

Patient David Chilton, 52, joined the students to talk about his illness and how he is helped by the hospice.

David, who was diagnosed with bowel cancer in December last year and attends the Day Unit once a week, said: "It was a bit nerve-racking at first talking to the students but I really enjoyed it and they seemed to get something from it. It's important for people to learn about hospice care and what goes on at St. Rocco's."

Lynda Bond, Health and Social Care Tutor, accompanied the girls for their visit. She said: "Today has been a wonderful learning experience for the students, helping them bring their learning to life and prepare for their exams. They have all been surprised by the wonderful facilities at the Hospice and now have a much better understanding of what goes on there."

Olivia Todhunter, 17, said: "Before today I thought hospices were just a place people went to die but I've seen so much more and it's really opened my eyes."

Fellow student Carina Harper, 18, added: "I've learned that St. Rocco's looks after families as well as patients, so the support is there for everyone."

The educational visit is part of a larger initiative run by St. Rocco's, which engages with schools and colleges across Warrington. RocON! aims to challenge misconceptions around hospices and end of life care, and change young people's attitudes to death and dying.

The initiative is led by Jan Temenos, who added: "It was wonderful to welcome the college students to the Hospice. As future care professionals, it was fantastic to see how much they learned and how their perceptions changed over the day. I would also like to acknowledge the St Rocco's team, who gave their time to making the day such a success."



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<b>Sun 31 May</b>	<b>Vienna Festival Ballet 35th Anniversary Gala</b> A magical afternoon of classic dance	<b>Sun 12 Jul</b>	<b>Black Grape</b> Shaun Ryder, Bez and Kermit are back!
<b>Fri 5 Jun</b>	<b>70s Disco</b> Favourite disco tunes on original vinyl	<b>Fri 17 Jul</b>	<b>FILM: The Sound of Music (U)</b> The hills are alive!
<b>Sat 6 Jun</b>	<b>From The Saw Doctors</b> Stripped down acoustic show	<b>Sat 18 Jul</b>	<b>Comedy Store: Summer Special</b> Summer special laugh-fest
<b>Thu 11 Jun</b>	<b>Stiff Little Fingers</b> High energy, high octane	<b>Sun 6 Sep</b>	<b>Simon Weston: My Life, My Story</b> Inspirational life story

**Exhibitions**

Sat 2 May - Sat 11 Jun: Cross Street Arts

Sat 18 Jul: Pauline Rigby • Sat 18 Jul: My Subject is War

Visit [www.culturewarrington.org](http://www.culturewarrington.org) for more information on exhibitions.

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## Pyramid Hires' Open Evening

Thursday 18 June, 6pm-8pm, FREE

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E-mail us at [hires@culturewarrington.org](mailto:hires@culturewarrington.org)  
Or visit <http://hires.eventbrite.co.uk>

**Where to find us:**  
Pyramid, Cultural Quarter, Palmyra Square South, Warrington WA1 1BL

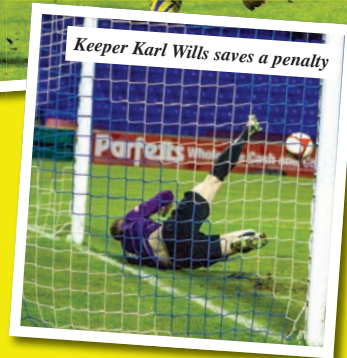
Free parking will be available at the rear of Pyramid for this event.

[www.culturewarrington.org](http://www.culturewarrington.org)



# warrington town CUP KINGS!

Pictures: John Hopkins



WARRINGTON Town FC signed off an historic season by lifting their first silverware in 14 years, winning the Doodson Sports Cup in a penalty shoot-out at Stockport's Edgeley Park, following a goalless 90 minutes against Farsley FC.

Goal keeper Karl Wills was the hero, saving two spot kicks as Warrington won the shoot-out 3-2 in front of their enthusiastic supporters who helped create another memorable night in the club's history following on from the FA Cup heroics earlier in the season.

Warrington not only reached the 1st Round Proper – but defeated League Two Exeter City at a sell-out Winner Recruitment Stadium in front of the live TV Cameras on Match of the Day before bowing out at Conference side Gateshead in the 2nd round, once again in front of the live TV cameras.

