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**Spring is in
the air!**

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Editor's Comment



SPRING is in the air, the roadmap out of lockdown is underway and the vaccine programme is being rolled out so hopefully, the light is shining brightly at the end of what has been a very long dark tunnel.

We will have all been impacted in some way during what has been a terrible year for many but some worse than others, especially those who have lost loved ones, are still suffering the ill-effects of long COVID and those who have lost their livelihoods.

Spending a lot of time on social media, which is a necessary "evil" of my job, it has become clear there are a lot of angry, anxious and frustrated people out there and with local elections in the air, there have been some very toxic comments in circulation – so now it is time to spring clean the keyboard warriors – often with fake profiles.

Having been on the receiving end of some, which unfortunately goes with the territory, I know only too well how personal insults can impact your mental health.

It is easy to criticise from a keyboard and lash out at those in the community, who are very often just trying to do their best.

Most people involved in public life I have met, do it for the right reasons – to try and make a meaningful difference in their local communities.

Yes, I know there are some career politicians, who are financially rewarded for their endeavours, but the vast majority, especially

parish councillors and community volunteers, do it because they want to help people.

Healthy debate and being critical of manifesto policies is one thing, but personal toxic and abusive insults are totally out of order.

Freedom of speech is essential – but allowing people to be abusive and nasty and insulting is something we can do without.

So after a trial period on our Lymm Life Facebook group, we have now decided to include a Zero Tolerance policy on all our Facebook groups and pages that anyone who is abusive to others with personal insults or foul and abusive language will be blocked

– and the worst offenders reported to Facebook or even the police if deemed threatening and hateful.

We and the vast majority of like-minded people don't want these people spouting their poison in our community – no doubt I will be called a dictator by some – but the groups and pages are part of our business – and I believe if all media had similar principles the world would be a better place.

Sadly some of those in high places have not been good role models but having experienced hateful comments myself and knowing others who have been on the receiving end of toxic posts and comments it is time to draw a line in the sand – and hopefully, this article will start the cleansing process.



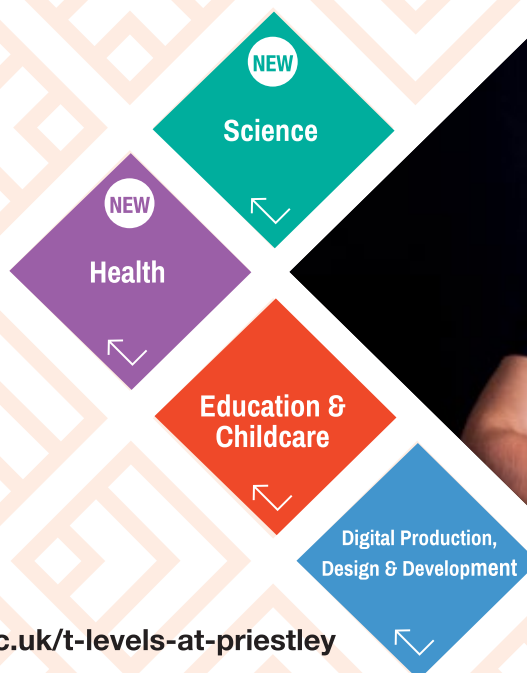

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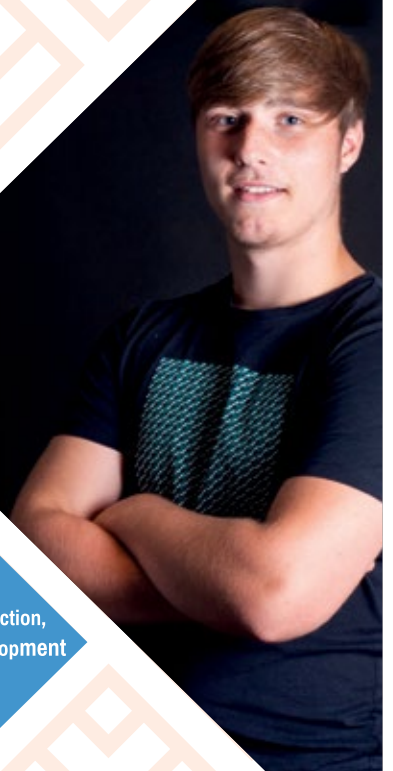


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Spring is in the air as new baby goats arrive at Walton Hall and Gardens

SPRING is in the air at Walton Hall and Gardens with the arrival of new baby African Pygmy Goats as the Children's Zoo prepares to re-open.

Zoo rangers are delighted to announce four new arrivals at the Children's Zoo and the timing couldn't be any better, as the ever-popular zoo prepares to open to the public again from 12 April.

Stripe, the four-year-old black and white African Pygmy Goat, gave birth to a nanny and billy kid at 10pm on 2 March. Not to be outdone, Willow, a three-year-old nanny, gave birth to twin nannies at 6.30 am on 5 March.

Longstanding ranger at the zoo, Peter Cookson-Dean, is delighted

saying: "Not having the usual hustle and bustle at the Children's Zoo has been odd. It's been a very different year for everyone. But this has lifted everyone's spirits, especially since we're hoping to welcome the public back in early April. It will be a welcome bonus for visitors – and the perfect timing!"

Following the government's 4-step plan, Walton Hall and Gardens is hoping to reopen its outdoor attractions again on 29 March. And with the return of the rule of 6, visitors can enjoy adventure golf, putting and pitch 'n' putt again.

Walton Hall Golf Course is also set to reopen in line with Golf England guidelines. For the public's safety, relevant Covid measures will remain throughout the estate.

