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Strictly St Rocco's

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Editor's Comment



THERE is plenty to be positive about in Warrington town centre with the launch of the Botanist bar & restaurant and the new look Cineworld which are both now open for business.

Both are anchor tenants of the multi-million pound Time Square development and will certainly help increase footfall in the town centre making Warrington a go to destination.

The town centre has been missing a town centre cinema for the best part of 25 years, ever since the old Odeon cinema closed in favour of a new out of town site at Westbrook.

With a population of over 200,000 hopefully Warrington will be able to support two multi-screen cinemas – only time will tell.

But now people can come into Warrington for much more than shopping, with the Botanist bringing something completely new to the town – and judging by the feedback on our live video tour of the new venue, which attracted nearly 50,000 viewings, it is going to be a very successful addition to the town centre scene.

Visitors to Warrington can now at long last visit Warrington town centre and enjoy a whole host of new offerings with a number of fine dining venues, a brand new cinema and plenty of parking spaces at Time Square.

Just imagine what it is going to be like when the brand new

Warrington Market opens in the Spring, along with a number of other new restaurant and bar facilities.

Add to this some new residential developments and the great work being done by Warrington Buyers Club encouraging people to shop local, there is certainly plenty to be positive about in the New Year.

Meanwhile after the recent General Election Warrington has two new MPs, with Conservative Andy Carter defeating Labour's Faisal Rashid in the key Warrington South marginal, while Charlotte

Nichols just managed to hang on to the Warrington North seat vacated by the long serving Helen Jones, for Labour.

I look forward to working with both MPs and promoting everything good about our great town while working hard for our local communities.

There has been too much division in national and local politics for far too long and everyone needs to start working together for the good of our town and the people who live here.

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Sarah's epic 52 marathons in 52 weeks

A WARRINGTON woman has run 52 races in 52 weeks – after falling victim to a debilitating illness that can cause her whole body to freeze.



Sarah Matthews can also find herself unable to speak and lose the ability to hold a cup or even feed herself.

This resulted in her being unable to work – but it only encouraged her to make the most of her good days and do something to see how far she could push herself to achieve goals.

Sarah, 39, started running after visiting Disney World with her husband and seeing the “Dopey Challenge” – a series of four races on successive days totalling 48.6 miles.

Idea

That started her off and in 2016 she had the idea of running 1,000 miles in a year. In fact, she completed 1,224.

Then she decided she wanted to be in the 100 Marathons Club before she turned 40, heard about the 52 Marathons in 52 Week challenge and realised this had to be part of it.

The first of the 52 was in Lanzarote in December last year and the 52nd was on December 1 this year. In the meantime she achieved the huge milestone of her 100th marathon on November 30 this year.

Until a year ago, Sarah was not running for charity but then she decided she wanted to make the most of her running.

She said: “I wanted to make sure it was to help a local charity

that was doing inspiring work, particularly with disability. That is why I chose Warrington Disability Partnership.”

Sarah's health is better some days than others and in some races this has led to difficulties. Sometimes, in the second half she is not able to see or talk. But because her disability is not visible, other runners are not always aware of it. In Berlin, for instance, she was jostled by competitive runners. As a result she decided to wear a disabled label.

Overwhelmed

She said: “In Chicago, although it was such a big race, it felt like a tight community. I was overwhelmed with emotion because the supporters and runners could see my name and were aware of my disability.

“I received so much support and cheers, with people chanting my name as I ran by, other runners coming towards me and congratulating me. That is one race that really stood out and having the disabled label felt worth it.”

Sarah has done three of six world majors as a disabled runner. Her 52 in 52 included a total of 39 marathons and 13 ultras.

But she says she would never have been a runner if it were not for park runs – something everyone can get involved in.

She was Warrington Disability Partnership's VIP runner at their 3k Santa Dash/Walk at Walton Gardens recently.

To support Sarah Matthews' incredible achievements, visit her Just Giving page at www.justgiving.com/fundraising/sarahmatthews52

Students celebrate success as college inducts two new Fellows

THE successes and achievements of Warrington & Vale Royal College's HE students was celebrated at the college's Higher Education Awards Ceremony, at the magnificent St Elphin's Church in Warrington, as two new Fellows were also inducted.