The FA Cup run catapulted the club into the national media spotlight.

Following on from the most successful season in the club's history Manager Shaun Reid is now busy strengthening his squad as he bids to win an elusive promotion.

New signings already made include experienced former league striker Steven Gillespie and fans favourite and goal machine Ciaran "Killer" Kilheeney.

Keep up to date with all the latest news from Warrington Town FC on [www.warrington-worldwide.co.uk](http://www.warrington-worldwide.co.uk) which includes full coverage of the cup final victory, including video highlights.



Manager Shaun Reid salutes the fans

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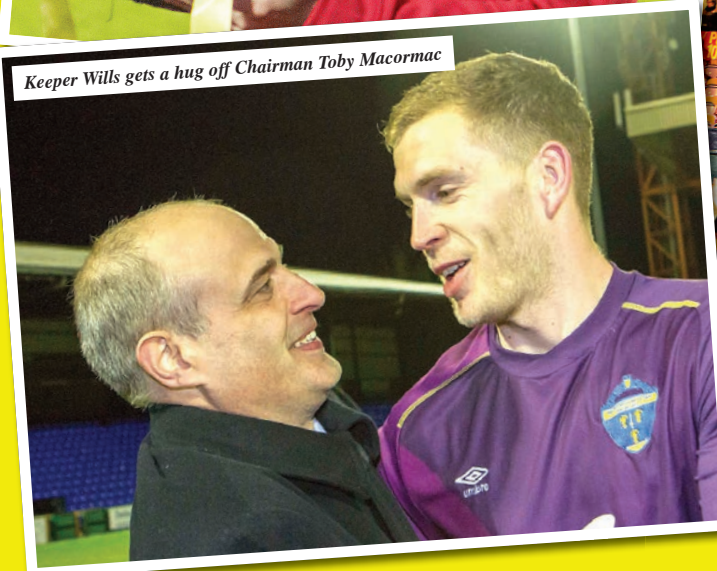
The team celebrate



Assistant Coach Lee Smith admires the cup



Scott Metcalfe with young fan Jack



Keeper Wills gets a hug off Chairman Toby Macormac



Manager Shaun Reid salutes the Barmy Army

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# Welcome to a whole new world!

warrington-worldwide website has been given a brand new look which is fully responsive meaning you can now read it with ease on your mobile devices.

Launched in 1999 as the country's first independent online newspaper the new website has been developed by locally based Carpe Diem.

It has been many months in the planning with one of the biggest tasks importing all the news and pictures covering the past 15 years!

## Moving with the times

Online Editor Gary Skentelbery said: "We have been working hard behind the scenes to move with the times, while at the same time retaining all the popular news features and elements of the previous site, including the ability to download your local community magazines.

"We will be bringing breaking news stories as they happen, while also updating each morning with local news items from around the various communities.

"Over the coming months we will continue to develop the site and are always keen to hear about your local news stories and events."

Please email them to [info@warrington-worldwide.co.uk](mailto:info@warrington-worldwide.co.uk)

The website is responsive to desk tops, tablets and mobile phones.

All areas of the site can be easily accessed from a tool bar at the top of the page or simply scroll down the page to see the various different

The screenshot shows the Warrington-Worldwide website homepage. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links for HOME, NEWS, SPORT, BUSINESS, LIFE STYLE, COMMUNITY, MAGAZINE DOWNLOADS, FORUMS, and CONTACT. Below this is a 'TRENDING' section with the headline 'Young gymnasts gain competition experience'. The main content area features a large 'WOLVES NEWS' section with a photo of a football player and the headline 'Wolves reject Higham bid'. To the right, there are smaller news snippets including 'Young gymnasts gain competition experience', 'Walk in the Park raises £1,000 for charity', and 'Warrington Town swoop for former 'Killer' goal machine'. A 'VIDEO' section is also visible with a headline 'Double disaster for Lib Dems as leader loses seat'. The bottom of the page has a 'NEWS' section with a headline 'Man arrested on suspicion of Cannabis Cultivation'.

sections. As well as the website Orbit News publish six community magazines - Lymm Life, warrington-worldwide, Village Life, Culcheth Life and Frodsham Life - and last

year also launched the A5 Lifestyle magazine.

