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Issue No. 232 January 2019 FREE EVERY MONTH



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Vintage Viola store opening rocks!

Page 3

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Editor's Comment



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DURING these uncertain times it is good to see that the Warrington economy can look forward to another prosperous New Year (see Page 7).

I have banned talk of the "B" word at home and I am trying my best to ignore all the chaos it is causing, dividing our country more than anything else I have experienced during my lifetime.

Even at this advanced stage (whatever that maybe by the time we go to press!!) no one really knows what the future holds.

I try and adopt the view that as long as I can get out of bed each day, put one foot in front of the other and be there for my family and business, nothing Brexit delivers, or fails to deliver, will impact on my day to day life - I hope!

Let us all hope that the new year can bring new hope for our divided nation and that everyone can pull together with a common cause of working hard, helping those who need our support and enjoying life to the best of our ability as and when we can.

**Deadline for
the February
issue is
January 15**

We now have a new face as leader of the borough council after Birchwood based Cllr Russ Bowden was elected by the controlling Labour Group.

I have known Russ for many years and always found him to be engaging and helpful.

He has a tough task ahead but here at **warrington-worldwide** we always try and work with those who are trying their best for a our town but will not hesitate to flag and raise issues as and when necessary as a "critical friend."

Meanwhile I would like to wish

his predecessor Terry O'Neill all the best for the future following his decision to stand down.

Being a councillor is often a thankless task as it is impossible to please all of the people all of the time and in times of austerity it is a near impossible task to balance the books. I am sure his successor will have some difficult tasks ahead in these uncertain times.

Finally here's to a happy, healthy and prosperous new year to all our readers and advertisers. Thank you, as always for your ongoing support.

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BELVOIR!

Property is personal

Vintage Viola store opening rocks

A NEW charity shop in memory of Warrington band Viola Beach has opened in the town centre.

Vintage Viola has opened its doors as part of the Changing Lives store, based in The Cockhedge Shopping Centre.

In its vibrant new setting Vintage Viola will serve as a pop-up charity shop/community space and was founded by the River Reeves Foundation, providing space for some of the River Reeves Foundation projects to take place.

The provisions include free guitar lessons for young disadvantaged students, a new 'art gallery' providing the first permanent gallery space in town for young art students and local artists to showcase their work, plus Vintage Viola clothing which will provide pre-loved clothes and accessories in excellent condition, primarily aimed at 16-25 year olds.

Changing Lives provides donated refurbished furniture, which is recycled and reused by selling back cheaply to low-income families to furnish their homes. The store also provides volunteering, training and work placement opportunities for those who are unemployed, those with physical or mental health issues, or maybe just looking for a way to give back to their community.

Vintage Viola has big ambitions

to grow into an 'Afflecks Palace' type hub for artists, musicians, design students and traders to create a community space; as well as being a one stop shop for vital youth provision within the town centre. The River Reeves Foundation want to create a multi-use building which meets the needs of the talented youngsters in the town.

It is hoped that the store will be part of an amazing legacy for Viola Beach and Craig Tarry.

The store has been designed and put together by Sharon Dunne and Lisa Leonard along with help from family and friends. Sharon and Lisa were inspired by Viola Beach's constant search for alternative fashion via charity shops. There



is also a designated music room which can be booked by the hour as a rehearsal space. Sharon and Lisa are both keen to support young performers looking for a space to practise as this is something Viola Beach didn't have.

Lisa remembers Viola Beach rehearsing for many an hour in her garage as they couldn't afford anywhere else. The music room at Vintage Viola is £10 an hour and can be booked by contacting Sharon or Lisa at the shop.

Donations of clothing,

accessories, books and records for Vintage Viola can be made at the Changing Lives in Warrington store in the Cockhedge Shopping Centre. For collection of furniture and white goods for re-use please call Changing Lives in Warrington on 01925 634112.

For more information on Vintage Viola and the projects it is involved in and/or volunteering opportunities please contact Sharon Dunne via the FaceBook page or email to volunteer@riverreevesfoundation.org

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Wednesdays - Steak Night
 Two rump steaks and a bottle of house wine £29.95

Thursdays - Pizza 'n' Pasta
 Any pizza or pasta £10 or two for £15

Fridays - Fish Friday
 Selected seafood and shellfish specials
 Friday Fizz - £15 a bottle of Prosecco 4pm-9pm

Sundays - Traditional Sunday Roasts
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New £200,000 Discharge Suite opens at hospital

A NEW £200,000 state-of-the-art Discharge Suite has been officially opened at Warrington Hospital.

The suite has been designed to provide a comfortable, supported environment for patients to commence their onward journey home or to their next care setting.