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 in their subject area.

Diploma in Education and Training student Jade Wilkinson, won the Continuous Professional Development Award, sponsored by



Warrington's Own Buses.

The Hilary Tucker Creative Arts Award went to Shannen Stocks, who successfully completed her Performing Arts HNC.

HNC Healthcare Practice students were awarded the Harry Cunningham Higher Education Progression Award. The group's nomination was read by tutor Amy Capper who delivered a heart-warming speech applauding her student's pastoral care towards one another.

The Higher Education Group of the Year Award was sponsored by Shanley's and presented to the college's HNC Art Practice group.

The event also witnessed Honorary Alderman John Joyce become a Fellow of the college.

Warrington & Vale Royal College's Principal & Chief Executive Nichola Newton praised John's dedication to the college, and applauded his 500 hours of voluntary service since becoming a member of the college board in 2006 and leaving in 2019.

Nichola said: "John has supported the college through many challenges and successes including financial challenges, Ofsted inspections, the new college build, the demolition of the old tower block and more recently the merger with Mid Cheshire College. His wealth of experience both



financial and from his experiences as a governor at other educational institutions and as a councillor have been invaluable."

Gary Skentelbery, editor and owner of online newspaper Warrington Worldwide, was also named a Fellow of the college. Nichola reflected on Gary's unwavering support and guidance towards the college over the past 25 years, declaring him to be a "true friend and champion of the college".

The evening was concluded with a Student Vote of Thanks, delivered by special award winner Jade Wilkinson.

Jade said: "I would like to thank our honoured guests for taking the time out of their busy schedules to celebrate with us this evening, in particular John Joyce and Gary Skentelbery for receiving their Fellowships of the college with such good humour and enthusiasm."

"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, as well as a vote of thanks to the college marketing team for their organisation and smooth running of the event.

"Most importantly of all though, 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."



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New Year, New Resolutions, New HR!

It's that time of the year where as a business owner or employer, you take a good, hard look at your company with a fresh perspective coming into the New Year in the hopes that you can make productive and positive changes which will benefit the business.

A large part of our job as an outsourced HR company is to keep you up to date with and put the foundations in place for any upcoming employment legislation or tribunal precedents. By being proactive and putting measures in place we can save you money, time and stress. Let's face it, as a busy business owner the more time and money you have the better...

So what is coming up in April 2020 that you need to be aware of?

- New legislation as part of the 'Good Work Plan' introduces the entitlement to receive a statement of 'written particulars' (employment contract) to include workers as well as employees and make it a day one right. Currently employers have up to two months to issue the statement to any employee working for them for more than a month.
- 'Swedish derogation' covered in the Agency Worker Regulations will be abolished. Swedish Derogation allowed agencies to opt out of equalising the pay of agency staff with the permanent workforce when they had been with the same employer for more than 12 weeks, provided they paid the agency workers between assignments.
- The IR35 tax rules are to be extended to the private sector. The rules are aimed at reducing tax avoidance for off-payroll contractors working through personal service companies (PSC). The new rules will also apply to private sector businesses with an annual turnover of over £10.2 million or 50 or more employees.

If you as a business owner or employer are struggling to make sense of these upcoming changes or would like to seek advice on how they may or may not affect your business then please get in touch with us at Spire HR on 01925 626253.

Ellen Parkin

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Warrington's Own Stephen is crowned top bus engineer



HEAD of Engineering for Warrington's Own Buses Stephen Stringer is celebrating having been crowned Engineer of the Year 2019 at the UK Bus Awards.

Stephen joined Warrington's Own Buses as an apprentice back in 1999 and has been at Warrington ever since. His department's performance is always excellent, and he is described as 'placing a great deal of importance on the development, mentoring and coaching of his fellow engineers.'

The award, sponsored by IRTE, recognises and rewards inspirational management talent in engineering disciplines from across the bus industry.

The judges were impressed with the way Stephen has worked his way up from starting as an apprentice, and felt he was a role model to others and has an excellent approach to mentoring and bringing on new talent through team engagement and delegation.

