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Warrington Worldwide

Issue No. 229 October 2018 FREE EVERY MONTH

Victory for local lad!

Page 3



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IF you saw the BBC2 factual drama Mother's Day which was screened recently telling the story of two women brought together by tragedy following the IRA bomb attack on Warrington on March 20 1993, it will have been hard not to have been moved.

Twenty five years on from the tragedy which claimed the lives of 12-year-old Tim Parry and three-year-old Johnathan Ball, Mother's Day focused on the immediate aftermath of the bombing and how it impacted on two mums and their families.

Hand of peace

Having been involved in reporting the bombing, it was interesting to see the story unfold in Ireland, with thousands taking to the streets offering the hand of peace to Warrington.

I had previously seen a premiere of the drama at the peace centre with the Parry family and others directly affected by the bombing, including Susan McHugh, who did so much to spread the peace message in Ireland.

The drama certainly highlighted two remarkable women and how Warrington played such a pivotal role in the peace process.

Now 25 years on the lasting legacy of the two young boys stands in the shape of the Peace Centre and the unique Tim Parry

Johnathan Ball Foundation for Peace.

Following the screening the Peace Foundation were overwhelmed by the public response, which will hopefully ensure the continued success of the charity.

By the time you read this I will be just about to, or just have completed, my first ever 10k in the annual English Half marathon.

Together with other members of the warrington-worldwide team we will be remembering the two boys and all those innocent victims of terror.

Please support this fantastic charity by sponsoring us here <https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/Team/WarringtonWorldwide> tgo help ensure the continued success of the unique Foundation for Peace charity.

Deadline for the November issue is October 9

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BELVOIR!

Local lad victorious at National Market Trader Awards

by Paul Jackson

WARRINGTON teenager Robert Leicester has beaten off stiff nationwide competition to become crowned the best young market trader in the country.

Speaking of his accolade from his stall, Warrington Fruit and Veg, on Warrington Retail Market the 19-year-old greengrocer extraordinaire beamed "I am really proud and over the moon to win this honour.

"I had a great time in the finals at Stratford upon Avon. I would like to thank Gary Jaques who nominated me for the competition. This award is great not just for me but for the whole Warrington market community."

Robert's victory follows a family

tradition of excellence as his cousin, Andrew Leicester of Andrews Fish and Game won Young Fishmonger of the Year in 2010.

Already a recognisable character around the market with his cheery manner Robert is described as "A credit to the market and the town" by Market manger Andy Ward.

Entrepreneurs aged between 16 and 30 from across the country set out their stalls on Waterside at Stratford-upon-Avon.

The National Youth Market celebrates young traders who are running businesses trading on markets, festivals, and fairs. It is also a competition to find the country's best young stallholder.

The event is run by the NMTF, the

only national trade association for market and street traders in the UK, and is hosted by LSD Promotions with the support of the town and district councils.

Thirty hopefuls took part selling a range of high quality street food, artisan treats, arts and crafts, and handmade gifts. All were competing to be crowned the UK's Young Trader of the Year.

This year's winner received £500 in cash, one year's free membership of the NMTF, and a free mobile payment terminal for 12 months from Chip & PIN Solutions.

Joe Harrison, chief executive of the NMTF, said: "Youth markets aim to support young people to test out, launch, and grow a business – they're ideal platforms as you can stay lean and flexible.

"Now in its sixth year and at a new venue in Stratford-upon-Avon, the National Youth Market is a real demonstration of the fantastic young talent we have in the UK trading on markets."

"Congratulations to Robert who the NMTF has crowned the UK's Young Trader of the Year at this year's National Youth Market. It was a tough competition, but he beat traders from across the country to take the crown.

"Judges were impressed with his professionalism, enthusiasm, and

customer service skills. They were thrilled to learn that he had brought the same offer from his stall at Warrington Retail Market – quality produce at affordable prices."

"With young people like Robert trading on traditional retail markets, I am confident that our sector will not only survive but flourish. He is an inspiration to people who want to turn passion into a profit and be their own boss."

Robert is pictured receiving his trophy from Cllr John Bicknell, Mayor of Stratford-upon-Avon Town Council, John Dyson, President of the NMTF and Cllr Christopher Kettle, Chairman of Stratford-on-Avon District Council.



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Warrington Lions donate mini bus

WARRINGTON Lions have donated a mini bus to Warrington Mencap following a fund-raising campaign.

The Lions were approached by Warrington Mencap to see if they could contribute towards the purchase of a new minibus, so they set about fund-raising for the project, assisted by Richard Cooke of Warrington Vehicle Centre Ltd, to help source a suitable vehicle.

