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Issue No. 246 March 2020 FREE EVERY MONTH

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## On the buses

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# Editor's Comment

**SITTING through a full day of the trial of a former councillor who was recently convicted of "trolling" retired Warrington North MP Helen Jones by bombarding local news websites with comments under stories, re-enforced to me how toxic the world of politics has become.**

While a lot of trolling generally takes place on social media, this case involved comments being posted under articles on local news websites, including our own.

There is sometimes a fine line between freedom of speech and trolling – but in the eyes of the law this former Cllr clearly over stepped the mark by posting literally hundreds of comments, many attacking Helen Jones, members of her family and office staff.

The fact she had to change her way of life due to living in fear of an unknown stalker, just shows how this kind of behaviour can impact on peoples' lives.

These days it is so easy to make comments about people online and indeed I have been a "victim" myself on many occasions.

The internet and social media has become a way of life for many of us and we all have to try our best and use it responsibly.

It is easy to sit at home and lash out at people online – but we have to remember they are human beings with feelings and if these attacks are coming from an unknown source on a regular basis they can clearly be very distressing.

This prosecution is something of a landmark case in the Warrington

area and will form some kind of precedent for anyone making defamatory comments online in the future.

Here at Warrington-Worldwide we are all for freedom of speech and only remove comments or block people on social media when we believe they have over stepped the mark.

It is something we would rather not have to do so I would appeal to all our readers who feel the need to comment on local issues and the actions of politicians or anyone else going about their work, to take note of this case and think very carefully before posting any comments which are defamatory or untrue.

**Deadline for the April  
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# More new recruits needed on the buses

**AFTER moving swiftly to save jobs and routes following the collapse of neighbouring bus company Halton Transport, Warrington's Own Buses is still on a recruitment drive.**

The Warrington bus company stepped in to secure 26 jobs, for drivers and engineers, as well as ensuring that key bus connections to Warrington are maintained.

Ben Wakerley, Managing Director of Warrington's Own Buses commented: "We were very sad to hear about the events at Halton Transport and acted quickly



to reinstate services, alongside fellow bus operators.

"It is becoming ever more vital that supportive measures and policies are implemented for buses across England, as buses are under immense competition from private car ownership, with the associated congestion and negative environmental impacts that cars cause".

Warrington's Own Buses are now operating the 20, 20a, 3d and the Warrington only journeys of the 62.

Warrington's Own Buses also took over running of the bus services to Riverside & Cronton Colleges,

with the college services running at the usual time and routes.

Other bus companies have stepped in to take over other Halton routes.

Mr Wakerley added: "The recent closure of Halton Transport has meant the rapid expansion of our company. As such, we are on the look out for "people people" to be trained up from car driver to bus driver. We pay for your training and are recruiting positive people, with a background in customer facing/people roles".

Anybody interested should go to [warringtonsownbuses.co.uk](http://warringtonsownbuses.co.uk) for more information.

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# New Mersey bridge swinging into place

**A MAJOR milestone has been reached in Warrington's Centre Park link scheme - bringing a new Mersey crossing a step closer.**

The £19.89m project - which aims to ease congestion and maximise Warrington's economic potential - is progressing on schedule and should be complete and fully open to traffic by the end of the year.

Now, a key part of the project, the construction of a new bridge crossing across the River Mersey from Chester Road, is under way.

Two bridge beams, each weighing 90 tonnes, have been lifted into position on the bridge abutments by a large crane.

The total length of the beams is 46.5 metres, spanning the width of this section of the Mersey.

With the beams now in place, the construction of the new bridge can move forward, with work expected to be completed by mid-Summer.

Warrington Borough Council leader Cllr Russ Bowden said: "The new river bridge link will bring huge benefits to Warrington, relieving traffic congestion and increasing the resilience and reliability of the highway network. I'm really pleased that construction works are progressing well."

"Centre Park Link is a key part of our work to improve traffic flows in and around our town centre, improve air quality and make Warrington a more attractive place to live work and invest. We are now seeing the pieces of this vital

infrastructure investment coming together, and we can really begin to look forward to the official opening of the link later this year."

The council's cabinet member for transportation, highways and public realm, Cllr Hans Mundry, said: "The Centre Park Link scheme continues to progress fantastically well, and this is a hugely important milestone for the project."

"We know how important a new river crossing is to our plans to reduce congestion, improve

journey times and keep the town centre moving. It's great news that construction on the bridge is moving forward."

The Centre Park Link scheme will support Warrington's ongoing growth and transform journeys around one the borough's most busy road networks.

Christine Gaskell, chairman of Cheshire and Warrington Local Enterprise Partnership said: "As a key economic centre, the LEPs investment into Warrington helps create the right conditions in which businesses can thrive whilst supporting residents and employees through reduced journey times.

This is one of several investments including Warrington West Station and the M62 Birchwood Junction improvements."

The new bridge crossing across the River Mersey from Chester Road, just north of Gainsborough Road, will join onto an extended Slutchers Lane, leading from Wilson Patten Street. A new signal controlled junction is to be constructed at each end of the new link on Chester Road and Wilson Patten Street.

For more information about Centre Park Link, visit [warrington.gov.uk/centreparklink](http://warrington.gov.uk/centreparklink)



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## How will Brexit affect HR?

Britain has finally left the EU, and although we need to wait for the transition process to be completed, the uncertainty on UK businesses continues as they look for a plan to move forward.

The transition period will last until the end of 2020 with the new rules coming into place from 1st January 2021.

Here are just a few of the many ways that Brexit may affect HR...

### Relocating or even getting rid of current staff

No one wants to see anyone lose their job, but with the UK exiting the European Union this will undoubtedly have an impact on EU nationals currently living and working in the UK.

EU, EEA and Swiss citizens can apply to the EU settlement scheme to continue living in the UK. Unfortunately some applications may be rejected which will result in the company losing the talent from the business.

### Recruiting talent from across Europe?

It goes without saying that the applicants applying for jobs in the UK from Europe will reduce and in fact there has already been a drop in talent supply since the announcement of Brexit.

### Increased competition for British applicants

In extremely skilled jobs where there may only be a small list of potential suitors, as EU applications have reduced, the power is now in the candidate's hands to demand a price they want, rather than a price that the job/company is willing to pay.

It could all turn out to be an extremely expensive process.

### Worker's Rights

A lot of current legislation was derived from EU law and it's anyone's guess at present as to whether they will remain as they are or be relaxed somewhat.

Certain legislation was implemented without EU input and so these will certainly remain, such as Pension auto-enrolment and shared parental leave, however it may be the more criticised legislation that is tweaked. Either way, we will watch, wait, and keep you updated as soon as changes are announced.

*This is just a small snapshot of some of the changes likely to be impacted by Brexit. If you are worried about how your business may be affected in the aftermath of Brexit, then we can help at Spire HR. Our team of experts will be happy to answer any queries you may have, as well as being able to offer a personal and tailored outsourced HR experience.*

*Ellen Parkin*

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# The TEDx phenomenon seeks talented minds



**THE TEDx phenomenon is coming to Warrington Pyramid Parr Hall and its organisers are seeking inspirational people with 'ideas worth spreading'.**

Founded in 1984, the TED movement has grown into a global phenomenon that seeks to uncover innovative new ideas and the latest research through inspirational and thought-provoking talks on all manner of topics relating to technology, entertainment and design – hence TED – and also science, philosophy, music, religion, philanthropy, along with many others.

TEDx events take place around the world and the TED organisation has granted Warrington community champion and business networker Kirsty James a licence to hold an independently organised public TEDx event in her hometown on June 25, 6-9pm.

Kirsty said: "Just being awarded a licence was a coup. It's a tough process due to the prestige of the internationally recognised events, but it has been a dream of mine for several years to bring a TEDx event to Warrington and to profile the amazing talent and ideas I know exist in the region. I'm thrilled to have had my application approved".

"I'm not on my own for the delivery though and have brought together a team of committed Warrington people to work with

me, all of whom are equally as passionate about this amazing event concept".

Each speaker will be filmed, and with people watching worldwide, the exposure for the speaker to share their idea is potentially huge. All talks are stored and kept open for view on the TED website forever.

The team has selected the theme 'Build connection, Strengthen communities' to complement Warrington's independent thinking yet collaborative spirit, and speakers will be chosen based loosely on having a fresh and innovative idea that could have a positive impact on communities, particularly in the local area.

Applications to be one of up to only ten speakers on the night, delivering a talk of 3-12 minutes in length, are now welcomed.

To enter, speakers must submit a 3-5 minute video describing their 'idea worth spreading' and the impact it could have.

Full details, including selection criteria, the commitment involved and how to submit an entry can be found on the TEDx Warrington website [www.tedxwarrington.co.uk](http://www.tedxwarrington.co.uk)

Closing date for applications is 10pm March 8 2020.

## The Base tenants paint bright future for economy

Tenants at The Base, Warrington's hi-technology hub on Dallam Lane have reported another strong year of trading – with expectations high for 2020.

The building's annual tenant survey, completed at the end of each calendar year, paints a positive picture and 'points to a bright future for the Warrington economy,' says operator Langtree.

Highlights include:

- A 10% uplift in jobs amongst existing tenants
- 100% of surveyed tenants expect to grow in 2020, delivering 15% organic jobs growth by numbers employed
- Half of all tenants developing new products
- Half of all tenants exporting products and services, up from a third the year before

"The survey paints a very positive picture," says Sylvie Morton of property company Langtree, which manages the 50,000 sq ft Grade A building on behalf of Warrington & Co.

