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Issue No. 241 October 2019 FREE EVERY MONTH

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# Editor's Comment



**FOR many years we have been told prevention is better than cure, so it is a little surprising that more than half of Warrington's residents have failed to take up the free NHS health checks on offer!**

Or is it surprising? From my own personal experiences and others I have heard about, it can be quite difficult to get an appointment at your GP these days.

At my local surgery you have to ring at 8am for a same day appointment, generally end up being on hold for 10-15 minutes and then face being told there are no appointments available.

The advice is to go along to one of the walk in services at Halton or Warrington or ring 111.

I am aware that some people now head straight to A&E to get checked out, putting undue pressures on our local hospital.

It is a far cry from the good old days when you could just pop along to your family doctor, build a relationship with the same person and just turn up for an appointment during times of ill health.

In an article on page 22 you will see that some pharmacies are now offering a video link to a GP to discuss your ailments.

I suppose for some people that may help but it is not exactly personal and doesn't create any GP-Patient rapport.

I also know the GP experience can vary from practice to practice and some readers will be wondering what all this fuss is about.

But during these trying times for our health service surely there must be an easier way for everyone to get in to see their GP?

A re-assuring voice, a friendly smile and a quick examination can often be the perfect tonic, rather than the anxiety and stress of being left hanging on the telephone and unable to get in to see your family doctor.

Maybe the reason more than half of Warrington's residents haven't

taken up the free MOT is because they couldn't get through to make the appointment, with many more, I am sure, unaware of the opportunity.

The old saying prevention is better than cure is certainly true - but only if you can get through to make an appointment and be seen in an orderly time.

Finishing on a positive note - congratulations to everyone at Warrington Wolves on their Wembley success - it certainly helped provide a tonic for the town and it was great to see the town hall lawn transformed into a sea of primrose and blue.

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# Plan to convert historic Bank House into Boutique Hotel

**WARRINGTON Borough Council is planning to sell off the historic Grade 2 Listed Bank House next to the town hall as part of plans to bring an important town centre site back into economic use.**

The council is seeking a preferred developer of land and buildings at Garven Place, formerly the site of a former NHS clinic acquired by the Council as part of the land swap with the NHS in 2009, for the former public swimming baths on Bath Street.

The council is proposing to dispose of the Grade 2 Listed buildings Bank House (88) and 86 Sankey Street – which have been empty for a number of years – paving the way to a major residential-led/mixed use scheme at the site.

A proposed redevelopment scheme has been brought forward, seeking to convert the existing buildings into a boutique hotel, restaurant, spa and swimming pool, along with the development of residential apartments and public car park.

The plans aim to bring two landmark, town centre buildings back into use, and provide a high quality development on a strategic corner site, adjacent to the Town Hall and opposite the cultural quarter.

It will also provide a capital receipt for the council.

The residential element of the proposal is being supported due to the site's inclusion in the Council's Strategic Housing Availability Assessment (SHLAA).

Warrington Borough Council Leader, Cllr Russ Bowden, said: "We have strong aspirations for Warrington town centre, and these plans aim to support our ongoing economic regeneration

and growth.

"Bringing forward the development of the Garven Place site has been a long held ambition, and the current market and wider town centre developments mean we now have a fantastic opportunity to do this.

"This is a strategically important, high profile site, and it would enable us to regenerate an area of unused vacant land and deliver an aspirational and quality scheme for the town centre."

The Garven Place site comprises the former clinic site and adjoining public car park together with the listed buildings, Bank House (no 88) and No 86 Sankey Street. The site comprises approximately 1.38 acres (0.56 ha).

Bank House (No 88) has been vacant since 2014 when it ceased to be used by Golden Gates Housing Trust as an operational office. 86 Sankey Street is partly leased. However, it is proposed the buildings will be offered with vacant possession, and with discussions now taking place with the current tenant.

Land to the rear of Bank House is currently an operational council-operated public car park, and a condition of the sale is that this provision remains somewhere within the redevelopment scheme.

The site is cleared, levelled and fenced with direct access from Sankey Street.

There will be a report back to Cabinet in 2020 for final terms for a disposal of the property, once details of the project and planning consent are confirmed.





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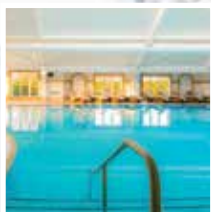
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# Warrington & Vale Royal College is still enrolling for adult courses



Warrington & Vale Royal College

Do you want to change your career?  
Perhaps you want to develop your skills or find a new hobby?

Whatever your ambitions, Warrington & Vale Royal College is here to help you! This year we have enhanced our Adult Course Guide to include even more part-time and full-time leisure and professional courses.

Each year at Warrington & Vale Royal College, we support hundreds of adult students on their journey to rediscovering themselves.

Check out some of our latest student success stories...

## Aini Amin Patisserie & Confectionary Certificate Level 2

Food blogger Aini enrolled on to the college's Patisserie & Confectionary Certificate Level 2 to practice professional techniques.

*"The course tutor is brilliant. I've also completed a Digital Photography course at the college which has helped me to photograph food for my blog."*

## Sam Dear Travel & Tourism Management HND

Sam enrolled on to the Travel & Tourism Management HND from our Travel & Tourism Level 3 course.

