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Editor's Comment



THE toxic world of politics is in full swing with the Local Elections looming large.

Having reported on many elections during my 40 year career, things have always got a little heated but things appear to have been going from bad to worse in recent years.

I've lost count of the number of political scandals which have been making the press in recent weeks, many of them from unnamed leaked sources within political parties, or their associates.

I'm not going to mention any particular incident as they have all been well documented elsewhere - all I will say is it hasn't been a very positive image for our town.

Meanwhile while some people may be wondering why we haven't reported on all the incidents, my policy has been and always will be, not to report on something unless I can verify the source.

Sadly some of my media colleagues in the national press don't take the same high moral ground - and then of course social media is a whole new ball game which has become the new political battle ground in recent years.

Personally I am politically independent and will always work and support those I believe are attempting to do their best in the local community.

Having served as an independent parish Cllr at Appleton, I have first-hand experience of this, although after three years at the coal face

I have decided not to stand again, with more pressing issues in my business and family life.

I wouldn't dream of trying to influence any of our readers on who they should vote for - although yet again most of the national media don't hold back on carrying the flag for a mainstream party.

My main fear this time round, while we are still in the midst of a pandemic, apathy will win the day and most people won't bother to vote.

As it is, it is rare to get more than 50 per cent turnout in a local election, unless it is in tandem with a General Election.

I believe in democracy and it is important that people turn out to vote for those they believe best suited to

represent our community.

To those seeking election, if successful, please try and avoid getting involved in toxic politics dishing the dirt on your colleagues or bad mouthing the opposition.

Please just focus on representing your community and showing us what you can do while holding those in power to account in a positive and constructive way, and if you have an issue to raise, put it to us in confidence.

Deadline for the June issue of Warrington Worldwide is May 18



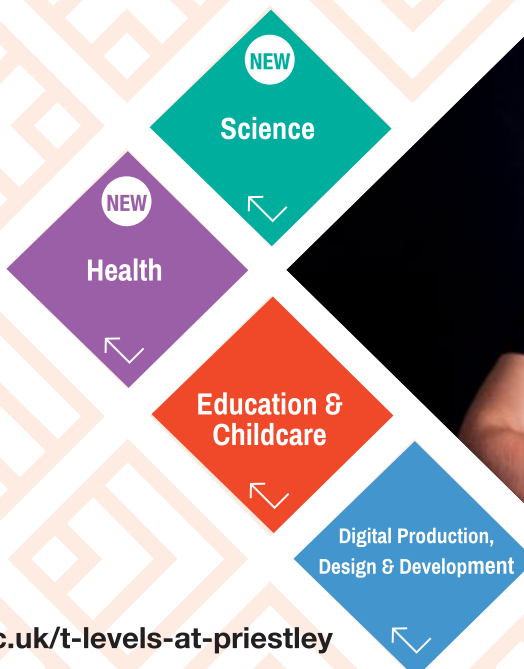
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Volunteers get the bug for tackling litterbugs!

VOLUNTEERS Paul Connor and James Coates have got the bug and big ideas for tackling Warrington's litterbugs and now the means to deliver them!

They jointly developed the "Litter Network" concept, and co-founded the Litter Networks organisation, which simply connects and empowers local communities to pick up litter.

The first Litter Network was launched in Lymm in 2020 and the concept has rapidly spread to already include 14 local networks across Warrington.

The total membership recently passed 1000 people and is still growing rapidly!

Paul said: "Warrington has a thriving community, which has for a long time organised occasional large-scale public litter picks, as well as including a number of amazing proactive individuals picking solo in their free time.

"It was always on our minds however that these models alone were not enough to get and stay on top of the growing litter problem we are all aware of.

"Something both larger-scale yet more flexible was needed. Covid-19 then came along and put a stop to those organised picks, accelerating the need for an urgent rethink allowing a larger-than-ever scale of collaboration without constraints on timing and location of clean-up activities."

The internet seemed to offer a solution and so Paul - a software engineer - and James - a former fire fighter, now a specialist in tackling environmental crime - got to work. The result was the concept of a community interacting via a repurposed Facebook group and accompanying web page, simply called a Litter Network.

As Paul explained further: "Each community - whether it be a village, a borough council ward, or otherwise - can have its own local Litter Network (LN). A key part of model is its simplicity.

Local people see, photograph, and post up litter hotspots as they are found, including location information where possible using What3Words. Then local volunteer litter-pickers see the posts and respond by clearing up the litter, or alternatively choosing where to pick themselves - for example on their daily walk. It is a wonderful way to connect people and integrate a community. Before and after pictures are posted up, which generates positive feedback in the form of likes and thanks, and so

local litterpicking becomes a self-reinforcing process!"

"Litter-picking is mindful and purposeful outdoor exercise", added James, "It is certainly unexpectedly rewarding and generates many positive comments from and conversations with passers-by. We are already seeing how it shows and further generates people's pride in their area and the town! It boosts physical and mental wellbeing for all who take part.

Local litter-picking groups are supported by Warrington Borough Council who by an agreed arrangement can collect large numbers of bags when necessary".