Mark Yexley, Chairman of the UK Bus Awards, said: "A big congratulations to Stephen from everyone at the UK Bus Awards. He really shone through as someone who went over and above to understand bus passenger's needs and where engineering fits into the bigger picture of providing quality bus services."

Jack Abbott from Stagecoach Manchester took the silver, and Paul Slaney from Translink was awarded the bronze.

Warrington is Happening!

by Stephen Fitzsimons

WE'VE been a bit like a (big) child yearning for Christmas, however the wait is finally over. Time Square is open to the public and the anchor tenants have moved in. I had the pleasure of visiting the Botanist just before launch night and it looked fantastic. The interior is as good as anything in the North West and I'm sure there will be many of you enjoying their hospitality as they establish themselves in the town. I've said it before that we have some excellent restaurants, especially in Stockton Heath and Palmyra Square. We want them all to prosper so will work closely with the Business Improvement District and their "Warrington is happening" campaign to attract additional visitors.

We do often forget the local gems and I was reminded of this when I took the family to Gulliver's World during half term. It was a cold and wet day, however that meant there were no queues and at less than £100 for a family of 5, it's great value. They have some exciting plans for a "Wilderness Wharf" and we look forward to seeing that take shape. The Park is very supportive of the Burtonwood Heritage Centre which celebrates what was the largest US air base in Europe. There's a great opportunity to tap into this unique history when we plan our VE day celebrations

next May.

It was really satisfying to see that Hoover are the main shirt sponsor for Warrington Wolves next season. The Hoover Candy group is a global brand that most people know well, with Candy the sponsor for Liverpool FC in the 1980s. We worked hard to persuade them to consolidate their UK HQ into Birchwood Park so really encouraging that they have immersed themselves so quickly into the local community through

the rugby club.

Finally, as the party season approaches, the Business Exchange will be hosting its very popular yuletide networking event at a very Christmassy Walton Hall. It will be another great celebration, so long as the Warrington Worldwide team leave the mistletoe at home!

Have a lovely Christmas and New Year.



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It was great to see the real5 Networking members from across the region all coming together at the recent Gala Dinner Awards Night.

As well as celebrating the annual award winners which included Member of the Year, Jim Toohey, Networker Of The Year, Becs Bate, Rising Star, Sam Fox, Quality Award, Neil Barber Smith and Affiliate of the Year, The Yard, members also took the opportunity to support our chosen charities, St Roccas, CAFT and Clatterbridge by digging deep in the raffle and the auction which raised over £3000.



A fantastic night was had by all and what better way to end a brilliant year across the network.

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FDR Law advise pub chain on £17.9m sale

WARRINGTON based pub group Bravo Inns has been acquired by the Hawthorn Leisure arm of property investment firm NewRiver REIT plc in a deal worth £17.9m, with FDR Law's Corporate team advising on the sale.

Bravo Inns, which includes the local pubs Royal Oak Branch, Chapel House (Burtonwood) and Black Horse in its portfolio, has grown from just 5 pubs when formed in 2007 to 44 outlets across the North West. The group specialise in wet-led, operator managed, community pubs that will be merged into the Hawthorn Leisure brand.

Hawthorn Leisure operates over 650 leased, tenanted and managed community pubs across England, Scotland and Wales. Chief Executive of Hawthorn Leisure, Mark Davies commented:

"The UK pub sector has experienced a recent revival in transaction activity and, as an early investor into community pubs, we have been tracking the success of Bravo Inns for some time. The transaction will increase our portfolio weighting in community pubs and demonstrates the value of our Hawthorn Leisure platform in identifying acquisitions that can deliver higher yielding sustainable cashflows with scale driven synergies. A further attraction of this acquisition is the quality of the pub estate and the pub partners. We look forward to welcoming

Bravo Inns and its pub partners to Hawthorn Leisure."

FDR Law's Corporate team advised Bravo Inns management on the transaction with Head

of Corporate, Margaret Evans commenting:

"We are delighted to have acted on this transaction for the sellers working alongside industry leaders in the pub sector and together with the wider advisory team to achieve a successful conclusion for all parties"



Remembering Warrington's anti-slavery campaigner William Robson

A SPECIAL service commemorating the life of Warrington's anti-slavery campaigner William Robson is set to take place on Sunday, January 19 at Cairo Street Chapel in the town centre.

