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Work starts on historic St Wilfrid's extension

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Editor's Comment



WE are certainly living in unprecedented times during the COVID-19 pandemic which has impacted on all our lives.

Like Brexit, it appears to have divided our country, with those doing their best to comply with advice and rules and others simply wandering about without a care in the world - certainly no care or thoughts for those vulnerable to this terrible disease.

Just like during Brexit the keyboard warriors are busy spouting vile and abusive comments and conspiracy theories abound.

For six months I have been doing my best to keep the public informed with factual information only to be met with personal abuse and accusations of scaremongering.

Well my message is clear and simple - if you don't like the information you are being provided with - don't read it!

Any future personal attacks will be dealt with swiftly.

I am not alone in being targeted by internet trolls. I know many others who are trying to do their best in difficult circumstances who end up receiving unwarranted abuse.

I have no issue with people having different views and even being challenging - but I will not tolerate personal abuse and vile attacks.

Those who know me, know I always do my best to be positive

about our town and I will always try and do my best for Warrington and the very many amazing organisations and community groups which make it such a great place.

There is a good and bad in every community and during this pandemic it is more important than ever that we all stand together and respect each other's views and do our best to ensure we stay safe.

At time of press incidents of new cases in Warrington were on the rise, back to similar levels seen last April.

With flu season almost upon us we could have a tough winter ahead. Now is not the time for complacency.

Stay Safe everyone and if you see any keyboard warriors out there - zap them! Without oxygen they are nothing!

Win a Saturday Night for two in York

ONE lucky couple have a chance of winning a Saturday night at the Middleton Hotel, a stunning historical Grade-II listed building, with an amazing secluded courtyard garden in the heart of York city centre.

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We'll also include a fresh breakfast for you both in their modern Sawmill restaurant. The hotel is just 5 minutes walk to the main shopping areas and main attractions.

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Bye bye everybody – Peter Corbett says an emotional goodbye to Lymm

ONE of Lymm’s most popular characters Peter Corbett has bid an emotional farewell to the village he made his home 22 years ago following his near-death experience with coronavirus.

Peter AKA Matthew Corbett of “Sooty and Sweep” fame, has moved down south near Brighton to be closer to his family after his near-death experience with coronavirus, which saw him spend 10 days fighting for his life in Warrington Hospital.

Hallucinating

While he can remember little about the experience he recalled hallucinating and seeing grey figures in his home which no one else could see.

He has left the village he made his home after selling his “iconic” property on the banks of the Bridgewater Canal, which is the most photographed and painted building in the village.

Peter and his wife Sallie decided

to make Lymm their home after spotting the property up for sale when they were on a boat trip on the canal.

“I saw the for sale sign and decided there and then I had to make it our home,” recalled Peter.

Popular

During the 22 “very happy” years in the village Peter became very popular involving himself in various community events.

It was not uncommon for him to perform and sing in local pubs.

“I’m sure some people will be relieved they won’t have to hear me singing again,” said Peter.

warrington-worldwide caught up with Peter outside his home for one last time as he said one final “bye, bye everybody!”




The full video interview, which was broadcast live on facebook can be seen on the warrington-worldwide website.




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Residents urged to contact NHS 111 first if they need urgent – but not emergency - NHS care

RESIDENTS in Warrington who are in need of urgent – but not emergency care – are now being asked to contact NHS 111 first before travelling to hospital.

With this new initiative patients will be able to get expert health advice and clinical assessment and depending on the individual needs of patients, NHS 111 can book time slots for patients at GP surgeries, NHS Runcorn Urgent Care Centre, NHS Widnes Urgent Care Centre and the emergency department at Warrington Hospital.

This new way of working will support patients to stay as safe

as possible during the coronavirus pandemic by managing the number of patients attending services at any one time. It will also ensure patients get the right care, in the right place by signposting to other services and sources of advice and ensuring that patients get the most appropriate care.

Patients with a booked face-to-face time slot will benefit from reduced waiting times and NHS services can help maintain social distancing guidelines in waiting areas further reducing the risk of infection. Residents who are registered with a local GP practice

should continue to contact their surgery online or via phone as usual. Anyone with a life-threatening emergency should call 999 immediately.

In the coming months this enhancement to the NHS 111 service, which is a national project, will be extended to include the emergency department at Whiston Hospital and other local NHS services. Patients requiring services at their local GP practice should continue to contact their surgery online or via phone as usual and anyone with a life-threatening emergency should call 999 immediately.

Clinical Chief Officer of NHS Halton Clinical Commissioning Group and NHS Warrington Clinical Commissioning Group, Dr Andrew Davies said:

"We are pleased to announce that Warrington has been chosen alongside Blackpool as one of the first areas in the North West to introduce this new and convenient system with other areas across the country following later this year. It will see NHS 111 working closely with hospital departments, urgent care centres, GP practices and other NHS services to ensure that patients get the right care, in the right place at the right time."

Chief Executive of Warrington and Halton Teaching Hospitals, Professor Simon Constable said:



"This new way of working will allow us to more effectively manage the flow of patients through our emergency department which will help reduce waiting times for patients, ease pressures on staff and ensure we are fully prepared for the busy winter period. Social distancing guidelines also mean that we have reduced capacity in our waiting rooms so, by allocating patients a time slot, we can ensure that patients are able to social distance."

"We strongly encourage patients to contact NHS 111 first if they need urgent care. However, it is really important to note that, even if they have not done so, we will always ensure patients receive appropriate care and treatment in the most appropriate setting."



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Lockdown charity giveaway nets £5.5k for good causes

A CHARITY cash giveaway which started during lockdown by Warrington based United Utilities has raised £5,500 for good causes.

Workers at United Utilities' call centre in Warrington started the weekly fund-raiser during lockdown to help keep team spirits high and lend each other moral support while most of them were working from home.

Eleven local good causes nominated by call centre staff shared the cash.