The statistics are really taking off. Winwick LN was formed in March 2021 and already has 200 members. An already-existing local team, the Tuesday Team, which works as a litter flying squad, is picking litter at four times the rate before lockdown. Organiser Tony Dixon explained, "We used to do two hours on a Tuesday, now we have a more flexible system, so we are out as solos, pairs, in different combinations many days of the week and so we have picked 1,600 bags already in the first 4 months of 2021, compared to 1,000 bags in the whole of 2020!". Different groups can combine for larger projects, for example Latchford's LAAMA, Tidy Latchford and Latchford Litter Network have worked together to provide basic pickers to the Community in Latchford. Westbrook and Callands LN, Winwick LN and the Tuesday Team recently collaborated to the Sankey Valley Trail under the M62.

It is a growing movement and is only going to get better. There is a positive can-do buzz about it.

With the population approaching 225,000 all of Warrington must work together to enforce standards. Dashcam evidence of littering from cars will produce prosecutions. Many people are looking forward to the arrival of AI-based Littercams. Some groups working with landowners are looking at catching fly-tippers registrations using hidden wildlife cameras, so you have been warned!

You can find out more about Litter Networks, including finding your local Litter Network and contacting Paul and James, at litternetworks.org!



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Advertiser's announcement



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As the end of the third and hopefully final lockdown is now approaching, our thoughts are turning to holidays and for many this will mean a staycation in the UK.

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Well, rest assured that BAS can provide you with everything you need to make this possible and it really is easier than you think!

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If you think a towbar mounted bike carrier would be the best option for you, but you don't currently have a towbar fitted, this isn't a problem as BAS have been supplying and fitting towbars for over 40 years. Fitting is available at both our workshop in Warrington and as a mobile service, so it can be completed at your home or place of work and most towbars

only take half a day or less to be fitted.

We have a fully stocked showroom located at Cyclehouse in Warrington (behind the rugby stadium), so you can come in and have a look for yourself. One of the friendly members of staff will be able to offer lots of advice and guidance, making sure that you get the right product for you.

Also, did you know that Cyclehouse is one of the country's largest specialised electric bike retailers? In the last couple of years there has been a huge boom in the sales of electric bikes and there are many reasons for this. Electric bikes are ideal if you are not quite as fit or as active as you used to be, allowing you to still enjoy the freedom and benefits that cycling brings. They are also great for those killer hills, just to give you that extra boost! We also offer three different carriers which are suitable for electric bikes, so we've got you covered if you wanted to take them with you on your staycation.

Come and visit us at our showroom at Cyclehouse or you can contact the office on 01925 640730 or visit our website www.basnw.co.uk to find out more.

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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Warrington ranked as a top five build-to-rent property hotspot

HOT on the heels of being ranked the number one place to live and work, Warrington has now been rated as one of the top five hotspots for developers and investors to build-to-rent (BTR).

The town has been identified as one of five areas in the UK for BTR growth, according to research carried out by BTR provider Wise Living, following continued growth for the sector throughout 2020.

Build-to-rent is still a relatively new market in the UK, but it continues to boom as demand rises for quality rental homes. It refers to developments and homes that have been purpose-built by developers or property businesses for renting. Once built, these properties will then be managed by a landlord or a property management company who will oversee the communal areas and maintenance of the homes.

Wise Living's research criteria focused on a number of key factors that indicate a city or town's BTR potential. This included the rental market in each area, the rental availability per 100,000 of the population, government funding and BTR investments in the planning

stages, under construction or complete. It also considered the quality of education by Ofsted rating and the density of each location's population.

Warrington ranked fourth on the list after rating highly against Wise Living's research criteria. The town already has BTR developments in planning and under construction. A 161 residential scheme which will see the redevelopment of two former school sites on behalf of the council is already under construction. Other BTR plans have been put forward in recent years including for a 362-bed scheme forming part of the £190m Stadium Quarter regeneration area.

The town also has 77 rental properties per 100,000 and 47 good and outstanding rated schools or places of education. Warrington received £22.1M from the government in 2020 as part of its Town Deals. The funds will be put towards helping to utilise vacant



spaces and restore areas of the town – making it an attractive proposition for investors and developers looking at potential sites for BTR in the area.

Stoke-On-Trent, Norwich, Peterborough and Hull make up the rest of the top five.

Paul Staley, Director at Wise Living, says the areas its research has identified may come as a surprise to some but that trends away from big city living makes locations like Warrington, good opportunities for developers, investors and, most importantly, tenants. He says:

"In 2020 there was a clear trend for suburban living. Rental demand in the bigger cities and town centres shrank due to the impact of the pandemic, which has led to more people working from home and not needing to live close to work – instead people have more freedom to choose where they live.

"It means renters searching for quality properties are now looking in the suburbs of smaller cities and towns where it is quieter, they have easier access to green space and quality education for their family. We saw

this first-hand in 2020 with a number of our BTR developments, including in Mansfield in Nottinghamshire, where the first phase of our Old Brewery development was completely reserved online in a matter of weeks.

"That's why the likes of Warrington, where BTR developments are already underway, are big opportunities for investors and developers looking to grow their portfolio in the BTR market."

The latest available data for the UK BTR market makes for good reading. In Q3 of 2020 there were 37,000 units under construction and around 84,000 in planning in the UK – with over 90,000 estimated to have been in planning by the end of 2020. Many of these units are for apartment blocks in town and city centres, which is why Wise Living continues to deliver quality BTR homes to undersupplied suburbs.

Despite the challenges last year, the BTR market continued to show its resilience and demand for quality rental homes across the UK remained high and is expected to in 2021.