It takes place the day before an official American holiday recognising the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, civil rights leader, when Bob Janis-Dillon, himself an American and Minister of Cairo Street Chapel, will be leading a service at 10.30am commemorating William Robson's life (1812 - 1902).

Situated in the grounds of the Unitarian Chapel, close to the steps leading to the Priestley Gates, is an obelisk commemorating the lives of William and Anna Robson and their two sons William Holbrook and Edwin.

What the obelisk does not reveal is that William Robson was the postmaster of Warrington and a leading advocate of the abolition of slavery and William holds a place in the history of Warrington for his campaigns against slavery.

In 1858 he travelled to America to campaign against slavery and he met, in Boston, Charles Ramond and his sister Sarah Parker Ramond, African Americans. He also met William Lloyd Garrison, one of America's most prominent abolitionists, who further introduced him to other American abolitionists. On his return to Warrington, William in November, 1858 gave a lecture to the Warrington Mechanics Institution on his travels in America.

Sarah Ramond was an international activist for human rights and women's suffrage who lectured across America on the abolishment of slavery.

William was instrumental in persuading Sarah to travel to Warrington and on January 12nd 1859, she came to stay at William and Anna's home in Bath Buildings in Bewsey Road.

She went on to deliver three lectures on the "Slave Trade in America." Following the success of her visit William organised a petition to send to America supporting the abolishment of slavery. 3,522 Warrington residents signed this petition. William, when writing to William Lloyd Garrison, said "I may add that no address on any subject has ever been more numerously signed in this town".

He continued to correspond with William Lloyd Garrison for many years and in August 1877, Garrison visited William at Lymm, where he now lived, where a banquet was given in his honour.



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A little bit of luxury for that special occasion

Editor Gary Skentelbery road tests the BMW 4 Series Gran Coupé



ROAD testing the eye-catching BMW 4 Series Gran Coupé was certainly a new experience for me - and certainly an enjoyable one for a weekend away for my wedding anniversary.

It certainly helped make the occasion extra special and provided a comfortable yet sporty journey to North Wales.

The BMW 4 Series Gran Coupé is a car which aims to combine the comfort of a four-door saloon with the looks of a coupé and the practicality of a hatchback's wide-opening tailgate.

It looks more elegant than the 3 Series saloon and there's no ignoring the usefulness of that hatchback boot which provided just as much room as my Landrover Freelander.

You can choose several suspension settings and where the standard suspension can thump over bumps and potholes the 4 Series Gran Coupé can ride most surfaces agreeably, considering its sporty character.

In the softer Comfort mode, the body is never less than well damped and controlled, yet it offers greater pliancy than the standard suspension musters. You can firm it up in Sport or Sport+ modes for even tighter control and tauter handling when desired.

The car was provided by Central Self Drive who have found customers require more than a day-to-day rental but don't want to feel restricted to a yearly contract either.

They have introduced our Month-By-Month hire option, whereby customers can lease a car or van in periods of single calendar months. You can also sign up to our Month-By-Month hire option if you need a vehicle for one month or longer. Car hire is also available if you fancy something a little different for a special occasion or want something for a longer journey.

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Transforming Online Income Generation for St Rocco's Hospice



As the owner of a Warrington based business, I am proud to announce that my company has recently completed a website project for St Rocco's Hospice.

After setting out a 5-year plan to increase their recurring annual income by £0.5m, St Rocco's began searching for a digital partner to help them achieve their objectives.

During a competitive tender process, my company won unanimous support because we were able to identify multiple ways for the hospice to improve reach, revenue and admin performances through a 'digital transformation' process.

Working alongside St Rocco's management team, we identified various time and cost-saving opportunities for their complex requirements. By reducing third party merchant fees and streamlining everyday admin duties through a CRM to web integration, we have been able to free up valuable resources for the charity.

From the outset, our focus has been on delivering a best-in-class digital solution for a truly worthy cause. This project epitomises the operational and commercial performance improvements that my company can provide using advanced digital technology.

didn't shy away from any of these requirements and have helped transform how we operate as an organisation".