A mini bus for Mencap Adults with learning difficulties was then purchased which will allow the delighted recipients to go on holiday, club outings, work experience and other activities that people take for granted.

The Lions used some funding from their Christmas Sleigh Appeal and other Club events provided by the good people of Warrington.

The bus was handed over at Lee Court in Orford, when the keys were presented to Dorothy Pritchard MBE by the Mayor Cllr. Karen Mundry and Lion's President Christine McDermott, with members of Warrington Lions and Mencap in attendance.

Members

Meanwhile the club, which currently has 24 members, is always on the look out for new members, both men and women.



So if you have a few hours to spare and would like to offer your time and skills to those less fortunate than yourself then the Lions Club

is for you. Please ring Mike on 01925 816393 or visit the website and arrangements can be made for you to meet the Lions.

Easy like Sunday afternoon at The Park Royal

As the shorter days and cooler temperatures begin to set in, The Park Royal reveal the launch of their brand new Sunday Lunch menu to ease you in to the winter months.

Sunday lunch is the meal that ends one week and begins another, a stalwart of Britain's great edible institutions and a delicious moment for pause, so where better to enjoy the most special meal of the week than at The Park Royal – the perfect destination for a relaxing Sunday afternoon with your loved ones.

With a choice between roast beef, roast chicken or pan seared hake, plus a wild mushroom risotto for those after something a little different, there's a dish to tantalise all taste buds.

The menu offers 2 courses for £18 or 3 courses for £23, plus a 3 course lunch for 2 plus a bottle of wine available for £49.

Sunday Lunch is now available in the hotel's Topiary in the Park AA Rosette awarded restaurant from 12:30pm – 2:30pm.

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Warrington - a town for entrepreneurs

by Steve Park

WARRINGTON is a town for entrepreneurs of that there is no doubt and it is great to see young entrepreneurs flourishing.

Rob Leicester from Warrington Market is a prime example. Rob runs the Warrington Fruit & Veg Stall and has just been awarded the national title of Young Market Trader of the Year. Aged just 19, Rob set up the business in June last year having spotted a niche opportunity.

The news comes at an historic time for Warrington Market as in the same week the market celebrated one year in its current temporary home, the first structural steelwork and lift shafts for the new permanent market hall began to emerge from the ground and statistics indicate that footfall at the market was on the increase.

Warrington is home to 8,000 businesses of all sizes. Many are international companies, many national but a great number are home-grown. Maintaining Warrington's position as a great place to grow and base a business is a key aspect of Warrington's framework for growth 'Warrington Means Business'.

It astounds me as to the diversity of businesses that we



have in Warrington. From smaller enterprises like Rob's stall at the market right up to having the largest cluster of nuclear based industries in the UK employing over 5000 people in Birchwood. We still make Wire in Warrington at Lockers, but did you know for instance that the National Space Laboratory is also based here?

This month Warrington Business Exchange will be six months old. Membership is rising by the day and was, at the time of writing,

close to signing up its 150th member. It is a forum established to encourage Warrington businesses to interact, collaborate and grow together. And it is working. Many of the member businesses have been doing business together directly as a result of being members. If you haven't yet joined I'd encourage you to, there is a packed programme of events which are all free. Check out the website www.wbex.co.uk

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All change at Aspire Computers Ltd



WARRINGTON businessman Geoff Plass has decided after 18 years to have a change in career direction, and as a consequence he will no longer be directly involved in the day to day running of Aspire Computers.

Geoff will however, continue to perform an active role on behalf of Aspire Computers' products and services, promoting their continued growth within the Warrington business community, and seeking out new partnerships and opportunities. His work for Aspire will run alongside his involvement in new business opportunities.

All the team at Aspire acknowledge Geoff's achievement in partnering with Mark to set up the company and build it to its current position and look forward to Geoff's continuing input and wish him every success in his new ventures.

Geoff will remain contactable via geoff@aspire-computers.com and 07768 947877.

Following Geoff's move a new structure has been put into place:

- Mark Hamer Managing Director IT Service & Support Division
- Josh Laff Support Director
- Ethan Clarke becomes Apprentice Junior Engineer Website and Social Media Division
- Roz Healey Director of Web and Social Media Services
- Sophie Bostock Senior Web and Social Media Developer.