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New Sales Director appointed at Vistry Partnerships



LEADING Warrington-based regeneration specialist Vistry Partnerships has announced the appointment of Gemma Hardy as its new Sales Director for the North West region.

Having worked in the industry for more than 18 years, Gemma has a wealth of experience, and she joins the team from Jones Homes where she worked her way up to Sales and Marketing Director, having previously held the position of Sales Manager.

Gemma will join Vistry's regional office based in Warrington and has expressed her enthusiasm for the new role: "I am thrilled to be joining Partnerships at such an exciting period in its history. From bespoke communities to large regeneration projects, Partnerships' North West has continuously led the way in delivering new homes and I am looking forward to growing with the business as we increase the mixed tenure offering and sales outlets across the region."

Vistry Partnerships' Divisional Managing Director for Central and North, James Warrington, commented: "With a wide range of projects under development, our North West business unit is an



John Laverick

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essential part of the Division and Gemma will play a central role in delivering the homes which support our growth aspirations for the region."

Gemma's appointment is part of a broader recruitment drive for Vistry Partnerships as the businesses looks to strengthen its workforce. Over the past few weeks, the North West team has added several employees to its ranks across all departments.

On average, 27% of Vistry Partnerships employees are female, and Gemma's appointment reflects the business' commitment to encouraging women into the construction industry.

Warehouse to become food manufacturing plant



PLANNING chiefs at Warrington have agreed to amend existing warehousing proposals at the Omega South development site – despite objections from nearby residents.

The amendments will enable Gousto, a firm supplying home-cooked meals in boxes, to set up a manufacturing facility employing 1,700 full and part-time staff working in shifts around the clock.

Residents had objected because of fears of increased congestion at Junction 8 on the M62 and that Kingswood Road and Burtonwood Road would be unable to cope with the increased traffic.

They also believed there would be increased light, noise and air pollution. Warehousing development was carried out some time ago when the end-user of the buildings was not known. At that time a purely storage use was envisaged.

But now a rapidly expanding firm supplying fresh, home-cooked meals wants to move in – requiring a number of amendments to the approved plans including increasing the number of parking spaces from 289 to 428.

The company has two existing manufacturing facilities elsewhere in the country, producing 120,000 food boxes each a week. The Omega facility will be capable of scaling up to 240,000 boxes a week and will be their main distribution centre.

Warrington Borough Council planning officers recommended the application be approved. They say the additional parking provision is acceptable given the more technically advanced and labour-intensive use of the site now proposed as part of a £40 million investment.

They say the proposals will not prejudice the quality of the originally approved development.

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Belvoir Warrington team scoops hat-trick of awards as Franchise of the Year

THE team at Belvoir Warrington is celebrating after scooping a hat-trick of awards including national title Franchise of the Year 2021!

Belvoir recently hosted its Annual Awards 2021 in a unique virtual event, with Gary and Amanda Pemberton and the team at Belvoir Warrington scooping the prestigious title of Belvoir Franchise of the Year.

The Award ceremony was run via a special invitation-only Zoom meeting, with franchisees and Central Office staff 'dressed to impress' in order to celebrate the efforts and achievements of everyone throughout the challenges of 2020.

Belvoir CEO Dorian Gonsalves said: "I would like to thank Andy Halstead, CEO of Let Alliance, which was the main sponsor for Belvoir's 2021 Annual Awards, as well as Belvoir's Franchise Director Ian Maclean for his organisational skills. Most of all I want to thank every single one of Belvoir's franchisees for everything they achieved last year. Everyone has worked tirelessly for the past 12 months to protect their clients and their staff, and in my opinion, each one of them deserves an award."

"Last year was Belvoir's 25th anniversary as a franchisor, and since that time we have had 24 years of unbroken profit growth. The Belvoir family came together in 2020 and last year we grew

every single part of our business, which is a fantastic achievement. I would like to thank everyone for all of their commitment and hard work, which has been key to our success."

"A panel of judges at Central Office deliberated long and hard on who the winners of the Belvoir awards should be, which was no easy task. Congratulations to all of the winning franchisees, and to their teams, who should be very proud. I must give a special mention to Paul Wallace-Tarry from Belvoir Shrewsbury, who won the Belvoir Lifetime Achievement Award, which was sponsored by Zoopla, in recognition of all that he has achieved over the past 20 years with Belvoir. On the other side of the timescale, congratulations must also go to Barry and Winnie Crooks of Belvoir Macclesfield, who won the Gold Best Newcomer Award, sponsored by HSBC, after just a year with Belvoir."

"Many other amazing achievements were recognised but Gary and Amanda Pemberton and the team at Belvoir Warrington scooped a hat-trick, winning the Belvoir Online Reputation Award, and the Gold Outstanding Customer Service Award, sponsored by Yomdel. This couple is very worthy winners of the top

title of Belvoir Franchise of the Year 2021, sponsored by Let Alliance, and we wish them and their team every success for the future."

Speaking after the awards, Gary said: "My wife Amanda and I were genuinely totally surprised and delighted to win these awards! We always hoped we would do well in the customer service awards, so to win the Online Reputation award and the Gold Outstanding Customer Service award was brilliant, but when Belvoir Warrington's name was read out as the winner of the Belvoir Franchise of the Year award, we

were absolutely ecstatic!"