"Dreamscape has become a crucial partner for St Rocco's Hospice. They have helped us to shape, implement and maintain a successful digital strategy, which will ultimately lead to sustainable increased revenue generation."

For those of you that don't know, my company is called Dreamscape Solutions. We're based over in Thelwall, employ a team of 10 full-time staff and have been in business for over 15 years.

We specialise in delivering digital transformation and integration projects that help organisations to improve commercial performance through the effective use of website technology.

This kind of service isn't right for everyone, however, if you think you're ready and that your business could benefit from digital technology, then speak with the team and me to explore the opportunities available.

Bernard McCabe
Director - Dreamscape Solutions



I have been particularly humbled by the positive feedback and kind words of Lara Partridge, who is the Director of Income Generation & Marketing at St Rocco's:

"Not only do St Rocco's need to deliver outstanding patient care, but our teams are responsible for fundraising, volunteer recruitment, receiving donations and managing our lottery. Dreamscape

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Strictly St Rocco's raises a staggering £82,000

THE annual Strictly St Rocco's dancing competition raised a record-breaking £82,472 with the total set to continue to rise!

This year's event was won by Joanna Kreisler who owns Laundry Boutique in Stockton Heath. She danced the Cha Cha Cha and has so far raised an amazing £6746. Her professional partner was Alex.

Second place was won by Lisa Jones of Arval, she danced the

Quickstep. Her professional partner was Lewis Crowder.

Once again St Rocco's worked with Cadmans Dance Centre with the event again held at the Mere Golf Resort and Spa in Knutsford.

Guest Speaker was Vanessa Storey who is one of the 'Hospice at Home' volunteers. There wasn't a dry eye in the house as Vanessa spoke about the care both her sister and friend had received at St.

Rocco's.

Judges were Victoria Bennet (Principal of Cadmans), Ralph Casson (professional dancer and actor), Ian MacKinnon (Patron of St. Rocco's) and Vicky Hewitt (Marketing and Database Specialist at Rybrook Jaguar).

The event was sponsored by Rybrook Jaguar.

Charlotte Howard, Events Fundraiser at St. Rocco's said "We're absolutely over the moon to have raised such an astounding amount at this year's Strictly St. Rocco's.

"This will really help us to continue to provide our care and support to all of our patients and their families, as well as the whole

Warrington community, when they need us the most. We'd like to say a huge thank you to everybody who attended on Sunday and to everybody who donated.

"A special thank you to all of our dancers, and their professionals from the amazing Cadmans dance Centre, who have worked so hard and shown so much dedication to their performances over the past few months, without them we wouldn't have been able to make our seventh year such a successful one, and finally of course a massive congratulations to Joanna on taking home the Glitterball!"

Funds are expected to continue to come in via the dancer's own fund-raising pages.



Music student secures place in national orchestra

A MUSIC student at Warrington's Priestley College struck a cord when he first played the trombone.

Now – despite having only picked up the instrument four years ago – 17-year-old Jamie Reid has secured a place in the National Youth Orchestra.

It will mean he takes part in three residences alongside some of the UK's most talented young musicians as well as performing in concerts around the country.

Jamie said: "It was the second year that I auditioned for the orchestra, but the first time I tried for two different instruments and didn't get in."

"This year I just went for trombone and was much more focussed, which helped me a lot. I will be getting lots of good experiences and will learn so much just by being around a lot of performers who are at the top of their game."

By securing a place with the orchestra, Jamie has completed a treble of national achievements that also includes a place in the National Children's Brass Band and the National Youth Brass Band of Great Britain.

He can now look forward to performing in concert halls around the country and helping with the orchestra's outreach programme,



NYO Inspire.

Jamie's A-Level music teacher at Priestley College, Chris Dodd, said his talent was obvious.

"Jamie has already performed many times for the college community and his passion for music really does shine through every time," he said.

For Jamie, who studies A-Levels in German and Politics alongside Music at Priestley College, being a part of the orchestra will set him on the road to success.

Next stop, he hopes, is to study at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London next year.