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parrhall.culturewarrington.org

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Sun 23 Sep	Milkshake! Live - The Magic Storybook
Thu 4 Oct	An Evening with Ian Paice
Tue 9 Oct	Paul Young - 35 Years of "No Parlez"
Sun 14 Oct	Echo & The Bunnymen - The Stars, The Ocean & The Moon
Fri 19 Oct	Fleetwood Bac & Too Petty
Sat 20 Oct	Magic of Motown
Fri 26 Oct	Flawless - Chase the Dream THE REBOOT
Fri 9 Nov	Crooners
Thu 15 Nov	Roy Wood Rock & Roll Band - Red E 2 Rock Tour
Sat 17 Nov	Father Christmas Needs a Wee
Mon 19 Nov	Jake Bugg SOLD OUT
Tue 20 Nov	Scott Bradlee's Postmodern Jukebox
4-6 Dec	Sarah Millican - Control Enthusiast
Fri 7 Dec	Kate Rusby at Christmas
Sun 9 Dec	The Nutcracker - Vienna Festival Ballet
Sat 15 Dec	For Those About to Rock - Live/Wire AC/DC vs Whitesnake UK
Thu 20 Dec	The Snowman
Fri 21 Dec	The Sweet - Blockbuster Christmas Show
4-13 Jan	Robin Hood & The Babes in the Wood Panto

Pyramid Arts Centre **Box Office: 01925 442345**
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6 Oct, 3 Nov & 1 Dec	Comedy Store
Sat 10 Nov	Adam Rowe - Undeniable
Fri 23 Nov	Simon Yates - My Mountain Life
Sat 8 Dec	Peter Price
Fri 14 Dec	Houghton Weavers



CULTURE
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CULTURE



Rock legend Wilko Johnson continues rousing return

ROCK legend Wilko Johnson is continuing his rousing return to the stage after battling cancer and is returning to Warrington next year.

The band has announced a raft of new dates, including a stop at Parr Hall on Friday March 1 2019, with fans eagerly anticipating another whirlwind tour of classic hits and new material.

Following Wilko's cancer recovery, the original Dr Feelgood guitarist has returned to the top of his game with a rousing return to the live arena, a Number 1 album with Roger Daltrey and a sold-out show at The Royal Albert Hall to mark his 70th birthday.

Heavily influenced by rock and roll guitarist Mick Green, Wilko employs a finger-style, chop-chord strumming action, known as 'the stab', in his own words.

This allows for chords and lead guitar to be played at the same time, giving a fluency and distinctive sound very unlike the cleaner swat of a pick.

Wilko became one of the guitar heroes of an era with this economic sound, coupled with that black-suited, scowling look and the yards he covered across the stage pausing only to twist the guitar lead out from under his feet.

Following a stint with Ian Dury & The Blockheads in the 80s he eventually formed The Wilko Johnson Band with ex-Blockhead Norman Watt-Roy on bass.

Also featuring Dylan Howe on drums, the trio have become one of the most exciting rhythm and blues bands in the world today.

Tickets are on sale now and a very special guest will be announced in November.

Fleetwood Mac tribute band to visit Parr Hall



THE world's first Fleetwood Mac Tribute band will be coming to visit the Parr Hall this October.

Fleetwood Bac, who are endorsed by Mick Fleetwood himself, are the only Mac tribute to authentically replicate the classic 'Rumours' line-up.

Over the last few years they have received rave reviews from 'The Stage' newspaper, the U.K.'s leading Fleetwood Mac fansites, the official Stevie Nicks website; and from ecstatic audiences wherever the band played, wowing audiences as far afield as Dubai, St. Tropez, the Cayman Islands and Monte Carlo, and twice selling out the world-famous Minack Theatre in Cornwall.

Fleetwood Bac, who are due to visit October 19, have also been rated by The Times newspaper as one of the U.K.'s top 5 tributes, alongside The Bootleg Beatles, Bjorn Again and the Counterfeit Stones.

Fans include original Mac bassist and biographer Bob Bruning, who joined the band several times on stage, and Peter Green's official biographer Martin Celmins.

The sound, the look, the mystical atmosphere and on-stage chemistry are all portrayed with the passion and energy that got the seal of approval from 'Big Daddy' Mick, and built up an excellent reputation amongst Mac fans through numerous tours, festival appearances, corporate events and TV and radio slots all over the U.K. and Europe.

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All set for Oktoberfest 22

WARRINGTON Rotary Club are busy preparing their annual charity funding raising event at the town's Parr Hall.

Oktoberfest 22, starts October 11 for three days until October 13 and will help raise thousands of pounds for charities and good causes.

Over 70 cask ales plus ciders and bottled beers will be on sale to raise much needed funds for a number of charities both local and international. There will also be a 'Gin and Fizz Bar' by popular request. Food is also available at the event.