Charities to benefit from the funds raised during lockdown were: Warrington Food Bank, Halton Haven Hospice, Carla Lane Animal Rescue, Alder Hey Children's Charity, Willowbrook Hospice, Liverpool Women's Charity, The Lilac Centre (Whiston Hospital Charity), Cancer Research UK, Neuroblastoma UK, Richmond Fellowship North West Air Ambulance.

Historic St Wilfrid's Church extended for first time since 1851

FOR the first time since 1851, St Wilfrid's Church in Grappenhall is starting a building project which will extend the ancient and much-loved church.

Rev. Proudfoot recently joined the project's archaeologist and builders to start off the clearing of the ground for the long-awaited annexe. It is planned that the annexe construction will be completed by Easter 2021.

Rev Jane Proudfoot said: "The annexe will provide much-needed facilities to enable us to extend our warm welcome to even more people of all ages. It will benefit the whole community and has widespread community support.

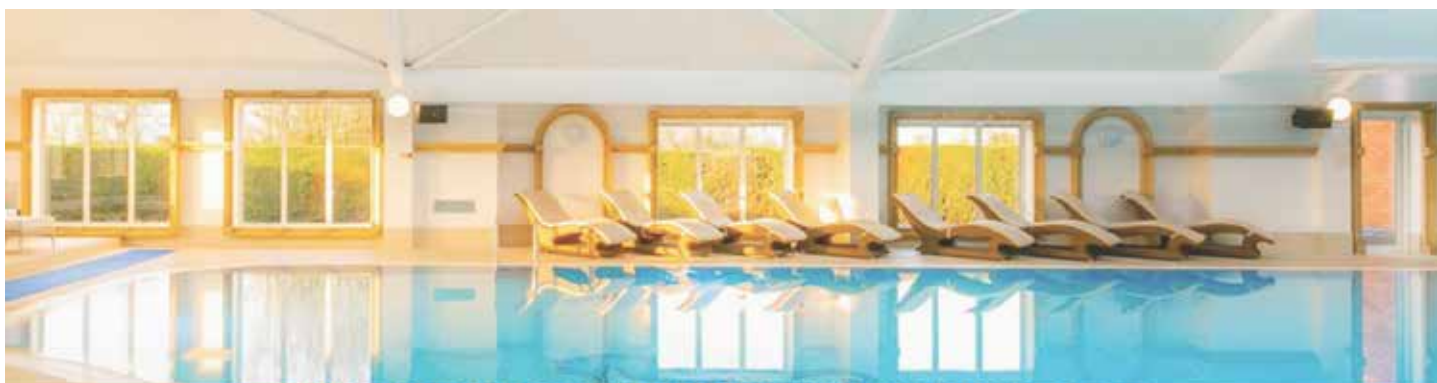
Thank you to all the many people who are making this project come to fruition."

Architect Mark Pearce added: "We are taking a lot of care to ensure that the annexe will fit snugly into the secluded north side of this Grade 1 listed building. Our specialist builders Grosvenor Construction have worked on church buildings from Chester to Prestbury. With this annexe we will be creating the needed modern facilities using traditional materials - sandstone, slate and oak, combining modern techniques for energy saving with ancient craft skills such as stone masonry."

Coun Ryan Bates said: "Excellent News, both residents and visitors to the Grappenhall Conservation Area can look forward to dropping into St Wilfrid's to enjoy their welcoming hospitality, in addition to finding out more about Grappenhall and its heritage."

Church Treasurer and Project Leader Charles Jesudason said: "The people of Grappenhall and some generous grant funders are responding magnificently to the challenge of funding this project which has been "on the agenda" for many years. The Covid emergency has made it even more obvious why we need modern facilities to ensure this 900-year-old building can continue to serve its people through into the 22nd century. I am delighted that we have used live streaming to help those who cannot visit St Wilfrid's join with us online, but nothing can replace the experience of being with friends in this beautiful little church. We are now energetically fundraising for the Phase 2 Project which will improve the churchyard and access to the annexe, the church and the Scout campsite."

For more details of how you can contribute see www.stwilfridschurch.org.uk.



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Don't waste the lessons from this crisis

by Gary Jenkins - No Brainer Agency

EVERY organisation, regardless of its size or industry, has the potential to be impacted by a PR crisis.

It's not always as big as COVID-19, but crises – big or small – can have a significant and lasting impact on a business. Sometimes it can be terminal.

As businesses prepare to come

out of lockdown and the furlough scheme begins to come to an end, they should be preparing now to handle some of the key issues they might face down the line.

Many businesses are simply not preparing for this at all, but it is often relatively simple. We use an eight-step process:

1. Anticipate the key risks your business might face then prioritise them (make sure you add 'pandemic' in there now too)

2. Get a crisis response team ready (for if and when a crisis ever hits) – define who will lead the communications you may need and make sure they have a direct line to the company's decision makers

3. Monitor and track your landscape (through media and social media monitoring tools) so you can identify potential issues and trends in real-time

4. Choose and media train the right spokespeople, so they're ready if the time comes you might need to handle a media or customer firestorm

5. Ensure you identify all your audiences, channels and know who's accountable for them – the key is to get the right people in the right seats for when you need to communicate with your audiences

6. If a crisis hits, make sure to get ahead of the story – respond quickly, accurately and don't be afraid to let people know if you don't know something. It's OK.

7. Always be human and be honest in your communications – think about what the audience need to know, need to hear and how you're going to do that

8. Learn lessons from a crisis every, single time

Step eight is often over-looked because so many business leaders are too busy patting themselves on the backs after recovering from a crisis....but, without doubt, this is THE most critical step in any crisis.

Learn the lessons, make the changes, be clear about the response plan and who's accountable. If nothing else, use it as an opportunity to learn and improve.

The great thing that lockdown has given business leaders the time to do this right now, before 'business as usual' resumes. If it ever resumes.

Use this thinking time, space and opportunity to get your team together and to prepare for something like this ever happening again.

Do it before you forget all the big or small things that went wrong and what could be fine-tuned, and ensure you have the 'right people in the right seats' to respond quickly to another crisis that might hit.