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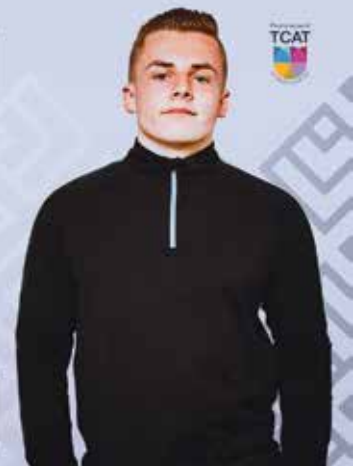
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- In September 2020, Priestley College will become one of the first in the country to provide exciting new qualifications called T-Levels.
- To ensure its success we are looking to partner with local businesses that can provide work placements in the areas of Education and Childcare or Software Development.
- These placements will take up 20% of a student's programme, with 80% of their time spent at college.
- T-Levels are seen as a great way to prepare young people for careers in these industries and an opportunity for companies to tap into a young and inspired workforce.

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Rare photo presented to athletic club



Mr Settle presents the photograph to Warrington Athletic Club members.

A FRAMED photograph showing legendary cross-country runner Chris Vose has been presented to his former club – Warrington Athletic Club.

The athlete, who captained the Great Britain cross country team which gained a silver medal in the 1920 Olympics at Antwerp, died at his home in Grappenhall in August 1970 at the age of 83.

Over the years, there have been many events to honour him, including a seven and-a-half road race instigated in 1961 which attracted many top athletes, including Ron Hill, the former European Championships and Commonwealth Games marathon gold medalist.

But there are few photographs of the man during his time with Warrington Athletic Club and the one presented to the club by former chairman Geoff Settle was damaged in a fire at the old wooden grandstand in Victoria Park many years ago.

Mr Settle chose to make the presentation at the last race in the Nev Jones Warrington Schools Cross Country League of 2019 in Walton Hall Park.

He said: "It had been rescued from the fire but was damaged. It was given to me by Dave Cotterill, Warrington Borough Council's environment service manager, to see what I could do with it.

"I took it to the Picturesq Gallery in Latchford and they worked their magic to restore the photograph and set it in club colours."

The picture shows the great man and other members of the 1920 Warrington Athletic Club cross country team.

His most famous achievement was captaining the silver medal Great Britain cross country team in the 1920 Olympics but he was also a member of five winning England teams in the International Cross Country Championships in 1911-13 and 1920-21.

Mr Settle believes a plaque honouring the athlete should be considered on the new grandstand in Victoria Park.

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St Rocco's Hospice finds its first 'Face'!



St Rocco's Hospice has launched its #100Faces campaign – and the local charity has already found their first and second and third faces!

Throughout 2020, **warrington-worldwide** editor Gary Skentelbery will quite literally be the face of St Rocco's Hospice – on their Wall of Fame, across their advertising and online.

Each of the charity's 100 Faces will pledge to raise £1000 to help fund the vital work the hospice does for people with life-limiting illnesses in Warrington.

So do you think you have what it takes to be a Face?

How you raise the money is entirely up to you - but St Rocco's will be behind you every step of the way.

They'll be helping with fundraising tips, motivational moments, meet ups and all the information you need to kickstart your challenge.

But they won't stop there – they will keep in touch all year, finding out how you're getting on and

shouting about your fundraising to all their followers.

At the end of the year, they'll celebrate your achievements in style, with awards for the best (and most inventive) fundraisers.

So do YOU have what it takes to join our #100Faces?

Sign up now online at <https://www.stroccos.org.uk/100faces> or email marketingteam@stroccos.org.uk

Where will the money go? Every single penny raised by the 100 Faces will go directly to helping those with life-limiting illnesses, their carers and their families.

It costs £4.2 million every year to provide all of the care. That's £80,000 a week, £11,000 a day or £8 a minute! Whichever way you cut it, it's a huge amount.

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Brand new town centre cinema open for business

THE brand new 13 screen Cineworld Warrington is now open for business bringing a long awaited movie experience back to the town centre as part of the Time Square development.

warrington-worldwide was given a behind the scenes first look at the impressive development, which is one of the key anchor tenants of the new multi million pound Time Square development in the heart of the town centre, by General Manager Sonia Trayford and VP of Operations Shaun Jones.