Based on current guidance, from 12 April, Walton Hall and Gardens will be welcoming visitors back to the Children's Zoo – and the new arrivals make it the perfect time to come and visit.

Later on in the year, consistent with government guidance, Walton Hall and Gardens hope to resume their exciting events program.

For more information on Walton Hall and Gardens reopening plan, please visit waltonhallgardens.co.uk/spring-is-coming/




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Remembering the day two young boys went to town and never came home

PEACE campaigner Colin Parry recalled the fateful day his 12-year-old son Tim went into Warrington town centre to buy a pair of football shorts during an online event to mark the 28th anniversary of the IRA bomb attack.

Due to lockdown, a special zoom event took place on the eve of the 28th anniversary of the Warrington bombing which claimed the lives of 12-year-old Tim and three-year-old Johnathan Ball, also injuring more than 50 shoppers out on Mothering Sunday weekend.

Another victim Bronwen Vickers, who lost her leg in the bomb attack died a year later, was also remembered.

The event was hosted by Terry O'Hara Service Manager, Tim Parry Johnathan Ball Peace Foundation, who said it was hard to believe, that after cancelling last year's event due to lockdown restrictions, that one

year on we were still in lockdown.

Last year the future of the charity's work was in doubt but thanks to emergency funding from the Steve Morgan Foundation and additional Government funding work had been able to carry on and although there was still an uncertain future ahead, there was "cautious optimism."

Describing his son as a "mad blue" Colin recalled how Tim had been in town that fateful day.

A few weeks prior to the bombing Tim had been in hospital to have his appendix removed and was told in no uncertain terms not to play any sport.

But he had "conned" his mum that

he was going to be a goalkeeper, inspired by his beloved Everton's keeper at the time, Neville Southwall.

Just before the bombing Tim played in goal for the school team and saved a penalty in the last minute to earn his team a draw. As a result he decided to go into town to buy some goalkeeper's shorts.

"Time stood still for Tim on March 20th 1993 and while the pain has subsided with time, the sense of loss is just the same," said Colin.

"Our family life goes on but there will always be a space at our table for Tim."

Colin also remembered Johnathan Ball's parents, Wilf and Marie, who are no longer with us.

A prayer and reading was given by Warrington Council of Faiths Afthkar Quayyum, who also recalled a footballing experience on the day

of the bombing.

He had been at Anfield watching Liverpool beat Tottenham, but the result soon became irrelevant as news of the bombing appeared on TV screens at the ground.

"My friends had to shake me out of a trance. Time had stood still. My wife and siblings were out in town that day but by the grace of God they were safe – but sadly others weren't including our beloved sons of Warrington Tim and Johnathan."

Mayor of Warrington Cllr Maureen Creaghan also reflected on the atrocity.

"I was born and raised in Warrington and am incredibly proud to say Warrington is part of what I am. I will never forget that day and 28 years on it is important for us to reflect and remember. We must never forget but continue with hope."



Great Sankey Hub praised for 'inclusive' approach to leisure

LEISURE provider LiveWire's Great Sankey Neighbourhood Hub has been praised by Sport England for its 'inclusive' approach to community fitness.

The Hub, which is managed by LiveWire on behalf of Warrington Borough Council, underwent a multi-million pound redevelopment that included redesigning the building to meet leading dementia-friendly standards throughout.

Now Great Sankey Neighbourhood Hub has been highlighted as a case study in a new document published by Sport England that outlines the organisation's 10-year vision to transform lives and communities through sport and physical activity.

"Uniting the Movement" aims to reimagine how sport and physical activity can remain central to people's lives and help improve it, following the current pandemic.

Elements at Great Sankey highlighted by Sport England as successfully promoting an inclusive approach to physical activity include the building's dementia-friendly design and clear signage, the accessible changing rooms and entrance hall and the overall attention to detail.

The community facility reopened its doors in February 2018 as part of a phased opening, creating a safe and welcoming leisure environment for people of all ages and fitness levels.

At its official ribbon-cutting in January 2020 the Hub became the first public building in the world to receive the University of Sterling's Gold Award for dementia-friendly design. Staff received training in order to raise awareness of dementia and the impact it can have on people, their family and friends and introduced dementia-friendly exercise classes and swimming sessions. The site also has refurbished swimming pools, 3G outdoor pitches, tennis courts, a state-of-the-art gym, sports hall and group exercise studios, as well as a library and conferencing facilities.

Emma Hutchinson, Managing Director of LiveWire, said: "It is fantastic to see that Great Sankey Neighbourhood Hub has been highlighted by Sport England as a thriving health and wellbeing facility that offers wonderful leisure access and activities to all members of the community. I'm extremely proud to be part of a team that has developed a thriving community facility that truly delivers for all members of our community. We look forward to being able to reopen our doors once national restrictions allow and continue the work to help make Warrington residents healthier and happier."

The Council's Cabinet Member for Leisure and Community, Cllr Tony Higgins, said: "Great Sankey Neighbourhood Hub is a fantastic asset for Warrington, a first-class facility designed for everybody in the community. We have worked hard to create an accessible, welcoming environment, which fully meets the needs of people."

"I'm delighted that our vision to deliver a fully inclusive facility, with accessible health and wellbeing services and first-class dementia-friendly features has been recognised by Sport England. To be held up as an example of best practice, nationally, for inclusion in physical activity is the latest success story for our hub."

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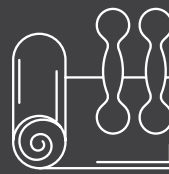
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Grand ceiling feature revealed during renovation works on new upmarket bar

BUILDERS have uncovered an original ceiling feature dating back to the 1990s during renovation works on Warrington's new upmarket bar The Grand, which is on schedule for completion in May.