Live music at each session will be the icing on the cake

Anyone wishing to have a beer named after them, their business or their group of people by sponsorship can obtain a sponsorship form from the Oktoberfest website <http://www.warringtonoktoberfest.org.uk>. Details of the event are also on the website.

Up to the present date over £275,000 has been raised for both local and international charities from previous Oktoberfests.

Warrington Rotary President, George Wilkinson commented, "This year should be another bumper year for our charities with interest being shown by people from all over the northwest and further afield."



"History detectives" wanted to find local war heroes

SCHOOLS and community groups in Warrington are being encouraged to research the lives of local war heroes, to mark 100 years since the end of World War One.

LiveWire and Culture Warrington want pupils and members of groups to become "history detectives" and research into a local war hero, while also learning the skills of a historian.

Any schools or local community groups wishing to take part can

email Philip Jeffs, heritage manager at Warrington Museum, who will help to get the research started - pjeffs@culturewarrington.org

The story of one war hero helped pupils at Christ Church Primary School in Padgate to appreciate the sacrifice many servicemen and women made for the next generation.

They researched the life of former pupil John Ratcliffe who lost his life in World War 1 and whose name is on a plaque at the school.



History detectives at Warrington Museum.

Not sure which of our kitchen ranges will suit you?

Try this short quiz from Warrington based JD Kitchens to reveal all!

1) You've invited friends over next Friday night. Do you...

- a) Get out your cook books and plan a gastronomic experience to impress?
- b) Relax, you're a confident cook and will happily knock up a decent lasagne whilst your guests are relaxing with a drink
- c) Call in a takeaway and buy a few bottles of wine, cooking is too much like hard work!

2) Your children want to turn your kitchen into an art studio, do you...

- a) Get out the paint pots and embrace your own inner Picasso.

- b) Get the paint out, but hover with the baby wipes to clean up as you go.
- c) Distract them and go to the park instead!

3) How often do you cook?

- a) Every day
- b) 3-4 times a week
- c) A couple of times a week

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You're in touch with your traditional values and love nothing more than baking a cake at the weekends, but do like to have everything looking stylish and clean. Try our British made Macintosh kitchen with shaker styling for a modern take on a timeless classic. NEFF's near silent extractor fan and Slide&Hide oven will make entertaining a breeze.

Mostly C's

You have a super busy life, and need your kitchen to be functional, but value design and clean lines. The Schuller kitchen range are German engineered and made to measure your space. Smooth and handleless the look is streamlined and highly stylish.

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An evening to remember the fallen and celebrate peace



TICKETS are now on sale for a special evening to remember and honour those who have lost their lives in conflicts and to celebrate the end of the First World War and the peace that followed.

Festival of Remembrance, Celebration and Peace 2018, being staged by Warrington Male Voice Choir is taking place at the Parr Hall, Warrington on Saturday, November 3, starting at 7pm.

Warrington Male Voice Choir originally created the idea of a Warrington evening to remember and honour the fallen to mark the centenary of World War One and, as a result, the Festival of Remembrance has been staged annually since 2014.

However, this year's event, while still remembering the fallen, will also recognise and celebrate the 100th anniversary of the end of World War One and the peace that followed.

As in previous years, the evening will feature Warrington Male Voice Choir, The Combined Bands of The Lancashire Artillery & The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment, Service Cadet contingents, a Drumhead Service of Remembrance & Reflection led by The Revd Canon Paul Wilson and audience sing-along. In a move to further strengthen the involvement of young people, The Choir of Great Sankey High School & Barrow Hall College will be taking part for the first time.

The evening will help raise money for the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal 2018 & Combat Stress.

Tickets are £10 (Under 16s - £5) and can be bought by ringing 01925 442345, visiting www.pyramidparrhall.com or in person from the Pyramid/Parr Hall ticket office.



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Peace Foundation over

WARRINGTON'S unique Peace Foundation has been overwhelmed by the public response following the screening of "Mother's Day" on BBC2.

The factual drama which tells the story of two mothers following the IRA bomb attack on Warrington which claimed the lives of Tim Parry and Johnathan Ball, was the Peace Foundation's biggest ever event trending at number two in the UK on Twitter.

Foundation Chief Executive Nick Taylor said: "The Tim Parry Johnathan Ball Peace Foundation is overwhelmed at the reaction to the BBC drama, Mother's Day. Thousands of messages of support

have been posted on social media and sent to the Peace Centre.

"We always knew from the moment this production was talked about, that it would be hard hitting, but ultimately would tell a story about the families and a town coming out of a tragedy and building a sense of hope and making a real difference.