Shaun said it has been a five-six year project to bring a cinema back to the town centre. A former Odeon cinema closed in August 1994 suffering from a down turn in the market due to the rise of home movie offerings.

But now the cinema industry has gone "full circle," providing good value entertainment for the whole family and across generations.

The new cinema, located on Bridge Street, Quarter Times Way feature thirteen state-of-the-art screens including a Superscreen, where movies feel like masterpieces. The multidimensional sound powered by Dolby Atmos speakers, combined with laser projection on a huge screen provides a clear, vivid and detailed film experience.

The cinema also offers a Baskin Robbins ice cream counter, Rollover hot dogs, ICEE frozen drinks and a Starbucks for customers to enjoy.

The cinema opened with a VIP launch with the screening of the highly anticipated films Jumanji:

The Next Level followed by Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker.

Cinema fans can take advantage of a range of offers at Cineworld Warrington including discounted Movies for Juniors screenings for just £2.50 on Saturdays, Sundays and school holidays, as well as the Cineworld family ticket and Student NUS discount. The cinema will also be available for private venue hire. Cineworld Unlimited Card

holders can also enjoy access to an unlimited number of films per month for less than the price of two new-release peak time tickets, at just £18.40 per month. The Unlimited Card also allows holders to enjoy advance screenings, 10% off cinema snacks and drinks including in-cinema Starbucks, as well as national offers at restaurants where Unlimited cardholders can get 25% off food and drink, including

alcohol. Cineworld will help provide another "missing link" in the visitor experience to the town centre, with the added bonus of a free car park offer at the multi-storey car park right outside the front door!

The cinema was officially opened by Warrington & Co's Director of Growth Steve Park, who urged the people of Warrington to get behind the impressive development.



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'Fit To Tackle' bootcamp celebrates weight loss success of over 50 stone

FIT To Tackle, the popular free fat-busting bootcamp programme run by LiveWire in Warrington has reached the end of its latest 12-week programme.

The exercise sessions, which took place at the Halliwell Jones Stadium, helped participants shed an incredible 52 stone combined, some of the best ever results achieved by the course.

Participants completed two high-impact bootcamp sessions a week, and were also able to use LiveWire's leisure facilities at the weekend.

Thirty eight people completed the programme, and the scales showed a combined group weightloss of 51st (323.9KG) – with 35 people (92% of participants) shedding at least 5% of their body weight.

Tom Kearney, Lifestyles Advisor at LiveWire and Fit To Tackle coach said: "Another Fit To Tackle programme has come to a close and as the brilliant results show it was a massive success. Well done to everyone who took part and worked so hard for the past 12 weeks. It takes a lot of commitment and time to see these sorts of results, so everyone who completed the programme should be very proud of themselves.

"Alongside the fantastic weight

loss statistics, more people than ever before decided to take up a full LiveWire membership to enable them to continue on with their health journey with us after the

programme ended.

"Our next programme in January will see us running two groups running consecutively to enable us to accommodate the ever

increasing number of applicants. So we are expecting some even more impressive stats and plenty more people getting their fitness on track with LiveWire."



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By David Watkinson

January once again

Well here we are again in January. Everyone at WatkinsonBlack hope that you all had a really enjoyable Christmas with your friends and family, and that you are now looking forward to a successful 2020.



Margaret Black and David Watkinson

Like all accountants we are buckling down to a busy month ensuring that, wherever possible, clients do not suffer any fines or penalties for not getting their tax return in on time. Because of this we are writing this column very early. In fact, we have still to vote in the General Election so as we write we do not know the result. Whoever wins, there must be a very early budget to prepare the country for the next fiscal year which starts on 5th April. Therefore, whatever you read may have been overtaken by events, so watch out for any changes in the next few issues.

One major change that has been in the making for a considerable time is the change to the IR35 legislation. This was originally proposed in 1999 and introduced into law in April 2000. It was designed to counter perceived tax avoidance by people working through a Limited Company. However, it proved singularly unsuccessful and has been amended several times since. The last major amendment was in 2017 when the responsibility for determining the status of a "worker" in the public sector was moved from the "worker" to the "engager". The current proposal is to extend this to the majority of the private sector from April 2020.