*"The people are really nice and the teachers are fantastic. It's also a relaxing environment to work in."*

## Josh Woodward Graphic Design HNC

After completing his Level 3 in Graphic Design, Josh decided to remain at Warrington & Vale Royal College to study his HNC, also in Graphic Design.

*"I wanted to study a course that was of university level but remain local, so I decided to stay nearby with teachers who are really good."*

Visit [wvr.ac.uk](http://wvr.ac.uk) to find out more about the courses available at Warrington & Vale Royal College.



Pictured: Aini Amin (above), Sam Dear (top right), Josh Woodward (bottom right).

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Warrington & Vale Royal College

 [wvr.ac.uk/openevenings](http://wvr.ac.uk/openevenings)

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## Back to school...

IT'S NOT ONLY ABOUT THE KIDS.

Summer's out for school.  
The office is fuller again.  
Everybody's work-life balance  
is returning to normality.  
Well, not quite everybody...

With the start of the new school year you may have found that the number of applications for a change in working hours have increased.

From June 2014 any employee with over 26 weeks service can submit an application for flexible working - for any reason - so what can you do to ensure that shaking up work patterns doesn't have a detrimental impact on the office?

**#1 - Treat everyone equally** - Consider the reasoning behind everyone's desire to change hours - not just parents or carers.

Compromise can be found, but having a flexible working policy in place allows an open discussion between employee and employer.

**#2 - Grant flexibility, with accountability** - Allow people their flexible hours; health and well-being is important and can have a much more positive impact in the office. But if the amended hours are having a detrimental impact for whatever reason, these can be addressed with the individual.

**#3 - Don't be forced** - You can reject a request to change employment hours, but you must reject it on fair and business grounds.

The legislation does not give employees the right to work flexibly. Instead it provides a right to request flexible working.

So if somebody at your company has recently requested a change to their agreed employment hours and you're not sure how to handle it, start a conversation with us, and ensure the transition from the summer holidays is a cool breeze!

*Ellen Parkin*

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Warrington & Co. Business

## Inkjet - the green printing solutions

How to reduce printing power consumption by 96%



SHARPLES Group have operated in the Print Management Solutions industry from their Warrington HQ for over 40 years.

During this time they've seen considerable technological changes. Hardware and software technology constantly advance to address evolving market needs. Optimising efficiency and rationalising costs are always priorities but for many minimising environmental impact is now top of the agenda.

It may surprise you to know that business inkjet technology is the emerging (or, more correctly, re-emerging) solution that is consistently delivering against the imperatives of achieving environmental responsibility while increasing efficiency and reducing cost.

In short, inkjet technology is the green, energy conserving, money saving and efficient print solution. Once seen as the poor relation to laser print, "inkjet for home, laser for work", inkjet is now trailblazing the way.

Inkjet technology has improved and matured. Research shows that new business inkjet technology uses up to 96% less energy when compared to standard laser printer technology. Advances in printhead technology, the part that dispenses the ink, have enabled this massive reduction in power requirement. Heat is not needed; pressure is used instead. Delivering a significant positive impact on the environment, as well as to the bottom line.

The absence of a heating element also means inkjet printers don't have to 'warm up'. This translates to speed, so that documents can be sent to your printer, inkjet printed and be in your hands before a laser printer has had the chance to get to stand-by. This reduction in energy consumption means a very real saving on both

your electricity bill and your carbon footprint.

The new business inkjet technology requires fewer moving parts, so devices are easier to maintain and operate, performing up to 3.5 times faster than standard laser equivalents and requiring up to 98% less user intervention.

This new breed of inkjet printers also generates up to 99% less waste as they use a replaceable ink pack technology that significantly reduces consumables packaging.

Of course, there will still be circumstances when laser technology has the edge, for example when you require production-quality print. But the new inkjet machines are designed for business; multi-functionality, easy systems integration and air print come as standard on many devices.

Business inkjets now represent one in three new business printer sales. In five years' time they, not lasers, are likely to be the default business printer. Anyone thinking about buying or replacing printers is advised to seriously consider business inkjet as an option before making a final decision.

To compare your current printer power usage to new inkjet options using our Energy Calculator: <https://sharplesgroup.com/inkjet/>

For more information, your local Sharples Group contact is Sam Johnson on 01925 839 599 or at [Sam.johnson@sharplesgroup.com](mailto:Sam.johnson@sharplesgroup.com)





# Challenge Cup victory extends feel good factory

by Stephen Fitzsimons

SEVERAL years ago I was in Philadelphia airport and saw an advert to attract investment into Bolton, utilising a picture of the local football team, Bolton Wanderers.

Sadly for them, their situation deteriorated on and off the pitch and the Wanderers brand is less useful for supporting economic development.

By contrast, Warrington's fantastic Challenge Cup victory attaches a most welcome label to the whole of the town – winners. The feel good factor extends to the business community where leaders naturally want to associate themselves with success. It's therefore an extra special thank you to Steve Price and his team for making our role at Warrington & Co much easier for the year ahead.