Created adjacent to the new Frailty Assessment Unit and with easy access for vehicle pick-ups, the Discharge Suite has been created as a result of the Hospital Trust Board approving a £200K investment.

Enjoy

As soon as patients are identified as being able to be discharged they are booked into the suite and, if mobile, are able to enjoy the seated area with all the trimmings including Wifi, TV, hot and cold drinks, sandwiches; books magazines and games. There they can await transport, collection by family/carers or friends and their take-home medications.

The Suite has a dedicated clinical team and is equipped with thirteen comfortable chairs, six recliners and seven high backs.

There are four bed/trolley bays for patients whose acute care is complete but may require further supported care in intermediate care or the community. The Suite is open 7-days per week from 8am-9pm weekdays and 10am-7pm at weekends.

Chris Evans, Chief Operating Officer said: "We are delighted to open this new facility at Warrington which has been designed around our patients, providing a more comfortable and supportive environment to begin their onward journey.

At the same time this will release much-needed beds earlier in the day enabling us to admit patients presenting through our emergency department in a more timely way and therefore ease pressure on our very busy emergency care team, particularly as we approach what promises to be another challenging winter.

Information for patients and their carers/relatives and friends is available at whh.nhs.uk/patients-and-visitors/patient-and-visitor-guides/discharge



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New Year set to be another good year for Warrington economy

by Steve Park – Director of Growth & MD of Warrington & Co

DESPITE the ongoing uncertainty that Brexit presents I predict that it will still be another good year for the Warrington economy.

When we started site clearance works on the Time Square project in 2016, 2020 seemed a long way off.

I was out on site at Time Square recently and it is exciting to see the progress. I stood in the structures that will become the new market hall and council offices which are rapidly taking shape. There are currently 260 permanent employees currently working for Vinci on the construction. By the end of March that figure will have risen to 400.

Progress is set to accelerate with roofs and wall panels being affixed to the structures. Come summer, externally the scheme will look complete albeit that the internal fit out of the buildings will be underway in earnest ready for an opening in spring of 2020.

Elsewhere, work is underway on Warrington Central Park Highways Link, with works starting on the key element – the construction of a new bridge connecting Centre Park to Chester Road - to start in the coming

weeks.

Over at Omega three of the Mountpark units on Omega South were completed last month (of which Royal Mail are to occupy one) and work will complete on their fourth, and final unit in February. Demand for the housing units is high and both Redrow and Miller are reporting that it has exceed their sales expectations. Planting is also well underway on the Green Heart – a new 35 acre park – which will be opened in 2020 in order to give.

In the coming months work will commence on the construction of the new Youth Zone at the Stadium

Quarter.

Applications to construct and convert properties for town centre residential use continue to flood in with hundreds so far approved. It is encouraging to see the Private Sector responding to the public sector lead regeneration activity in the town.

In March Warrington Business Exchange will host its Annual Conference celebrating a year in business. At the time of writing membership stood at 175 and is growing day by day. It's a great forum in which to do business and collaborate with others. It is set to be an exciting event so hope to see you there.



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Steve Park
MD of Warrington & Co.

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Captivating ballet coming to the Parr Hall



THE captivating story of Coppélia is to be told through a beautiful ballet at Warrington's Parr Hall.

A lively production, infused with old world charm, Coppélia appeals to audiences of all ages with its captivating story of an eccentric toymaker and his beloved doll.

The colourful costumes, lively characters and beautiful music from Delibes all combine to create a magical and comical classic that warms and entertains from start to finish.

Coppélia is guaranteed to lift the hearts of all the family.

Vienna Festival Ballet presents this eternal production of Coppélia, which embellishes the original tale by E.T.A. Hoffmann, who also wrote The Nutcracker, with fabulous dancing and beautiful storytelling.

Follow the adventures of old Dr Coppélius and his prized doll, and the two lovers Swanhilda and Franz, on an enchanting evening of mischief, love and frivolity.

Returning by popular demand, Vienna Festival Ballet's production of Coppélia promises to delight audiences of all ages.

Tickets are on sale now for the show on Sunday, May 19; visit parrhall.culturewarrington.org or call Box Office on 01925 442345.

Have your say on schools admissions

PARENTS in Warrington are being encouraged to have a say on proposed changes to schools' admissions arrangements.

The borough council says the proposed changes, which would come into effect for the September 2020-21 academic year, focus on admissions of looked after children – that is children in the care of the local authority.

The Minister of State for School Standards has recently confirmed that the law relating to looked after children will soon be changing and there will be an additional requirement for all state funded schools to prioritise looked after children previously in state care outside of England.

Most schools in Warrington have decided to make this change for admissions to their school starting from September 2020.

In addition to the change to the looked after children criteria, some schools may be proposing other changes too, such as changing the admission numbers for reception classes or Year 7.