All the magazines are also available to read online.

For more information on how to

promote your business online or via the community magazines call 01925 631592 or email [garys@warrington-worldwide.co.uk](mailto:garys@warrington-worldwide.co.uk)

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# Walk in the park raises £1,000 for charity

AFGHANISTAN war veteran Tom Coleridge, aged 23, was among scores of people who completed Warrington Disability Partnership's (WDP) 'A Walk in the Park' helping

raise a combined total of £1,000 for charity.

The Chapelford resident cruised through two sunny laps of the Sankey Valley Park circuit - using

a wheelchair with a handbike attachment - to clock up 10 kilometres.

"I'm absolutely shattered now, but what a great day!" said Tom - WDP's Disability Information Officer. "I've been training hard on the handbike at the gym and am so grateful to all my family and friends for their sponsorship, which is going to a great local charity that promotes independent living."

Other participants included a team from ASDA Warrington - who were 'Tickled Pink' to raise more than £100 for their own charity which backs the Breast Cancer Campaign and Breast Cancer Care - and WDP's founder and Chief Executive Officer Dave Thompson, MBE DL.

"I'd like to say a huge thank you to Janis Williams - our Team Leader of Community Engagement and Fundraising - and our wonderful team of volunteers, who together made this year's 'A Walk in the Park' the success story it has been," says Dave.

"We're very grateful to the Birchwood Lions, who provided stewardship along the route; Wolves' Community Foundation, who staffed their inflatable for the morning; Radio Warrington; and to our marketplace stallholders - Healthwatch Warrington, Change 4 Life, Warrington Sea Cadets, DEBRA, HALO, ASDA's 'Tickled Pink', Pathways CRI (a health, social care and criminal justice charity) and Brass Monkeys."



Dave also thanked Warrington Borough Council's 'Stronger Together' team for a community grant which funded the medals and personalised certificates for each participant, and Evelyn Street School for the use of their playground.

Warrington Parents and Carers exhibited throughout the day and supplied all of the arts and crafts materials used in the children's area.

"Most of all, a huge thank you to all the charities and individuals who took part in 'A Walk in the Park' and joined in the fun and games back at the Centre for Independent Living at Beaufort Street," he added.

To see a video of 'A Walk in the Park' getting under way, visit [www.facebook.com/disabilitypartnership](http://www.facebook.com/disabilitypartnership) and to see all the selfies and photos from the day, visit [www.twitter.com/wdpcomms](http://www.twitter.com/wdpcomms)

## Council honours 70th anniversary of VE Day



Joe Shaw, former Grenadier Guard and World War Two veteran, Reverend Paul Wilson Rector at St Elphin's, Mayor of Warrington Cllr Ted Finnegan, Kieran Matthews, Warrington Sea Cadets as they lit Warrington's beacon as part of the service.

WARRINGTON Council and residents joined the rest of the country in celebrating and honouring the 70th anniversary of VE Day.

The anniversary was marked in Warrington firstly with a 2-minute silence at 3pm followed by an evening service at St Elphin's Church which was well attended.

During this service Warrington's beacon was lit and joined the chain of over 100 beacons lit across the UK to mark the event.

VE Day represents the day, 70 years ago, when peace broke out and brought an end to nearly six years of war across Europe.

The Mayor of Warrington, Cllr Ted Finnegan, attended the event and said: "It was an honour to gather together with local residents and light our beacon which represented light emerging from the darkness of war."

"It is so important that we remember significant events in our history, honour all those who gave their lives and made sacrifices in the name of freedom and make sure we continue to tell the story so that they are never forgotten."

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# Madness competition



THE Jockey Club Live presents 'An Evening At The Races' is proud to welcome MADNESS to Haydock Nights on 3rd July 2015 and having previously played on prestigious stages such as on top of Buckingham Palace for the Queens Diamond Jubilee concert and at 2012's London Olympic Games Closing Ceremony, MADNESS's live show is a perfect fit for the Haydock Park Grandstands.