"The names of Tim and Johnathan are known across the world and their legacy lives on. Mother's Day also showed how Warrington came together, at first with some anger and confusion, but quickly leading to a search for reconciliation and peace. It was Warrington that reached out to other communities



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whelmed by public response to Mother's Day

Pictures: Andrew Collier Photography

across the world, and has for 25 years led work towards peace.

"From the comments on social media, I know many people had very strong emotions during the transmission but I hope they ultimately felt proud of the town, its people and will continue to support the Peace Foundation and Peace Centre as our work continues."

A special premiere of the drama was screened at the Peace Centre prior to the broadcast on BBC2, with members of the cast in attendance alongside the Parry family and Peace 93 campaigner Susan McHugh.

Written by Newton-le-Willows based Nick Leather (Murdered For Being Different), Vicky McClure (Line of Duty) plays Susan McHugh, the Dublin mother of two so outraged by the loss of young life that she organised one of the largest peace rallies in Irish history, leading thousands through the streets in protest at the continued violence of the Troubles.

Anna Maxwell Martin (Motherland) plays Wendy Parry, the mother of 12 year old Tim, who lost his life in the attack which left two boys dead and many others injured.

Daniel Mays (Against The Law) plays Tim's father Colin Parry, with David Wilmot (The Alienist) as Arthur McHugh.

Warrington-Worldwide editor Gary Skentelbery, who is the

longest serving patron at the Foundation For Peace reflected on the screening.

He said: "As a young reporter who covered the Warrington bombing on Bridge Street on March 20, 1993 and then went on to report on the aftermath and Warrington's response of peace and reconciliation, this factual based drama left a lump in my throat and brought back many memories.

"It made me realise more than ever, the strength of those most closely affected, like Colin and Wendy, who lost their son Tim and also gave me great pride in how my home town responded to atrocity with peace and reconciliation.

"Watching the drama unfold on a big screen in the Peace Centre, which has become a lasting legacy to the two boys and other victims, alongside Colin and Wendy, their other children Dominic and Abbi, Peace 93 campaigner Susan McHugh and the actors who play their roles, was a surreal experience.

"It brought back many memories and provided a fascinating insight into how the Warrington bombing impacted on two ordinary families who developed into extra-ordinary people and the important role Warrington played in the Peace process and how the Irish people responded."



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Belong!

Market celebrates first birthday with launch of instant reward card

WARRINGTON Market put on a great day of fun to celebrate its first birthday in its new home.

A beautiful summers day helped Warrington Market celebrate its first 12 months in its new temporary home. Members of the public were treated to live music from 10 am throughout the day.

Also on offer were street stalls selling an array of artisan products. Helping the day go with a swing were several food stalls and the Real Ale Shack supplied drinks to the thirsty celebrants. Children's entertainer Crazy Chris delighted kiddies with his balloon creations and the Unicorns proved extremely popular with little ones grooming and petting the mythical beasts. Ever popular Wolfie was on hand for selfie calls with fans and Warrington Wolves tickets were up for grabs.

On the mezzanine floor inside the market a record fayre provided extra interest, as did a display of classic motorcycles.

The days festivities took place with the backdrop of the brand new steel work which will become the Markets new permanent home when it is completed.

The Market has recently seen footfall increasing which bucks a national trend and bodes well for the stall holders and the town alike.

To help the celebrations and offer customers an extra incentive

to use the local traders Warrington Market launched its new Reward Card scheme.

The instant rewards will be available on a daily basis by simply signing up for the rewards scheme online or at individual stalls, for those who have no regular internet access.

Members will just then have to show their Instant Shopper Rewards Scheme card to qualify for instant discounts and offers.

Each of the market's 50 plus stalls will display chalk boards with their daily or weekly offers.

Members will also go into regular draws to win shopping vouchers.

Warrington Market Manager Andy Ward said he believed the scheme was "pretty unique in market world and possibly the country.

"People don't have to collect points they can just sign up for the scheme, visit the market and instantly get special offers."

To sign up for the scheme visit www.facebook.com/warringtonMarketsInstantShopperRewards/

For more details email markets@warrington.gov.uk or call 01925 632571



Lord Adonis backs Warrington for Europe campaign

PROMINENT 'Remain' Campaigner Lord Adonis was guest speaker at the launch of a cross-party grassroots campaign group, "Warrington for Europe."

To a turnout of over 100 people, including Councillors from across Party lines, the former Transport Czar gave an impassioned speech about his views on Britain, Europe and the political processes currently playing out in Parliament around the Brexit question.

In particular the Labour Peer called for support and action to help put pressure on Councils, MP's and Ministers to support the move for "a Peoples Vote" on the final Brexit deal reached by Theresa May's Government and their Brussels counterparts.