"What's particularly interesting is the scale of collaboration among tenants and the level of exporting."

There were a total of 14 different collaborative engagements between companies, including working together to develop new technologies and joint-working to win new clients.

# Warrington bucks the national trend with increased town centre footfall

I DON'T mind this time of year because that spring feeling is on the edge of the senses and we've not yet been disappointed by a wet summer!

Renewal is a key theme of economic regeneration as we look for green shoots from the activities we have undertaken. One of these arrived recently in the footfall figures for the town centre.

Like most towns, Warrington had experienced a drastic fall in pedestrian traffic, measured through sensors at the Guardians, Golden Square and the Market.

However, this Christmas the town bucked the national trend as visitor numbers increased by over 8%. Of course there is still much to do, however it was a welcome vote of confidence in the new Time Square development, the resilience of our retailers and seasonal events such as the winter ice rink.

Many towns and cities benefit from having a university fully or partially located within their boundaries. This helps to raise the profile whilst increasing local spend in shops, restaurants and bars. We sometimes forget that the University

by Stephen Fitzsimons

of Chester has an important campus in Warrington, albeit in the suburb of Padgate. Policing and the care professions have always been important, however there are exciting courses in areas such as media and film which are great for careers in places like Media City. We are currently working with the University to improve how we cooperate together and will sign a memorandum of understanding later in the year to capture this positivity.

We recently held the first meeting of the Town Fund Board, a group

of local stakeholders who will be helping us agree priority projects for a potential £25m from central government. Four important themes have been identified: Education, Skills & Employment; Housing & Infrastructure; Health & Wellbeing; and Arts, Culture & Digital. Our two new MPs are actively involved as they quickly immerse themselves in initiatives to deliver inclusive growth for their constituents. Whitehall is regularly impressed by Warrington's ability to work in partnerships and we will maintain this effective dialogue in the (snowy?) weeks ahead.



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### real5 Women is in Town!

It's certainly an exciting time within the real5 Network as we see more and more groups springing up around the North West. Along with Whitchurch and the Wirral, real5 Women comes to town on March the 25th.

This latest innovation in the real5 network will see female business leaders and entrepreneurs from across the region come together to create business opportunities for each other and support some great causes all in a relaxed sociable environment.

The first event will be kicked off by BBC1 Apprentice star, Jess Cunningham at the Botanist, who will be talking about being successful in business whilst maintaining a good work-life balance. Membership is now open and you can register at [www.real5networking.com/real5women/](http://www.real5networking.com/real5women/)

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# Estate Planning for Company Directors

FDR Law recently acted on behalf of a client (who we shall call Mr Smith) in preparing a Will. Mr Smith is a director and majority shareholder of a private limited company. As part of planning his estate Mr Smith wanted to ensure that his interest in the company passed in accordance with his wishes in the event of his death.

The company had been in the family for many years and Mr Smith wished to ensure that his children continued to benefit from the company after his death. It was Mr Smith's intention that any significant influence his children would have over the company should be held back until they were more mature had become more involved in the running of the business.

We discussed several options with Mr Smith who decided to include a gift of his shareholding into a discretionary trust.

Effectively, on his death Mr Smith would gift his shares to the trust, for his appointed Trustees to run for the benefit of his children as the trust's beneficiaries, and appointed two of his fellow directors and minority shareholders in the company as the Trustees.

Mr Smith's children would not have any automatic right to benefit from the shares (whether

as sale proceeds or dividend payments) nor to utilise any rights as a shareholder. Instead, it would be at the discretion of the Trustees to make any payments out to the children from the trust fund.

The terms of the trust also granted Mr Smith's trustees the right to appoint all or part of the trust capital, in this case referring to the underlying shareholding, for the benefit of either or all of the children. This allows for the trustees to, at their ultimate discretion, grant some or all of the shares to the children as they became more involved in the company.

There is no one-size-fits-all approach to planning the succession of a business and there may be different approaches which would suit your wishes. At FDR Law our Private Client team have the skill and expertise required to ensure that your wishes are met. If you have any questions or are

unsure how to plan your estate or the succession of your business, take advice and let us clarify matters for you.

**For more information on Wills, Inheritance Tax, Estates, Trusts, Powers of Attorney or Court of Protection matters, contact Stephen Mackellar on 01925 230000 or email [Stephen.Mackellar@fdrlaw.co.uk](mailto:Stephen.Mackellar@fdrlaw.co.uk)**



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Let's take a closer look:

## 1. Detailed targeting

The targeting options available in LinkedIn can be super specific or extremely broad. Depending on who your audience is and how you complete targeting fields like company, industries, company size, job titles, seniorities, level of education, degrees, skills and more, will all determine the size of your audience and your estimates results. These fields are simply the fundamental groundwork to your campaign, setting the parameters of who your ad will be delivered to and how your campaign will reach your key decision-makers.

INCLUDE people who have ANY of the following attributes

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Job Functions

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## 2. Matched audiences

The capability of LinkedIn's targeting options doesn't stop there. It also features a 'match audiences' tool, which enables you to upload your data from your CRM database, website and account targeting to retarget website visitors, reach unknown contacts and accounts.

Importing your subscriber list or potential customers into LinkedIn is only going to ease the conversion more



than it currently does so. After all, LinkedIn has a 3 times higher conversion rate when generating leads than both Twitter and Facebook - imagine how many monthly leads your business could be generating if we were to build your audience around your customer database? We'll leave that with you!

AND also have ANY of the following attributes

Search Learn more about matched audiences

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<p>Matched audiences Use your data to retarget website visitors or reach known contacts and accounts</p>	

## 3. Exclude audiences

As much as you can go after professionals and companies you can also exclude them from your targeting, ensuring specific professionals and companies alike – perhaps competitors – are not served your ads. Once your ad has started to generate data, we can use this as insight, creating the opportunity to review and refine your audience. The only drawback to LinkedIn advertising is the cost-per-acquisition of a click or lead can be higher than other forms of advertising. But remember, LinkedIn is the gatekeeper to your decision-makers and only holds up-to-date, high-quality information that is more likely to deliver a much greater ROI.

If you're interested in talking to us about this, email me, Nicola at [marketing@dreamscape.solutions](mailto:marketing@dreamscape.solutions) or call 01925 755960.

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# New Kia Sportage packs plenty of punch and good value for money

Editor Gary Skentelberry tests drives the Kia Sportage



I HAVE got to admit that a Kia car was never really on my radar - until I got the chance to test drive one thanks to Central Drive, Warrington, who specialise in business leasing deals.

Having driven the car to Anglesey and back, it certainly is now on my radar and certainly offers good value for money.

The 2020 Kia Sportage is a compact crossover SUV with sporty looks and strong turbo power.

It has distinctive looks, is a good ride with taut handling, optional turbo power a high-quality interior and strong infotainment.

The Sportage was updated for 2020 with a sporty looking S trim, new headlights, wheels, a redesigned front and rear bumper and more standard equipment including an 8.0-inch touchscreen with Apple CarPlay and Android Auto compatibility.

It is offered in LX, S, EX, and SX trim levels. The Sportage is powered by either a 181-horsepower 2.4-litre inline-4 or a 240-hp 2.0-litre.

Front-wheel drive is standard and all-wheel drive is optional, teamed in every configuration to a 6-speed automatic transmission.

It packs plenty of space for people and luggage with 31 cubic feet of cargo room behind the second row and just over 60 cubes with the rear seats folded flat.

The Sportage is also quiet on the road for a mainstream crossover, though the standard engine can be noisy at full tilt.



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FRIDAY: 9.30am - 5.30pm

SATURDAY: 9.30am - 5.30pm

SUNDAY: 11am - 5pm

NO Appointment Needed.



The Warehouse Studios, Glaziers Lane, Culcheth, WA3 4AQ

01925 766258 | [www.dress-studio.co.uk](http://www.dress-studio.co.uk) | @thedressstudio



# Regeneration of town centre key to future success

FORMER housing minister Esther McVeey saw first hand regeneration work going on in Warrington town centre which is key to the future success of the town.

The former Minister of State at the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government was visiting Warrington to find out more about the major town centre investment programme being carried out by the council and partners.

She was welcomed by the Council Leader, Cllr Russ Bowden, Chief Executive, Professor Steven Broomhead and was accompanied by Warrington South MP, Andy Carter.

Mr Carter said: "Regenerating our town centre is key to the future of Warrington. Building affordable homes close to transport links makes complete sense.

"There's no doubt that we also need to tackle congestion around Bridgefoot and the work now underway with the centre park scheme means we can start to bring other close by areas which need to be re-developed back into use too".

## Masterplan

During her visit she was shown a presentation setting out the council's 20 year 'town centre masterplan' vision. She also toured a range of town centre housing sites and



visited The Base on Dallam Lane.

She finished her visit with a look around Academy Street, a new housing scheme, being delivered by Torus Housing, in partnership with the council.

Council leader, Cllr Russ Bowden, added: "These are exciting times for Warrington so I'm delighted we have had the opportunity to welcome the Minister here to show her the range of investment projects currently underway, which are changing the face of our town centre for the better and the future.