The builders uncovered the original ceiling structure from the previous Big Bar from the late 1990s and the new owners have decided to bring the feature back to life!

Meanwhile, the scaffolding is down now and the former Co-op building is now illuminated at night.

Work is ongoing with the ground floor front still to be painted and frames repaired.

The former Co-op building next door to The Academy had been empty and falling into disrepair since the closure of the Fusion Sports Bar and nightclub pre the pandemic.

Local bar owners Mike Mason, who owns PJs, The Institution and Hop & Co and James Glover who owns the Hideout and Block One, have teamed up on a joint venture called The Grand, which they hope will be open by June, subject to

lockdown restrictions, following their initial £250,000 renovation. Work is currently on schedule to be completed by May.

Another feature is two huge beer tanks which will be on full view after being installed in the ceiling which will deliver a fresh crisp cold pint pumped in direct from the brewer into the glass for an unbeatable craft offering. The product will be revealed soon.

The aim is to create an upmarket cocktail and wine bar, with future plans for a restaurant on the 1st floor and a rooftop terrace.

Mike said: "Work is going well and the building looks fantastic when it is lit up at night. Our aim is to bring an upmarket bar to Bridge Street to help compliment our other businesses in the town centre."



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Virtual Apprenticeships & Jobs Fair hailed huge success

WARRINGTON & Co's seventh annual Apprenticeships & Jobs Fair – the first to be held virtually – has been hailed a huge success.

The event which gives businesses the opportunity to showcase their employment and apprenticeship opportunities to students and school leavers – took place this year on Wednesday 6 March. The current restrictions meant that the usual physical event at the Engine Rooms, Birchwood Park, was replaced by a special online event.

While the Birchwood event is always popular – usually attended by around 900 young people – moving to a digital platform meant there were no restrictions on how many could attend – and as a result, the numbers soared.

Learn Live, who hosted the virtual event on behalf of Warrington & Co, has provided the following data:

- Live viewers – 3,755
- On Demand views – 2,412
- Devices used – Laptop 68%, Tablet/Phones 29% Other 2%
- Top locations: Warrington, Manchester, Liverpool, Crewe and Chester

Particularly aimed at 16-18 year-olds who are looking to enter employment this year, the event saw companies promoting entry level job vacancies and apprenticeship

programmes, in a range of sectors and specialisms.

Each company prepared a short video introduction, usually a Q&A with an existing apprentice. These were pre-loaded and shown during the two-hour event. Alongside this, viewers were invited to engage in "live chat" to ask questions, which representatives of the businesses were on hand to answer.

Warrington Borough Council's Cabinet Member for Economic development and innovation, Cllr Tom Jennings, said: "It's so important that we give our young people all the support we can in starting their careers, particularly in the current climate. Our Apprenticeships & Jobs Fair is an important part of the work we do to open up new opportunities for our school leavers and students.

"I'm delighted that this year's event has been such a huge success. To see thousands of young people from across the borough and beyond joining the virtual event and connecting with some of the region's biggest firms is great news all round – for our young people, for companies looking for talented new recruits, and for our

economy."

Sponsors for this year's event are The Pledge, United Utilities and Sellafield. Companies at the event represented a range of sectors, including accountancy, business administration, construction, customer services, design, engineering, health & social care, childcare, hospitality & catering, HR, IT & Communications, logistics and marketing.

If you missed the event, the videos are still available to view at jobsliveuk.com/warrington-apprenticeships-jobs-live/



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New pizza restaurant will create 15 jobs and be popular with Vegans

A new pizza restaurant is set to open in Warrington's Golden Square Shopping Centre on 12 April, creating 15 hospitality jobs in the process as well a speciality pizzas for Vegans.

Chester-based food group Pheby Food Concepts Group Ltd has taken over the glass-fronted former Prezzo building in Old Market Place, and is set to reopen it as its third Dough Dough wood-fired pizza restaurant and takeaway. As well as using local contractors to refit the building, PFC Group Ltd will create 15 new roles for hospitality workers in the Warrington area.

"The hospitality industry has been hit incredibly hard in the past year," said PFC Group Ltd owner Des Pheby. "However our brands have weathered the storm well thanks to our early adoption of 'ghost' or dark kitchens (a kitchen set up for food delivery only). So I'm delighted that we're now in a position to be expanding our Dough Dough brand with the launch of a new site in Warrington, and with it, the creation of jobs for local people."

Dough Dough has two further sites in Chester and Liverpool, with a fourth opening soon in Derby.

The Warrington site will open on 12 April – the same day the government's 'Roadmap out of Lockdown' aims to have all hospitality venues open to serve customers outdoors, with no curfew

and no requirement to have a substantial meal in order to have an alcoholic drink. All customers must order via table service however.

Seating up to 40 customers outside, Dough Dough Warrington will have covered, heated alfresco areas available to pre-book, perfect for enjoying a meal or drink whatever the weather.

"Dough Dough restaurants are all about good times with good people and we think the good people of Warrington will love what we have to offer them," added Mr Pheby. Just last week Dough Dough announced it now has products on its menu which have been certified with The Vegan Society's Vegan Trademark. Dishes including the Vegan Margarita and Vegan Ortolana will carry the Vegan Trademark on Dough Dough's menus.