The council is now consulting on these changes, giving all parents the opportunity to share their views and provide feedback.

Cllr Jean Carter, lead member for children's services said: "We know how important it is for parents and carers to secure a place at the right school for their child. That is why it is a really important for everyone to understand these proposed changes.

"We are always listening to the views of parents so I would encourage as many people as possible to take part in the consultation and have their say. All views will be taken on board."

For more information and to see if schools you are interested in are proposing changes for admissions from September 2020, please visit the individual schools websites or warrington.gov.uk/consultations

The consultation will run until Thursday January 31.



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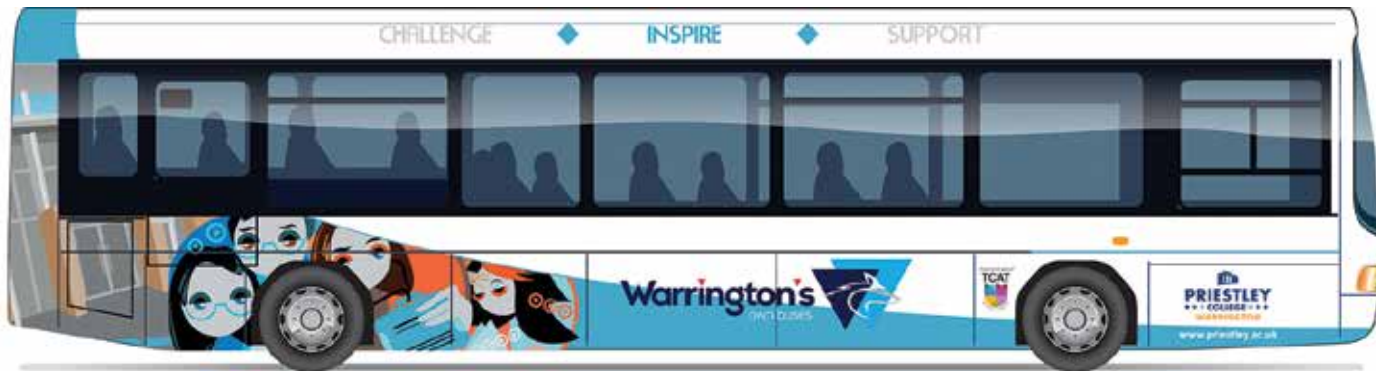
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The
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Dream comes true for student designers

IT'S a dream for designers to see their work on show – and for four students from Warrington's Priestley College that dream has come true.

Four members of the BTEC Graphic Design course will see their designs pass by on a regular basis thanks to the college's partnership with Warrington's Own Buses.

Their designs – featuring characters created by the college's in-house designer Carl Gleavey – now adorn the sides of buses that travel directly to the college from Widnes, Irlam / Cadishead and Golborne.

Ben Wakerley, managing director at Warrington's Own Buses, said: "We like to wrap buses to give them an identity for the route they operate and to make it easier for customers to understand which bus to catch and where it goes."

"The final design was picked as we felt that it would work well on the bus and we liked the modern imagery."

Students Emily Moxon, Jamie Smith, Nick Lin and Natalie Guest produced the final design after hours of discussion and creativity at college.

Emily, a former pupil at Great Sankey High School, said: "It's amazing to have our work on the side of the buses knowing that so many people will see it in Warrington."

Warrington's Own Buses run a number of services direct to Priestley College and three of them have now been wrapped in the students' designs.

They include cartoon-like student characters and interpretations of some of the buildings found on the college campus.

Tutor Paul McConnell said: "It's been great for the students to work with Warrington's Own Buses and treat them as a 'real life' client with standards and deadlines to meet."

Pictured: Emily Moxon, Jamie Smith and Nick Lin on the bus that is now wrapped in their designs.



Bus company scoops a silver award

MUNICIPALLY-owned Warrington's Own Buses has scooped a silver award in this year's UK Bus Awards for its new Cheshire Cat and Pops bus routes.

The company was in competition with bus companies from across the country and there was a strict judging process.

Managing director Ben Wakerley said: "Our bus company is locally-owned and contributes significantly to Warrington's local economy, not only from a comprehensive network, connecting people and destinations, but also as one of the biggest employers, buying local goods and services, easing congestion and improving local air quality."

"We continue to make every effort to improve our offer and in the past year, we've reduced several fares, increased frequencies and

simplified information.

"We work in partnership with design gurus Best Impressions to improve all aspects of our product. This award recognises our efforts and means a great deal to the whole team."