"We have always placed enormous importance on customer service, and we spent our time during lockdown refining the customer journey. This is very much a team effort, and when we told them the news everyone was over the moon and incredibly proud of what they have achieved. This has been a very tough time for everybody and winning the top title has been a real boost to morale."

Belvoir Warrington's offices are situated at 49 Sankey Street, Warrington.



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Planners approve 10 storey apartment block

PLANNERS have approved proposals for a 10-storey residential apartment development with a rooftop garden on Mersey Street in Warrington town centre.

Members of Warrington Borough Council’s planning committee approved the new build scheme submitted by Architectural practice Falconer Chester Hall, which will provide a 10 storey, 80 apartment development complete with residents’ rooftop garden and two commercial units on the ground floor.

The existing buildings on site will be demolished to make way for the new scheme that has been designed for CPP Holdings UK Limited.

“The materials palette selected for this development, which includes aluminium cladding, bronze aluminium windows and perforated panels complements the local area, whilst tying the proposed scheme into the newly developed Bridge Street Quarter” said Mike Gore, Director at Falconer Chester Hall.

“This residential development will bring a vibrancy to the area and will hopefully encourage further investment and regeneration. We are delighted that planning permission has been granted at the planning hearing”, added Mike.

Geoff Underhill managing partner at Abacus Solicitors in Stockton Heath and spokesperson for CCP Holdings UK Limited commented: “Warrington is changing rapidly and our project will add to the momentum being built around Time Square and from the council’s wider regeneration plans. We’re pleased that the planning committee shared our vision and will now be discussing with housing associations and registered providers how they can participate in the scheme.”

Joseph Connelly of Abacus Solicitors advised on the project. Other consultants on the scheme include Zerum (planning), Layer Landscapes (landscape architecture) and Evolve Project Consultants. Abacus Solicitors provided legal advice to the developer.



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New life for historic fashion chain founded in Warrington

ORIGINALLY founded in Warrington by Albert Frank Peacock in 1884 as a true Victorian Penny Bazaar, collapsed fashion chain Peacocks has been bought out of administration, a move that includes transferring 2,000 jobs and 200 shops.

It means the other half of the 400 stores trading at the time of the chain's collapse last November will not reopen as Peacocks.

Founded in Warrington by Albert Peacock as a family business with his founding principle of value, Peacocks developed a successful business that continued to grow throughout the twentieth century.

It was more recently owned by Edinburgh Woollen Mills (EWM) and the new buyers are an international consortium, led by Peacocks' former chief operating officer, Steve Simpson.

EWM Group is a private investment group controlled by the Day family, which is owed money by Peacocks and is supporting the consortium.

A statement from the administrators, FRP, said the collapse of the chain was due to "the devastating effects of the Covid-19 lockdown" on the business.

The Peacocks' management team hope that, with the support of their partners, suppliers, and landlords, they will be able to reopen up to 200 stores.

The statement added the company hoped all 1,850 store staff, who are currently on furlough, will be able to return to work once stores reopen, along with more than 150 in head office and support.

A similar deal was set in place with EWM and Bonmarche brands, while another of EWM's brands, Jaeger, was sold to Marks &

Spencer, which intends to run it as an online-only business.

Peacocks had 400 stores going into the pandemic a year ago and announced a series of job losses and store closures as it struggled to manage under the various restrictions.

Peacocks had two stores in Warrington at one time based on Bridge Street and at Birchwood Shopping Centre, two of more than 200 closed nationally in March 2012, although the Birchwood store re-opened before closing again last year.



Warrington revealed as the Number one place to live and work in the UK

NEW data has revealed Warrington as the best area to live and work in the UK, balancing a high quality of life and job density, with low living costs, with an average rental property of just £600 p/month.

With the Stamp Duty holiday extension and 5% deposit schemes announced during the 2021 Budget, many buyers are looking for a new home and the day of the Budget was Rightmove's busiest, with over 9 million visits to the site in just 24 hours.

Now new research conducted by mortgage advisors has revealed the best places to live in the UK – with Warrington coming out number one!

Job prospects, affordability, and quality of life were the three main factors used in the research, with a total of eight metrics used, including the percentage of income spent on rent.

The team at RM Mortgage Solutions ranked 181 of the largest towns and cities across the UK on how attractive they are to people looking to relocate.

Overall, Warrington was ranked as the best place to move to in the UK, with a happy population, good job prospects, and low rental costs propelling the town into top spot.

Each area was individually assessed with a total of eight metrics:

- Job Prospects – number of roles available, versus number of working population residents. A score of 1 means there is one job for every working-age person.

- Affordability – the average monthly wage in the area, versus the average monthly rent in the area. This is summarised using rental costs as a percentage of income.

- Quality of Life – a score based on self-assessments of how residents in each area feel using four factors – life satisfaction, anxiety, worthwhileness, happiness. These are ranked and average to create a

quality of life score out of 403.

- All data is from ONS, Nomis, StatsWales and gov.scot.

The overall five best areas to move to in the UK are:

- 1 – Warrington
- 2 (tied) – Warwick
- 2 (tied) – Derby
- 4 – Crawley
- 5 – Tewkesbury

And the five worst:

- 1 – Eastbourne
- 2 – Harrow
- 3 – Tamworth
- 4 – Gosport
- 5 – Braintree



Caring store worker named a "Retail Hero"

A 20-year-old Warrington store supervisor who eased pressure on his colleagues and supported the needs of his local community during the pandemic has been named a Retail Hero.