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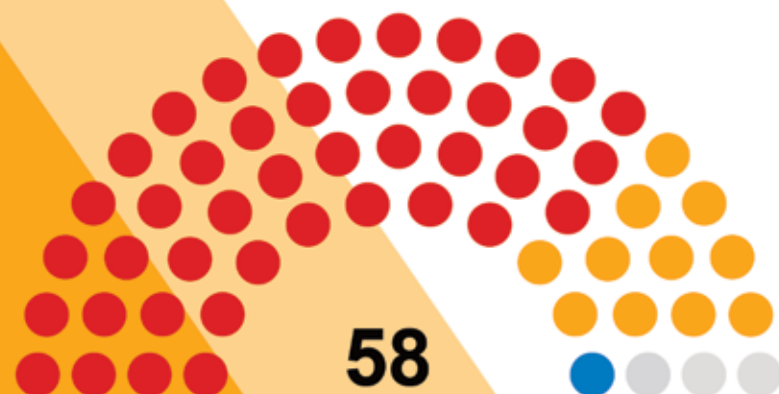
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Growing their own plants - behind the scenes at Primrose Hill Nurseries

PRIMROSE Hill Nurseries don't just sell plants, they grow them - more than half of what they sell is home grown - all on site at their nursery in High Legh.

Growing their own plants is very much at the heart of their business and plays a major part in their future growth plans.

Over the last 12 months they've doubled their growing capacity and are gearing up for another busy year.

During Spring 2021 alone they will grow over 150,000 plants and use over 40,000 litres of compost. To complement their seasonal bedding plant range they've also launched a new range of perennial plants including Peonies, Alliums and Aster x frikartii Mönch, with over 250 different varieties in total, all grown on site at the nursery.

Growing their own stock means they can ensure that they're offering plants of the very best quality with less reliance on wholesalers.

Home grown Primroses and spring flowering bulbs are available now and thousands of bedding plants are currently being grown ready for customers to plant out in a few months.

The dedicated growing team is led by Nursery Manager, Rob Groom, who has over 10 years of horticulture and growing experience.

Robert Ball, "the man with the

green fingers", looks after the day to day production and is responsible for planting, potting, weeding and nurturing.

The growing area encompasses a large heated glass house and potting and production area. This enables them to grow a continuous supply and large variety of plants.

It's positioned just behind the nursery so the plants don't have to travel any distance to make it to the nursery sales area.

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New bottleneck busting £20m Centre Park Link now open to traffic

THE new near £20m Centre Park Link bridge, built with the aim of reducing traffic congestion and opening up land for development, is now officially open to traffic.

The major highway project – which will support Warrington's ongoing growth and transform journeys around one of the borough's most busy road networks – is now fully open to traffic.

Centre Park Link will help reduce traffic congestion and provide alternative routes.

The new bridge crossing across the River Mersey from Chester Road, just north of Gainsborough Road, has been constructed, joining onto an extended Slutchers Lane, leading from Wilson Patten Street by a cost of £19.89m. New signal-controlled junctions have been constructed at each end of the new link, on Chester Road and Wilson Patten Street.

The scheme will improve the overall capability of Warrington's transport network to deal with incidents and will help make journey times shorter and more reliable for motorists and public transport users.

It will also unlock areas of land for development, bringing new jobs, housing and investment to Warrington.

Warrington Borough Council Leader, Cllr Russ Bowden, said: "The completion of Centre Park Link is absolutely fantastic news for Warrington. It will bring huge benefits to our town, relieving traffic congestion and increasing

the resilience and reliability of the highway network.

"The official opening of this vital scheme is the latest boost to Warrington's economic growth, supporting our ambitions 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."

The scheme has been constructed by main contractor Balfour Beatty, through the Scape Civil Engineering and Infrastructure Framework.

Works have been completed on-site despite the challenges brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic. Council officers worked closely with the contractor to agree revised working methodologies to allow construction to continue, while ensuring compliance with Government and Public Health England guidelines.

Activities within the construction programme were also rescheduled by the project team and the contractor to take advantage of reduced traffic volumes in periods of lockdown. This proactive approach was key to minimising delays to the completion of the scheme.

Warrington Borough Council's Cabinet Member for transportation, highways and public realm, Cllr Hans Mundry, said: "I'm delighted

that Centre Park Link is now open to traffic. To complete this vital project with minimal delays, in such challenging circumstances, is a fantastic achievement.

"The new bridge and link road will help keep our town centre moving, making it much easier and quicker to get around, and providing smoother, faster journey times for thousands of motorists around Bridge Foot and Chester Road,

"It supports our vision – through our Local Transport Plan – to deliver high-quality transport infrastructure which reduces congestion and supports Warrington's growth."

A number of partners have provided the funding for the £19.89 million project. £5.3 million has been contributed by the Cheshire and Warrington Local Enterprise Partnership via the Local Growth Fund. Government, via Homes England, has contributed £3.7 million

as part of the Housing Infrastructure Fund. The remainder of the funding comes from council borrowing.

Philip Cox, chief executive of the Cheshire and Warrington LEP, said: "Centre Park Link is one of nine transport schemes in Warrington that have received a total of £31m from the Local Growth Fund programme. The council has done an outstanding job in managing this complex project, which includes building a bridge across the river, a task not made any easier by the pandemic restrictions. Local businesses and residents will now benefit from the removal of congestion at one of the key bottlenecks in Warrington. The project has also unlocked a substantial piece of land which will be developed and contribute to regeneration in the area."

For more information about Centre Park Link, visit warrington.gov.uk/centreparklink



Hospital's life-saving COVID-19 "black box" shortlisted for another top health award

THE special black box pioneered at Warrington Hospital, to help improve the survival chances of COVID-19 victims struggling to breathe, has been shortlisted for another top health award.

Warrington and Halton Teaching Hospitals' (WHH) 'Black Box' has been shortlisted for Pilot Project of the Year at the HSJ Value Awards 2021. This recognises the outstanding dedication of a mixed team of clinicians from WHH in striving to improve outcomes for patients during an extremely challenging year for the NHS.