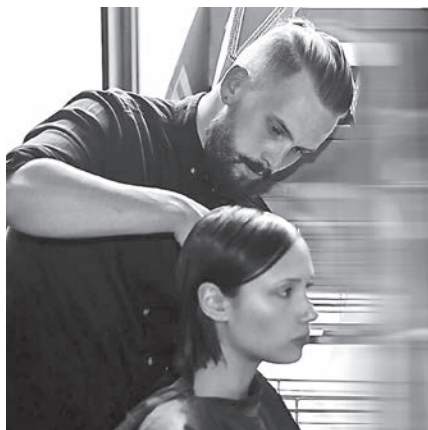
'An Evening At The Races' offers a value for money experience unlike any other this summer. Alongside incredible headlining performances by the likes of Kylie, Madness and Kaiser Chiefs, the action kicks off earlier in the evening with 6 races - giving fans the chance to witness up close powerful equine athletes who are stars in their own right, and enjoy the thrilling drama and spectacle of them racing for glory. Whether you fancy a flutter or a dance with friends and family the event is certain to be an odds on favourite for all, with tickets starting at only £30.

In order to win a pair of tickets please tell us how many members of Madness there currently are?

Email the answer to: [info@warrington-worldwide.co.uk](mailto:info@warrington-worldwide.co.uk), titled: Madness competition - warrington worldwide, with your name and daytime contact details.

Closing date is June 14.

## Jimmy on hand at Fashion Week



MOST hairstylists can only dream of being part of national, high profile events, and for most the opportunity will never come.

Jakata stylist and manager Jimmy Sharpe, 29, from Warrington was lucky enough to get an invite to style hair at London Fashion Week for Jasper Garvida's 'Ethologie'. He was working alongside the Easton Regal hair team at creating a specific look on the models for the catwalk presentation.

Jimmy, who oversees the running of both Jakata & Paul Kemp Hairdressing salons said: "The team were briefed on creating a dual textured, voluminous ponytail look, with a slick side parting and lots of body at the crown. After the show started I was working closely with Jasper Garvida, ensuring the shape and form of the styles were consistent across the models so they were ready for the runway".

He added: "It was an extremely high pressure role but I loved every minute of it. To play a part in such a major event was a great experience."

Jimmy has been involved in a variety of events since he won his place on the Schwarzkopf L.E.A.P team last year. He is now in the process of putting together a photoshoot with the team that will feature in future Schwarzkopf marketing.

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# Firewalking to raise money for Nepal victims

A FIREWALKING event is being held at Sankey Valley St James' CE Primary School to raise money for victims of the Nepal earthquake and deaf people in the country.

The Deaf Nepal Expedition 2015 is aiming to raise a minimum of £30,000, which will go towards Shree Buddha Dahal Deaf School in Damauli, Tanahun District in Nepal for a Hostel proposal, as well as welcoming donations for Quake Aid.

Nepal was recently hit by the worst earthquake for 80 years at a scale of 7.9, damaging many buildings including some dating back hundreds of years, with more than 5,000 people losing their lives.

The firewalking event will take place on Saturday June 13th from 4pm to 8pm, with entry to watch free of charge. There will be stalls and activities including face painting, a bouncy castle and candy floss.

In November 2015, a team of people will be flying out to Nepal to visit Deaf schools, as well as Deaf associations with the aim to develop friendships with the Nepalese Deaf schools and to offer support by providing resources and materials to improve their quality of

life and access to education.

Led by Warrington based Greg Pierssene, the team is made up of 20 deaf and non-deaf participants, with everyone involved competent in the use of British Sign Language.

Pierssene said: "Back in 2013, I was a participant in the expedition team. Proposals were sent in for how the fundraised monies would be spent. We accepted a few of the many proposals that were received. Examples of these are; the building of safety walls, kitchen refurbishment and dormitory furnishing for Taplejung Deaf school in the Far North East of Nepal which we have already visited to witness the safety walls after the completion of the works."

"Before our donations, the school only had 9 Deaf children and has now seen significant growth to over 30 Deaf children due to the increasing awareness via media. In the UK, education is as a right to us but sadly in Nepal, education seems unnecessary to many citizens."

"However, education is more important to the Nepalese population now. Vulnerable Nepalese Deaf children are doubly disadvantaged because they are uneducated and have a disability."