Chief Executive, Professor Steven Broomhead, said: "This year is

going to be a hugely significant one for Warrington, as our rejuvenated town centre really begins to take shape. It was good to hear the Minister describe the town as the diamond between two large cities."

Chief Executive of Torus, Steve Coffey, added: "We're committed to investing in Warrington now and in the future. The Academy Street development is just one of a number of developments we're delivering across the borough. We're proud to be partnering with the council to rejuvenate local areas and providing much needed affordable homes to local people."

## Burtonwood & Winwick Community Bus service relaunched

THE Burtonwood & Winwick Community Bus service has relaunched after four months off the road due to expensive repairs.

Cllr Cathy Mitchell, who leads the Charity, said "Thank you so much to Amazon for helping us out with the repairs and we are very grateful to Warrington Borough Council for their continued support for this important scheme".

Gavin Windsor, who is Site Leader at the Warrington Omega Amazon site, said "We are proud to be part of the local community and delighted to support this much loved service and understand how valuable it is to local residents."

The Council's Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods, Cllr Tony Higgins said "The Council are delighted to support this scheme, which benefits residents of Burtonwood and Winwick every day, helping to combat loneliness.

The website is [www.bwbus.org](http://www.bwbus.org). The Charity is completely run by volunteers – no one receives a salary. If you would like to help in any way, please call Cathy on 07815 550157.

## School's anti-bullying work wins a Gold Award

SIR Thomas Boteler CE High School, Warrington has been awarded the Wise Up Gold Award for their hard work combatting bullying and hate crime.

The award was presented by Warrington Speak-up on behalf of the Warrington Hate Crime Partnership.

It was received by Year 7 student Mia Hennessey from the Mayor, Cllr Wendy Johnson.

Assistant head teacher John Leonard said: "Students are frequently reminded of how important it is to be aware of other people's feelings and how using certain words or behaviours may cause offence whether intentionally or unintentionally."

"All students are taught that everybody is equal. The work that all staff do on a daily basis creates an environment where we do not tolerate any form of bullying. If and when incidents do occur it is clear that they are dealt with quickly and effectively".



**PRIESTLEY**  
COLLEGE  
WARRINGTON

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COLLEGE

# Warrington Disability Partnership

## Annual Report 2019



The High Sheriff's  
Awards for Enterprise  
*2018/19*

*in partnership with*  
 University of  
Chester



Giving Disabled People  
Hope & Opportunity



## Introduction

# Chairman and Chief Executive's Report

Welcome to our latest annual report. It is often said that life at WDP is never dull, and we know that life is full of ups and downs, but at times during the past year, it has felt like a ride on the famous "Big One" rollercoaster.

The highs do not come much better than the feedback we received after an amazing Disability Awareness Day, probably the best we have delivered in its 28-year history. In addition, our social enterprise, the Disability Trading Company, continues to expand with a new shop in Sankey Street and another due to open soon in Birchwood Shopping Centre. We were overwhelmed by the success of our first Santa's Grotto and Santa Dash held at Walton Gardens. Not forgetting our incredible Charity Dinner.

We have been humbled by the number of awards we received during the year including the Cheshire High Sheriffs Award for Enterprise, the Association of Mobility Professionals National Awards, Active Cheshire's - Everyday Super Hero Awards and Warrington Guardian Inspiration Awards. We were honoured to be named as one of the Mayor of Warrington Councillor Wendy Johnson's Charities of the Year.

Sadly, the lows have also come thick and fast. Like many other charities, some of our contract negotiations have been torturous, as austerity measures faced by our statutory partners have led to several difficult and challenging conversations. At times, it has felt like some decision makers know the cost of a service, but sadly, no understanding of the value and the social impact of the service to our clients. Only after appealing to senior directors were we able to stave off the closure of one of our most valuable town centre based services. With protracted negotiations continuing regarding other vital services, the year ahead will no doubt be equally difficult.

We accept that cuts endured by our statutory partners has massively affected their budgets, therefore we feel the time is right for commissioning managers to take the opportunity to seriously consider the cost effective and efficient options that social enterprises like ours offer in the delivery of local services. We feel strongly that the town's third sector is a vital resource, one that needs to be more closely aligned to the public sector, in particular the planning and commissioning of health and social care.

Feedback we receive from our clients, customers and partners confirms that we continue to enhance the lives of tens of thousands of disabled people; locally, regionally, nationally and internationally. Giving them hope and opportunity remains at the heart of our work.

Our aim is to become less reliant on contracts by developing stronger collaborations with local philanthropic businesses and individuals, offering them a valued option in the field of Corporate Social Responsibility. Alongside this, we will look for new fundraising opportunities.

Although we continue to endure a tough financial climate, we are extremely pleased to report that our positive financial performance remains steady and in line with our business plan. This has only been possible due to the continuing support of our corporate partners.

Looking ahead, we are working on our 5-year strategy that will be based on five key themes: Well Governed, Sustainability/Growth, Well Connected, Key Influencer and Innovation.

We are enormously grateful for the dedication of our team including our volunteers, staff, trustees and non-executive directors at Warrington Disability Partnership and our social enterprise the Disability Trading Company.

Finally, we would like to thank everyone involved in supporting our work, our partners, our funders, supporters, service users and customers. We look forward to increasing our positive impact on the lives of disabled people throughout the year ahead.

**John Gartside OBE DL JP, Chairman  
Dave Thompson MBE DL,  
Co-founder and Chief Executive**



**During the past year we have mourned the losses of; John Allen, Joyce Magusha-Charambeni, Norman Banner MBE DL, Gary Gleave, Jade Kersalls, Christine Molyneux, Keith Menzies and Jim Muir. May they all rest in peace.**



**Warrington Disability Partnership**  
'Supporting Independence throughout Life and Work'

**Centre for Independent Living  
Beaufort Street, Warrington WA5 1BA  
01925 240064**

[www.disabilitypartnership.org.uk](http://www.disabilitypartnership.org.uk)  
[www.disabilitytradingcompany.co.uk](http://www.disabilitytradingcompany.co.uk)  
[www.disabilityawarenessday.org.uk](http://www.disabilityawarenessday.org.uk)  
[info@disabilitypartnership.org.uk](mailto:info@disabilitypartnership.org.uk)



# 2019 highlights

## The year in pictures



WDP launches 'Your Voice' - a forum for Young Disabled People

**Your voice**  
Young Disabled Persons Forum

Want to have your say about making Warrington more inclusive?  
Make new friends? Be part of a team? Get your voice heard?

Join us at our Young Disabled Persons Forum  
11am - 1:30pm  
For ages 11-20, free to join

Saturday 8th February 2020  
Saturday 14th March 2020  
Saturday 18th April 2020  
Saturday 16th May 2020  
Saturday 13th June 2020  
Saturday 18th July 2020  
Saturday 15th August 2020  
Saturday 12th September 2020  
Saturday 17th October 2020  
Saturday 14th November 2020  
Saturday 12th December 2020

For more information and registration please contact  
Ebony on [e.cropper@disabilitypartnership.org.uk](mailto:e.cropper@disabilitypartnership.org.uk)  
or 01925 240064

**Warrington Disability Partnership**  
Centre for Independent Living  
Beaufort Street, WA5 1BA

Charity no. 1113597



Our first ever 'Easter Bunny Walk' saw participants take on various challenges to solve the clues



WDP receives the 'High Sheriffs Award for Enterprise'



The 'Creepy Crawly Funday', organised by The Duckpond saw many people 'Face their Fears'



Our New Leaf Team (Employment and Training) has been shortlisted in the Partner of the Year category for the National ERSA Employability Awards.



WDP Volunteers recognised at the Warrington Voluntary Action Awards at the Town Hall

# Who we are and what we do

**Warrington Disability Partnership (WDP) is an internationally acclaimed user led charity. With over 28 years' experience of developing and delivering mobility and independent living services, our aim is to support disabled people and people living with long term health conditions. We are proud of our wide-ranging services, which include:**

### Promoting Independent Living

Visit our Centre for Independent Living (CIL) on Beaufort Street, the Disabled Living Centre on Brunswick Dock, Liverpool or our Mobility and Independent Living Solutions Store in Golden Square, Warrington to see all the latest equipment from baths, showers and kitchens to beds, wheelchairs and stair lifts, as well as a short term hire service for equipment including wheelchairs and scooters.

Recent additions offering further information, advice and guidance are the "Smart Flat" demonstrating the latest assistive technology solutions, based at the CIL and the Mobility and Independent Living Service based at Warrington Hospital.

Our Shopmobility Scheme in Legh Street Car Park, Warrington offers both scooters and wheelchairs for use within the Town Centre. They are available for hire to both members and visitors, Monday to Saturday (9am to 5pm).

In addition, our Scoota Safe Campaign promotes road safety to mobility scooter users and prevent accidents whilst using equipment.

Our Disability Helpline (01925 240064) offers advice about local support groups and services, access, transport and more. The OWCH Pain Management support group help and support local disabled people in relation to the self-management of Chronic Pain.

Our Independent Living Team provides a support service for Warrington residents who use the Direct Payments scheme from Warrington Borough Council, assisting with all aspects of employing a Personal Assistant (including advice on recruitment, DBS checks, pensions and contracts) with support from our in-house payroll team.

Our Care and Support advisor promotes the use of Personal Health Budgets throughout the Warrington area, allowing greater choice over how care is delivered. The advisor works with the client to produce a support plan, liaising with the Clinical Commissioning Group with regards to individual budgets.