The judging panel comprised a diverse range of highly regarded figures across the NHS and wider healthcare sector. To be shortlisted as a finalist for these awards, despite tough competition from hundreds of brilliant applicants, is a mark of real achievement for WHH. The submission titled 'The Little Black Box that made the Biggest Difference' was selected for the dedication, ambition and positive impact that the innovation has had on some patients with COVID-19.

The 'Black Box' is a simple medical device that was transformed into a potentially life-saving therapy for some of the most seriously ill patients with COVID-19 in the spring of 2020.

Aware of the expected national shortage of ventilators, a mixed team of doctors, nurses and allied health professionals working across Intensive Care, high

care Respiratory ward and the Cardiorespiratory team modified simple CPAP (continuous positive airway pressure) devices to provide acute life-saving therapy for COVID-19 patients. CPAP is a well-established therapy for conditions causing significant breathing problems and low oxygen and is also used widely in the community to treat patients with chronic sleep apnoea.

The simple modification of the CPAP device brought almost instant relief to some patients admitted with extreme breathing difficulties as a result of COVID-19 infection, as patients seem to tolerate this simple device well.

Dr Alex Crowe, Medical Director for WHH said: "We are delighted to have been shortlisted for the HSJ Value Pilot Project of the Year, recognising the collaborative efforts and dedication of our teams in successfully developing the 'black box' in the early stages of the pandemic.

"We are committed to delivering improved outcomes for patients and the wider organisation even throughout challenging times and to be chosen among the other incredible nominees is a wonderful achievement. This nomination has been a tremendous boost to both the team involved and the wider Trust. I am sure it will bolster our continued efforts to improve"

HSJ editor Alastair McLellan said: "We would like to congratulate Warrington and Halton Teaching

Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust on being shortlisted in the Pilot Project of the Year category for the HSJ Value Awards 2021. This year's finalists have not only contributed to the continued fight against the covid-19 pandemic within the NHS but have also been exceptionally dedicated to enhancing healthcare across the UK. We are honoured to be recognising and celebrating their outstanding work after what is, no doubt, the most challenging year in the history of the NHS. We are looking forward to welcoming them to the ceremony in June."

The shortlisting of the 'Black Box' is the second acknowledgement in

a national award. Last year it was named winner of the 'Innovating in Adversity' category in the London Business School (LBS) Innovation Awards.

The winners will be selected following a rigorous, second stage of judging ahead of the HSJ Value Awards 2021 awards ceremony. Held at Manchester Central at the end of June, the evening will provide a great opportunity for influential figures to unite and celebrate the achievements of their industry peers. The awards evening is expected to be attended by leaders and professionals from within the NHS.



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Spring, a time for renewal....

By Nigel Garner

Spring is a time for renewal, growth and expansion; we can feel it in the air. Of course, we can do this at any time throughout the year, but it feels right to do it during Spring.



We seem to have that extra energy; a Spring in our step you might say!

Extra energy and focus to get more active, take action and create change. The perfect time to clear out the things that are no longer of any use or purpose to you. (I hope Mrs. G. isn't reading this ?!!)

Let's be honest, it's been a long time coming hasn't it and just like nature we have had to be patient through a particularly challenging Autumn / Winter; but now we have the promise of new life. Leaves are appearing on the trees and flowers are starting to bloom.

Similarly, Spring is the time for forward thinking businesses to start exploring new opportunities and developing their financial plans for the upcoming financial year.

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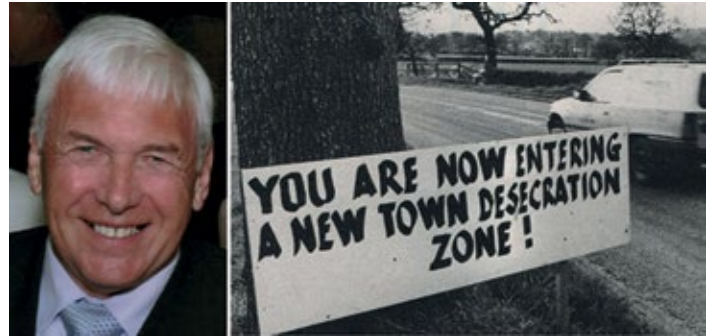
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Death of community champion who lost valiant fight with COVID



WELL known and much-respected Appleton Thorn community champion Keith Brown has sadly died after a valiant fight against the ravages of COVID-19.

Keith, aged 78, was well known throughout Appleton Thorn village and sadly died after contracting COVID-19 just prior to discharge from hospital after successful heart surgery at the end of November.

Born on 5th June 1942 to Alfred and May Brown and, as an only child, Keith was much loved by his close family.

He attended St Barnabus C of E Primary School and then Boteler Grammar School. He was passionate about and excelled at swimming, winning numerous trophies. Swimming remained an important part of his life and was how he met his future wife, Judith, also a competitive swimmer. They married in 1969 and lived in Appleton Thorn.

Keith experienced many areas of work, from Policeman to Publicity Design Officer, before he finally settled on his chosen career of teaching in 1970 at Park Road County Primary, Great Sankey. Here his love of all sports continued and he successfully coached the school's gymnastic team to become Northwest area champions. After finding his love for teaching he returned to Manchester University to gain his Bachelor of Education (Hons) in 1980. Wanting to further his career, he became Deputy Head in the nearby Halton area, progressing to Head Teacher at both Southgate and then Hillview

primary schools Runcorn.

In 1990 Keith was awarded the British Empire Medal for his long and devoted services to the Territorial Army, something he was very proud of.