A series of protests at Party conferences have been organised with a "Peoples March" in

London planned in October, with organisers hoping to see over 1 million protesters on the streets of the Capital.

The Warrington for Europe group has been set up to raise awareness about the EU and Brexit and is backing calls for a referendum on the terms of the final Brexit deal. They plan a series of street surgeries beginning on Saturday, September 8 at Market Gate, where they will be on hand to discuss Brexit or provide information to the Warrington public.

They also plan to lobby Warrington Borough Council to undertake and publish a Brexit risk assessment and to support "the Peoples Vote" as other towns and cities have done.



Mayor launches Latchford Duck Race

MAYOR of Warrington Cllr Karen Mundry was on hand to launch the third annual Latchford Duck Race which helps raise funds for the local community.

The Mayor was joined by her husband and fellow Latchford East ward Cllr. Hans Mundry at the event which takes place at Warrington Rowing Club, on the banks of the River Mersey, each year.

Local businesses, including Warrington-Worldwide, sponsored large "corporate ducks" while 1,000 smaller ducks were purchased by members of the public.

The ducks were then thrown off Kingsway Bridge into the River Mersey, with prizes for first pass the finishing line.



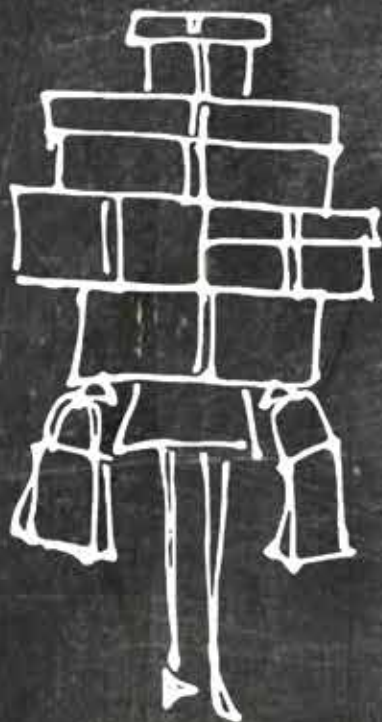


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No Brainer strengthens team with hat-trick of appointments

AWARD-winning Warrington PR, social media and content marketing agency, No Brainer, has bolstered its ranks with three new appointments as it targets further growth in 2018.

The firm has picked up several new contracts already this year and hopes to build on its recent success with a trio of new starters including an account manager, account executive and an office manager.

Michelle Turner from Warrington, 33, joins the team with more than ten-years' experience in the industry having previously led the PR and Marketing team at video games publisher Ripstone. She takes up the position of account manager at the agency and will work across a range of B2B and B2C accounts.

Emily Craig has switched to the Cheshire firm having spent two years working in a similar role at a Manchester-based agency. The 22-year-old from Warrington has a range of sector experience and will strengthen the agency's PR and social media offering, working in an account executive role.

And Runcorn-based Melissa Phillips, 36, has joined the business as an office manager. Her previous roles include administration and project management with firms such as Iris Worldwide, the British Council and HCD Economics.

No Brainer Director and co-

founder, Lee Cullen, said: "Year-on-year we've successfully grown the agency by adding skills and expertise to our team at the right time. Welcoming three new members of staff at the same time shows our determination to continue that growth and each of them brings something completely different to the agency."

"It's always been our ambition to establish No Brainer as Cheshire's number one PR, social media and content marketing agency and with

these appointments we're ready to push on again throughout the rest of 2018 and beyond."

No Brainer was founded by Gary Jenkins and Lee Cullen in 2015. It was crowned 'New Agency of the Year' at last year's PRmoment North Awards and won the Silver award for 'Outstanding Small Public Relations Consultancy' at the Chartered Institute of Public Relations (CIPR) North West PRide Awards.

Among a raft of industry awards,

the agency has also won the Public Relations and Communications Association's (PRCA) 'Stunt of the Year' award; Director, Lee Cullen picked up Cheshire's 'Young Business Person of the Year' at last year's Cheshire Business Awards and Director, Gary Jenkins took home 'Warrington's Business Man of the Year' at this year's Warrington Business Awards.

For more information about No Brainer, visit www.nobrainagency.co.uk



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Disability Awareness Day reaches £1 million milestone for good causes

THE annual Disability Awareness Day event held at Walton Gardens, Warrington, has raised a staggering £1 million for good causes during the past 26 years.

Announcing the amount the charity's Chief Executive Dave Thompson said: "Not bad considering fundraising is not the main purpose of Disability Awareness Day!"