Will Graham from Sankey Bridges has worked at the Old Hall Spar mini-market for the past 17 months. Thanks to his selflessness, positive nature, and can-do attitude, he has been awarded an accolade in the inaugural Quinyx Workforce Heroes Awards.

Despite challenging circumstances including more workload pressures from increased cleaning protocols, policing of customers wearing face masks as well as re-routing and limiting numbers of shoppers in the store, Will's colleagues described him as "a great support", "very positive", "always there to help" and someone who "genuinely cares."

Celebrated for going over and above for his colleagues by covering shifts and supporting those facing hard times, Will has become very popular with customers, especially elderly shoppers.

Will said: "Because of COVID we saw a pattern of customers visiting us more regularly, as they couldn't get to the larger supermarkets or they were worried to visit them for fear of contracting the virus.

"The mini-market has become a real community hub. For a lot of people during lockdown, it has been their only chance of interaction and so it's nice to see regular faces and build relationships. Many of the elderly shoppers walk through the door and ask for me. As well as chatting

about their day, I help reach higher products off the shelves or carry their bags – taking the time to get to know them has been nice and I'm happy I can make their days a bit brighter."

Store manager Victoria Telfer nominated Will for the role.

She said: "Will always has a smile on his face. He is so conscious of those around him – be that his colleagues or customers and he is genuinely interested in making sure they're ok. It's really refreshing."



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Looking for help with Coronavirus Business Loan Recovery support?

By Nigel Garner



Launched on 6 April 2021, the Recovery Loan Scheme (RLS) provides financial support to businesses across the UK as they recover and look to grow following the coronavirus pandemic.

Businesses can apply to RLS for any business purpose including managing cashflow, investment and growth between now and 31 December 2021 (subject to govt review).

We can provide funding up to £10M by offering Term Loans, Overdraft facilities, Invoice Finance and Asset Finance. The minimum advance under RLS is £1,000.00 for asset and invoice finance; £25,001.00 for Term Loans and Overdrafts.

Term Loans and Asset Finance facilities can range from terms of 3 months up to 6 years; Invoice Finance and Overdraft facilities have terms from 3 months to 3 years.

If you are borrowing less than £250,000 then we will **not** require any personal guarantees. Over £250,000, then Personal Guarantees may be required, however, the maximum amount that can be covered under RLS is capped at 20% of the outstanding RLS balance after the proceeds of business assets has been applied. **No** Personal Guarantees can be held over Principal Private Residences.

Any UK business that has been affected by the pandemic can apply for RLS, there are no turnover restrictions, however, if your business has already benefitted from either the Bounce Back loan or CBILS facility then this may limit the amount you can borrow under the RLS.

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Proud Warrington florist honoured to provide flowers for Royal funeral



A florist from Warrington supplied flowers to Windsor Castle for the funeral of HRH The Duke of Edinburgh.

Ruth Long, of Honey Bee Florists, was commissioned to produce a wreath fit for a Prince that was first formally presented at the Castle gates before being moved to St George's Chapel so it could be personally inspected by HM The Queen.

In the days running up to the funeral, Buckingham Palace had asked mourners not to travel to Windsor for fear of causing a Coronavirus outbreak in the town. So, instead, a short ceremony and wreath-laying was organised for those unable to attend in person.

Ruth was asked to design the tribute because, unknowingly, she had a connection to Windsor Castle. She had provided the flowers for the funeral of Loretta Walker earlier this year. Mrs Walker was from Lowton, but she was a regular at Royal events and was a member of the Royal Enclosure at Ascot.

Her son, Andre Walker, is also one of the Wardens of Windsor Castle Lodge.

Andre said: "It might seem odd to ask a florist in Warrington to supply flowers for a Royal Funeral in Windsor but that is not the way we saw it. This wreath was on behalf of people unable to attend in person and it had to be perfect despite the limited time.

"This was a very serious occasion and this work had to be done to the highest possible standard. It was clear to us that Ruth could be relied upon to design and produce a truly exceptional tribute."

Ruth's design was a 28-inch wreath, in blue and white, a reference to The Duke of Edinburgh's birth place of Greece. Roses were used in a reference to the traditional English Tudor rose but in white only to maintain the overall colour scheme.

Orchids – which are rare and hard to grow – were placed to represent the rarity of Royalty and the standards of duty he maintained throughout his life. The wreath was finished with the inclusion of thistles to represent The Dukedom of Edinburgh, and a collection of heather to represent the Scottish Highlands.

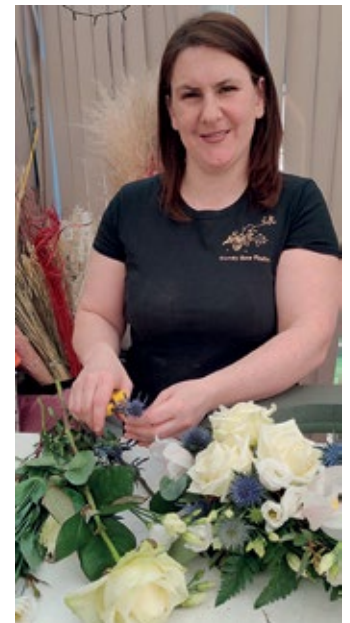
The presentation ceremony was covered by both UK and international

media. The wreath remained at the gates of Windsor Castle for one day, before it was moved to a private part of St George's Chapel. This was to enable The Queen to view it, and other significant tributes, without breaching the Coronavirus two-meter distance rule.