Keith, always an active member within the village, was MC for many events to fund the transformation of the old village school into a thriving Village Hall. Keith remained on the committee for many years, organising film nights and a youth club for the local children. In 1989 the Campaign Against Ruining our Environment was set up against the New Town Development housing plan, and, using his talents and experience in design, co-ordinated the poster campaign.

Keith and Judith over the years have enjoyed many holidays together visiting family in Australia, many cruises and UK breaks.

He had a wide circle of friends, enjoying lunches, Archery, Bowling and Art classes and remained active in neighbourhood development planning.

In 2019 Keith and Judith enjoyed a short break with all of the family together, a rare treat to celebrate 50 years of marriage.

A celebration of Keith's life will be held at Appleton Thorn Village Hall on Saturday 10th July.

Keith will be sadly missed by his family and friends.

New use for former Dawson's Music store

PLANS have been submitted for a major conversion of the former Dawson's Music store in Sankey Street, Warrington.

The proposals are to convert the building into four apartments, offices and two smaller retail shops.

Dawson's closed the store in 2019 after trading in Warrington for 121-years.

At the time, it was claimed the store was a victim of online shopping. It has stood empty ever since.

Developers say the proposal will make little difference to the exterior appearance of the three-storey building.

Dawson's was founded in 1898 by piano tuner John Dawson and has had a major presence from its Sankey Street HQ, since 1914.

During the 1970s and 1980s it was the "go to" store for youngsters buying their first records in Warrington. But later it changed to concentrate on the sale of musical instruments and running a music school.

Warrington is to “Race for Life at Home” to help fight cancer

DETERMINED fundraisers across Warrington are set to Race for Life at Home and carry on the fight against cancer as the nation looks beyond lockdown.

Organisers Cancer Research UK have postponed events for the spring and early summer to protect people’s health as the country emerges from the COVID-19 pandemic and this includes the Race for Life 3K, 5K and Pretty Muddy events which had been due to take place at Victoria Park this June.

Devastating

COVID-19 has caused a devastating loss of research funding. Cancer Research UK is predicting a staggering £300 million drop in income over the next three years which could put future medical breakthroughs at risk.

Now, undeterred women and men are vowing to raise funds by completing their own Race for Life 5K in their nearest green space this April. They plan to take part outdoors either alone or in small, socially distanced groups to help people with cancer. People can visit raceforlife.org to enter Race for Life at Home for £5* then receive a Race pack that includes a medal.

Anna Taylor, Cancer Research UK’s spokesperson for the North West, said: “Even whilst we’re still apart, we can unite against cancer.

“There are a million reasons to Race for Life at Home, to help save lives, for those who have had vital treatment delayed or just for a reason to get off the sofa. We want people to run, walk or jog 5K and raise money for life-saving research.

“The truth is, COVID-19 has slowed us down. But we will never stop and we are absolutely determined to continue to create better cancer treatments for tomorrow. But we can’t do it alone. Sadly, cancer touches almost every family at some point. Every step our scientists take towards beating cancer relies on our supporters. That’s why we need as many people as possible across Warrington to join us, to stand united and do something extraordinary to help beat cancer.”

Pretty Muddy

Cancer Research UK’s Race for Life events include 3K, 5K, 10K, Pretty Muddy and Pretty Muddy Kids event which raise millions of pounds every year to help beat cancer by funding crucial research. Money raised through Race for Life events funds world-class research to help beat 200 types of cancer-

including bowel cancer, prostate cancer, lung cancer, testicular cancer, brain cancer, children’s cancers and leukaemia.

The Race for Life 3K, 5K and Pretty Muddy Events have been rescheduled for this autumn and are now due to take place at Victoria Park, Warrington on Sunday September 12.

Sign up to Race for Life at Home this April and visit raceforlife.org or call 0300 123 0770. Join in and share with #RaceatHome



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Volunteers help unique partnership take off

The Evolution of the RAF Burtonwood Heritage Centre (Part 2)

By Heritage Centre manager John Cotterill



THE unique partnership between the RAF Burtonwood Association and Gulliver's World, would never have happened if it hadn't been for dedicated volunteers who worked tirelessly to keep memories of the base alive.

Following all the work in the early years to create a heritage centre, things took off when the whole Header House site came up for sale.

The Association approached the Ministry of Defence property arm to seek a site for a permanent Heritage Centre.

Volunteer Ian Murphy saw the potential and approached to site manager George Dodd who eventually agreed to let us have the area which was originally the Base Commanders office and conference area.

This was a huge increase in space and it allowed us to substantially increase the number of exhibits which we were collecting. The US Army had gifted the very last jeep on the base to the Association together with models of the site and Site 8, large aerial photographs and hundreds of plans and building drawings.

Ian was our first manager and he was aided by a joint scheme agreed between the Association and Warrington Museum whereby a museum professional would be brought in to establish museum procedures, management and display skills. Graduate Karen Selby joined us for just over a year and provided this vital skill with great success.

This space was rapidly filled and we then sought to expand. Permission was granted and we

moved into several more rooms which included a bar, stage and dance floor. This was a perfect location for us to spread our wings and become firmly established. We could hold meetings here and soon were hosting dances and entertainment. A café was formed for visitors and members to meet in at weekends. We had secure, rent free environment with free heat and light. Obviously, this was too good to last. After several very successful years in this accommodation, we had to leave as the site was being sold and would be demolished. The site was sold and has since become Chapelford Village. Our future was now very uncertain and we faced the total loss of a heritage centre and social space.

We cast around for a site and fortune smiled on us. Ray Phillips, the owner of Gulliver's World Theme Park located on part of the original air base site, approached us with an offer to provide accommodation. He and his organisation proposed building a purpose-built structure for us, help with new exhibits and even help in staffing it. Clearly there had to be a two-way deal and the concept was it would become an attraction as part of the theme park, attract additional visitors as well as securing a way of keeping the Memory of RAF Burtonwood alive.