The international Phoenix project, launched in 2017 has already refurbished over £750,000 worth of mobility and independent living equipment sent to people in need in Egypt, Thailand, Syria and refugees in Greece.

### The Disability Trading Company Limited

WDP's trading arm – Disability Trading Company (DTC) offers high-quality independent living products at competitive prices. Running as a Social Enterprise, all profits are donated to WDP to support our unfunded services. For details of the services offered, please see page 6.

### Employment Support

Our award-winning Employment Team is proud to

specialise in supporting local disabled people with a health condition (including mental health); ESA claimants and those in receipt of incapacity-related benefits. The team support individuals through the employment process; job searching, CVs, application forms, preparing for interviews and gaining employment. We also support people who are in work, as well as employers by giving information about adjustments in the workplace.

### Learning and Development

Visit the Marjorie Griffiths Learning Centre (MGLC) on Beaufort Street and take advantage of lots of courses to educate and inspire. These include 'Computers for the Terrified', OCR qualifications, IT, flower arranging and creative writing.

Additional training including 'Disability Confident' training is available for health and social care providers, voluntary organisations and individuals.

### Accessible Holidays & Days Out

Our fully accessible holiday homes in North Wales and our adapted, wheelchair-accessible narrow boat 'The Wizard', are available for hire at competitive rates – leaving you to enjoy a bargain break or day out on the water!

### Opportunities to Socialise

We run a variety of Luncheon Clubs for individuals who are looking for friendship, activities and of course, lunch! Our over 55's clubs meet every Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 10am to 2pm. As well as enjoying lunches together all year round, attendees also enjoy playing bingo; games; quizzes; chair-based exercises, and guest speakers. Our Monday Club caters for the under 55's with a wide variety of activities including social activities, crafts, bingo and photography. There is a small charge of £5 for the sessions and individuals are required to attend using their own transport.

Our Galleries Community Café offers a wide range of meals, snacks and drinks in a friendly atmosphere. The Café is open to members of the public, visitors to the Centre and Support Groups.

### Listening and Advocacy

Get your voice heard locally by attending our 'Staying Connected' meetings at our Centre for Independent Living, providing a forum for the exchange of ideas and information about local services. Sessions are open to all who have long term health condition or disability (physical, mental health, sensory or learning difficulty), carers and representatives of support groups/organisations and statutory services.

We organise the Warrington's Appreciation of Efforts Awards, providing an opportunity for people to nominate local employers, businesses, service providers or individuals who deserve recognition for promoting independence, delivering accessible and/or inclusive services or maintaining exemplary employment practices for disabled people and/or carers.

**For further information on any of these services, including how you can be involved as a Volunteer, please contact the team on 01925 240064.**

# 2019 highlights

## *The year in pictures*



During 2019, WDP supported the development of two new self-help groups – 'Warrington Wired Amputees' and 'Heads2gether'



Our 'DAD's Army' Team were shortlisted in the Warrington Guardian 'Charity of the Year' Awards



Dave Thompson and Gary Skentleberry received 'Everyday Superhero Awards' from Active Cheshire



The annual Going the Extra Mile Scuba Challenge saw experienced divers take on the underwater mile, as well as introducing other disabled people to the sport



WDP Charity Dinner which raised over £6,000.



WDP celebrated the 3rd year of the Phoenix project working with St Mark Universal Care, supplying equipment worth over £750,000 to overseas projects.



# Disability Trading Company – owned and operated by WDP

The Disability Trading Company (DTC) is WDP's social enterprise / trading arm. Launched in 2010, DTC was built on two decades of WDP's experience. Together we have developed a national reputation for our unique user led philosophy and willingness to work in partnership. Offering a wide range of high-quality mobility and independent living products at competitive prices. From basic daily living products to bespoke seating, stair-lifts and access ramps, mobility scooters, powered and manual wheelchairs, rise and recline chairs, adjustable beds, ramps, bath seats and much more.

Backed up by an extensive range of support services, and for visitors to our Warrington Centre for Independent Living they will find a purpose built workshop and service centre, a mobility test and training track and our Galleries Café.

Our retail services are located at the Centre for Independent Living (CIL), the Lifehouse at Brunswick Dock, Liverpool, our Mobility and Independent Living Stores in the Golden Square and another at Warrington Hospital. We offer a wide range of pre-owned products from our Shopmobility Scheme also located in the Golden Square. A range of assistive technology solutions is available on sale at our Smart Flat located adjacent to the CIL. **Our latest retail store is due to open in Birchwood Shopping Centre, February 2020.**

Thanks to our partners "St Mark Universal Copts Care", our Phoenix Project continued to refurbish and ship wheelchairs and other mobility aids to charities in Egypt, Thailand and Syria.

During 2018, we were proud to have secured a Motability dealership, which allows people to use their enhanced mobility component of DLA or PIP to lease a power-chair or mobility

scooter. We added interest free finance and three months free insurance offers, and we extended our product range with several new dealerships including Quantum Power-chairs. We strengthened our relationship with the British Health Trades Association, underlining our belief in their "Buy with Confidence" scheme that is accredited to Trading Standards. During the past year we were honoured to have been shortlisted in a number of local and national awards including the Warrington Business Awards and AMP Magazine Awards.

## What makes DTC unique?

- DTC has no private shareholders, 100% of its profits go to support WDP's charitable services which include subsidised Lunch Clubs for older and young disabled people, accessible narrow-boat offering daytrips on the Bridgewater Canal and an accessible caravan in North Wales,
- DTC staff do not receive any incentive bonuses, which results in us providing advice versus high pressure selling,
- Free impartial home and work assessments based on the philosophy of information, advice and guidance, not just sales,
- DTC is a user led social enterprise; many staff and all volunteers use their experience of living with a disability or long-term health condition to ensure they sell the right products,
- Hundreds of volunteer hours contribute to reducing DTC overheads, which result in savings that are passed on to the customers.

**disability trading company**

**Warrington Disability Partnership**

## Mobility & Independent Living

**The Disability Trading Company offer high quality, mobility & independent daily living aids, backed up by an extensive range of support services including information, advice and guidance.**

**WHAT WE OFFER:**

- Equipment Sales
- Equipment Servicing & Repairs
- Continence Products
- Daily Living Aids
- Battery Testing
- Fully Trained Staff
- Free assessments on site or at home
- Low prices and part exchange considered
- 3 months free insurance
- Interest free credit

**Motability**

**Don't just buy a product... buy the right product**

**WARRINGTON SHOWROOM**  
Tel: 01925 240 064  
email: [showroom@disabilitypartnership.org.uk](mailto:showroom@disabilitypartnership.org.uk)

**GOLDEN SQUARE SHOWROOM**  
Tel: 01925 416 624  
email: [mls@disabilitypartnership.org.uk](mailto:mls@disabilitypartnership.org.uk)

**LIVERPOOL SHOWROOM**  
Tel: 0151 709 0121  
email: [liverpoolmls@disabilitypartnership.org.uk](mailto:liverpoolmls@disabilitypartnership.org.uk)

**for more information visit w: [disabilitytradingcompany.co.uk](http://disabilitytradingcompany.co.uk)**



# Our Impact

## WDP Purpose

'To enhance the lives of disabled people and their families by enabling independent living'

The business directory describes social impact as being the effect of an activity on the social fabric of the community and well-being of the individuals and families. Whilst many people are aware of the wide range and scope of the services that Warrington Disability Partnership provide, the direct effect that they have on a persons' life, is not necessarily always apparent. This supplementary report has been produced by us to show the impact that our services have on local disabled people, their families, friends and carers.

"I will be forever grateful to the Direct Payments and Payroll Services. Without their support, my disabled daughter would be unable to live with me. She would have no other option but to move elsewhere – something that I can't bear to imagine"

*Direct Payments and Payroll Client*

# 93%

of Disability Matters and Social Impact survey participants said that using WDP services had increased their quality of life, helped them to feel good about themselves or feel more useful.

"Brilliant local organisation. Very helpful and supportive for both people with disabilities and their families/carers etc."

*Visitor to the Centre for Independent Living*



"The children were impressed with how Tom had overcome what had happened to him and appreciated his honesty and openness. They showed a lot of understanding about equality and the use of language. They were so fired up, they wrote to the Children's Oxford English Dictionary to complain about their definition of 'normal'. Raising awareness of what people with disabilities can achieve, has really made a positive impact on our Children."

*Feedback received following a Disability Awareness Session by Team WDP at a local primary school.*



**Average overall satisfaction score from Disability Matters and Social Impact Survey 2019 respondents**

# Our Impact

# 13%

growth achieved for  
**The Disability Trading Company**  
during 2018/19



WDP has inspired others across the globe to hold their own DAD events including an event, organised by 'Closing the Gap' in Cameroon (pictured above)

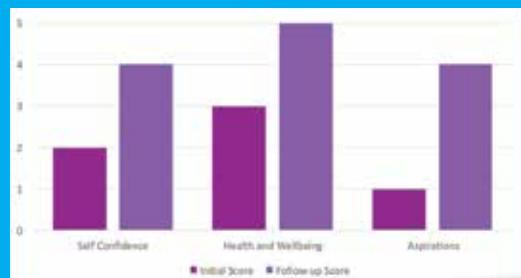
# 99%

of Family and Friends Test respondents would recommend our services to family and friends

# 35,000



The New Leaf Employment and Training Personal Assessment Tool measures progress whilst clients are engaged on the programme. Improvements are measured on a scale of 1 - 5.