Pictured: Warrington's Own Buses' top team (l to r) Duane Henderson (operations director); Gareth Mead (head of commercial); Cllr Cathy Mitchell (chairman); David Woods (finance director); Steve Stringer (head of engineering); Ben Wakerley (managing director)





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Padgate pub transformed with £250,000 refurbishment

THE Station House Carvery & Grill at Padgate has opened after an extensive refurbishment costing £250,000.

Formally The Stocks on Station Road, the entire building has undergone a complete refurbishment and The Station House opens boasting a brand new kitchen, with its own smoker, pizza oven, open carvery, family friendly space and extensive bar area. There is also a free car park for customers to use.

The Station House Carvery and Grill now features a refreshed interior décor with rough, natural finishes including exposed brick, raw timbers and touches of steel, as well as a comprehensive menu of casual American comfort foods and British classics paired with a bar menu that's simple, straightforward and fun.

The £250,000 refurbishment has taken two months and created 14 new jobs within the local community. The new opening is the undertaking of the same local Warrington team which one year ago successfully refurbished and reopened The Ring O'Bells on Church Street in Warrington.

Mike Atkinson, spokesman for Same Again Pubs said: "We wanted to create something that was so much more than a great local. The vision was to create a go to place



that bridges the gap between local boozier and pretentious gastro. We know good food brings people together and that's at the heart of The Station House.

"Somewhere you can go for lunch, dinner or just a cuppa and a cake. After months of planning, the internal space has created dedicated zones that make it genuinely family friendly without impacting on those wanting a break from the under 18s.

"Every effort has been made to make sure our guests have a great experience – we've got some truly unique and fantastic dishes to try. The new team are really looking

forward to opening its doors and welcoming guests."

Head Chefs Stephen Melton & Danny Wheat are both local Warrington lads who've spent the last year establishing a fantastic reputation for great food at the Ring O'Bells. Danny Wheat is also the Pitmaster, ensuring meats are dry rubbed to perfection and fall off the bone.

The Station House promises to offer everyone a choice – adults, kids, appetites big and small, carnivores and vegans. The menu boasts a daily carvery and the onsite smoker delivers ribs slow smoked for 16 hours and more

grilled specials. The burgers, pizzas and milkshakes are sure to be popular with both the kids and the grown-ups and at the weekend. There is also a breakfast menu available at weekends only.

The Station House will serve a selection of beers, premium wines, spirits and cocktails carefully curated by bar team members formerly of the Ring O'Bells, who bring experience in new openings and establishments serving local communities.

warrington-worldwide were

given an exclusive invite to the pre-opening event and our reporter, Paul Jackson, was able to sample the food and he commented "Everything I tried was delicious, the smoked brisket was a triumph and the chicken perfect. The menu is excellent with some traditional classics and the occasional surprise or two including a breakfast pizza. I imagine that there is something for everyone here including vegetarian, vegan and gluten free options. The children's menu is comprehensive and the free drinks refills will be welcomed by parents and kids alike. I can't wait to bring the family to try this place out soon."

The Station House is open seven days a week. Table bookings can be made by calling 01925 939090.

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Advertiser's announcement

A kitchen without compromise

WHAT do you do when you've trawled the high street kitchen places but not found what you're looking for, and you don't want to compromise on your wish list....?

Welcome to JD Kitchens, the company that designs kitchens around you. Here's a real life example of what JD Kitchens did last month. The owners of this kitchen are busy people. They wanted an open space, with breakfast bar that doubled as a desk space, and a family area to sit together. It needed to feel luxurious, modern and warm, so that's what we gave them!

To create a kitchen with all the storage space that they needed, alongside a very long list of NEFF appliances was a challenge, particularly as our designer, Jason wanted to ensure that it was a relaxing space that didn't feel cluttered.

Jason didn't want them to have to compromise on style or on the number of appliances that they wanted, so planned the kitchen to use the benefit of the room's natural height utilising extra tall units to maximise the space.

The design offers the family a well planned and thoughtful kitchen that brought together all of the requirements. A concrete effect adds interest and texture, with high gloss doors to contrast and reflect the light.

Jason included larders and corner units to ensure that every inch of cupboard space could be accessed.

The ceiling was engineered to introduce lighting that complemented the scheme, minimising fuss and maintaining the streamlined look, and the work was all done by the JD Kitchen team, meaning it has a six year installation warranty.

If you're looking for a kitchen without compromise call in to see Jason at JD Kitchens, 4 Gorsey Lane, Padgate O1925 636997.



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RAM Properties complete on £3m sale of prime central site

RAM Properties has completed on the sale of a key development site in central Warrington for a sum in excess of £3million.

The 2.1 acre site on the A49 Winwick Road adjacent to Central Station has been sold to High Street Residential.

Developer Cording Development Group will be the ultimate owners who have planning permission to construct a £50M plus residential development and Multi Storey Car Park on the site.