Thanks to the incredibly generous offer, our current building was designed and built and opened as the RAF Burtonwood Heritage Centre in August 2005. It immediately attracted huge interest and succeeded in promoting both the Association and Gulliver's World.

The building was fully updated and the front, imitation, Nissen hut

added in 2011 and reopened on 28 May 2011. At the same time additional land to the rear of the building was provided and several individual exhibits built including a chapel and areas devoted to specific units that served at Burtonwood.

Long term Association member, John Cotterill had joined the team some years previously and in 2016 took became manager of the Heritage Centre. Together with other members of the Burtonwood Association they master-minded the additional rear buildings, new internal layouts and exhibits. In 2015, together with Bob Foster and Roy Thorp Apps, they negotiated the acquisition of the nose of a C-54/DC-4 airliner as an exhibit. This type of aircraft was the back-bone of the Berlin Air Lift in 1948 - 49 and over 1,100 major checks were undertaken on C-54s at Burtonwood during the Air Lift. This is now mounted on a frame alongside the Heritage Centre and used as a major memorial for the Air Lift being fitted out internally as a museum in itself.

Thanks to Gulliver's World, we now operate the magnificent RAF Burtonwood Heritage Centre which, prior to the pandemic emergency, attracted thousands of visitors, school parties, aviation groups, women's Institutes and similar organisations. Special exhibitions and action weekends are held annually drawing large numbers of visitors. Hopefully, once the current lock-downs are eased, we will be able to get back to normal and Keep the Memory Alive!

John added: "Special mention must be given to the efforts and work of former U.K. Association Presidents, Dave Goulden and Pete Boardman, who were integral to the expansion and development of the Centre on the Header House site.

Their dedication and drive helped secure the move to our current site at Gulliver's World and with it the longevity of the RAF Burtonwood Heritage Centre."

Next month - Preparing to open up after lockdown! (Fingers crossed)



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College rugby players aim to convert opportunity

A trio of college rugby players from Warrington have been placed on a talent pathway they hope will lead to playing at the highest level of the women's game.

Shakira Westwood, Hattie Dogus and Izzy Hughes – all members of Priestley College's Rugby Academy – are on the RFL's government-funded Diploma in Sporting Excellence (DiSE) programme.

"This is an incredible opportunity for all three girls," said academy coach Lee Mitchell.

"They will get to train with other top athletes of their age as well as work towards a diploma that will carry weight when applying for university places."

The programme is aimed at talented young players who have been identified through regional Rugby League hubs across the north of England and south-east.

Those accepted learn what it

takes to compete at the elite level, including technical and tactical elements of the games as well as physical and mental preparation.

The girls were among 30 who attended their first training session at Weetwood Hall, the England Rugby League Performance Centre.

Priestley's rugby programme is run in partnership with Warrington Wolves and in 2020 was named the UK's first Dual Academy in recognition of how well both the girls and boys were doing.

The boys' team went through their last season unbeaten while the number of girls playing has more than doubled from nine to 20 this year.



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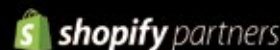


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By David Watkinson

WatkinsonBlack examine whether SUPER DEDUCTIONS will help you recover from the pandemic



Margaret Black and David Watkinson

Hopefully, we are now all beginning to look forward to a continued return to normality after the horrendous year which we have all just endured, and the government are encouraging us all to look forward. In Rishi Sunak's Budget Statement on 3 March, he put in place some fiscal tax measures that he hopes will encourage investment and kick-start the economy in readiness for the post-pandemic and post-Brexit era, one of the most important of which was the **super deduction in respect of expenditure on capital investments**.

The remainder of this article, of course, only applies to businesses and not to people in employment. There are also two other very important exclusions. **Firstly, both the super deduction and the 50% First Year Allowance for special rate pool plant and machinery discussed below are only available to companies, so sole traders, partnerships and LLPs do not qualify.** Secondly, these reliefs are also only available for contracts entered into after 3 March 2021, **so projects that have already been committed to before or during the course of the pandemic, and that may have been mothballed for obvious reasons, will not qualify.**

The **super deduction** allows companies to claim a **130% first year allowance (FYA)** for investment incurred on 'main pool' items of plant and machinery acquired in the period between **1 April 2021 and 31 March 2023**. This

includes the more obvious items of plant and machinery like manufacturing equipment, machines and computers, but it also extends to items of main pool plant and machinery that are fixtures in properties.

Investment in new plant and machinery may also include some construction expenditure incurred on new or refurbished buildings. The super deduction may also be available for a proportion of these expenses. This point is often overlooked but it could be a stimulus to commence building works in the period.

As well as the super deduction is a **50% First Year Allowance** for expenditure incurred on special rate pool items of plant or machinery, which includes integral features, solar panels and thermal insulation. There are three further conditions that apply to both the super deduction and the 50% FYA:

- Both are only available for plant and machinery that is new and unused;
- Neither applies to assets purchased second-hand; and
- Relief is time apportioned for accounting periods that straddle 1 April 2021 and 31 March 2023.

There are also two very important caveats and omissions that might make the super deduction less attractive than at first sight.

Firstly, the measures are **not**

available to landlords investing in the construction of new property or the refurbishment of existing premises. Omission of such a large sector that could, in turn, have a stimulating impact on many related sectors of the economy in the supply chain supporting the construction industry may be an unintended consequence of the legislation as it seems to be contradictory to the intention of the measures.