'For me the New Leaf gave me a support network that I knew would not give up on me and that were always true to their word. My involvement with New Leaf has been life-changing, I have now found suitable employment, I'm secure in my housing and definitely have a more positive approach to life in general. New Leaf has had a direct and meaningful impact on my life and I feel fortunate to have been referred to WDP. Your work makes a real difference to peoples' lives.'

WDP New Leaf Client

Our team supports almost 400 direct payments clients to employ nearly 700 personal assistants to support their independent living within Warrington.

visitors to the Centre for Independent Living in 2019; including Adam Hills, who came to talk about support for amputees (below left) and the Mayor of Warrington who met with some of our long-serving volunteers (below).



Our team engaged with over

# 6,000

people during our 2019 Christmas activities



Our Shopmobility service based in the Golden Square Shopping Centre, enables those with limited mobility to gain greater freedom and independence when visiting Warrington Town Centre. During 2019 our 296 members and 996 day visitors have used our mobility equipment over 4,000 times.

#### What has OWCH done for me?

- Supported me with trauma of losing my 51 year old husband
- Built my confidence and raised my self esteem
- Made me laugh even on down days
- Provided me with my OWCH family
- Supported me during my journey with my rare disease and disabilities
- Offered Complementary therapies free of charge/as presents or as a prize
- Provided social activity including a Wizard boat trip
- Reduced isolation and improved my mood
- Provided literature, speakers and information
- Provided nutritious snack and meals
- Allowed me to flourish and use my talents

*Feedback received from a member of the OWCH (One Wednesday Can't Hurt) Pain Management Support Group*

# 40

Disability Awareness Training Sessions

## 2,360 Attendees

Organisations include: schools, universities, scouts, and businesses such as United Utilities, LiveWire, Liverpool City Council, Spire Cheshire Hospital, Warrington Wolves, Livewire and Culture Warrington.



“I had always thought about the obvious signs of disability, but Dave has raised my awareness to the millions of people affected by unseen disabilities”  
Manager, United Utilities

# 195

Christmas Dinners served in the Galleries Café during December 2019.

# 100%

of WDP staff members agree that **‘WDP is currently delivering its’ purpose to enhance the lives of Disabled People’**

**(WDP Staff Survey 2019)**

# Our Impact

Disability Awareness Day 2019 (28th Annual Event)

'DAD's army do it again... congratulations on a very smooth and efficient, organised day.'

Radio General  
DAD 2019 Exhibitor and  
Main Arena Compere.

## Reasons given for attending DAD 2019

- Gain Information and Advice
- Gain Information on Developments and Products
- Find Support to Improve Quality of Life
- Access Support Groups
- Networking
- Volunteering
- Enjoyable Day Out

**1 Big Day**  
**11 Complimentary Events**  
**28,000 Visitors**



Picture courtesy: F11 Photography

St Petersburg  
2,126 km

2,658,625

Steps completed by the DAD Week Team during Disability Awareness Week 2019. This is the equivalent to 2,126 km the distance from Warrington to St Petersburg, Russia.

# Our Team

Affectionately known as 'Team WDP', our team of almost 50 staff and over 200 volunteers work tirelessly to enhance the lives of disabled people, their families, friends and carers by promoting and enabling independent living.

Our volunteers remain at the heart of everything that we do and continue to make a difference to peoples' lives, reduce isolation and promote hope and opportunity to those in need. With over 90% of the team having direct experience of living with a disability, real life experiences are used to help and support others.

Over 80% of staff members began their WDP journey as a volunteer. For many of the team this is a huge testament to their commitment and dedication to learn and development their skills to gain employment, some through apprenticeship opportunities. In addition, WDP staff members lead by example and are committed to giving additional voluntary hours on a regular basis.

During 2019, two of our WDP volunteers (Hilary and Linda) gained employment within our services. Through their voluntary roles, they gained additional skills and confidence to enable them to make this transition.

Our Phoenix Project worker (Sean) who initially joined us as a volunteer at Disability Awareness Day, was also successful in gaining a new role in the Royal Navy. Team WDP are proud of the role that we have played in supporting Sean to achieve his dreams.

## How You Can Help Us

Do you want to share or learn new skills, develop skills to help you move into employment, give something back to your local community or offer support to other volunteers? Whatever the reasons, this can be achieved by volunteering at WDP



across many of our services. Why not support our unfunded services by holding your own event, taking part in a challenge or attend one of our own exciting events held throughout the year? We're always looking for people to help out with the various events we attend to help raise funds for WDP.

**Visit our website [www.disabilitypartnership.org.uk](http://www.disabilitypartnership.org.uk) for details of forthcoming events and to sign up to our email alerts, follow us on Facebook [www.facebook.com/disabilitypartnership](https://www.facebook.com/disabilitypartnership) or on Twitter (@WDPcomms).**

## Case Study - Hilary Evans, Showroom Assistant

Since leaving school, Hilary had always been in employment taking on various retail roles, a community care role, as well as running her own cleaning business. Hilary had always been fit and healthy, up until the time that she was diagnosed with a heart condition. Due to the nature of this condition and, on the suggestion of her doctor, she was sadly forced to give up her business and leave work.

After taking some time out and being unable to work, Hilary found herself becoming extremely bored and fed up. Her Aunty, who was a good friend of our Volunteer Coordinator at that time, introduced Hilary to Warrington Disability Partnership. Hilary joined our team as a showroom volunteer in September 2018 and has never looked back. Hilary credits the support and understanding of the WDP Team, as the key factor that has enabled her to return into a working environment.

Hilary was awarded the Best Newcomer Award at our 2018/19 AGM, in recognition of the way in which she had settled into the team and quickly gained knowledge of the products available. In April 2019, Hilary gained part-time employment as a Showroom Assistant and has continued to develop her knowledge, becoming a valuable member of the team. Of her new role, Hilary says "I absolutely love what I do. From the wonderful team that I work alongside, the customers that I am able to help and all of the tasks that I do within my role, I enjoy every minute and have never looked back"



# 2019 highlights

## *The year in pictures*



*Above: The Mayor of Warrington 2018/2019, Councillor Karen Mundry, raised over £10,000 for her chosen charities. Thank you for choosing WDP as one of these charities.*



*Successful relocation of our Golden Square Mobility Store to a larger unit in Sankey Street*



*Right: Sarah Matthews successfully completes 52 Marathons in 52 weeks for WDP*



*Left: Sarah's medals.*



*Our team supported this year's Purple Tuesday, raising awareness of the spending power of disabled people, as well as the barriers that are faced.*

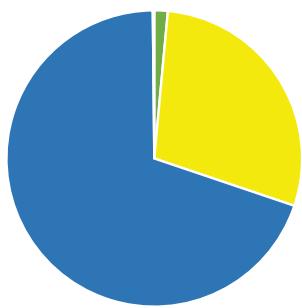


*Above: The first WDP Santa Dash was a great success with over 70 Santa's taking part*

*Left: Our relocated Santa's Grotto was a great success and included dedicated autism hours.*

# WDP Financial Position 2018-19

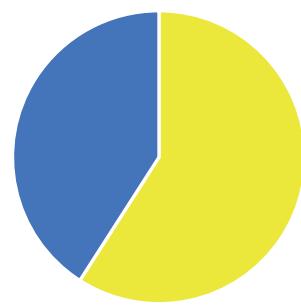
Income £1,702,535



Voluntary Income (£25k)  
Charitable activities (£489k)  
Trading to raise funds (£1.19m)  
Other (£3k)

The above information has been taken from the audited consolidated accounts for the financial period 1st April 2018 – 31st March 2019, as reported by the Charities Commission.

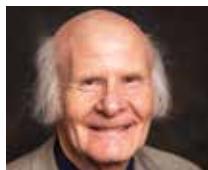
Expenditure £1,664,805



Charitable activities (£958k)  
Income generation and governance (£707k)

The consolidated accounts include Warrington Disability Partnership and its Subsidiary Company (The Disability Trading Company). The cost of raising funds includes the purchase of stock for resale.

## WDP Board of Trustees & DTC Directors



JOHN GARTSIDE OBE JP DL  
Chair



PAT KITTO  
Vice-Chair &  
DTC Board Member



DAVE WILLIAMS  
Secretary &  
DTC Board Member



EILEEN MACDONALD  
Treasurer



DAVE KELSALL



MIKE DAWBARN



MAUREEN MC LAUGHLIN



LATHAM PARRY



JAN PRITCHARD



CYNTHIA SALLUYTS



GARY SKENTELBERY



ANITA CAWLEY



SUE McMILLAN  
(CO-OPTED)



HALA FOUD



PAM THOMPSON  
WDP Honorary President



TERRY WADSWORTH  
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DTC Non-executive director



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# Disability Awareness Day 2019

Over 25,000 people attended this years' annual Disability Awareness Day (DAD28) recognised internationally as the largest annual voluntary-led pan disability Independent Living Exhibition in the world. The event, held at Walton Gardens attracted over 250 exhibitors showcasing a wide range of equipment, mobility products, transport solutions, employment support, education, health and social care, leisure activities, plus over 100 support groups. The aim of the event, as always, was to promote all aspects of independent living through the promotion of what disabled people "can do".