This year's event, which included nine events before the big day, attracted an estimated 25,000 visitors, while the charity managed to secure £5,000 match funding

on offer from Barclays Bank at the Mega Quiz Night.

At the same time Park Royal Hotel raised £1,000 at a 25th anniversary Ball, while Warrington South MP Faisal Rashid hosted an Evening of Cultural Diversity.

Other highlights included an impromptu moment in the main arena with a marriage proposal.

But Dave's favourite memory

from this year's DAD was watching seven-year-old Sam, who has severe cerebral palsy "have a go" in the scuba diving pool.

Dave said: "Our friends at Cheshire Scuba Academy were initially worried after Sam shrieked as his dad lowered him into the water, but there were smiles a plenty when his mum confirmed the Sam was expressing his delight."

The charity also hit new heights on social media, trending second place locally on Twitter after the World Cup..... with 603 Tweets with a reach of over 574,000 and over 1.4 million impressions with the hashtag #DAD2018

On Facebook, 38,000 saw the event, 950 people responded, nearly twice as many as last year. An internationally known personality on YouTube also mentioned Disability Awareness Day, this had the potential to reach out to a further 150,000 people.

Thanking the numerous volunteers

and sponsors who helped put on the event Dave concluded: "Overall, I feel it was probably one, if not, the best DAD we have delivered. At times, we appeared "swan fashion", gliding smoothly on the surface, and paddling like mad below the surface dealing with various matters."

Trustee, Gary Skentelbery added: "What a fantastic achievement. WDP has become an exemplar charity of how to operate in the face of adversity during difficult economic times for lots of small local businesses.

"Instead of sitting back and watching grants and donations drying up, they rolled up their sleeves and started a trading arm of the charity which has gone from success to success. I am extremely proud to be a trustee of this great charity and have always found Dave Thompson to be an inspiration."



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Four generations celebrate 50 years with town hall tour

FOUR generations of the Skentelbery family were given a special tour of Warrington town hall by the Mayor Karen Mundry to help celebrate 50 years of Orbit News - publishers of warrington-worldwide.

Cllr Mundry invited Father and Son, David and Gary, their wives Patricia and Janet, Gary's daughters Amy and Hannah and granddaughter Olivia, into the town hall for afternoon tea and a tour of the historic building.

She presented David and Gary with certificates of appreciation in recognition of the many years they have covered local news in the town.

David has reported on local news for 60 years with Gary

approaching 40 years - nearly a century between them!

"It was a very special moment taking the family into the town hall to meet the Mayor," said Gary.

"It provided a fascinating insight into the town's history and was also a great trip down memory lane for me and my dad.

"I'd like to thank the Mayor for making us so welcome and presenting us with certificates of appreciation."





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My Warrington Remembers Legh Street Baths

by Gordon Gandy



THIS month Gordon Gandy remembers Legh Street Baths.

The first public baths in Warrington opened on Church Street on 1 May 1851.

The foundation stone for Legh Street Baths was laid in 1865 and the site opened in 1866. They were originally privately owned by the Warrington Baths Company, who went bankrupt. The council purchased them in 1873 and added two extra pools in 1912.

The four pools were the Teaching pool, Family pool, the General pool and the Gala pool. Between them they contained over one million litres of water.

All pools used to have a three-tiered diving block at the deep end. The Teaching pool also had a diving platform, even though the pool was only about four feet deep at the deepest! These were later removed for health and safety reasons. The Gala pool often doubled up as a dancing venue when they covered the pool with a temporary floor.

Warrington had a taste of the Olympics in 1948, when a team of water polo players faced masters Australia in a gripping encounter at Legh Street Baths. During the late 1970s, there used to be 'Play Pool' sessions in the summer holidays for children.

In later years part of the site included a gymnasium which was formerly opened by Olympic swimmer Adrian Moorhouse on 5 April 1994. I still have the plaque from the event. The baths closed in 2003.

In 2004, former Olympic swimmer Helen Slatter expressed sadness at the closure of the baths. She trained there with the Warriors of Warrington swimming club.

The baths were demolished in 2013 to make way for a health centre, with some of the stonework from the baths incorporated into the new decor. To contact Gordon email gigan@mywarrington.me.uk

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By David Watkinson

Facing higher tax bills

Millions of self-employed workers will now face higher tax bills because Chancellor Philip Hammond has scrapped plans to abolish Class 2 National Insurance contributions (NICs).

This is payable by those who earn profits of £6,205 or more per year. At the current rate of £2.95 per week it costs about £150 per year. The Treasury estimated that this tax cut would cost the exchequer around £360m per year, meaning Mr Hammond now has hundreds of millions of pounds extra in the national coffers.