Secondly, **long-life assets and cars are also excluded**, but vehicles not deemed to be cars, such as vans, motorbikes etc. that are used for trading purposes, are within the scope of the measure.

The measures only apply to expenditure incurred from 1 April 2021 until 31 March 2023 so companies will only receive the FYAs during the time when the 19% corporation tax rate applies.

Clearly, the next two years may not be that profitable for a lot of companies as they emerge from the pandemic period. However, even if the level of profits might not warrant the need for increased levels of capital allowances over the next two years, claiming the first year increased capital allowances may lead to a tax loss. When the corporation tax rate increases to 25% from 1 April 2023 (or the expected marginal rate of 26.5% for companies with profits between £50,000 and £250,000) any losses incurred in the next two years can be carried forward into

the more punitive tax rate periods, thereby reducing the effects of these future tax increases.

Another major consequence of the application of the super deduction and special rate FYAs relates to disposal values **when assets are sold or disposed of**.

Items of plant and machinery are ordinarily added to a pool and writing-down allowances of either 18% for main pool items, or 6% for special rate pool items are claimed from the pool. Assets that are disposed of reduce the total relevant pool amount and therefore the allowances claimed. However, because the super deduction and 50% special rate measures are FYAs, they are not pooled and, therefore, when an asset is sold in the period up to 31 March 2023 then that could result in an immediate balancing charge, with 130% of the cost being clawed back and declared as taxable income.

In conclusion, the super deduction measures could provide a very positive stimulus for investment in the UK economy as it attempts to recover in the next two years and beyond. However, as made clear in the article above, there are a number of points that need to be considered if companies are to take maximum strategic advantage of the relief.

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Woolston Rovers appoint new Community Development Officer



WOOLSTON Rovers Rugby League Club has announced the appointment of player Dom Ball as their new Community Development Officer.

This is an exciting new role that is aimed at reaching out to the local community in several different ways to encourage greater engagement with the club and show how inclusive and innovative the sport of Rugby League is. If the last 12 months have taught us anything it is that we all need each other and having more community involvement can only be a positive."

Pete Bowden, Junior and Youth Chairman said, "I believe this is a fantastic opportunity to promote our club and show how inclusive and innovative the sport of Rugby League is. If the last 12 months have taught us anything it is that we all need each other and having more community involvement can only be a positive."

Open Age Chairman Steve Moore added, "The appointment of Dom Ball into the role of Community Development Officer is an exciting one for me. I believe rugby league should be at the heart of any rugby-playing town. We at Woolston Rovers want to interact with the whole of the Woolston community and I believe that Dom, who is a current Rovers player and

has experience working within Warrington Wolves Foundation, is the perfect person for this role."

Reflecting on his appointment Dom said, "We have been able to show over the years the large part that Woolston Rovers have played in using sport to keep more young people engaged in physical activity within their local community. This role will allow me to introduce the club to new and more diverse areas of involvement by getting more people involved in the great work going on at the club without necessarily having to pick up a rugby ball. I will be pushing to expand the club's engagement with the wider community groups through the use of sports, arts and inclusion. Now more than ever is the perfect time to show the local community what we can offer to them and how much we would love to have them involved in what we do. Becoming a hub for people in the community to get involved, be healthy, and feel safe."

Cricket set to start subject to Covid restrictions

THE start of the cricket season in the Warrington area has been provisionally set for April 17 – subject to Covid-19 restrictions.

In the RSK Cheshire County League, division one, Grappenhall will travel to Marple for their first match while Warrington will travel to Congleton.

First home game at Broad Lane will be Grappenhall 2nd v Ashton on Mersey while at Warrington's Walton Lea ground the first game will be the 2nd XI v Upton.

The UKFast Cheshire Cricket League is also set to start on April 17 with Appleton travelling to Heaton Mersey and Lymm Oughtrington Park entertaining Winnington Park in the first division.

Fixtures in the lower divisions have yet to be finalised but opening matches are expected to also be on April 17.

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Art & Design students secure fantastic offers at a host of universities



Warrington & Vale Royal College has a history of running successful art programmes which has nurtured the talents of young artists, helping them to progress onto a range of exciting destinations.

This year, we celebrate three exceptional young students who have all secured offers at university and have shown a real dedication to their work. All have had to overcome the challenges of lockdown, including being away from the studios in college and fellow peers, working from home with limited access to materials, and having to create a portfolio of work to be assessed in their UCAS applications.



Zsafia Piukovity
Graphic Design,
University of Bolton

Zsafia Piukovity, a Level 3 Art & Design student, has secured an offer to study Graphic Design at the University of Bolton. The former Beamont Collegiate Academy student says she has thoroughly enjoyed studying at college, commenting: "The course is really varied allowing you to experiment with hands-on techniques such as crafts and embroidery, as well as digital techniques. It has definitely helped to prepare me for university and it's a great foundation for further study. I really recommend it."

Kirsten Jolley
Architecture,
Northumbria University

Level 3 Art & Design Foundation student, Kirsten Jolley, has secured an offer to study Architecture at Northumbria University. Speaking of her time at college, the former Sandbach County High School student says: "There is a focus on you as an individual. The tutors recognise your strengths and help to nurture this. It's a great course for experimenting with different media and finding your own style."



Molly Horrocks
Photography,
Manchester Metropolitan University

Level 3 Art & Design student, Molly Horrocks, has secured offers at all four universities she applied for including her first choice, Manchester Metropolitan University. The former Padgate Academy student says: "I managed to achieve a Distinction grade in my work last year which I wouldn't have been able to do without my tutor Hazel's support. She has shown me new techniques to use in my photography and I've gained confidence in trying new mediums I didn't think I'd be good at."

A huge congratulations to all the students on their university offers!



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