Hopefully we won't have another crisis of this scale to work through. But, by organising yourself around a crisis management framework and using a few simple steps, you can ensure you're certainly better prepared if, Heaven forbid, it ever does.



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Time to Kickstart the economy as Warrington continues to buck the trend

AS we enter autumn the UK economy finds itself in a precarious position. Large companies continue to make redundancies with Virgin Atlantic, M&S and Costa joining the club that no-one wants to be in. Those of us of a certain age (I can just about remember) are



by Stephen Fitzsimons

very anxious of a return to the unemployment last seen in the 1980s. The furlough scheme has been a welcome relief for many companies and their staff, however it is worryingly due to wind down in October. As this scheme is ending, another one has begun in the form of Kickstart. Growing up (as usual) is enough without the worry of getting onto the jobs ladder. Therefore, it is encouraging to see this aimed specifically at young people. It is worth pointing out that Warrington has previously delivered something very similar called the Future Jobs Fund so nice to see the rest of the country playing catch up (as usual)!

It's still really tough, however Warrington is bucking the national trend to a certain extent. I previously highlighted the high footfall numbers into the new market and this was confirmed by the Centre for Cities. Warrington has bounced back to 80-90% of 2019 visitor levels, compared to 40-50% in Liverpool and Manchester. Warringtonians are clearly still buying local and it's

great to see this strong loyalty to the town. Elsewhere, food retailer Gousto has taken 300,000 sq ft at Omega which will create 400 full time jobs and the same again in seasonal roles. We are working with other smaller companies who are all recruiting so those losing their jobs in one part of the economy should see opportunities open up elsewhere.

Finally, I've been helping out at Warrington Chamber of Commerce as CEO Colin Daniels takes his well-earned retirement. Colin has led the business community for over 25 years and been involved in some fantastic transformative projects. As well as the Chamber he chair of governors at the College so he has really put in a shift for the town and its residents. It's a massive thank you to Colin and best wishes to him and his family as he steps back from the front line.

Take care everyone and let's hope an Indian summer is on the way!



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PR agency breaks into the Top Twenty

WARRINGTON-based PR, social and content agency, No Brainer, has been named as one of the top 20 PR agencies in the North West for the first time.

Moving into 20th place after debuting at 23rd last year, the five-year-old company was the only agency in the town to feature in this year's list of the region's biggest and brightest PR consultancies.

The independent ranking is based on financial performance and growth, but also takes into account data including staff numbers, client wins and a range of other metrics.

Gary Jenkins, managing director and co-founder said: "We're really proud to be recognised for our growth over the last 12 months and to be named as one of the top 20 PR consultancies in our region for the first time.

"We're ranked alongside some incredible agencies, so to achieve this in just five years is fantastic recognition for our team, who work so hard. In 2019, we saw a lot of changes and expansion, but we've always worked hard to balance that carefully with continuing to deliver quality results and outstanding services for our clients.

"Though the next 12 months are set to be challenging for many businesses due to the impact of COVID-19, we still have the ambition, hunger and ethic to succeed and grow.

"Over the next year, we're aiming to further strengthen and diversify what we do, which will ensure we remain competitive and ahead of the curve for clients who are looking for smart, integrated marketing strategies and high-impact campaigns to drive the results that really matter."

No Brainer currently works with a range of leading UK brands, including Appreciate Group, Cash Converters, Sale Sharks, MBNA and HomeServe. For more information visit www.nobrainagency.co.uk.



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Veterans urged to register in GP study

WARRINGTON veterans who have served in the British Armed Forces are being urged to inform their local primary healthcare practice as part of a new study.

The University of Chester's Westminster Centre for Veterans' Research is carrying out a research initiative to determine the number of military veterans registered at local GP medical centres in the Warrington area.

The findings from the research will help the NHS provide the optimum health resources for the veteran population.

Veterans who are registered at Penketh Health Centre; Holes Lane Surgery; Fearnhead Medical Centre; Stockton Heath Medical Centre; Culcheth Medical Centre and Birchwood Medical Centre have been asked to let their practice know at any time between now and February 28, 2021 that they have served in the British Armed Forces.

Dr Alan Finnegan, the University of Chester's Professor of Nursing and Military Mental Health and Chairman of the Cheshire Armed Forces Covenant Partnership Committee said: "A military veteran

is anyone who has served at least one day in our Armed Forces as either a Regular or Reserve. Veterans are estimated as being 5% of the population, and we know that significant numbers still need to be correctly coded within Primary Healthcare.

"Veterans can have a greater likelihood of some illnesses than their civilian counterparts, such as hearing loss and limb and joint problems. Ex-Forces personnel can also experience specific mental health problems as a result of their military service, including Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, depression, anxiety and alcohol

misuse. In order to provide the correct health resources to meet the needs of these people, it is important to have accurate data on the number of veterans. This, importantly, includes the more elderly members of our armed forces community who may be socially isolated or living in a care home or assisted living and many of whom may have completed National Service."

The funding to support this programme has been awarded by Forces in Mind Trust, and will identify numbers only, and personal data will remain confidential.

Charlotte Nichols MP
Warrington North

If you live in Warrington North and have an issue you need help with or would like to book a surgery appointment, please get in touch.

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The team at the Westminster Centre for Veterans' Research (photograph taken prior to lockdown).





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Police seize numerous stolen pedal cycles

POLICE have seized numerous stolen pedal cycles following a raid on a storage unit on Winwick Road, Warrington..

The Bewsey & Whitecross Beat Manager, assisted by other Beat Managers, executed a Search Warrant at the storage unit off Winwick Road.

This was following Intel received regarding the suspected storage of stolen pedal cycles in a container.

Numerous pedal cycles were seized and now officers are trying to trace their owners via social media.

For more information check out the Warrington police facebook page



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Julia gets on her bike to make zero-waste refills accessible to all!

OWNER of new "lockdown" business The Refill Round, Julia Stansfield, has got on her bike in a mission to make zero-waste refills accessible to everyone!