As part of the IR35 introduction the tax office introduced a "Check Employment Status for Tax ("CEST")" tool. Designed by HMRC to help taxpayers decide whether they were caught by the IR35 or not, this has proved completely unreliable due to it being biased in favour of HMRC. Because of this, HMRC has suffered a defeat in the majority of the cases taken before the Tax Tribunals, and many of those cases took years to conclude and caused a large amount of distress to the taxpayer. Whilst there have been some amendments to the CEST over the years it has never been successfully amended to take proper account of the recognised "badges of trade".

HMRC has recently suffered a significant defeat in an important case concerning entertainers at the BBC. In view of these defeats, and the inevitable conclusion that even the people who designed the rules do not understand them, all of the main parties in the recent election promised to review the proposed extension of the legislation. Let us hope that this is one election promise that is kept.

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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Wolves Hoover up new main sponsor



WARRINGTON Wolves have announced leading domestic appliance manufacturer Hoover as the club's new principal sponsors.

Hoover has agreed an initial two-year deal with the club to become the first-team's main shirt sponsor with branding rights throughout The Halliwell Jones Stadium and the club's digital platforms.

The deal is one of the most significant in the club's history.

Karl Fitzpatrick, chief executive officer at Warrington Wolves, said: "Warrington Wolves has a proud record of attracting a prestigious stable of official club partners and Hoover is no exception. We will work closely with Hoover to ensure both organisations get the absolute maximum from the partnership.

"On the field, we are one of the top-performing clubs in the Super League; having most recently lifted the Challenge Cup trophy in 2019 and reaching four of the last eight Grand Finals. Partnering with a brand that is as equally ambitious and known for its performance credentials paves the way for a very exciting 2020 season."

Passion

Antony Peart, director of brand and communications at Hoover Candy Group, added: "As a business that's recently opened offices and a showroom in Warrington we're excited to become the principal club sponsor of the Wire. Hoover and Warrington Wolves share a passion for performance and being the very best at what we do, which is why we have invested considerably in this partnership and cannot wait to see where the 2020 season will take the team.

"It's clear that the club has never forgotten its heritage in the 143 years since its inception, which is another reason why we wanted to pursue this opportunity, as Hoover is a household brand that has over 110 years' experience of its own, manufacturing reliable products that deliver powerful, game-changing results."

Meanwhile Wolves' players ably assisted by the Wirettes strutted their stuff on the cat walk showing off the latest range of training kit to unveil both the home and away kits for the coming season at a special fashion show.

Entertained

The Martin Dawes Legends suite had a large crowd of fans who were entertained not only by the fashion show but also by stilt walkers and fire breathers.

Ben Currie and Luther Burrell had the honour of being the first players to wear the new home and away kit but the Man of Steel award on a very chilly evening went to Josh Charnley and Danny Walker who traversed the catwalk in body painted replicas of the new jerseys.



Death of Warrington Players' Association Chairman George Thornton

WARRINGTON Wolves' Players' Association Chairman and former club photographer George Thornton has sadly died after a long illness, at the age of 74.

George, who had supported the Wire from being a young boy, signed for the club in 1972. A bustling forward "Judder" played in the 'A' team for a couple of seasons before injury curtailed his playing career. He then served on the Warrington back-room staff until 1978.

For the next 40 years George followed the Wire taking photographs of matches and all things Warrington RLFC in an official capacity.

He served on the Warrington Players' Association committee for many years, eventually becoming Chairman, succeeding his mentor "Nobby" Clarke.

George, a passionate Warringtonian, was a wonderful man and nothing was ever too much trouble for him. He continually helped former players and was always on hand when needed by the club.

He leaves a wife Diane, daughter



Kerry and granddaughter Maëllie. George epitomised everything that is good about the club and he will be missed by all at Warrington Wolves and throughout the Rugby League world.

He was also the official photographer at Warrington Borough Council for many years and also taught photography at Warrington Collegiate where he ran night school classes.

He was much loved and well respected by all those who knew him and will be sadly missed by his family and many friends.

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