DAD28 engaged a wide range of the community, with a further 2,000 people involved in activities starting the week prior to the big day. These included:



- Frogtastic Party for people who have a Learning Disability.
- Disability Awareness and Smart Heart Event for primary school pupils and their teachers in partnership with Warrington and Halton Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
- Warrington and Halton Clinical Commissioning Groups End of Life Stakeholder Event
- Northwest Boroughs Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust Annual Involvement Event and Ignite Your Life - Mental Health & Wellbeing Workshops & Exhibition
- Warrington Together Health and Wellbeing Workshop and Marketplace
- Making Warrington Disability Confident - Warrington Disability Partnership, Jobcentre Plus and Warrington Business Exchange presenting a workshop on how to make your business or organisation Disability Confident.
- Ella's Summertime Special and Ella Queens Award for Voluntary Services celebration
- Party in the Park for disabled children and young disabled people
- DAD Mega Quiz Night and Charity Auction

Many of this year's exhibitors were housed in a huge tented village of marquees, including a Centre Arena and a huge Performing Arts Marquee. The Dave Connor Sports Zone offered lots of activites to have a go at, including scuba diving in the on-site pool, Rugby, Fencing and Martial Arts. Crowds were entertained with fantastic line-ups of talent including some of the UK's leading disabled artists, Display Teams, Choirs, Birds of Prey, Dog Displays and the Katumba Samba Band.

Once again, DAD28 continued the international theme: the MESSAGE Institute based in Jaipur India ran their 11th Annual Disability Awareness Day, 'Closing the Gap', based in Cameroon held their own versions of DAD and the Centre for Disability and Rehabilitation in Uganda held their second four-day Expo. The 1 Step 2 Step organisation, based in Thailand also held awareness raising events and assisted disabled children to make bunting which was displayed at our event.

On behalf of the DAD Management Team, we would like to thank everyone who supported this years' event; sponsors, supporters, DAD Stewards, exhibitors and visitors. In particular, our new joint principal sponsors for 2019, Expanse Learning Group and Harry Fairclough Construction and also St Marks Universal Care, for their support as Prime Sponsors of our DAD week events and Arts Marquee.

Disability Awareness Day 2020 (DAD29) will be held on Sunday 12th July



# Working in Partnership

## A Big Thank You

Warrington Disability Partnership would like to thank everyone that has supported, donated and worked alongside us during the past 12 months - including:

- Warrington Borough Council
- St Mark Universal Care
- Golden Gates Housing Trust / Torus
- Liverpool City Council
- Expanse Learning
- Harry Fairclough Construction
- NHS Warrington Clinical Commissioning Group
- United Utilities
- The Holroyd Foundation
- North West Boroughs Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust
- Livewire Warrington
- Skills For Care
- University of Chester - Warrington Campus
- Culture Warrington
- BAS (NW) Ltd
- NRS Healthcare
- Unison - North West
- Cheshire Centre for Independent Living
- BT
- Warrington & Vale Royal College
- Active Cheshire
- Barclays Bank PLC

It's great to be working in partnership with such a fantastic organisation such as Warrington Disability Partnership."

*Bill Bradley,  
MD - BAS (NW) Ltd*

# WDP Patrons:

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- Dr Naser Fouad DL
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- Liz Smith
- Lord Doug Hoyle
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- Warrington & Halton Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
- Bridgewater Community Healthcare NHS Trust
- Catalyst Choices
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- NHS Halton Clinical Commissioning Group
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- Prison Service Charity Fund
- New Song Church
- Alan Kent
- Convertabath

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memory of:**  
Jeannie Shaw  
Gary Gleaves  
Scott Baron

*The Duckpond is a voluntary group aimed at challenging people to get active and make life experiences, whilst raising money for charities. In 2019, they chose WDP as their charity of the year. To celebrate their 5 year anniversary, the team took on an number of 'Face your Fears' challenges including completing the '3 Peaks Challenge' and organising a Creepy Crawly event at the Centre for Independent Living, as well as supporting our own events.*

***"The Duckpond chose to support WDP for a number of reasons; they're local and the work they do in the community is widely apparent, they've been very supportive of our efforts to help raise fund for them and finally the team as a whole are lovely people and their dedication to the charity really shines through."***

## *The Duckpond*



# Help us to help others

## Events Calendar 2020

January  
**WDP Quiz Night – Friday 31st**  
St Oswald's Social Club

March  
**WDP Sponsored Swim – Saturday 21st**  
Great Sankey Neighbourhood Hub

April  
**WDP Quiz Night – Friday 3rd**  
St Oswald's Social Club

May  
**Walk in the Park – Sunday 17th**  
Centre for the Independent Living

June  
**WDP Quiz Night – Friday 5th**  
St Oswald's Social Club

July  
**Frogtastic in the Park – Tuesday 7th**  
**DAD Mega Quiz – Friday 10th**  
**Disability Awareness Day 2020 – Sunday 12th**  
Walton Gardens

August  
**WDP Quiz Night – Friday 7th**  
St Oswald's Social Club

September  
**Scoota Safe Event – Saturday 26th**

October  
**WDP Quiz Night – Friday 2nd**  
St Oswald's Social Club

**WDP Charity Dinner – Friday 9th**  
Park Royal Hotel

November  
**WDP Scuba Challenge – Saturday 14th**  
Great Sankey Neighbourhood Hub

**Santa's Grotto – Saturday 28th and Sunday 29th**

December  
**WDP Quiz Night – Friday 4th**  
St Oswald's Social Club

**Santa's Grotto – Saturday 5th, Sunday 6th, Saturday 12th, Sunday 13th, Saturday 19th, Sunday 20th and Monday 21st**

**Santa Dash – Sunday 13th**

For further details, or to sign up for any of these events, please contact the WDP Fundraising Team on

**01925 240064**



In 2021, WDP will be celebrating our 30th Anniversary.

Could you, or your organisation choose us as your Charity of the Year?

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**Supporting Independence Throughout Life and Work**



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**Join Team WDP**



**Make a donation**



**Organise your own event**



**Take on a new challenge**

**Attend our events**



**Leave a Legacy**



# No Brainer teams up with community programme to host tea party

STAFF from Warrington-based PR, social media and content marketing agency No Brainer hosted a special tea party for a local charity which helps older people stay connected with their local community.

Re-engage (formerly Contact the Elderly), is a charity that works with older people aged 75 and over struggling with loneliness, providing social activities and groups to help them form new friendships and prevent isolation.

A team of 13 staff at No Brainer welcomed the group of six older ladies, along with volunteers, for an afternoon of tea, cake and chat.

## Free

The tea party took place just underneath the No Brainer offices at Second City Coffee on Wilderspool Business Park, with refreshments supplied for free by the popular coffee shop.

The group from Re-engage included Jean, who last year celebrated her 100th birthday, as well as 85-year-old Annette who worked as a midwife in Liverpool before she retired.

Over the last 20 years, the number of people in the UK aged over 75 who live alone has risen to 2.2 million. Re-engage is the only charity that is solely committed to



tackling loneliness in older people over-75, with the aim of providing means to long-lasting friendship and renewed support networks.

## Loneliness

Gwen Lightfoot, Support Officer at Re-engage, said: "All too often, feelings of isolation and loneliness are the reality for older people with nearly half relying on the TV as

their main source of company.

"Over 1.4 million older people in the UK suffer from loneliness with half a million of them going five or six days without seeing or speaking to anyone. Research has shown that social isolation can have huge mental health and physical health implication with people living alone significantly more likely to visit their GP or attend A&E.

"That's why it's so important for

businesses like No Brainer to offer their support and get behind our mission. The ladies who attended thoroughly enjoyed meeting the No Brainer team and were thrilled to be served afternoon tea.

## Grateful

"Some great stories were shared and memories were made, over some good old-fashioned tea and cake and we are very grateful to the team for giving up their afternoon to spend some time with one of our groups."

Mel Phillips, Head of Operations at No Brainer said: "As the ageing population continues to grow, so does the importance of charities like Reengage.

"It was our absolute pleasure to welcome Jean, Annette, Joan, Edith, Jean and the Reengage volunteers to No Brainer HQ. I know the team loved taking some time out of their day to listen to the many stories the group had to share – it's definitely an experience we'll now treasure and hope to repeat in the future."

**To learn more about how to get involved with Re-engage, visit the website at [www.reengage.org.uk](http://www.reengage.org.uk).**

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# WHAT'S ON FEBRUARY '20 TO MARCH 20

**Parr Hall** **Box Office: 01925 442345**  
[parrhall.culturewarrington.org](http://parrhall.culturewarrington.org)

Thu 20 Feb An Evening with Carl Fogarty

Sun 23 Feb The Sooty Show

Fri 28 Feb Sounds Familiar Music Quiz

Sat 29 Feb Circus of Horrors - 25th Anniversary

Fri 6 Mar An Evening with Ryan Giggs

Fri 13 Mar Tina Turner - What's Love Got to Do With It

Sat 14 Mar By the Waters of Liverpool

Thu 19 Mar Rob Brydon - Songs & Stories

Sat 21 Mar Sounds of the 60s LIVE with Tony Blackburn

Fri 27 Mar Luther

Sat 28 Mar Boyzlife

Sun 29 Mar Havana Nights

**Pyramid** **Box Office: 01925 442345**  
[pyramid.culturewarrington.org](http://pyramid.culturewarrington.org)

Sat 7 Mar Comedy Store

Sun 29 Mar Havana Nights



## The Bohemians bring rock royalty to Parr Hall



DESCRIBED as the "most exciting Queen tribute band in the world" The Bohemians brought some rock royalty to Warrington Parr Hall recently.