Julia from Lymm, founded her award-winning eco-business during lockdown and is a keen refiller herself.

She explained, "I often used to forget to take my empty shampoo or conditioner bottles out with me or struggle to carry them all home when full. With The Refill Round you can simply order through our convenient website – www.refillround.co.uk – and I will deliver them to you. Zero fuss and zero waste!"

"Only a fraction of the single-use plastic we use is recycled, and an even smaller fraction of that is done in the UK – and we have all seen the images of our plastic rubbish being burnt at the roadside in places like Turkey."

"The Refill Round offers you an alternative. We deliver household laundry, cleaning, body and hair care products in refillable glass bottles. Once you have emptied those bottles and are ready to order again we will pick up your empties and drop off the next set of filled bottles in freshly sanitised bottles. Just like a milk round! I work with amazing eco-friendly suppliers who also pick up the – much larger – empty bottles from me and refill them, ready for the next order. It's a brilliant closed-loop recycling system!"

"We also have a range of plastic-free household extras, such as compostable kitchen sponges and scrubbers and even bamboo straws and toothbrushes"

The Refill Round has been trading for a few months, and Julia estimates that it has already saved over 400 plastic bottles. The company has now been awarded the title of "Plastic Free Champion" by nationally famous environmental group Surfers Against Sewage, through affiliated local campaign group Plastic Free Lymm!

Julia concluded: "The Refill Round is about helping us all to make simple changes to our plastic consumption. If individually we make those changes then we will – together – make a big difference. I am lucky to live in an amazing community that is embracing The Refill Round and I am so grateful for their – and Plastic Free Lymm's – support!"

If you would like to find out more about how your household, business, or community organisation can further cut down their single-use plastic consumption and (if a business) gain the same award, you can contact Plastic Free Lymm or Plastic Free Warrington via their Facebook pages, or the latter via their website www.plasticfreewarrington.org

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LiveWire
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continues its programme of reopening and adapting services for the community

It has been over six weeks since LiveWire started to reopen its sites and services following the shutdown imposed by the Covid-19 pandemic, allowing members to start to return to their favourite leisure activities like the gym, group exercise classes, squash and swimming.

LiveWire, the Community Interest Company that manages leisure services on behalf of Warrington

Borough Council, has taken a phased approach to reopening, for the safety of customers and staff.

Members that have returned will have seen the enhanced cleaning regimes and social distancing measures in place, which have allowed LiveWire to retain almost all of its gym equipment, and to restart a wide variety of classes and other popular forms of exercise.

LiveWire has listened to feedback

and adjusted its programme accordingly where possible along the way – for example increasing gym slots to 90mins, introducing Family Lane Swims for more competent younger swimmers, and with the addition of more classes to the group fitness programme.

September saw the relaunch of the extensive indoor tennis programme at Birchwood Leisure & Tennis Complex, as well as the

centre re-opening for gym and class sessions during evenings and weekends. It is the plan to re-open the remaining sites - Broomfields Leisure Centre and Culcheth Community Campus - from November.

The swimming pools at Woolston Neighbourhood Hub also recently reopened, with the Learn to Swim programme for youngsters also restarting.

LiveWire has also given its members exclusive first access to the new LiveWire@Home service. This is a new online platform which will enable people to continue to work towards their fitness goals from the comfort of their own home. Enjoy access to a combination of live streamed classes, as well as an archive of On Demand workouts.

A spokesperson for LiveWire said: "As a Community Interest Company that continually reinvests revenue back into the services we provide for the benefit of local people, we would like to say thank you to all our customers for their support since we reopened and for the overwhelmingly positive feedback we have received about the measures we have put in place to keep everyone safe."

LiveWire's website contains a wealth of useful information such as swimming and group exercise timetables, as well as Leisure and Swimming FAQs – please visit livewirewarrington.co.uk/getback/



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Transforming your digital marketing

Most businesses are taking a strategic approach to their digital marketing strategy post-pandemic but freezing long term plans has the potential to cause damage. The pandemic has caused lasting damage to sales and lead pipelines for many businesses, and they must evolve to the new landscape to survive. Now more than ever, the amount of people that are actively looking for services online has increased massively. During the lockdown, people's shopping behaviour changed, and the increase in online scrolling and spending is highly likely to continue through 2020.

Adapting to the current climate is your best chance to thrive, and the way to do that is through innovation in your digital marketing.

Let's look at how you can begin your digital transformation:

1. SEO

Search Engine Optimisation (SEO) is the most cost-effective way to put your business in front of customers. SEO focuses on what your customers are searching for to find your business. If you want to rank for a keyword or improve your current ranking position, SEO is the correct strategy. As people's shopping habits have changed, something that businesses should be working on is improving their digital footprint. People that are still furloughed or working from home aren't popping into shops on their lunch break or grabbing breakfast before work. They have more time to shop online now, and when they do, there's an opportunity to put your business in front of them. In lockdown, the focus shifted significantly towards supporting local businesses and sourcing items closer to home, and the best way to ensure you're found locally is to have a great SEO strategy. Having one in place can generate leads, sales, and enquiries for your business.

2. PPC advertising

Pay Per Click (PPC) advertising can position you at the top of the search engine results page, so you are visible to customers, right when they are searching. PPC ads are the top four results that appear on Google. When starting, it's best to test paid traffic sources to see which will work better for your business. The winning mixture will depend on your audience,



but there are multiple you should consider testing, such as google ads, Facebook ads, twitter ads and LinkedIn ads. With many people still working from home, utilising their new shopping behaviour with PPC advertising is a great way to boost your business profile and encourage conversions. In response to COVID, Google is offering free ad spend for any small or medium-sized businesses who have spent via google ads in ten months of 2019. Those eligible will receive up to £800 ad credit to use before the end of 2020.