The sale of the land is the final component in the scheme enabling work to commence.

The land which sits opposite Warrington's Stadium Quarter site was acquired by RAM Properties in 2009.

High Street Residential intend to build a 9 storey mixed use complex which will include circa 6,400sq ft of retail and leisure space, a 796 parking space Multi Storey Car park and 362 contemporary apartments.

RAM Properties, based in Warrington, was founded by Robert A McLaughlin in 1991 and now has an extensive portfolio of land and quality office space in Warrington, Widnes and Ellesmere Port.

Bob McLaughlin, Managing Director, RAM Properties, said: "We've always been at the core of Warrington's ongoing regeneration and are proud to be facilitating in its renaissance with the sale of this site.

"Our business has been built upon seeing opportunity. We have always strongly believed and invested in the potential of Warrington Town Centre. Immediately opposite the Winwick Road site is The Boultings - a former derelict chapel that was in danger of demolition - which we saved and converted into prime office accommodation that we still own and manage. Just a little further up the road we also have Dallam Court, Ribban Court and Tannery Court. Our Portfolio of Office stock totals well over 120,000sq ft.

"The High Street Residential scheme will be another fabulous asset in Warrington town centre."



MP plants trees for Queen's canopy initiative

WARRINGTON South MP Faisal Rashid joined over 500 other MPs to plant trees as part of the Queen's Commonwealth Canopy, a network of forest conservation initiatives to mark Her Majesty's lifetime of service to the Commonwealth.

He planted the trees – two silver birch, two rowan, and a hazel – in Bank Park in the town centre.

They were donated to Mr Rashid thanks to a partnership between the Woodland Trust, Sainsbury's and ITV, which in April screened a landmark documentary, *The Queen's Green Planet*, following Her Majesty and this ambitious legacy project which brings together her deeply held commitment to the Commonwealth and her little-known love of trees.

At the heart of the film was a conversation between the Queen and Sir David Attenborough filmed in the gardens of Buckingham Palace last summer. In a rare opportunity to see the Queen talking informally to Sir David, the conversation ranged from climate change, to conkers and of course trees, and was watched by 6.4 million viewers, making it ITV's most watched factual programme of the year.

In support of the programme the

Woodland Trust provided 50,000 trees for ITV viewers, and via Frank Field MP, who conceived the QCC initiative, also offered a special commemorative pack to every MP in the UK.

Mr Rashid said: "I am pleased that Warrington South is taking part in this fantastic initiative. This is a great opportunity for the constituency to engage on the vital role trees have in our environment, and how we must further recognise the importance of tree conservation.

"Many thanks to everyone who attended the ceremony. I am delighted that many senior figures from Warrington Borough Council and local representatives took part in what is a great addition to the legacy of our town."

Sainsbury's chief executive Mike Coupe said it was an exciting prospect to get so many trees in the ground as part of the Queen's Commonwealth Canopy with the support of so many MPs.



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My Warrington Remembers — The Waysiders

by Gordon Gandy

THE Waysiders began in 1944 when John Hales came out of the army and set up the business on 30 shillings a week, assisted by his mother, Mrs M. W Hales.

Martin Hales tells me his father was looking for a name for the store and his grandfather said, "Well, you're a bit by the wayside", so The Waysiders became the name.

John travelled down to The Potteries to purchase stock, which, in the early days, he displayed on orange boxes. As he sold the stock he went back to The Potteries to buy more and slowly built up the business.

At the end of World War II in 1945, the town, like the rest of the country, settled down to a new era of peace. There were still GIs stationed at Burtonwood.

The company specialised in china and glassware, fancy goods, wall ornaments, figurines etc, all of which found a ready market among the gift buyers both locally and the Americans who wanted something to send home to "Maw".

By 1956 the business had become so successful that further developments were planned and younger brother, Anthony, entered the scene to take charge of another branch in Market Place (seen in the photo) specialising in wool, woollies and knitting patterns, etc.