While Britain was preparing to leave Europe there was no talk of Brexit despite fist pumping passionate rock music and a Union Jack finale as the near sell out audience were transported back in time to the late 1970s and early 80s when Freddie Mercury and Queen were at the top of their game.

While no one can replace Freddie, or for that matter Brian May, Roger Taylor and John Deacon, The Bohemians are certainly a very plausible tribute and certainly great entertainers and musicians who entertained the audience from start to finish.

Front man Rob Comber has certainly got "Freddie" off to an art with a great stage presence backed by talented musicians.

The Bohemians, established in 1996 have performed all over the UK, Europe and the World at football stadiums, festivals, theatres and other prestigious venues.

Their high-energy two hour show included all the piano driven hit singles: Killer Queen; Somebody To Love; Don't Stop Me Now; You're My Best Friend; We Are The Champions and the all time classic Bohemian Rhapsody.

They also played guitar led anthems; Tie Your Mother Down; Hammer To Fall; One Vision; I Want It All and We Will Rock You.

Rob joined The Bohemians as "Freddie" in 2004 and his stage antics and personality make him the perfect Freddie bringing his strong vocal ability and musical skills required to fill one of the hardest parts in rock.

Lead guitarist Chris Gregory formed his own Queen tribute band Queened in January 2000, giving him the opportunity to play hundreds of shows as Brian May. By 2009 QUEENED were coming to a natural end when coincidentally The Bohemians were looking for a new guitarist!

Drummer Dan Church has been playing the drums, singing and involved in music since the age of 10. Over the years he has been in a wide variety of projects from a 'Top 40' Pop Band to Theatre Touring, Tribute Bands, TV Work and international gigging. But like most musicians he's played hundreds of function gigs, theatre shows, corporate gigs and everything in between. This has enabled him to develop his backing and lead vocals which makes him the perfect Roger Taylor.

Bass player Kevin Goodwin who was lucky enough to see Queen twice in 1986 helped form the band in 1996. Being a lifelong Queen fan, this was a very easy choice for him as a labour of love helping to build the band over the years.

As the curtain came down on a great night in Warrington frontman Rob promised the band would be back next year – and they certainly will be with a booking already made for Friday January 29th 2021 – it could be the hottest ticket in town!

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# The new Warrington Market



## Opening April 2020

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[warrington.gov.uk/new-warrington-market](http://warrington.gov.uk/new-warrington-market)



# Lucy, 82, is town's champion book borrower

WARRINGTON'S top book borrower over the past 12 months was 82-year-old Lucy Roach – who read 310 books from Penketh Library.

Her achievement was celebrated at a special ceremony at Warrington Central Library when she was presented a book token from Cllr Tony Higgins, the borough council's cabinet member for leisure and community.

## Ceremony

The borough's 12 top borrowers – ages ranging from 12 to 82 –

were at the ceremony and each received a book token.

The prize-winners and their family and friends then enjoyed refreshments and a slice of a special book-themed cake, which was decorated with the words 'a book is a gift you can open again and again'.

In total the number of books read by the top dozen borrowers was 2,659 – on average 221 books per person.

Chris Everett, LiveWire Community Librarian, said: "It was lovely to be able to welcome some



of our most loyal library customers and thank them in person for supporting their local library.

"Everyone enjoyed the celebration event with their friends and family and it was so nice hearing feedback about how much their library means to them. We

look forward to welcoming them all back to their local library soon. We hope this will inspire lots of new readers through our doors in 2020."

For more information on LiveWire libraries visit [www.livewirewarrington.co.uk/libraries](http://www.livewirewarrington.co.uk/libraries)

## Advertiser's announcement

### Expert help for your mental well-being joins team at Lymm

IT'S that time of year again. The festive season is just a distant memory, the weather still gloomy and brighter days seem so far away which can have a big impact on our mental health.

It's no wonder that this is one of the commonest times for people's spirits to be low. But what if you feel more than just 'a little bit down'? Where do you turn when your levels of stress, anxiety and low self-esteem are more than you can cope with? When any existing conditions such as depression or PTSD are exacerbated? Or memories from trauma or abuse have suddenly resurfaced?

When Spring is on its way, we're all encouraged to look after our physical health – but it's just as vital to think about our emotional and mental health too. If you're feeling that your mental health is starting to badly affect your quality of life – it may be that you've considered reaching out for extra support.

At Lymm Osteopathic Practice, they have always offered a holistic approach to healthcare – considering the whole person when evaluating patients' health, in order to manage and prevent disease. They recognise that the well-being of the mind is just as important as that of the body – and are now proud to

announce the arrival of their latest team member, Sue Shtewi, a mental health care practitioner, offering a wealth of experience in mental care issues. These include anxiety, panic attacks, low confidence, stress and work-related issues, relationship problems, psychosexual and other sexual concerns.

Having practised in the caring profession for over 30 years, Sue started out as a Registered Nurse and in 1994, qualified with an Advanced Diploma in Counselling in 1994, later gaining a Masters in Counselling Studies. She is a member of the British Association of Counselling and is also a Qualified Psychosexual Counsellor.

She has also been professionally trained at the Academy of Holistic Hypnotherapy in Inner Child Work

– a therapy that works through issues that stem back to childhood.

Sue uses many of the 'talking therapies' such as counselling, psychotherapy, hypnotherapy and EMDR (Eye Movement Desensitisation and Reprocessing, a method of dealing with mood and anxiety) in order to treat her clients.

Other, more specialised areas that Sue deals with are smoking cessation, eating disorders and other weight issues. She

offers the hypno-gastric band, a hypnotherapy-based alternative to weight loss surgery and often a successful method of reducing weight. She also offers help for sexual problems which can include anything from erectile dysfunction to painful intercourse – and she has worked for many years with individuals who are gender dysphoric, exploring the psychological and emotional well-being of her clients.

Sue has a caring and sensitive approach and is happy to discuss any issues you may have, in complete confidence, over the telephone prior to an appointment. For more information, an appointment or to arrange a telephone conversation with Sue, you can call Lymm Osteopathic Practice on 01925 752264. Or, take a look at the website [www.lymmosteopathicpractice.co.uk](http://lymmosteopathicpractice.co.uk).

All practitioners have completed a high standard of professional training and are appropriately registered. They are always happy to help find the health solution that's perfect for you.

For more details call 01925 752264.



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### Pipe band gear up for VE Day celebrations

MEMBERS of Warrington Pipe Band are preparing to take part in the town's celebrations to mark the 75th anniversary of VE Day.

They will be taking part in performances around the town – as well as local parades and events which they support each year.

The band is almost 100 years old and is thriving – they have recently had an influx of new juvenile members.

But success has also brought problems. The band is 100 per cent self funded and aims to provide members with full equipment and uniforms. The cost of kitting out a member in uniform is well over £600 and combine this with the equipment they require it is easily over £1200 per member.

All this is putting a financial burden on the band and with young people "growing up quickly" they have to replace uniforms as well as buy new ones.

So they are looking for support to help a new generation of youngsters to join the band, learn new skills and represent the town proudly.

The bands Go Fund Me page is at <https://www.gofundme.com/f/warrington-pipe-band-equipment-fundraiser>

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The hottest places March Average Temperatures:  
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1. Cancun (34.2 °C)
2. Phuket (33.3 °C)
3. Barbados (29.7 °C)
4. Dominican Republic (29.3 °C)
5. Cuba (27.5 °C)
6. Cape Verde (25.7 °C)
7. Fuerteventura (22.5 °C)
8. Tenerife (22.3 °C)
9. Hurghada (21.9 °C)
10. Las Vegas (21.6 °C)

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# Apprenticeship success for Warrington and UTC

**MORE students are securing top apprenticeships in Warrington than ever before and it's largely down to more institutions, including the town's University Technical College, focusing on vocational learning, say Warrington South's MP and local businesses.**

Latest figures from The House of Commons Library show that 742,400 people across England were participating in an apprenticeship in 2018/2019. Over 1,700 people started apprenticeships across Warrington North and Warrington South, according to the Department for Education. Since the opening of engineering specialist college UTC Warrington in September 2016, the number of young people entering apprenticeships in that sector has risen to become the third most popular industry to enter in the local area.

The success of the UTC programme of employability and career-readiness has seen more students entering higher and degree level apprenticeships than ever before; in 2019, the percentage of students leaving the UTC to enter such career opportunities was over six times the national average.

The UTC model is in operation across England and has even started to be replicated abroad. However, it is employers in Warrington and the North West who are turning to the UTC to have a first pick of their future recruits. One of them

organisations is NSAN, based in Warrington, and works with nuclear companies in the region. They have been working with the University Technical College following the college's ongoing successful relationship with companies such as Sellafield Ltd and Wood plc.

Nicola Merriman, Operations Manager at NSAN, said: "NSAN are delighted to be working with UTC Warrington and supporting our local members to access the fantastic facilities the UTC has to offer. Apprenticeships are critical to meeting the future skills needs of the nuclear industry, and it's great to see the regular opportunities UTC students are provided with to work with local nuclear companies to develop their knowledge and skills."