"Their parents do not think they have any future at all and language between the parents/hearing people and Deaf children is very limited."

"We have witnessed this in Taplejung despite Nepal having their own Sign Language just like British Sign Language in the

UK. We want to see this situation addressed and want to see a lot more Deaf children in education, therefore equalling a better quality of life and future."

To make a donation, visit <https://mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/dne15team>

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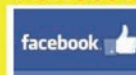
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# Civic Society to relaunch



WARRINGTON Civic Society is set to relaunch following an initial meeting to gauge interest in the town.

The event at Fairfield and Howley Community Hub was organised by local resident John Shipley, who moved to Warrington from Scarborough just over two years ago.

He said: "Warrington has lost too many of its historic and iconic buildings over the years and those that remain deserve a strong preservation effort."

"With many new developments proposed it is also important that these are of a high standard, enhancing the built environment of our town."

At the meeting he outlined various buildings which have been lost since 1968 which include Arpley Station, Bold Street Methodist Church, the Old Market Hall, the Centenary Theatre on Winwick Road and the theatre on old Scotland Road and more recently the Old Grammar School and Mr Smith's/ The Ritz Cinema.

"When you see what has been lost it is worth fighting for what we have got left."

He outlined successes in the town including the recently refurbished Grappenhall Walled Gardens at Grappenhall Heys, which had now become a successful visitor attraction. Warrington Civic Society was originally formed in 1961 and is still a registered charity but became inactive a few years ago. Existing members James Gibson, Harry Wells, Louise Doughton and Ian Smith attended the event to show their support.

James said: "A lot of Warrington was lost in the 1960s when conservation laws were weak. Concerns for our heritage took off in the 1970s and the biggest impact was the Warrington New Town, when three-quarters of our town was lost. It is hard to believe that in the 1950s Warrington was described as a fine example of a Georgian town."

Any one interested in getting involved with the new look civic society and would like to attend the next meeting email John Shipley at warrington.civsoc@gmail.com

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By David Watkinson

### Conservative 'promises'

So the polling booths have closed, the votes have been counted, the swing-o-meter has been put away for another five years, and we now have a new government. All of the parties made many promises made before the election, including the Conservatives, so now let us all hope that those promises are kept. Let us have a look at some of the main ones affecting taxation, which can be located on and after page 27 of the Conservative manifesto.



David Watkinson and Margaret Black

Firstly, we have been promised that there will be a "five year lock" on income tax, VAT and national insurance. This is a promise that during the period from May 2015 to May 2020 there would be:

- no increases in income tax rates,
- no increases in VAT, nor to its scope, and
- no increases in National Insurance nor to its ceiling.

More specifically, we have been promised that:

- Nobody working 30 hours on minimum wage will ever pay income tax
- The tax-free personal allowance will rise to £12,500 by 2020
- The 40p tax threshold will increase to £50,000 by 2020 and will always rise at least in line with inflation

It certainly seems strange that whilst the government has for many years considered it to be a legal requirement that employers are required to pay a minimum hourly wage they have never in the past been slow in taking some of that minimum wage in tax and national insurance.

Secondly, we have also been promised that the family home will be taken out of Inheritance Tax by increasing the threshold for married couples to £1m. This will be achieved through a new transferable main residence allowance of £175,000 per person. The manifesto says that this will be paid for by reducing the tax relief on pension contributions for people earning more than £150,000, most probably by reducing the maximum contributions on which relief is given, currently £40,000 each year, by £1 for every additional £2 of income above £150,000 to an allowance of £10,000 a year, effectively giving a marginal income tax rate of 67.5% between £150,000 and £210,000 for those making contributions.

*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.*

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## Successful businessman joins Wolves



WARRINGTON Wolves has announced that local businessman Stuart Middleton has been appointed as a non-executive director.

Announcing the appointment, Warrington Wolves chairman Professor Steven Broomhead said: "We are delighted to welcome Stuart on to the Warrington Wolves Board.

He has great experience in running large-scale successful businesses and will bring extensive commercial and marketing knowledge to the club."

Stuart is currently creative director of Card Factory PLC, is a lifelong fan of Warrington Wolves and a long-standing season ticket and executive box holder.