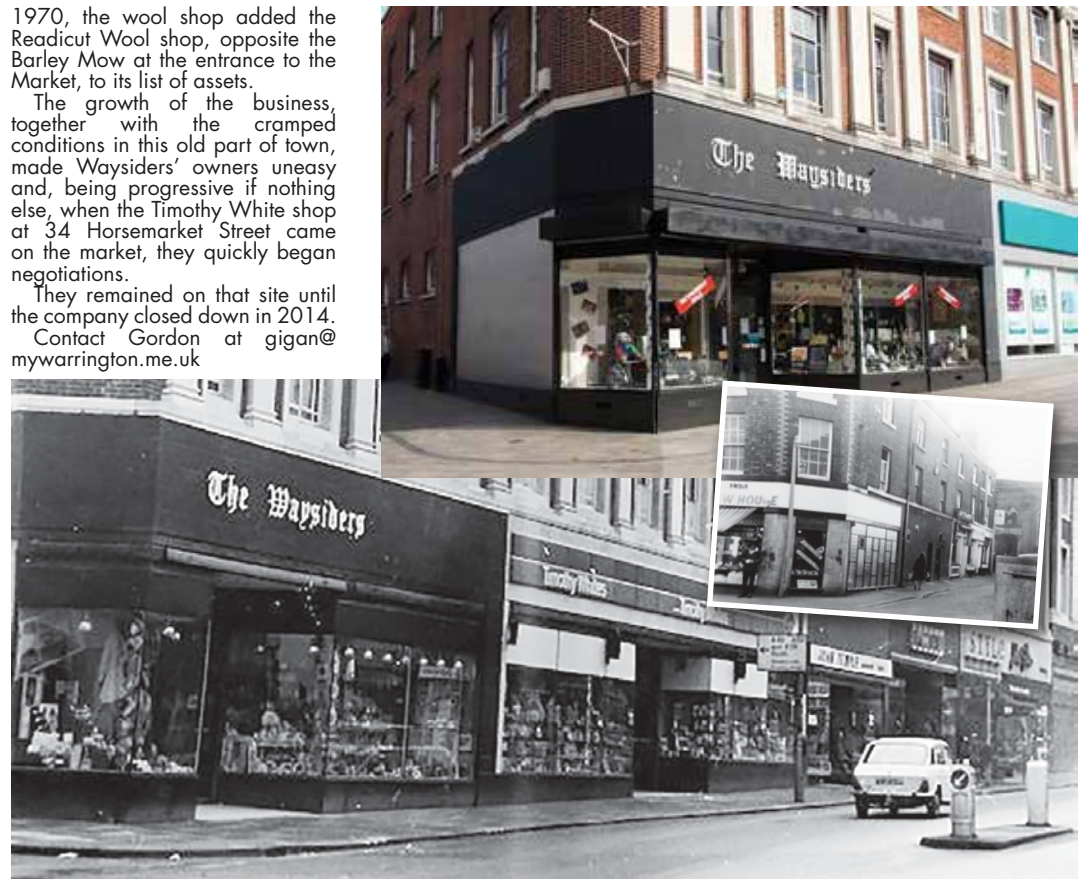
In 1969 the original Waysiders took over the premises next door which had been occupied by a chicken barbecue and in July

1970, the wool shop added the Readicut Wool shop, opposite the Barley Mow at the entrance to the Market, to its list of assets.

The growth of the business, together with the cramped conditions in this old part of town, made Waysiders' owners uneasy and, being progressive if nothing else, when the Timothy White shop at 34 Horsemarket Street came on the market, they quickly began negotiations.

They remained on that site until the company closed down in 2014.

Contact Gordon at gigan@mywarrington.me.uk



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Students celebrate success at College's HE Awards Ceremony

WARRINGTON & Vale Royal College's Higher Education students celebrated outstanding success at the annual awards ceremony, set in the magnificent St Elphin's Church.

Friends, family, staff and fellow students gathered at the church to honour the determination and commitment of students who have completed HNCs, HNDs and Teacher Training, as well as higher level Apprenticeships and Professional qualifications.

As well as academic certificates, several students also received special awards for outstanding achievement, dedication and commitment in their subject area.

Natasha Wyatt, graduating in HND Performing Arts, was awarded the Future Leader Award, sponsored by Warrington's Own Buses.

The Outstanding Achievement Award, sponsored by Warrington and Halton NHS Trust, went to Richard Cusack, who successfully completed his Sport & Exercise Science HNC.

The Hilary Tucker Inspiring Learner Award, sponsored by [warrington-worldwide](http://www.warrington-worldwide.co.uk), was presented to HND Fine Art graduate Erin Hague.

Jeremy Boardman, graduating in HND Computing & Systems Development, took home the Student of the Year Award, sponsored by Lane End.

The Higher Apprentice of the Year Award, sponsored by Morgan Branding, was presented to Melanie Hallett, who is currently employed as a PA in Warrington & Vale Royal College.

The event also witnessed celebrity chef Aiden Byrne, become a Fellow of the College.

Principal Nichola Newton reflected on Aiden's support of the college's work placement programme and his commitment to developing the employability skills of their students.

"Over the last few years Aiden has really supported the college with various initiatives," explained Nichola, "including the Hospitality & Catering Skills Contest, which takes place each year. This is when our students compete against one another – Aiden spent the whole day with us, judging students and offering them valuable advice. He also kindly donated a number of his books.