The last month has thankfully been quiet on the roads with the children being on holiday, however the private sector has carried on as normal. We welcomed the investment of Manchester Studios into Birchwood Park which makes the site over 95% occupied. Another independent survey highlighted Warrington as the 2nd best location for business start-ups

and there were deserved awards for local companies Twinfix and Room Forty. I held meetings with a couple of significant companies including Sellafield who employ 2,000 highly skilled staff and Ingevity who make 2/3rds of the world's caprolactone (I had to Google it!) in Warrington. World call operations with a truly global reach.

The next couple of months may be tricky for businesses as they try to navigate the opportunities and

challenges from the UK leaving the European Union on the 31st October. Warrington is a very resilient town and has a diverse economy that should help it to get through whatever comes next. Warrington & Co will monitor the situation closely and support businesses as appropriate utilising partners such as the Department of International Trade, Local Enterprise Partnership and other colleagues in central government.



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## real 5 NETWORKING

### Brilliant turnout!

It was a brilliant turnout for this months real5 Networking lunch club as they welcomed along the networkers of the future. That's right, the kids came along! As we entered the last week of the summer holidays Mum and Dads were invited to bring the kids up to Walton Hall, while they cracked on with the meeting the kids enjoyed crazy golf, a trip round the zoo and the opportunity to get to know each other. MD, Andy Hibbert said 'its something unique that we've never done before but everyone's had a great time and its handy solution to childcare!'

There was a cheque for over £4500 handed over to St Rocco's from the recent 3 peaks challenge and Neil Barber Smith from NBS Electrical scooped member of the month for his high quality workmanship and reliability.



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# What if it is too late for a Lasting Power of Attorney?

Kristel Clarke, Solicitor in the Private Client team at FDR Law advises that Lasting Powers of Attorney or LPA's are very useful documents which you can make while you have capacity to appoint people to act for you if you lose capacity. Your chosen attorneys will act in your best interests if you can no longer make decisions for yourself. You can have more than one attorney and can appoint them in different ways. There are two types – one for Property and Finances and one for Health and Welfare Decisions. There is generally no ongoing supervision or Court involvement.

But what if you haven't made a Lasting Power of Attorney? What if the loss of capacity was sudden before you had the chance to make a Lasting Power of Attorney? Who can access your bank and investments and pay bills for you? Who can make decisions about your welfare?

If you lose capacity without appointing attorneys, the Court of Protection can appoint a Deputy to look after your property and financial affairs. The Court can appoint a family member or friend but in some instances a professional is required.

Applying to the Court of Protection to appoint a Deputy can be complex. As part of the process interested people such



as close friends and family must be notified of the application so that they have a right to respond. Medical evidence is required to prove to the Court that the person has lost capacity. If the application is successful the Court will make an order outlining the Deputy's rights and responsibilities.

Once appointed, the Deputy must submit an annual report to the Court detailing all income and expenditure such as paying bills, investment decisions, purchases etc. The Deputy will be supervised by the Office of the Public Guardian and may also be visited by a representative from the Court of Protection from time to time to

ensure that they are carrying out their role and duties properly.

Applying to the Court of Protection can be a complicated and daunting. We can support you through the process and make it as easy as possible. We can also make the application on your behalf and act as Deputy if required. We have two Solicitors at FDR Law who are currently appointed as Deputies and who manage clients' property and financial affairs.

If you would like more advice about this, please contact Kristel or any of our Private Client Team for a free initial consultation on 01925 230 000.

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# WHAT'S ON

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TO OCTOBER '19

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Sat 21 Sep Crooners  
Fri 27 Sep Car Wash Fridays  
Sat 28 Sep Motown & Northern Soul  
Sat 5 Oct Silent Disco - Family Party  
Sat 5 Oct Silent Disco - Full Moon Party  
Sun 13 Oct FILM SCREENINGS:  
ET: The Extra Terrestrial (U)  
Apollo 13 (PG)  
Fri 18 Oct Illegal Eagles  
Sat 19 Oct Ben Elton - Live 2019  
Sun 20 Oct The Drifters  
Thu 31 Oct Sir Ranulph Fiennes -  
Living Dangerously

**Pyramid** Box Office: 01925 442345  
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Fri 13 Sep An Evening with Simon Weston CBE  
Sat 14 Sep The Doors Alive  
Sat 28 Sep Rivfest 19  
Fri 18 Oct Hue & Cry  
Sat 19 Oct Adam Rowe  
Fri 25 Oct Hal Cruttenden - Chubster  
Sat 26 Oct Alfie Moore - Fair Cop Unleashed  
Sun 27 Oct Panto of the Dead



## Dancer Kate returns to her roots



PROFESSIONAL dancer Kate Jackson chose to return to her Warrington roots ahead of a series of performances at this year's Edinburgh Fringe Festival.

Contemporary dancer Kate has been commissioned by, and worked with Culture Warrington, before, so returning to Pyramid Arts Centre to rehearse *Airplane of Flowers* was an easy decision.

Originally from Warrington, Kate returned to the town seven years ago after working in London and was delighted by the change she saw.

She said: "It's amazing that we've got somewhere like Pyramid and Parr Hall here; I've been coming to this building all my working life and it's great to be connected with Culture Warrington again."

Previous collaborations with the arts charity include *Household*, *SOLO* and *All-one* with the support of Arts Council England and Warrington Borough Council.

Other credits include being artist in residence at Northern School of Contemporary Dance where she trained and she has taught extensively and is a newly qualified yoga teacher.