David Watkinson and Margaret Black

The abolishment of Class 2 NICs was due to occur last April, but was delayed for 12 months. The explanation for this delay was that the government wanted to "ensure that there are no unintended consequences for the lowest paid". However, coincidentally, the announcement was made within days of the Chancellor being forced into a U-Turn when he had to abandon a proposed increase of 1% in the rate of Class 4 NIC, also paid by the self-employed, which many thought was against the government's election manifesto commitments not to increase tax.

So what excuse have they come up with now to explain this second U-Turn on tax for the self-employed? In their own words: "A significant number of self-employed individuals on the lowest profits would have seen the voluntary payment they make to maintain access to the state pension rise substantially. Having listened to those likely to be affected by this change we have concluded that it would not be right to proceed during this parliament, given the negative impacts it could have on some of the lowest earning in our society. Furthermore, it has become clear that, to the extent that the government could address these concerns, the options identified introduce greater complexity to the tax system, undermining the original objective of the policy."

They added "The government remains committed to simplifying the tax system for the self-employed, and will keep this issue under review in the context of the wider tax system and the sustainability of the public finances."

This view is not necessarily shared by everyone. Mike Cherry, national chairman of the Federation of Small Businesses, voiced many people's views when he said: "The self-employed community has been let down today, missing out on a promise to reduce their tax burden."

This situation was created by the government themselves when they decided to increase the voluntary Class 3 contribution substantially. Originally Class 3 NIC was 10p per week lower than Class 2 so people with no other contribution record that year could pay that instead of Class 2 to protect their benefits. Now Class 3 is £761 per annum compared to £153.40 for Class 2.

WatkinsonBlack have considerable experience in all areas of taxation and business services, including the provision of a very cost-effective payroll bureau service. If you want to arrange a no-obligation initial meeting on any business 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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Wembley heart break for Wolves



WARRINGTON Wolves suffered Wembley heartbreak for the second time in three years as they were beaten 20-14 by Catalans Dragons.

Steve Price's men left themselves with too much to do in the final half hour as they trailed 20-6 to the Dragons who held on to become the first ever French winners of the famous old trophy.

The Wolves, who lost 12-10 to Hull in the 2016 final, fell behind inside two minutes as former Wigan winger Lewis Tierney crossed in the corner.

Josh Drinkwater then added a penalty to his conversion to put the French side 8-0 to the good, before Tom Lineham had a try ruled off by the video referee.

Warrington eventually got on the board on the half hour mark, Ben Murdoch-Masila pouncing on a mistake by Fouad Yaha to score their opening try.

But the Dragons restored their eight point lead at the break, Ben Garcia's converted score putting them 14-6 to the good.

The first score of the second half would be crucial and it went to Catalans. Lance Todd Trophy winner Tony Gigot kicked a 40/20

to give them good field position, and from that Brayden Williams crossed to extend their lead to 20-6.

A Gigo fumbled allowed Tyrone Roberts to set up George King to drag the Wolves back in to it at 20-12 before the hour mark, but despite their efforts they couldn't break the Dragons down.

A Roberts penalty on 70 minutes at least got them within touching distance, but the Dragons held on for a famous victory in front of 50,672 – the lowest crowd at Wembley for a rugby league cup final since the second world war.

But few will begrudge Catalans their historic day as the challenge cup left English soil for the first time in its 121 year history.

The Wolves bounced back from the disappointment with a record-breaking 80-10 victory over Hull FC in the Super 8s at the Halliwell Jones Stadium – the heaviest ever defeat suffered by the Humberside outfit.



Wolves PDRL team crowned World Champions!



Warrington Wolves pioneering Physical Disability Rugby League (PDRL) team are celebrating after being crowned the first ever club world champions down under in Australia.

The team which includes comedian and Last Leg presenter Adam Hills beat Russell Crowe's South Sydney Rabbitohs 34-12 at the ANZ Stadium in Sydney earlier today.

Anthony Seward, who makes a 450 mile round trip from his home in Devon to train with the team, opened the scoring followed by two from Will Maudsley to put the Wolves 18-6 ahead at half-time.

Maudsley then completed his hat-trick with Luke Potter and Seward with his second ensuring the win.

Following the victory team captain Jason Elkaleh posted on social media: "Captain of the WORLD CHAMPIONS! What an amazing journey! Love these

blokes let's get the beers in!

Former Aussie Legend Andrew Johns who had a guest spell with the Wolves showed his support along with former Wire Matt King and South Sydney Rabbitohs owner, actor Russell Crowe.

Wolves skipper Jason even managed to grab a cheeky selfie with the Gladiator star.



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