"What's more, Aiden has provided our catering students with countless work placement opportunities, including within the prestigious Manchester House and 20 Stories. He's also appointed our talented students in paid employment roles within his restaurants."

The evening was concluded with a Student Vote of Thanks, delivered by the aforementioned Melanie Hallett.

Melanie said: "On behalf of all the students at Warrington & Vale Royal College I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate each and every one of you sat in front of me this evening.

"I would like to thank all of

our tutors for their hard work, determination and endless patience in guiding and supporting us on our course.

"I would like to thank the family and friends of each of our graduands, for their unconditional help and support along the way and especially the students of Warrington & Vale Royal College – I would like to wish you lots of luck and best wishes for the future.

"And remember the wise words of Santosh Kalwar: 'It does not matter where you go and what you study, what matters most is what you share with yourself and the world.'"

To find out more about Warrington & Vale Royal College's Higher Education and Professional courses, visit www.wvr.ac.uk.






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Fire service helps rescue pensioner — from cancer!

A PENSIONER from Warrington has praised Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service for helping her find out that she had bowel cancer "before it was too late".

A member of staff from the brigade's prevention team arranged for Gwen Pugh to receive a free home bowel cancer screening kit as part of a Safe and Well Visit in June last year.

It arrived within a week, and three days after using the kit and sending it off for analysis Gwen was informed that her samples showed cell abnormalities and given an appointment to see bowel cancer specialists at Aintree University Hospital.

The mum-of-three was subsequently diagnosed with bowel cancer and underwent a major operation to remove a tumour at Warrington Hospital.

She has since been told the operation was a complete success and that doctors are hopeful that she is now bowel cancer free.

Gwen, now 79, said: "My husband Gareth and I can't thank the staff at Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service enough for enquiring about my health when they came to our home to sort out a problem we had with our smoke alarms.

"They asked if I had ever received a bowel cancer screening kit from the NHS. I told them that my husband had but I hadn't and that I would like one.

"They arranged for me to be sent one and although I received it

within a week I didn't use it for a few months.

"It took me discovering some blood after going to the toilet to spark me to use the bowel cancer screening kit.

"Within three days of me using it and sending it off I was told that I had abnormalities and given an appointment at a hospital bowel cancer clinic.

"I was quickly diagnosed with bowel cancer and operated on and I have now been told by specialists that they believed it has all been taken out and been given a positive prognosis in regards to the bowel cancer.

"With everything being done through the bowel cancer screening people as opposed to my own GP, the whole process progressed very quickly.

"Despite me having to have various tests and appointments with specialists to discuss my options, I had my operation less than three months after sending the bowel cancer screening kit off on 18 October 2017.

"The operation was on my husband's 80th birthday in January.

"I am looking forward to turning 80 myself in February but if it wasn't for the staff at Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service enquiring about my health as part of a Safe and Well Visit and arranging for me to be sent a bowel cancer screening kit I may not be here now.

"They ensured that I was able to get my bowel cancer diagnosed

and treated before it was too late and I am eternally grateful to them for effectively saving my life."

The Safe and Well Visits programme was launched in Cheshire in February last year in collaboration with the NHS and local authority directors of public health.

Since then the groundbreaking programme has scooped a host of awards.

Nick Evans, head of prevention at Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service, said: "The latest figures

show that without a Safe and Well Visit almost 29,000 people in Cheshire may have suffered adversely through not knowing where to turn or not realising they may have something needing medical attention."

People over the age of 65 can book a Safe and Well Visit via Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service's website - www.cheshirefire.gov.uk/home/safe-and-well-visits - where residents can carry out their own home safety check by completing a questionnaire.



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By David Watkinson

Fun is over, back to work

We hope you have all had a very happy Christmas, but now it is time to look towards getting your tax returns in by the end of January. A late return incurs penalties even if it shows no tax payable. These rise from an immediate £100 to £1,600 after 12 months and are automatic.

Or so we all thought!

A taxpayer recently went to tribunal over penalties that had been imposed. He claimed that he had submitted his returns on time by first class post, but since he had not used recorded delivery he could not prove this. He had moved house several times and although he had informed HMRC by phone each time there was a delay of several months in recording these moves. He claimed that the first he knew of any alleged late filing was when he eventually received a letter from HMRC notifying him of the penalties, upon receipt of which he immediately re-submitted his returns.

The first tier tribunal (FTT) noted that with no proof of postage it could not accept that he had filed on time. They did, however, look at the level of the penalties. Without getting too technical, whilst the level of the first two penalties charged (amounting to a total of £1,000) were correctly calculated there was some argument about whether the final two penalties, charged after 6 months and 12 months and amounting to £600 in total, could exceed the tax due as there were two apparently conflicting provisions affecting them.