3. Social media

Social media is the ultimate communicative tool that gives you the power to talk to your audience directly and encourage traffic to your site. With social distancing still in place, the power of social media cannot be underestimated. It has helped many businesses provide their services online if they have no digital shopfront and kept the lines of communication open with their audience. The best way to start is to identify the social media channel that your target audience is using and what will work best for your business. Creating a community should be your next step, and ask yourself what kind of content do your audience want to see? By building your following on social media, you create value and trust, which encourages customers to engage and convert. Social media is imperative for brand growth and sales.

If you're interested in knowing more about how we can help with digital transformation, email [Dreamscape at hello@dreamscape](mailto:hello@dreamscape), solutions or call 01925 755960.

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MBM Capital

t: 0345 680 1895
e: nigel.garner@moorebizmgt.co.uk
w: www.moorebizmgt.co.uk

How leasing can transform your business

By Nigel Garner



The word 'finance' can have negative connotations if it's approached in the wrong way – "people will think my business is struggling!", "what if I can't make the repayments?", "it will cost me a fortune in interest!", "how could it possibly benefit my business?".

Finance for business can actually have a HUGELY positive impact – it can help a company to grow, expand its operation, provide employment, benefit the local economy, increase productivity, have a better presence, be more competitive, etc. And at MBM Capital we provide a variety of financial products that do all of that, with leasing being at the core.

If your business sells assets to other companies then leasing could be the product that will transform the way you do business. Imagine if:

- your customer placed an order of a higher value
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- you were able to keep your competition at bay

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CASE STUDY

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So, what were the results?

Old quotations were revisited and sales secured. Existing customers started to upgrade their kit and make additions to their systems. There was an increase in maintenance contracts. There was an improvement in turnover, profitability and cash flow. The sales team became increasingly motivated to sell. The sales cycle became reduced and client relationships became stronger. The business has since employed more staff, moved to bigger premises and increased its fleet of vehicles.

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Controversial lorry park will bring jobs boost and investment says MP

CONTROVERSIAL proposals to create a large post-Brexit in-land border HGV lorry park on the former Shearings Coaches site at Appleton Thorn will provide a major jobs boost and investment for South Warrington, says local MP Andy Carter.

The Warrington South MP says he is surprised by Warrington Borough Council leader Russ Bowden's opposition to much-needed jobs in the town, while at the same time recommending

ripping up "huge swathes" of green belt.

He said the Government proposal to regenerate a brownfield site would create jobs and investment in the town.

The Borough Council has raised concerns over the government's decision to designate a large swathe of south Warrington as an in-land border for heavy goods vehicles (HGVs) post-Brexit, which is expected to be open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days

a year, to provide a large base for paperwork checks, alongside sample vehicle checks, for HGVs entering and leaving the country after Brexit, from 1 January next year.

The government has executed The Town and Country Planning (Border Facilities and Infrastructure) (EU Exit) (England) Special Development Order 2020, which is a piece of legislation that overrides local planning decisions, to ensure that planning consent in the normal way is not needed.

It is suggested that this lorry park facility, earmarked for the former Shearings Coaches brownfield site at Appleton Thorn, would serve vehicles coming from Liverpool, areas of Wales and the wider North West region.

The council is therefore concerned about the lack of consultation undertaken locally before the decision was made.

But Mr Carter said: "The Government's outline proposals are to use the former Shearings site on a well-established estate to create jobs in Warrington South.

"I will be talking with Ministers to ensure steps are taken to minimise traffic in Appleton Thorn and Stretton and I will be speaking to the Department for Transport about extra funding to improve the local road network.

"I'm hugely surprised to hear the Leader of the Council arguing against bringing much-needed jobs into the town, whilst at the same time ripping up huge swathes of the green belt.

"This is an ideal location that has been used for many years already."

Earlier leader of Warrington Borough Council Russ Bowden called upon Mr Carter to oppose the proposals saying: "This decision has been imposed on us without any consultation and follows an increasing pattern of centralised decision-making, without the opportunity for local engagement. It's only right that the council, and our residents, have the opportunity to scrutinise these plans in detail."

"Perhaps this is what we can expect more of in future given the government's White Paper on planning, where planning decisions will be taken nationally without proper local community engagement and democratic input.

"I call upon MP for Warrington South, Andy Carter, to object to this decision and also to report back to the people of Warrington as to what the real impacts will be for us, with Brexit next year. Decisions of this magnitude should be made locally, not through a national, centralised approach."

ANDY CARTER MP
WORKING HARD FOR WARRINGTON SOUTH

Here to Help
As your Member of Parliament I am here to help residents with any local or national concerns. I am absolutely committed to providing advice and support to all Warrington South residents. So if you need help, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Andy

Contact Andy
01925 231 267
andy.carter.org.uk
andy.carter.mp@parliament.uk
@MrAndy_Carter
Andy.Carter.WarringtonSouth
Warrington South Constituency Office
1 Stafford Road, Warrington WA4 6RT

What's on in the villages

To list your event call Village Life on **01925 631592 option 2**



Please Note: Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, many of these events will have been cancelled. Please check with the organisation before attending.

October 13
STOCKTON HEATH PARISH COUNCIL
Stockton Heath Library
7.30pm

Appleton Parish Hall, Dudlow Green Road.
7.30pm

October 20
APPLETON PARISH COUNCIL
Appleton Parish Hall, Dudlow Green Road
7.30pm

PHILOSOPHY IN PUBS DISCUSSION GROUP
Red Lion pub, Stockton Heath 7-9pm
Contact Bill Cooke cwncooke@gmail.com

October 15
GRAPPENHALL & THELWALL PARISH COUNCIL
Council Offices, Bellhouse Lane. 7.30pm

Second and fourth Monday
WARRINGTON ART GROUP
Bellhouse Community Centre, Bellhouse Lane, Grappenhall.
7-9pm.

Every day except Monday
GRAPPENHALL HEYS WALLED GARDEN
Witherwin Avenue, Grappenhall Heys, WA4 3DS.
Café open Friday 9am-4pm, Saturday and Sunday, 10am-5pm. Garden open Tues/Wed/Thurs 1pm-4pm. Bank Holidays: Garden open but cafe closed.