"The town has doubled in size since I moved back here from London," she added. "The art scene seems to be thriving and there's a great dance programme developing here."

"That's why I've made most of my work here."

Her most recent residency at Pyramid has been in preparation for a series of performances of *Airplane of Flowers* which took place at Edinburgh Fringe's Forest theatre.

The piece was originally commissioned by Merseyside Dance Initiative for Liverpool's LEAP dance festival in 2018 and features a solo performed by LJMU Masters student Abbi Henderson.

Kate said: "I was looking for ideas at the point of time when Syria was being discussed a lot and terrorism was very much in people's consciousness; it was just before the Manchester Arena bombing to put it into context."

"I started to research the affects that war, terrorism and injustice can have on individuals and the community."

Kate also drew on her awareness of the IRA bombings which took place on Bridge Street on March 20, 1993, killing 12-year-old Tim Parry and three-year-old Johnathan Ball.

She spent a year and a half carrying out research with organisations like the Tim Parry and Johnathan Ball Peace Foundation and Survivor Alliance, and volunteered with charities like Asylum Link Merseyside.

"I was interested in what happens to a community which has been affected by a bomb like that; what changes take place, how people's sensitivities change."

"The Irish people felt so passionately about what had happened in Warrington that they sent loads of flowers which came, of course, by plane; I thought it would be nice to highlight that with the title of the piece. That really resonated with me."

"I started asking lots of questions about what's in place to support people after something like this happens, what can prepare people for the aftermath, how do these things affect us and shape us."

Speaking about *Airplane of Flowers*, Kate said: "Although it's not graphic, it is by its nature a small stand against the storm of violence against women and children in terrorism and the need now, in that light, to hold tighter to our understanding of community and oneness."

"*Airplane of Flowers* celebrates the innocence of life, the great social part of being human that makes us all connected and loved, and the ability within us all to survive and recover."

Kate has once again been commissioned by Culture Warrington to create a new performance as part of this year's Warrington Contemporary Arts Festival.

Leah Biddle, cultural manager for Culture Warrington, revealed that Kate is working with students from Priestley College for a WCAF paving event to take place in the town centre during the Heritage Open Days weekend in September.

Leah said: "It's been fantastic having Kate as our artist in residence this summer, knowing that we are helping one of our local artists in the development of their work, especially when it is for such a renowned platform as Edinburgh Fringe."

"I have been lucky enough to work with Kate on several projects and it's a wonderful opportunity to now be able to connect an artist of her calibre with students from Priestley College in creating new work for this year's Warrington Contemporary Arts Festival."



Advertiser's announcement

# In the "Know" – Digital advice from Dreamscape

## A lot of people ask us "what is PPC advertising and how will it benefit my business"?

In its simplest form, Pay Per Click (PPC) advertising appears at the top of a search engine results page in a text format. Text ads are normally the first 4 results that will appear after you have entered your search query into Google.

### How does PPC work?

The logistics are quite simple. Advertisers bid on a search term that they feel is relevant to their business offering in the hope that they show up in the very top spot of Google. If someone then clicks on your advert and visits your website, you then pay a fee to the search engine.

Normally, if you know what you're doing, the fee that you pay to Google or Bing becomes rather insignificant, as the 'conversion' you have received off the back of it is worth more than what you paid for it. For example, if you pay £3 for a click and it leads to a £100 sale, then you've made a good profit.

However, do not underestimate how easy this sounds. Getting your Pay Per Click campaign working correctly and making you money takes experience, expertise and a real focus on detail. And if you don't do it well, you'll essentially pay more and achieve less.

Also, search engines will either reward or punish you based on how

well your campaigns are running. By creating relevant and intelligently targeted campaigns, Google and Bing will start charging you less for the ad click than a competitor with a poorly ran campaign.

### Why you should be using PPC

1. Research has shown that people searching through Google & Bing click on paid adverts more often than any other form of digital advertising.

2. It is a cost-effective way to drive relevant traffic to your website as the people who will see your advert are already searching for your products or service.

3. By putting your brand at the top of Google's search results, you're limiting the chance of that customer going to a competitor.

There's no argument that PPC is a valuable marketing channel for any business. With over 2 million 3rd party websites on the Google network, 90% of internet coverage, and the largest search engine in the world, you are sure to get the most impressions and clicks to your ads.

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# Excellent A-levels success for students

THE publication of the 2019 A-level results has brought excellent news for Warrington students.

Initial results from Warrington schools and colleges show that A-level results are better than ever, with an increase in the number of students achieving A\*-C and A\*-C grades.

The figures show 97.7% of Warrington students have achieved A\*-E grades this year, above the national pass rate of 97.6%.

Warrington Borough Council's cabinet member for children's services, Cllr Matt Smith, said: "These fantastic A-level results are great news for Warrington. They are testament to the hard work of students, supported by dedicated schools staff."

"It's pleasing that Warrington's overall results show an improvement against the national average again this year. While, nationally, we have seen a drop in the proportion of students achieving the top grades, in Warrington we have seen an improvement this year."

"I'd like to congratulate young people from across the borough on their outstanding academic achievements. We wish all of our students the very best of luck in achieving their future career aspirations."