Stuart said: "It is an honour to join the Board of Warrington Wolves. I am a Warrington lad and am looking forward to an exciting future working with our new CEO Roger Draper and the rest of the Board. That future includes more on-field success, a much greater fan experience and extending our commercial base."

Simon Moran, owner of Warrington Wolves, said "We strongly feel that Stuart's experience in developing successful brands in the business world will be a big asset to an already impressive Board."

Warrington Sports Holdings Ltd is also pleased to announce its financial results for the year ended 30 November 2014.

Group turnover increased £182k; from £6,322k to £6,504k.

Group profit before tax was £639,590 which contributed towards the funding of the club's new indoor training facility at University of Chester, Warrington campus.

Professor Broomhead added: "Our focus is to continue to build Warrington Wolves as one of the best Rugby League clubs in the world. This remains the shared ambition of our majority shareholder Simon Moran, the Board and everyone connected with the club. We have a lot to do in the months and years ahead to deliver against that ambition. The club is in relatively good shape but there is always more to do, whether investing in the team to deliver more on field success or creating a greater experience for our fantastic fans."

## Two more legends inducted into Hall of Fame

TWO more Warrington legends have been inducted into the Past Players' Hall of Fame - association vice-president Alistair Brindle and former winger Mark Forster.

Forward Alistair played 277 games for Warrington from 1957-1969. During that period Warrington didn't really win much, but he did win the Lancashire Cup twice. In 1959 against St Helens, who were a team of internationals and were hot favourites. The match was played at Wigan in front of over 40,000 fans.

Warrington also won the cup again in 1966 when they beat Rochdale.

Meanwhile Forster's career spanned three decades and he had the unique honour of two testimonials at the club in 1993 and 2003.

He represented Great Britain twice and also played for Ireland in the World Cup.

During his career at Warrington he scored 191 tries in over 450 appearances.

Both players were inducted at the Past Players' annual dinner which took place at the Halliwell Jones Stadium attended by more than 250 guests including past players and fans hosted by Chairman George Thornton with Malcolm Lord as compere.

- Alastair Brindle
- Heritage No. 586
  - Debut 28/9/1957
  - Last match 12/4/1969
  - Apps 277
  - Sub 3
  - Tries 7
  - Drop goals 1
  - Points 23

- Mark Forster
- Heritage No. 826
  - Debut 16/1/1983
  - Last match 17/9/2000
  - Apps 442
  - Sub 16
  - Tries 191
  - Goals 3
  - Points 769







## Wolves sign Gidley

WARRINGTON Wolves have confirmed the signing of Australian utility player Kurt Gidley from NRL side Newcastle Knights for the 2016 season.

Knights' skipper Gidley, 32, has signed on a one-year deal having previously been a one-club man in his professional career with 15 years at Newcastle.

Renowned for his experience and appearances at fullback and in the halves Gidley made his first grade debut for the Knights back in 2001 against St George Illawarra Dragons having spent his junior days at Wests Newcastle. He's since gone on to make over 230 NRL appearances.

Throughout his career to date he has also achieved numerous honours including representing the Kangaroos on 12 occasions and playing 12 games for the NSW Blues.

On signing for the club Gidley said: "I'm really excited. My brother went to St Helens for four years and had a great time playing in the Super League, and Danny Buderus has been to Leeds and played for three years. They came back with glowing reports of playing in the Super League and of experiencing a different culture, that was certainly a big factor for me. I'm excited to be going to a strong club and to challenge myself and experience different fans and team-mates.

"My family is really excited as well. I've got two young girls so to see them experience something different as well before they start school is going to be fun and exciting.

"One of Newcastle's greats Andrew Johns played at Warrington and he's given it a massive rap – their fans, the facilities and how stable the club is. Matty King is another good guy who I have spoken to about Warrington. They both had great reports on the club so I'm excited to challenge myself, play well, train hard and hopefully see if I can leave a legacy there.

"You've got to prove yourself again which is something I'm looking forward to. I've experienced a lot and am proud of my NRL career over in Australia but to go over and start afresh and earn the respect of my team-mates, club and fans is something I am looking forward to. It's going to be a great new challenge and hopefully I'll be a successful player and part of a successful team."

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