Every fourth Monday
MARLFIELD WI
Grappenhall Community Library, Albert Road, Grappenhall. 7.30pm

Every Monday
COUNTRY DANCING CLUB
St Thomas' Primary School, Parkgate Road, Stockton Heath.
8-10pm. Details: 01925 262356

Every Tuesday
COFFEE MORNING
St Cross Church, Appleton Thorn. All welcome. 10am-12 noon

BRIDGE CLUB
Belong Warrington, Loushers Lane 7.20pm.
Details 01925 262534

COFFEE MORNING
Appleton Independent Methodist Church
Appleton Parish Hall, 10am-12 noon

HIGH LEGH BRIDGE CLUB
Village Hall, 7-10pm. Rubber, Duplicate and Chicago played. Details: Audrey Greaves 0161 904 0120

Every first Tuesday
STOCKTON HEATH FLOWER CLUB
Appleton Parish Hall, 7.15pm
Details: 01925 602016

Every second Monday
PARK (APPLETON) WI

Every second Tuesday
STOCKTON HEATH LIONS CLUB
London Bridge Inn, 8pm
Contact: Grahamclisse58@outlook.com.
Tel 01925 262669

Every second and fourth Tuesday
LYMM PROBUS CLUB
Lymm Baptist Church. 2.15pm.
Details: www.lymmprobus.club

Every Wednesday
APPLETON HALL BADMINTON CLUB
Sept to Easter at Hall Drive, Appleton.
7.45-9.45pm.
Details: 01925 262356

THELWALL MORRIS MEN
Thelwall Parish Hall, Bell Lane,
8.15pm. Details: 01925 767151

Every first Wednesday
WALTON WI
St John's Church Community Hall. 7.30pm
Details: 01925 604384

STOCKTON HEATH PROBUS CLUB
Warrington Sports Club, Walton Lea Road, Higher Walton.
Details: 01925 268540

Every second and fourth Wednesday
APPLETON PROBUS CLUB
Warrington Sports Club, Walton Lea Road, Higher Walton.
Visit appletonprobus.org.uk or ring Mike on 07713 162797

Every third Wednesday
HIGHER WALTON WI, Sandy Lane
Community Centre, Stockton Heath,
7.30pm. Details 01925 602486.

Every fourth Wednesday
ALZHEIMER'S SOCIETY
Support Group, Brampton Lodge Day

Centre, Bridge Lane, Appleton. 6.30-8.30pm

BRIDGE CLUB
Belong Warrington, Loushers Lane 7.20pm.
Details 01925 262534

Every second Thursday
STRETTON WI
Appleton Parish Hall, Dudlow Green Road.
2.30pm.

GRAPPENHALL PROBUS CLUB
Grappenhall Community Centre, Bellhouse Lane, 10am.
Details: 01925 264427.

Every third Thursday
APPLETON AFTERNOON FLOWER CLUB
Appleton Parish Hall, Dudlow Green Road 2pm
Details: 01925 740419

BOARD GAME NIGHT.
Stockton Heath Library. 7.30pm
Tel 07824 499 780

GRAPPENHALL WI
Grappenhall Community Centre, Bellhouse Lane 2.15pm

LYMM & THELWALL U3A
Members' meetings 10am
Thelwall Parish Hall

Every Friday
APPLETOTS TODDLER GROUP
Appleton Parish Hall, Dudlow Green Road.
9.45-11.30am. Details: 01925 268153.



Virtual DAD receives £40,000 boost from National Lottery

THIS year's Virtual Disability Awareness Day has received a major boost with a £40,000 grant from the National Lottery Community Fund.

Organised by local charity Warrington Disability Partnership the funding comes from the National Lottery's Coronavirus Community Support fund, to help organise and run the event which takes place on Sunday, October 25.

Like numerous events around the country, this year's annual event at Walton Hall & Gardens had to be cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

But now thanks to the latest technology the event can be staged online with a virtual event including "walk through" marquees, providing various organisations to promote their services.

Bookings are still being taken for businesses or community groups who wish to participate – and thanks to the funding stands are free.

WDP co-founder and Chief Executive Dave Thompson said: "The lottery funding has provided us with a major boost and we have also managed to secure a virtual display by the famous Red Arrows, including a Pilof's eye experience."

"While it has been a difficult year for many we hope our virtual DAD event will help local businesses and community groups gain much-needed exposure."

Bookings can be made online at www.dadvirtual.org.uk



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

**BREAKING NEWS
 RED ARROWS DISPLAY
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DAD VIRTUAL 2020
 Disability Awareness Day

Virtual Disability Awareness Day

Sunday 25th October 2020
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www.dadvirtual.org.uk



Organised by  Warrington Disability Partnership

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Gulliver's £5.6m woodland retreat plans approved by planners

CONTROVERSIAL plans to extend Gulliver's World Theme Park Resort in Warrington have been approved by the Borough Council's planning committee.

The £5.6m development involved two planning applications which both attracted over 600 objections from local residents.

One plan is for a welcome suite and staff headquarters building, a camping and touring caravan site, static caravans and "pet resort." It attracted 673 representations, of which 666 were objections.

The second proposal is for a change of use of land for holiday chalets, static caravans, lodges and woodland activity area. This attracted 698 representations, of which 691 were objections.

Objectors claim the existing theme park is poorly maintained and should be upgraded before expansions. They fear increase noise and air pollution, eyesores for local residents, safeguarding issues in relation to a nearby school, a visual intrusion into Sankey Valley Park, increased fire risks and over-development of the wider area.

Following the approval by members of the planning committee Gulliver's commented that the Woodland Retreat will help secure hundreds of existing jobs, create new opportunities and give a significant boost to the local economy. First



announced in Autumn 2019, the development will offer unique short breaks for families with young children including themed group accommodation, woodland walks, a camping meadow, children's woodland activity zone, woodland lodges and a spa and relaxation suite. Also included in the plans is a new HQ for staff training and admin support.