Young people who are looking for guidance in relation to their next steps, can contact the Warrington Life Service on 01925 442211, or visit [warrington-life.co.uk](http://warrington-life.co.uk)

## Priestley College

Meanwhile Priestley College achieved its best ever set of A-Level results as the Class of 2019 secured an overall pass rate of 99.4%.

There was a 100% pass rate in 34 subjects with impressive results across subjects as diverse as Chemistry, Biology, Politics, Architecture, Performing Arts, Art and Design, Music and Computing.

Principal Matthew Grant said both A\* to B and A\* to C grades were at record levels and praised the hard work of students and staff alike.

"Today marks the end of our second years' time with us and the start of a new chapter in all their lives," he said.

"Given that we have seen a record pass rate, and a fantastic amount of high marks, I am certain this cohort will go on to achieve great things."

More students take A-Levels at Priestley College than any other institution in Warrington with over 500 young people collecting their results.

Among them was aspiring surgeon Heidi Kressel who achieved A\*s in Art and German as well as As in Biology and Chemistry.

The former St Gregory's Catholic High School pupil set her heart on a career in surgery after Priestley organised for her to attend a Medic Mentors Summer School.

"I find it fascinating how you can take the body apart to put



something right and then put it back together again," said Heidi, who is now going to study Medicine at the University of Hull.

Among Priestley's Oxbridge hopefuls was former college president and Bridgewater High School pupil Sophie Johnson.

She achieved A\*s in Art and History but is hoping a review of her Politics paper will give her the necessary A\* to reach Cambridge where she hopes to study Human, Social and Political Sciences.

"I'm really excited for university

whether it be Cambridge or Leeds because I liked both of them so I know I am going to have a great time whatever happens," she said.

For Tom Bramwell, a former pupil at Penketh High, an electrical engineering apprenticeship with Procter and Gamble awaits after he picked up two Cs in Computing and Physics and a D in Maths.

"I always knew I didn't want to go to university and the careers advisers at college really helped me as I was looking for the right apprenticeship," he said.



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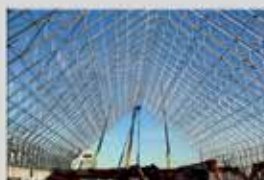
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# Birchwood College celebrate outstanding results

BIRCHWOOD College is again celebrating outstanding Year 13 exam results. Of the BTEC Applied Learning entries, 73 per cent were either a Distinction star grade or a Distinction grade with an overall pass rate of 100 per cent.

The A-level pass rate, A\*-E, was equally as impressive at 99 per cent for all A-level courses. Moira Bryan, headteacher of Birchwood High School said: "Congratulations to all our students on these amazing results which is a testament to their hard work and commitment. We are so proud of them all."

Some fantastic BTEC Applied Learning successes from Birchwood College include:

- \* 100 per cent Double Distinction star in Music

- \* 100 per cent Distinction star in Acting,

- \* 100 per cent Distinction star in Applied Science

- \* 100 per cent Distinction star in ICT

- \* 100 per cent Distinction Star or Distinction in Health and Social Care Diploma

- \* 100 per cent Distinction Start or Distinction in Sports Studies Subsidiary Diploma and Diploma.

- \* Bethan Swann, received A-level grades of A in Geography and B in Biology and Chemistry. She will now be going on to study Medicine and surgery at Lancaster University.

- \* Ed Parry received three outstanding grades of Distinction\* in Level 3 BTEC Music and Acting. He is going to study Musical Theatre Performance at The Hammond, the North-West leading provider of performing arts education.

- \* Riley Dean (right) received the highest grades of D\*D\*D\* in his Level 3 BTEC Sport and Business qualifications, in the same week that he made his professional Rugby League debut for the Warrington Wolves in the Super League!

- \* Oliver Radley is heading to an exciting Zoology with Animal Behaviour degree course at Bangor University following some excellent results.

- \* Having achieved an amazing

A, B and C grade in A Level Psychology, Law and Biology, Daisy Yemm is heading to the University of Liverpool to study Law.

Chris Burrows, Head of Birchwood College, said; "We are absolutely delighted that these excellent results reflect the hard work of the young people at Birchwood College. With the support of our specialist subject teachers, small class sizes and our personalised learning programmes, students at Birchwood College have again achieved highly.

"We are also pleased that these results cement our position as one of the top performing colleges in the North West for BTEC Applied Learning"



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# OPEN EVENING

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PRESENTATION BY SENIOR STAFF AT 4.30PM & 6.00PM

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SCHOOL  
MEMBER





# More than half of town's residents fail to take up free NHS health check

WARRINGTON has been labelled one of the least proactive when it comes to health following a report which shows less than half those eligible took up free NHS health MOTs.

With the current NHS Health Check scheme set to be "scrapped" a report by Medicspot revealed only 46% of eligible people had participated in the scheme, although Warrington Council say they are ranked 58th best out of 152 areas – but admit they could do better.

The report compares regional NHS data on the utilisation of Health Checks, a free service offered by the NHS to everyone aged 40–74 to prevent premature death from heart disease, stroke, kidney disease and type 2 diabetes.

Warrington was named in the report as among the least proactive places in England when it comes to health due to the low number of people who took part in the scheme over the last five years.