Since 2010, over 20,000 people have started an apprenticeship in Warrington. George Garner who attended the Warrington UTC said that without the college he wouldn't have secured his role.

He said: "UTC Warrington played a key part in helping me to secure my apprenticeship. During my two years at the UTC, I was able to develop key skills through

theoretical and practical learning and the college also supported me through a two year apprenticeship at Rock Oil; this provided me with core industry knowledge and also allowed for further professional development which has been essential in my role at Cavendish Nuclear."

The town centre college which opened in 2016 was awarded a Good rating by Ofsted in 2019, with high praise for its employer-led engagement with students, the focus on the values of excellence and kindness, and the commitment shown by students to their technical education and careers.

Andy Carter, MP for Warrington South, visited the UTC in December. He says that apprenticeships are key to the success of skills

development in the town.

He said: "So many employers have told me how valuable Apprenticeships are for recruiting new entrants, the real winners are those entering the jobs market with the opportunity to learn and earn with a great employer."

"UTC Warrington play a crucial role in linking employers and students and I've seen for myself the way lessons are tailored to make them relevant for future careers while providing a great all round experience."

Lee Barber, Principal of the UTC, says that having employers regularly approaching the college to recruit students shows that the programme is having a positive impact on companies in the local and sub-regional area.



## Threatened Blackburne Arms pub is "asset of community value"

A 92-year-old pub, threatened with demolition to make way for a block of retirement flats, has been designated an Asset of Community Value.

The designation of the Blackburne Arms by Warrington Borough Council, gives new hope to campaign group The Friends of the Blackburne Arms who are fighting to keep the Orford Green pub open.

Although not a statutory Listed Building, the pub is a well-known landmark in the area and is a Locally Listed Asset because it dates from 1928 and is named after Robert Ireland Blackburne, a former nobleman in the original rural parish of Orford.

The Blackburne Arms has gone through difficult periods, at one time being closed by its owners and on another being raided by police on suspicion of drug dealing going on there.

But more recently it has been trading successfully, attracting local residents and those from further afield.

A planning application to demolish the building and erect retirement flats on the site has been strenuously opposed locally.

More than 1,000 letters oppose the application organised by the Friends of the Blackburne Arms, while an online petition attracted 272 signatures, and there have been objections from local borough councillor Mike Hannon, the Orford War Memorial Recreation Club

and the local allotment society.

The Friends say the pub supports local sports teams, is easily accessible by the elderly and disabled, raises about £5,000 a year for charity, has play equipment for local youngsters, hosts live music and craft fairs and has a wide range of wildlife in its grounds.

Pub owners EI Group plc have entered into an agreement to sell the pub to property developers and application to build retirement flats on the site is due to be heard by Warrington's development management committee next month.

But the borough council has decided it is realistic to believe the Blackburne Arms could continue to serve the social interest and wellbeing of the local community in the future and has agreed to list the building as an asset of community value.

This gives the local community six months to raise the money to purchase the building with a view to it staying open as a pub.



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## Financially yours

By David Watkinson

### Upcoming Budget

As we write this column we are still several weeks away from the budget which will determine what tax we shall be paying from 5th April.

Normally, in recent years the budget is held some time in November giving at least three months' notice of its provisions. For various political reasons, the government has delayed the budget. This year it is being held on 11th March, which is 5 weeks before the end of the tax year, and as we write the Chancellor has just resigned and a new one appointed giving yet more uncertainty.

There are some things which we do know, mainly payroll matters. We know, for instance, the new National Insurance thresholds. From April, employees will start paying National Insurance on wages above £9,500 per annum, or £183 per week. This is in line with promises made by the government in its election manifesto. However, employers will start paying once wages rise above £8,788 per annum, or £169 per week. There will be no changes in the rates of National Insurance for employers or employees, nor in the level at which contributions cease for employees.

Also in the election manifesto was a commitment not to increase the rate of income tax, and the increase in the personal allowance to £12,500 in 2019 was announced as a two year measure. In view of these facts, as well as the fact that the upper earnings limit for National Insurance has remained at the same level, it would seem reasonable to assume that income tax rates and thresholds will remain unchanged.

One very important change is to the Employment Allowance. This is currently an allowance which means that employers can retain the first £3,000 of employers National Insurance that would be payable in the tax year. At present, this is an automatic entitlement. However, from 2020-21 this allowance is only available to employers whose employers National Insurance in 2019-20 totalled less than £100,000. This has resulted in several new questions on the Employer Payment Summary (EPS) and if these are answered incorrectly then the allowance will be lost.

From April, student loan repayments will start once income is £19,390 per annum under Plan 1 and £26,575 per annum under Plan 2. Currently the thresholds are £18,924 and £25,716 respectively. The repayment rate remains at 9% of salaries above these thresholds.

Finally, the level of Statutory Sick Pay will be £95.85 per week from April. All other Statutory Payments, including Statutory Maternity Pay and Statutory Paternity Pay, will be £151.20 per week from April.

Confused? If you are and have employees then why not see how we can help you get this right?

*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.*



Margaret Black and David Watkinson

## New Running Festival to hit the streets of Warrington



**A brand new running event will hit the streets of Warrington in September replacing the English Half Marathon which had to be cancelled last year.**

The inaugural Warrington Running Festival will take place in the town on September 20th and includes four events in and around the town centre.

The brand new, large-scale event is being delivered by established organisation, RunThrough, who have strong links to Warrington, and a track record of delivering successful running events across the country, including in the North West.

Starting and finishing at the iconic Golden Gates, the festival will feature four running events in one day – with the opportunity to take part in a Half Marathon, 10k, 5k, or a kids' race, in and around Warrington town centre.

Last year's English Half Marathon had to be cancelled just days before it was due to take place leaving the organiser "devastated" after suffering health problems.

Warrington Borough Council's Cabinet Member for leisure and community, Cllr Tony Higgins, said: "It's great news that a major running event will be returning to Warrington this summer. The Warrington Running Festival will give people from our town and beyond an exciting opportunity to join thousands of others in getting active, achieving a great accomplishment and raising money for worthy causes.

"At the heart of the festival will be inclusion, with a number of events

allowing people to run a distance that suits them. RunThrough have first-class credentials for running events, and I'm looking forward to them making this a real success for Warrington and a fantastic addition to our sporting and community calendar."

Warrington-born co-founder of RunThrough, Ben Green, said: "The Warrington Running Festival is an exciting new event for Warrington. We have been delivering successful and highly regarded running events for seven years – including the London Half Marathon, Cheshire 10k, Run Tatton, Run Aintree, Hampton Court Palace Half Marathon and many more, with over 120,000 runners taking part in a RunThrough event in 2019 alone.

"We are delighted to be bringing this large-scale event to Warrington, giving people of all ages and abilities the opportunity to push themselves – in a road closed, flat and fast route – to their own, chip-timed, personal best. The countdown to 20th September begins now!"

The Warrington Running Festival route will be different to previous half marathons in Warrington – further details will be announced soon!

For more information on the event and to register to run, please visit [warringtonrunningfestival.com](http://warringtonrunningfestival.com)

## Volunteers get together for another big tidy-up

RESIDENTS of Cinnamon Brow, Houghton Green, Fearnhead and Orford got together to continue the big tidy-up undertaken over the past weeks by volunteers.

Their efforts were concentrated on the pathways leading from Grasmere into Peel Hall Park where the paths had again been lost to overhanging trees and branches and sprawling grass and vegetation on the paths were making it unsafe to negotiate.

The group welcomed some new faces, and everyone got stuck in to tidying up the paths in question.

Group organiser Jon Parr said: "We massively appreciate that people are giving precious time up, but that only goes to show just how much people love the area in which they live and how strong our community spirit is. We set aside a couple of hours to try and chip away at projects like this, but when 14 people turn up kitted out and raring to go, the end result in those two hours is amazing and I'm incredibly proud of everyone who has helped to date".

Jon said local residents in the past few weeks, have achieved more for the park than the borough council have in the past two years!

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# Boteler teams row their way to medal success

FOUR teams from Warrington's Sir Thomas Boteler CE High School took part in the Cheshire Indoor Rowing Championships - and three won medals.

The competition was held at Birchwood High School and involved more than 30 schools. Boteler were the only Warrington school to place in a medal position.

The Year 8 Boys relay team took 2nd place, the Year 8 Girls relay took a 3rd place and the Year 9 Girls relay team also took a 3rd place.

Eliza Fox finished in a strong position and has gained a place at the National Junior Indoor Rowing Championships at the Copper Box Arena in London on February 28 - a fabulous achievement.

There was also a narrowly missed individual success with Lewis Johnson (Year 8) finishing 4th overall.



## New technology opens up new guided tour of nature reserve

VISITORS to Warrington's Risley Moss nature reserve can experience a unique guided tour - through the eyes of children - thanks to the introduction of new technology.

Rangers have worked with children from three local primary schools, Gorse Covert, Locking Stumps and Birchwood CE, to digitally capture the children's thoughts about the wildlife they have been studying during their visits to the reserve in Birchwood.

Now visitors can be accompanied on their walk by the thoughts of the children about a whole variety of wildlife such as woodpeckers, spiders and even lizards.

It's simply a matter of tapping your phone on the tag at the start of the trail and letting the children lead the tour.

Risley Moss has introduced new NFC (near field communication) technology to provide an exciting new way of exploring the reserve and discovering its hidden treasures.



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