HMRC argued that "by creating two possibilities of a penalty", parliament clearly intended that there should be a minimum penalty under each of the two paragraphs regardless of the tax at stake, in order to encourage compliance, and they had calculated the penalties accordingly. The FTT disagreed, stating that the notion that it comes down to an alternative between issuing a penalty under one or another provision makes no sense. They said that part of the process of arriving at a £300 penalty is the act of calculating whether 5% of the tax is greater or less than that amount. This being the case, it is clear that the penalty has been determined by reference to tax. "It is... not possible to impose a £300 penalty without first having referred to the liability to tax".

The initial £100 and three-month £900 penalties were upheld since the taxpayer had shown no reasonable excuse for missing the deadlines. The six-month and twelve-month penalties were reduced to nil based on the fact that no tax was due for either year. Interestingly, and rather stupidly, this might not have applied if the returns had been submitted before they were 12 months late.

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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David Watkinson and Margaret Black



'Fit To Tackle' bootcamp celebrates weight loss success

THIRTY Warrington residents on a bid to improve their fitness and wellbeing by tackling LiveWire's free 12-week fat-burning bootcamp are celebrating after completing the "amazing" programme.

The group enjoyed their final bootcamp session at Halliwell Jones Stadium with the scales showing a combined weightloss of 36st 6lbs and 23 out of the 30 shedding at least 5% of body fat.

It was the result of 12-weeks of very hard work from them, and guidance from LiveWire's Fit To Tackle coaches and mentors.

Participants completed three exercise sessions a week, as well as other events aimed at improving their mental health and wellbeing such as an inspiring talk from former Rugby League star Danny Sculthorpe about his battle with depression, and a healthy heart event that allowed them to be screened for heart irregularities and blood pressure checks.

Tom Kearney, lifestyles advisor at LiveWire and Fit To Tackle coach said: "The latest programme produced amazing results. We had participants lose up to a massive 12% of their starting body weight and 5 inches from their waist measurement.

"The group showed determination and commitment to complete 12 weeks of fitness work including boot camps, spinning sessions, step challenges and mile runs.

"They have applied themselves fantastically and it was a pleasure to train them and be a part of their fitness journey. I'm sure this will just be a starting point to a healthier and happier lifestyle."

Michelle Bowden, 44, from Bruche, was the biggest female loser in the group, losing just under two stone in the 12-weeks.

Michelle said: "Even though my mental strength is strong, the course has enabled me to find my own path and a way forward that is right for me, offering me clarity. It also supported my weight loss and fitness levels and meeting amazing friends along the way."

Sue Doody, 39, from Orford, said: "I've struggled for many years with my diet, weight gain and lack of routine which all led to quite poor mental health. Fit To Tackle has honestly been the best thing I have ever done. It's also been the hardest thing I've ever done but worth every single minute. I've lost weight, found a new love for exercise and made some fantastic new friends. It really has given me a new and positive outlook on life – so thank you."

Sarah Frohawk, 39, also from Orford, added: "I was really happy with my weight loss and even more thrilled with my inch loss and the comments I received after the course were amazing and such a confidence boost. I am going to continue my weight loss journey and training with LiveWire and hope to reach my target next year – I feel this isn't the end, it's just the beginning. It was amazing and I would 100 per cent recommend anyone wanting to change their lives to apply for this."

Fit To Tackle launches the next 12-week programme in the New Year and applications are now open at www.livewirewarrington.co.uk/lifestyle/lose-weight/fit-to-tackle

Chris Baron returns to Wolves performance team

CHRIS Baron has returned to his role as strength and conditioning coach within Warrington Wolves' performance team.

Baron previously held this role at the club for five years between 2010 and 2014. He was part of the performance team in the Challenge Cup winning years of 2010 and 2012, and when the club lifted the League Leaders Shield in 2011.

Prior to his time at the club he worked for Rugby Union side Leicester Tigers. Since moving on from Warrington he has taken on similar positions with both Widnes Vikings and Leigh Centurions as well as within the International England side.

Wolves face Widnes in Ryan Atkins testimonial



WARRINGTON Wolves will host Widnes in Ryan Atkins' testimonial game on Sunday January 20 (3pm).

Atkins, 33, is celebrating his testimonial in 2019 having scored 163 tries in 261 appearances for the Wolves.

He joined the club from Wakefield back in 2010.

Relegated Widnes will travel to the Halliwell Jones Stadium in what will be Warrington's only home pre-season friendly.

Match tickets are available in the Official Club Store and online at warringtonwolves.com

Seating in the North and East Stands will be reserved therefore 2019 full season members will have a priority period until close of play Sunday 6 January to reserve their seats before all seats go on general sale as of 9am Monday 7 January. Members will need to log into your account before purchasing for your seats to be listed.

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