The government announced it plans to replace the scheme with a digital version that makes use of technology to save people needing to book face-to-face appointments with their GP.

Out of the 63,648 eligible people in Warrington, all were offered a free NHS Health Check between 2014 and 2019.



Despite this, only 46% of those eligible in the town received a Health Check. For comparison, as many as 88% of the eligible population in Bolton received a Health Check within the same period.

Dr Johnson D'souza, Medical Director and GP at Medicspot, advised: "People aged 40–74 who don't get a Health Check every five years are at an increased risk of undetected cardiovascular disease.

"By checking your blood pressure, lifestyle, family history, height and weight, we can get an idea of your risk of getting certain illnesses including heart disease, stroke and diabetes," explains D'souza.

"It is very worrying that only

46% of people who were eligible for a free NHS Health Check in Warrington took up the offer," he added.

In June, researchers revealed free NHS checks reduce the risk of cardiovascular disease. The study found that over a six-year period, participants of the Health Check programme had lost weight, lowered blood pressure and fewer were smokers. Officials are yet to provide precise details of what the revamped Health Checks will look like in Warrington, but they said they would harness 'the latest technology, techniques, and data' and would include factors 'that could include their age, where they live and their DNA' to personalise health checks.

Despite the planned overhaul, people in Warrington who are aged 40–70 can still get a Health Check from their GP or pharmacist. This would usually involve receiving a letter from your GP or local authority to invite you for a Health Check. However, you can also request one yourself by contacting Warrington Council for more information.

But a Warrington Borough Council spokesperson said: "NHS Health Checks are not being

scrapped either in Warrington or the rest of England. The Department of Health and Social Care will shortly be launching a national review into the programme, aimed at making it more effective.

"While this review is taking place, NHS Health Checks will continue in Warrington under the current model.

"Around 46% of Warrington's eligible population received a NHS Health Check between 2014 and 2019. As a result, the borough is ranked as the 58th best performing Local Authority out of a total of 152 areas. We are certainly not among the 'least proactive places in England when it comes to health'.

"We do however recognise that we can improve further and we are looking at a number of ways to increase the uptake including further training for staff in GP Practices, community based provision of NHS Health Checks, and further awareness raising campaigns.

"We would very much like to encourage local residents to take up the offer of the NHS Health Check and they can contact their GP directly to request one."

"There are a range of other services available locally to support people to look after their own health and wellbeing. To find out more details please access My Life Warrington at [mylifewarrington.co.uk](http://mylifewarrington.co.uk)

Meanwhile the full Medicspot report can be read here <https://www.medicspot.co.uk/>

\* Medicspot was launched in 2018 and functions as an online video-linked GP service. The GPs work remotely providing pre-booked video consultations with patients who are based in a private clinical station in their selected pharmacy.

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## Schools urged to apply for £500 of free outdoor learning resources

SCHOOLS are being encouraged to apply for up to £500 worth of free outdoor learning resources to allow youngsters to get hands on with nature.

Applications for the Local School Nature Grants are open from now up until the 22nd November 2019 from the charity Learning through Landscapes, which is distributing £550,000 of funding raised by players of People's Postcode Lottery, with funds being awarded from Postcode Local Trust.

Through the programme, Learning through Landscapes wants to transform the way we currently think of outdoor education and show the learning and play potential that exists within all school grounds regardless of their setting and outdoor spaces, empowering teachers to be able to take the teaching of any curriculum subject outdoors.

As well as receiving up to £500 worth of outdoor resources of their choosing, school staff will also receive a two-hour training session on how to get the most out of the equipment. The learning resources and the training sessions available are entirely customisable; meaning infant, primary and secondary schools can choose which items will best suit their learners and the setting that they will be delivered in. The programme is also open to special schools and pupil referral units.

Applications are being actively encouraged from schools whose pupils are aged 5+ and are passionate about making environmental improvements for the benefit of their pupils, staff and the community.

Laura Chow, head of charities at People's Postcode Lottery, said: "Given that children in Britain spend an average of just 16 minutes a day exploring in parks and the countryside, I'm delighted that players of People's Postcode Lottery are supporting this programme."

For more information and to apply for funding, please visit [www.ltl.org.uk/projects/local-school-nature-grants](http://www.ltl.org.uk/projects/local-school-nature-grants)





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# Home care service is "good" across all areas

AN inspection by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) has rated the Warrington branch of the home care service, Belong at Home, as "good" across all areas, highlighting positive feedback from customers and colleagues' pride in working for the organisation.

The CQC inspection found the service to be "Good" in each of the five areas of caring, well-led, safe,

effective and responsive to customer needs, and fully compliant with all health and social care regulation.

## Support

Customers noted that support team members were always introduced by the manager, took the time to get to know them as individuals and supported them to continue their interests, as well as enhancing

their wellbeing and independence. They reported feeling very happy with their support team, saying they 'couldn't manage without them' as they 'go the extra mile' and are all 'fabulous'. A customer's relative stated their family member 'couldn't have had better care'.

There was also praise for the organisation's culture, with the inspector noting that team members

loved working for Belong and cherished its values, commenting that the management treated them 'like family, not just a number' and that it is a "world apart" from other employers. Colleagues also reported feeling well supported in their roles, highlighting strong leadership, extensive training and development opportunities.