A proud Ruth said: "Producing a tribute to The Duke of Edinburgh was a huge honour for me, but as a florist I know that at the heart of every funeral is a grieving family. My job is always to help that family express their love for the person who passed, that is as true for The Queen as it is for anyone else.

"Normally I would meet with the family and discuss what they want, but in this case that was not going to be possible for obvious reasons. So instead I picked flowers that I felt represented the life of The Duke of Edinburgh.

"I wasn't told that the flowers would be personally viewed by the Queen until after it happened. But I cannot tell you how much that means to me. She's an amazing woman, and I feel proud that I had the chance to make her feel a little bit better on the worst day of her life."



Memories wanted for exhibition on the development of Padgate during New Town era

LOCAL residents with memories of the Padgate area of Warrington during the development of the new town in the 1970s and 80s are being invited to share their memories for a special exhibition this summer.

Organised by curator Su Fitzpatrick, the exhibition will hopefully take place at Padgate Library subject to Covid restrictions being lifted.

Padgate library was designed as part of the area's New Town expansion in the 1970s. To celebrate the Library's re-opening, a free exhibition all about Padgate's experience of New Town expansion in the 1970s and 80s is being organised.

Photographs from the Warrington and Runcorn Development Corporation archive have been digitised especially for the exhibition, but in addition, organisers are looking for help from local residents to contribute their memories and photos.

Do you have photographs of neighbourhood life covering the late 1970s up to the 1990s that you are willing to share?

Are you able to take a good quality picture of your photos and send them

into the project? In addition, would you like to write down your memories and reflections and send them in so they can form part of the exhibition display?

Whether it is your own personal recollections of the beginnings of the New Town era in the 1970s or those of older family members, or whether you would like to contribute your thoughts on how the new town expansion changed Padgate, organisers would like to hear from you.

Please consider sending your responses to some or all of the questions below that apply to your experience as direct messages to the Days of the New Town facebook page: www.facebook.com/daysofthenewtown alternatively go to the project blog: www.daysofthenewtown.wordpress.com and use the contact tab to leave your responses.

Did you move to Padgate during the New Town expansion of the

1970s into the 1980s? If so, can you recall what your first impressions were of the area? What attracted you to the area?

Were you or family existing residents of Padgate? How do you think the New Town expansion changed the area?

What did you think of the Development Corporation's design for the residential areas and recreational green spaces of Padgate at the time in the 1970s?

How do you think the Development

Corporation's design for the residential areas and recreational green spaces has evolved over time? Have they withstood the test of time?

Do you mind being named in the exhibition as a contributor, or would you prefer your contributions to remain anonymous?

Would you be happy for Curator Su Fitzpatrick to contact you to follow up on any of your responses? If so, please consider leaving an email address or phone number.



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Readying for reopening

The Evolution of the RAF Burtonwood Heritage Centre (Part 3)

By Rebecca Cotterill



It's safe to say that the past 12 months have been anything but ordinary for pretty much everyone and the same is true for the RAF Burtonwood Heritage Centre. A global pandemic and three national lockdowns has meant that the Centre has been closed to visitors since the 23rd March 2020. However, that isn't to say that the team haven't been busy!

After 6 months of doing what little work they could from their garages, living rooms and lofts, the team of volunteers, together with Heritage Centre manager John Cotterill, returned to the Centre following the second lockdown, in November 2020 and have been renovating, repairing and expanding, in preparation for when they are given the green light to reopen.

Existing buildings have been given a new lease of life; new timbers have secured the structures, whilst an enormous amount of effort and some 12 gallons of olive drab and black paint has brought the displays back to standard.

In addition to sprucing up existing exhibits, over 350 square feet of additional space has now been filled with new displays depicting the Base Hospital, Airfield Lighting, a 1940s kitchen and Engine Repair Section. This work has ensured that items that have been in storage for years, will rightfully be able to be seen by visitors.

The team have also been diligent in their efforts to make sure that the Centre is as safe as possible, for when it is able to open up again; introducing covid-secure measures and areas, in order to protect volunteers and visitors alike.

Thanks to receiving a heritage

lottery grant, as part of the government's Culture Recovery Fund, as well as the continued support of Gulliver's World, the RAF Burtonwood Heritage Centre has been able to secure its survival through the enforced closure due to Covid-19, something which may otherwise not have been possible.

The hard work and efforts of the team, has guaranteed the longevity of the Centre and they are looking forward to welcoming back visitors soon, with the 17th May 2021 marking a possible date for reopening.



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Disability charity launch 30th Anniversary Challenge

TO celebrate their 30th year Warrington Disability Partnership has launched an Anniversary Around The World Challenge.

With a circumference of 24,901 miles no one at Warrington Disability Partnership could cover that distance individually, but with the help of members and supporters, collectively they are planning to cover the distance in a variety of challenges and sponsored events – with the motto – “Every mile counts in our 2021 challenge!”

This year, 2021, is WDP’s 30th anniversary year, and their challenge this year is teamwork.

Founder Dave Thompson, who helped launch the charity after breaking his neck in a freak sporting accident more than 30 years ago, said: “We want to get everyone working together to achieve the team goal, to cover the equivalent of one lap around the world.”