The 5.8ha Woodland Retreat will expand on the existing popular accommodation at Gulliver's World Theme Park Resort but will be under the Gulliver's Glades brand, with focus on providing holidays in a woodland setting.

The applications were submitted in mid-March and have received support alongside some concerns from local residents. The majority of objections submitted were based on potential noise or ecological impacts. Gulliver's took all feedback

on board and addressed concerns directly, including highlighting that resort plans have been designed to complement existing woodland features, eradicate invasive plant species and updated to include planting of up to 3,000 additional native trees.

In recommending approval, the Council's report said: "The proposed development would allow the applicant to continue to diversify its offering, securing their future viability and would provide a boost to the economy through the creation of jobs and an enhanced leisure/tourist attraction." It continued: "The application complies with the relevant policies of the LPCS and the proposal is sustainable development in accordance with the physical, social and environmental objectives of NPPF..."

County Planning Ltd were

the planning consultants for the applications. Commenting on the approvals, Director Dan Matthewman said: "It's a huge success to achieve approval of both applications. The level of public interest in the proposals has been substantial. We've worked tirelessly with the project team and council officers to achieve a scale and mix of development that respects the surrounding area and appropriately balances economic, social and environmental considerations. This is an important development for Gulliver's, but also for the whole town that will provide jobs and economic benefits for many years to come."

Julie Dalton, MD of Gulliver's World commented: "The pandemic has been a challenging time for our operations. Social distancing measures look set to be in place for some time yet and being able to provide visiting families with clean self-contained accommodation is a really important part of our business plan going forward. The permission aligns our Warrington resort with the range of accommodation and activities on offer at our other three resorts and will help secure over 220 jobs and create 41 new jobs in future. We are very pleased with the outcome."

Construction work is expected to start in spring 2021.



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Whitewater River Tubing

Meet our river guides at the famous paddle sports spot in Llangollen, once your here, you will be supplied and instructed before you take to the water, you will venture to our start point at Horseshoe Falls.

Once on the water you will head down the twisting & winding rapids of the River Dee, where there are three major rapids, where your guides will be on hand to steer you through them, with the most famous is Serpents Tail, a tick off for most aspiring white water enthusiasts, what a great day



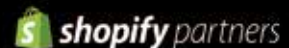
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By David Watkinson

- **The Green Homes Grant**
- **Private pension withdrawal age increase**
- **Kickstart Scheme**



Margaret Black and David Watkinson

It frequently seems that we only ever write about things that are of interest to people in business. So we are pleased this month to be speak about a number of things that are of much wider interest. These are a grant of up to £5,000 that be received by home owners, changes to when people can draw out their tax free pension pot, and a new youth-employment scheme.

The Green Homes Grant Scheme

From the end of September many people will be eligible to apply for a Green Homes Grant worth up to £5,000. The grant will be in the form of a voucher that can be used to help cover up to two-thirds of the cost of making energy efficient improvements to your home.

In order to qualify for the grant the following conditions must be met:

- The property involved must be in England
- You must be a home-owner. This includes park-homes, shared-ownership homes, and long leases. It also includes private or social landlords.
- The property must not be a pre-build property that has not previously been occupied
- You must not have received a grant from your local authority under the Local Authority Delivery Scheme.

The voucher must be used to install one or more of various green improvements "primary measures" in your home. The qualifying improvements include the installation of most forms of insulation or low-carbon heating. Certain other "secondary measures", such as draught-proofing or triple glazing, can be included as part of the primary scheme.

The improvements must be completed by approved installers. The voucher must be redeemed, and the improvements completed, by 31st March 2021.

Full details of the qualifying measures, and a list of the approved installers, can be found on the "Simple Energy Advice Website" which is located at <https://www.simpleenergyadvice.org.uk/pages/green-homes-grant>

Private pension withdrawal age to be increased

One change in legislation that may have escaped notice in these uncertain times is that the minimum age at which savers can make withdrawals from their personal pension pot.

Currently, savers can take some or all of the cash held in private pension pots at age 55, including taking 25% of their savings tax free. This will be raised to 57 from 2028. Therefore, anyone currently aged 46 and below will

face having to rethink their plans if, for instance, they are intending to use their pension savings to clear a mortgage or take early retirement.

When George Osborne was Chancellor and ushered in the pension freedoms which meant private savers could access their savings pots before state pension retirement age, he indicated the minimum age limit was intended to be 10 years below the state pension age, which is currently 65 but rising to 66 this October and to 67 between 2026 and 2028.

Despite this, there have been no provisions in legislation since for an increase to be implemented, leading some to believe the proposal had been dropped. However, this has proven to be a false hope. At least those affected have been given a reasonable amount of notice of this change.

"Kickstart" scheme launched to tackle youth unemployment

The Treasury has launched a £2bn 'Kickstart' scheme designed to address post-Covid youth unemployment by creating government-subsidised jobs across the UK

Under the scheme, employers can offer youngsters aged 16-24 who are claiming universal credit a six-month work placement. The government will fully fund each

Kickstart job, paying 100% of the age-relevant national minimum wage, National Insurance and statutory automatic enrolment minimum pension contributions for 25 hours a week. Employers will be able to top up this wage.

The government will also pay employers £1,500 per job placement to cover support and training and to help pay for uniforms and other set up costs.

The aim is to give young people – who are more likely to have been furloughed, with many working in sectors disproportionately hit by the pandemic - the opportunity to build their skills in the workplace and to gain experience to improve their chances of finding long-term work.

One very important provision is that applications must be for a minimum of 30 job placements. However, businesses which are only able to offer one or two job placements can partner with other organisations, such as similar employers, local authorities, trade bodies or registered charities, to reach the minimum number. The intermediary applying on behalf of a group of employers will be eligible for £300 of funding to help with the associated administrative costs of bringing together these employers.