Andrew Shield, Belong at Home Warrington operations manager commented on the report: "We are thrilled that Belong at Home Warrington has been rated 'good' by the CQC in all five areas. Our dedicated team take the time to provide a person-centred approach to home care, tailoring the service to each individual need and treating people with dignity and respect."

The CQC carry out their inspections by assessing information on the service, looking at incidents, issues or complaints. They speak to various people and undertake home visits, as well as evaluating care records related to medicine administration, recruitment, quality and safety of service.

Another success for the Belong at Home Warrington team was making the list for one of the North West's Top 20 home care providers with a review score of 9.9 by online review site [homecare.co.uk](http://homecare.co.uk). This achievement was homage to the team's dedication to providing a high standard of care as the reviews were solely based on customers and their relatives' opinions.



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# Warrington Mazda celebrates its 50th anniversary

**FAMILY-owned Warrington Mazda is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year – and by a happy coincidence also showcasing the all new hi-tech Mazda 3.**

Warrington Mazda was the first Mazda dealership in the North of England and one of the first in the UK.

The company was launched in 1968 by Douglas Ginger, grandfather of the current owner, Iain Ginger.

It was a case of small beginnings, with a two-vehicle showroom and a one bay workshop, selling the first Mazda vehicles to be imported into the UK.

But over the years, as technology,

disposable income and motorists' expectations advanced, those first premises were no longer adequate.

In the mid-1980's Warrington Mazda moved to a new location, where, under the guidance of Iain's father, Irvine Ginger, they were able to have a six vehicle showroom and three bay workshop and display a greater number of used vehicles on the larger forecourt.

In 1992, Warrington Mazda moved to its current, prominent position in Bewsey Road,

Warrington where, in modern showrooms, purpose-built for the larger Mazda range, they were able to display up to 10 new vehicles, with up to 40 used vehicles displayed on a larger forecourt.

In addition they were able to increase their after sales service with a modern, four-bay workshop.

Over the years, three generations of the Ginger family have steered Warrington Mazda along the highway to success, holding true to their beliefs of trust, friendliness and reassurance that the services they offer give their customers the satisfaction they expect.

Now in 2019, with more than 100 used cars and 30 new cars to view, as well as an after-sales department with over 50 years experience of knowing everything there is to know about the Mazda product, the future of Warrington Mazda is a bright one.

Current owner Iain Ginger believes in the coming years, with the introduction of new models, including electric cars, Warrington Mazda is in the ideal position to continue its heritage of excellent customer service in modern facilities, with the dream of being here in 2069 to celebrate their 100th birthday!



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# New sensory garden created in town centre

A new sensory garden has opened in Warrington town centre thanks to partnership working.

Sweet smelling plants and a mixture of brightly coloured flowers have transformed an unloved space into a beautiful sensory garden thanks to partnership working across Warrington Town Centre, led by Warrington BID and other Groundwork CLM project teams.

Warrington's Prince's Trust secured £5K worth of funding from discount retailer, Wilko, to sponsor its 'Get Started in Urban Spaces' programme. Groundwork designed and managed the initiative, on behalf of the Prince's Trust, who provided volunteers aged between 16-30 years old.

The week-long project provided training for the young volunteers, allowing them to develop new skills while creating an appealing new space for the local community.

The Warrington BID and Borough Council identified the space on Buttermarket Street as being in need of improvement during a green-space audit last year. This project is part of the BID's commitment to improving green spaces in the town centre over the next four years.

The new sensory garden includes an appealing mix of flowers, shrubs and herbs, and has been designed with the purpose of stimulating the senses, by using plants and materials that engage sight, smell, touch, taste, and sound.

The garden also incorporates a seating area and it is hoped that it will increase mental wellbeing as well as dwell time in the town centre.

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# College reveal new bus wrap designed by students



**Warrington & Vale Royal College has unveiled a striking new design for its dedicated college bus for the new academic year.**

The design is high impact, featuring illustrations of Warrington and Northwich landmarks, set amongst blue skies and lush green landscapes.

The eye-catching bus, which is set to transport students from Winsford and Northwich to the college's Warrington campus, was designed by Graphic Design Extended Diploma students Tea Hewitt and Imogen Sandbach, with the help of their fellow classmates.

Imogen, who has since progressed to Loughborough University to study Graphic Communications with Illustration, couldn't contain her excitement upon first seeing the college bus, exclaiming: "It's fantastic to see our design come to life. Knowing that hundreds of people will see our artwork every day as they're driving through Cheshire is surreal."

Warrington's Own Buses, partners of Warrington & Vale Royal College, were happy to co-ordinate the bus wrap as part of their ongoing contract, providing transport for the college's 16-18 year old students on bus routes via Irlam, Leigh, Northwich and Winsford.

Gareth Mead, Head of

Commercial at Warrington's Own Buses, commented: "We've five wrapped buses at our Warrington depot and are pleased to add this one to our fleet. It was a brilliant and unique opportunity for the college's graphic design students, and we're proud to highlight some of the wonderful landmarks we have in Cheshire."

Former St Nicholas Catholic High School student, Tea, cannot wait to add the special commission to her portfolio, claiming: "It was such a brilliant experience that will certainly help us to stand out to prospective employers."