“Everyone can join in, any way they can, in whatever way they choose, and have a lot of fun along the way too. We already have supporters who have volunteered to run half marathons, ride thirty miles on a bike, take a series of sponsored dog walks, and much more. We also hope participants will take photos and videos for us, so that we can compile a scrapbook of the year, and spread the message worldwide.”

It couldn’t be easier to join the challenge. There are two ways you can participate. You can either make a personal donation of £10 or more

and carry out a personal challenge of between one and ten miles. Or, you can sign up as a fundraiser, if you think you can raise £30 or more through sponsorship.

Everyone who takes part as either a personal donor or a fundraiser will receive a medal, a certificate, and the charity’s heartfelt appreciation.

Fundraisers who raise large amounts will receive additional gifts such as one of their limited edition T-shirts.

Dave, who is now the charity’s Chief Executive said: “Please join the team to support us in our work to help local disabled people. Let’s make our 30th year one to remember.”

For further details about this challenge please contact the team on 01925 240064 or by email c.thompson@disabilitypartnership.org.uk

*Trustees Bill Bradley, 5,000 mile cycle challenge and Gary Skentelbery, 30 half marathons (Over 400 miles) running in a year, have already signed up for the challenge!





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C A R P E D I E M

Financially yours

By David Watkinson

You must claim the fourth SEISS grant by 1st June 2021 or lose it!



Margaret Black and David Watkinson

Applications for the fourth Self Employed Income Support Scheme (SEISS) grant are now being accepted. The SEISS is available to anyone who is self-employed or a member of a partnership and whose trading has been impacted by coronavirus. You cannot claim the grant if you trade through a limited company or trust. This fourth grant covers the period February to April 2021. If you are eligible then you only have until 1st June 2021 to apply.

Applications for the grant cannot be made by an agent but must be made by the affected taxpayer. If you wish to make a claim then you will need:

- Your self assessment Unique Taxpayers Reference (UTR) number
- Your National Insurance number
- Your Government Gateway User ID and password, and
- Your bank sort code and account number, together with the name and address linked to that account

One major difference between this grant and earlier ones is that it is open to people who became self employed in the tax year ending 5th April 2020. Earlier grants were only available to people who were self employed at 5th April 2019.

To be eligible to receive the grant you must be able to meet the following criteria:

- You must have traded in both 2019-20 and 2020-21 tax years
- You must have submitted your

2020 tax return by 2nd March 2021

- Your trading profits on that return must not exceed £50,000
- Your trading profits must equal or exceed your non-trading income, and
- You must
 - o either be currently trading but suffering reduced demand because of coronavirus
 - o or have been trading but are temporarily unable to do so due to coronavirus

Finally, **you must declare that:**

- You intend to continue to trade, and
- **You reasonably believe that there will be a significant reduction in your trading profits** due to reduced business activity, capacity, demand or inability to trade due to coronavirus. **This is a second very important change to the qualifying criteria for this grant!**

HMRC have stated that the decision as to whether you had a reasonable belief that profits would be reduced must be the taxpayer's decision and not theirs. However, they have stated that they will be checking on whether the grant has been correctly claimed, and have produced guidance on what they would expect to be taken into consideration by the taxpayer in forming their belief. This is available at www.gov.uk/guidance/how-your-trading-conditions-affect-your-eligibility-for-the-self-employment-income-support-scheme#examples.

One example given is of a café which can only provide takeaways due to government restrictions. The fact that the café is unable to provide seated accommodation to customers might be the basis of a reasonable belief that profits will be reduced and thus enable the owner to claim the fourth grant. However, if the owner has increased prices to compensate for the reduced demand then there would then be no reasonable belief, and the owner would be unable to claim.

In deciding whether there has been a significant reduction in profits there is no need to take into account any other form of government assistance such as grants received under the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme. Also, if a claim is made and then demand and profits subsequently recover then this would not disqualify the trader from the SEISS grant as he would have had a reasonable belief at the time of the claim.

If you are suffering reduced activity, in addition to the normal self-employment record keeping requirements you will need to keep any evidence of your reduced activity, capacity or demand. This evidence could be business accounts showing the reduction compared to prior years, details of cancelled contracts or appointments, and/or a record of the dates when you had reduced demand due to government restrictions.

Of you are temporarily unable

to trade then you should keep records such as a record of the dates you had to close due to government restrictions, a copy of communications from NHS Test and Trace instructing you to self-isolate and are unable to work from home, and/or a copy of a positive coronavirus test result.

The grant is set at 80% of 3 months average trading profit, and is capped at £7,500 in total.

To make a claim you should go to www.gov.uk/guidance/claim-a-grant-through-the-self-employment-income-support-scheme and click on the "Start Now" button.

HM Revenue & Customs have produced a webinar which explains the aim of the scheme, who can apply, how much you may be entitled to, how to claim the fourth grant, and what happens after you've claimed. Details of this and other HMRC webinars can be found at www.gov.uk/guidance/help-and-support-if-your-business-is-affected-by-coronavirus-covid-19

Hopefully, we may be reaching the end of this long-running series of articles on the effects of Coronavirus and the help available to reduce its impact. We look forward to being able to concentrate in future on more mundane matters such as tax allowances and rates! Meanwhile, please stay safe and healthy.