WatkinsonBlack have considerable experience in all areas of taxation and business services, including the provision of a very cost-effective payroll bureau service. If you want to arrange a no-obligation initial meeting on any business matter then please contact us. Please note that these ideas are intended to inform rather than advise and you should always obtain professional advice before taking any action.

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Contact David Watkinson or Margaret Black at: 1st Floor, 264 Manchester Road, Warrington

Tel: 01925 413210

or email: info@warringtonaccountants.co.uk

www.watkinsonblack.co.uk

Warrington Town FC Fixtures 20/21

WARRINGTON Town will start the Northern Premier League season away from home on Saturday September 19.

Basford United are first up for the Yellows, who will play their first home league game of the season on Saturday September 26 – with an FA Cup first qualifying round tie sandwiched in between.

Play-off champions in 2019, Paul Carden has led Warrington to three successive third placed finishes, albeit last season's was scrubbed from the records following the cancellation, and subsequent null and voiding, of the season.

September

Sat 19	A	Basford United
Tue 22		FA Cup first qualifying round
Sat 26	H	Gainsborough Trinity
Tue 29	H	Atherton Collieries

October

Sat 3	A	Morpeth Town / FA Cup second qualifying round
Sat 10	A	Mickleover
Tue 13		FA Cup third qualifying round
Sat 17	H	Radcliffe / FA Trophy second qualifying round
Tue 20	H	Nantwich Town
Sat 24	A	Stafford Rangers / FA Cup fourth qualifying round
Tue 27	H	Buxton
Sat 31		FA Trophy third qualifying round

November

Sat 7	H	Scarborough Athletic / FA Cup first round
Sat 14	A	Grantham Town / FA Trophy first round
Tue 17	A	Lancaster City
Sat 21	H	Whitby Town
Sat 28	A	Stalybridge Celtic

December

Sat 5	H	Matlock Town / FA Trophy second round
Sat 12	A	Hyde United
Sat 19	H	Ashton United / FA Trophy third round
Sat 26	A	Witton Albion

January

Fri 1	H	Bamber Bridge
Sat 9	A	Gainsborough Trinity
Sat 16	H	South Shields
Sat 23	A	Scarborough Athletic
Sat 30	H	FC United

February

Sat 6	A	Buxton
Sat 13	H	Grantham Town
Sat 20	A	Nantwich Town
Tue 23	H	Stafford Rangers
Sat 27	H	Mickleover

March

Sat 6	A	Radcliffe
Sat 13	H	Lancaster City
Sat 20	A	Whitby Town
Tue 23	A	Matlock Town
Sat 27	H	Stalybridge Celtic

April

Sat 3	A	Atherton Collieries
Mon 5	H	Witton Albion
Sat 10	A	South Shields
Sat 17	H	Basford United
Sat 24	H	Hyde United

May

Sat 1	A	Ashton United
Mon 3	A	Bamber Bridge
Sat 8	H	Morpeth Town



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GREAT STORIES BEGIN HERE



At Warrington & Vale Royal College we are passionate about ensuring our students achieve their goals, whether that be progression to university, an apprenticeship or employment. Take a look at some of our talented students who have progressed onto impressive destinations with exciting careers ahead.

Maria Clerkin

Course: Level 3 Art & Design
Destination: University of Bolton - Special Effects for Film and TV
Previous school: Beamont Collegiate Academy

Maria has excelled on her course and during her first year she was invited to exhibit her work at Warrington Museum & Art Gallery, being the only first-year student to ever be asked to do this alongside final-year students.

Maria credits her tutors for their support, saying: "The tutors have been incredibly supportive of my aspirations. This has meant I have grown as an artist and have been pushed out of my comfort zone which has done me the world of good."

Mehsam Sheikh

Course: Level 3 Business
Destination: Liverpool Hope University - Economics & Law
Previous school: Great Sankey High School
Dedicated student Mehsum has gained an abundance of

transferable skills whilst at college and looks forward to taking his next step into the world of business.

He has secured a place at Liverpool Hope University studying Economics and Law, and believes his time at Warrington & Vale Royal College has been instrumental in preparing him for this. Mehsum says: "My course has given me the experience and understanding of the business environment."

Nia Millington

Course: Level 3 Business Administration
Destination: Warrington & Halton Teaching Hospitals Foundation Trust - Ward Accreditation Administrator
Previous school: Padgate Academy

Nia completed a Level 2 Business Administration apprenticeship working at Warrington & Halton Teaching Hospitals Foundation Trust. Speaking of her time at college, Nia says: "I would highly recommend Warrington & Vale Royal College; the courses that they offer are useful and practical.

They teach you transferable skills for employment."

Upon finishing her level 2 apprenticeship, Nia was offered a full-time position working as a Ward Accreditation Administrator and has enrolled onto our Level 3 Business Administration course.

Harry Peacey

Course: Level 3 Performing Arts - Acting
Destination: Warrington & Vale Royal College - HNC Performing Arts

Previous school: Beamont Collegiate Academy

Throughout his course Harry has had the chance to take part in several college productions, a learning opportunity which he valued greatly. He also credits the college for its support, saying: "My tutors have been great. The college strives to give you the best education possible." Harry will now be progressing onto the college's HNC in Performing Arts, after which he intends to apply to a specialist drama school.



Visit wvr.ac.uk to find out more about our wide range of school leaver courses.



SCHOOL LEAVER OPEN EVENINGS

Visit our Warrington campus: 5.00pm - 8.00pm

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MONDAY 9TH NOVEMBER

WEDNESDAY 7TH OCTOBER

TUESDAY 10TH NOVEMBER

TUESDAY 13TH OCTOBER

TUESDAY 17TH NOVEMBER

THURSDAY 15TH OCTOBER

THURSDAY 19TH NOVEMBER

To attend, you **MUST** register in advance at:

wvr.ac.uk/openevenings

In the event of a second lockdown or more stringent social distancing restrictions, the college's Open Evenings will be hosted online as virtual events featuring live talks from our curriculum tutors. Those who have registered will be contacted in advance and notified of the format of the event.