"We were given live briefs throughout our graphic design course at college which gave us a head start and prepared us for university. Our tutors were lovely and so supportive. We can't thank them enough!"

Téa is currently studying Graphic Design at the University of Huddersfield.

To find out more about studying Graphic Design at Warrington & Vale Royal College, visit [wvr.ac.uk](http://wvr.ac.uk).

To see more of Téa and Imogen's artwork, take a look at their business Instagram accounts:

@teahewitt  
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## Financially yours

By David Watkinson

### New rules for personal service company

Anyone engaging someone through a personal service company ("PSC") or operating through a PSC should be aware that from 6 April 2020 there will be two parallel systems for applying the IR35 rules depending on whether the engager (the end client) of the contract worker is

- a public sector body, or medium or large organisation in the private sector; or
- a small private sector organisation.

In the first case the engager will

need to make the employment status determination to assess whether tax and NI deductions should be made as if the worker was an employee. In the second case the worker's PSC will make that decision as at present.

The engager will be in the second category if it meets two of the following three conditions for the financial period ending in the previous tax year:

- an annual turnover of less than £10.2m
- a balance sheet total of less than £5.1m
- no more than 50 employees

Whilst these criteria are based on the Companies Act definition of a small company they also apply for this purpose to all engagers. It is not clear how the contractor will know which category their customer (the engager) falls into, other than whether or not they receive an employment status determination.

If the engager is in the first category they must:

- decide the employment status of a worker for every contract agreed with an agency or worker
- pass that determination and the reasons for the decision to the worker and to the agency it contracts with
- keep detailed records of all employment status determinations, including the reasons for the determination and the fees paid
- have processes in place to deal with any disputes that arise from the determination

It is also clear that the engager must make the employment status determination on or before the date the contract is entered into. The contractor has a right of appeal against the determination.

The engager must take reasonable care when making the determination, but the HMRC guidance does not advise the engager what evidence it needs to take into account when making that determination. In practice, HMRC will expect the engager to use the check employment status for tax (CEST) tool to reach a decision on employment status. But the CEST has been criticised by the professional accounting and tax bodies and contractor groups for ignoring key elements of the employment status tests as established by case law. HMRC says it will be updating the CEST in time for implementation of the revised off-payroll rules.

*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

## Ben Westwood reunited with his winners' medal



**WARRINGTON Wolves' star Ben Westwood was briefly reunited with his Challenge Cup Winners' medal when Warrington Worldwide arranged a visit to super fan Sam Morris.**

During all the excitement and joy of the homecoming parade, a beautiful gesture, which could have been missed by most, exemplified all that is great about rugby league and Ben Westwood.

After the parade and in front of many thousands of Warrington fans as the open top bus halted before the Town Hall steps, "Super Ben" made a bee line for young fan Sam Morris.

Replete in his full Wires kit and sporting blue hair for the day the delighted 6 year old was the envy of all when his hero presented him with his winners' medal.

The magnanimous gesture, whilst truly special was not unusual for the self effacing Yorkshire giant who the Warrington people have taken to their hearts and adopted as a son of the town. Not only for his heroics and honest endeavour on the field of play, but for his many off field charitable works and his support of community events.

Following a bruising encounter against Salford and delaying his physio session, the Wolves' loose forward agreed to visit the home of the rugby mad Morris family for a chat and a brew.

On entering the Morris house you are greeted by two glass

presentation cabinets stuffed full of sporting medals and cups won by the family and pride of place was given to Ben's Challenge Cup Winners' medal.

Tearing young Sam away from his beloved Fireman Sam cartoon on the T.V. an impromptu game of pass the rugby ball broke out between all the family and their guest.

Sam's siblings are all keen rugby players with sister Serena playing for under 14 girl's team and brothers Morgan, McKenzie and Bailey representing their respective age groups and judging by the overflowing trophy display they are all being quite successful. All the children are a source of pride to their rugby loving parents Sharon and Dave.

As well as still playing at the highest level of the game Ben also coaches the Warrington Ladies open age Rugby League team.

Meanwhile Ben was given an emotional send off during the club's last home league game of the season along with fellow club stalwart Ryan Atkins, who has returned to his original club Wakefield Trinity, after 10 loyal years at Warrington, culminating with his testimonial this year.







# Student scores with the FA to net a top award

**A STUDENT at the Warrington Campus of the University of Chester "scored" a prestigious FA award at Wembley for his contribution to grassroots football.**

Chad Roberts, who is studying for a BA Sport Development and Coaching degree won the FA and McDonald's Grassroots Match Official of the Year 2019 award.

Chad said: "Winning this award from the FA is great – it was an amazing feeling standing on the pitch at Wembley during an important match."

Chad, 19, has been refereeing for three years, travelling the length and breadth of the country most weekends and he is a man with a plan – after starting at Level 7, he's currently a Level 5 official and hopes one day to reach Level 1.

He said: "I'm just about to start my second year of study at the University, and I hope that by the time I finish my three-year course, I will have earned my Level 4. Then I hope to study for a Masters degree and simultaneously take my Level 3 refereeing qualification."

The Grassroots Football Awards celebrate people who make a positive difference, week-in-week-out, on football pitches across England. The winners are selected from a shortlist of local winners, who are chosen by county FAs.

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