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Wolves star Chris Hill helps Sarah realise her property dream



WARRINGTON Wolves star Chris Hill has helped teacher-turned-property developer Sarah Corrie-Pearce realise her property dreams with her first major development.

Sarah's successful conversion of 119 Columbus Ravine, a large old guesthouse in Scarborough, into three high-spec two-bedroom apartments has required the new developer to overcome many challenges, personal and professional.

Building relationships with property professionals has given Sarah the opportunity to create a network of trusted, professional and experienced contractors including Warrington Wolves star prop Chris Hill who co-runs and owns Warrington-based Immerse Kitchens and Bathrooms.

In working with Chris, Sarah has found a close collaborator for the plumbing, kitchen and bathroom work at 119 Columbus Ravine. In Chris, Sarah has also found a kindred fighting spirit, as the England and Great Britain international got into plumbing when he left Leigh in 2012 to join Warrington, training two nights a week for three years on a course partly funded by the Rugby League.

"I've always had an eye to the future," says Chris, 33, whose Warrington testimonial match was on March 19th, "as it's just one bad tackle and your career's over."

Sarah and Chris had an instant rapport after being introduced by her quantity surveyor, Stewart Egan of Egan Quantity Surveying.

Sarah added: "Being introduced to Chris has been the icing on the cake and it's proved invaluable working with him and his team to enable me to expand the specification and finish whilst working within the budget."

Fortunately, Sarah has also been able to fall back on the support of her team of Egan Quantity Surveying, Infiniti Scaffolding, Roofing & Construction and Your Investment Our Priority. With their expertise Sarah has adapted the redevelopment as it took shape allowing her to fully realise her vision for Columbus Ravine.

In the second-floor apartment, her team had to think on their feet as Sarah decided to create a larger living space for the kitchen and living-room, which meant the unplanned removal of an old bedroom wall.

"Then when we took another wall back to the brick it revealed a structural problem with short lintels which meant we had to replace the

lintels and strengthen the wall. It's been one thing after another," she laughs.

One of the biggest obstacles to fully realising Sarah's vision has been overcoming the tired old look of the building from the outside where the legacy of numerous waste pipes from the old guestrooms was only too obvious.

With the waste pipes now removed, the three apartments have been rendered a homely buttermilk colour which contrasts nicely with the sharp lines of the new anthracite window frames.

"It's been a lot of perseverance for us to get this far but it's helped us to create a really prominent detached block. Let's face it, if I wouldn't live in it why should anyone else have to?"

"I've always just gone with the flow but you need the hide of a rhino to succeed in this!"

You also need passion, and Sarah has clearly got that in spades in a story where her enthusiasm for her new career and the people she works shines out bright and clear.

"You know what, we've done all this together in the time of Covid, in the middle of a pandemic - taking a run down, tired, lovely old Scarborough property six months ago and turning it into something for the 21st Century."

"It does actually feel like a Cinderella story."

Another key attribute Sarah is bringing to the property party is professionalism and ambition at the heart of her Sourced Scarborough business, which covers an area from Whitby to Hull.

She was attracted to the Sourced franchise model because of its structured, no-nonsense peer-to-peer platform that allows property developers to fund projects and investors to become armchair investors with a fully transparent route for their return on investment.

With Columbus Ravine valued at £180,000 and development costs of £85,000, Sarah was able to cover most of the £265,000 through investors at Sourced who will receive an investment return of between 10% and 12%.

With all three refurbished apartments now sold to a single investor Sarah is looking for her next projects.

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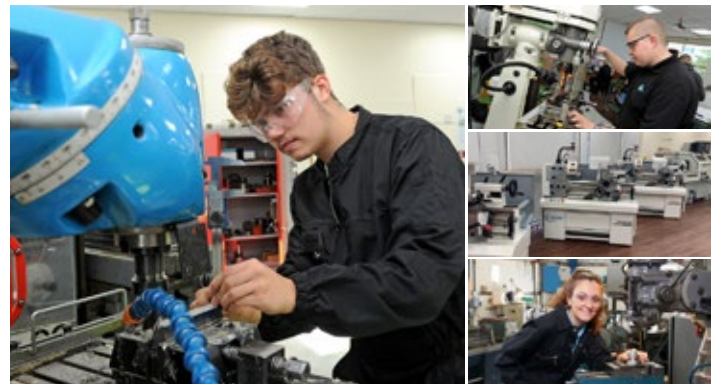


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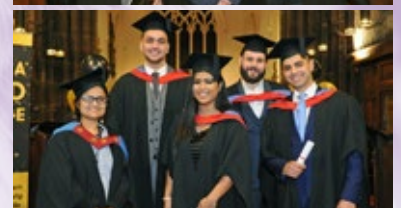
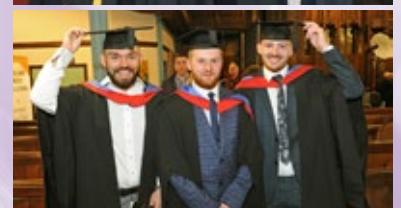
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Warrington & Vale Royal College

DISCOVER PSYCHOLOGY DISCOVER SPORT DISCOVER SCIENCE DISCOVER FINE ARTS DISCOVER
DISCOVER LAW DISCOVER LEADERSHIP DISCOVER RADIOGRAPHY DISCOVER
DISCOVER SOCIAL WORK DISCOVER COACHING DISCOVER GRAPHIC DESIGN DISCOVER