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# Editor's Comment



CONGRATULATIONS to everyone at Warrington Rylands Football Club on their amazing achievement lifting the FA Vase at Wembley.

Backed by news of promotion to the Northern Premier League following a league restructure, winning at Wembley was the icing

on the cake.

With a fairytale hat-trick for striker Elliott Nevitt, who the previous weekend had been scoring the winning goal in a Sunday League final, it really does prove dreams can come true.

A lot of work has been going on behind the scenes at Rylands to move the club up the football pyramid and it will be great to see two footballing brands in the town,

two footballing brands in the town, alongside Warrington Town.

Meanwhile, Warrington Wolves are just one game away from reaching their 7th Challenge Cup Final in 12 years - and what a great boost for the town if they can pull off a sporting Wembley double this year! It will certainly bring some much-needed cheer for sports fans who are now back in Stadiums after a lengthy lockdown during the COVID pandemic. COVID pandémic.

Turning away from sport the Local Elections brought some changes at the town hall, as the Tories made some significant gains to become the new opposition party

on Warrington Borough Council.

After a number of years as the only Conservative, newly appointed group leader

Kath Buckley, now has 10 new colleagues.

It wasn't a particularly good election for Labour who also lost out to the Independents at Penketh, while the Lib Dems lost out to the Tories in Appleton.

In what can only be described

as a toxic election campaign on various fronts, let's hope a line can now be drawn in the sand on all fronts and our locally elected representatives can put their differences to one side and all work together for the good of our town.

It was certainly good to see
Warrington South MP Andy Carter
and Labour leader Russ Bowden
involved in dialogue at the election





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# Dreams do come true as Rylands take next step on journey

By Garry Clarke

DREAMS do come true after Warrington Rylands 1906 won the Buildbase FA Vase at Wembley beating Binfield 3-2 on the next step of the club's journey.

Backed with promotion to the Northern Premier League and now just one division below neighbours Warrington Town, club owner and well-known sports agent Paul Stretford sees it as the next step on the club's journey.

It was a surreal experience for those who have been following Rylands, a team not so long ago which played their games in front of the proverbial one man and his dog, now playing at the National Stadium.

Stadium.

Teams like Rylands, a works team from Orford, do not generally get the chance to play at Wembley.

Their opponents Binfield, from a small village (population 8,000) in the Bracknell Forest probably thought much the same thing.

But play at Wembley they did.

But play at Wembley they did, and what a treat they put on for their fans who had managed to secure a ticket to watch their team play in the flesh for the first time this

Cup finals are often dour affairs between two nervous teams not wanting to take any risks, however this one as anything but. Any jitters soon disappeared as play switched from end to end as control of an open and entertaining game ebbed and flowed between committed to attack.

The destination of the Vase came down to a shoot-out between two goal-hungry centre forwards.

In the blue corner Elliot Nevitt, in

the red Liam Ferdinand.

Nevitt struck first in the 24th minute volleying home from close Ferdinand leveled header three minutes before halftime but Nevitt restored his



Club owner Paul Stretford with Manager Dave McNabb. Picture: John Hopkins

sides lead a minute later from the penalty spot. After the break Nevitt doubled Rylands advantage in the 58th minute with a powerful header before Ferdinand scored again in the 66th minute to set up a nervy finale.

Named man of the match Nevitt, who scored the winner in the FÁ Sunday Cup Final a week earlier, and his teammates managed to hold out to bring the FA Vase back to Warrington for the first time in the competition's history.

In fact it is the first time any Warrington team of the round ball variety has won a major national football competition.

Lifting the Vase was the culmination of probably the most significant week in the club's 115year history as earlier in the week their elevation to the Northern Premier League was confirmed as part of the FA's league restructure.

part of the FA's league restructure. While for many winning a cup final at Wembley is the culmination of a dream for Warrington Rylands 1906 it is just the first step on the next stage of their journey.

Stretford, who has spent the past 3-4 years making the club "fit for purpose" to enter the national league system in the Northern Premier League praised the fantastic achievements of his management team Dave McNabb and Fraser Ablett and those who had stepped out across the whitewash. out across the whitewash.

In a recent interview with the BBC he said: "We have an exceptional group of players on board and

great spirit.

"When we started this journey we set out ambitious plans for getting into the national league structure. With the first stage now completed it is the beginning of the

next journey. Describing Warrington as footballing town, with one of the biggest junior league setups in the country, Stretford praised the work of neighbours Warrington Town for this with the flast flast the street of the flying the flag for football in the town and was looking forward to a future derby, with capacity for two teams to be supported in it.

"If we get promotion it means we have completed the next stage of the journey and can look forward to a derby. Of course that could happen if Warrington Town gets relegated – but I would rather us get promoted," he said.



Manager Dave McNabb with hat-trick hero Elliott Nevitt - Picture: Mark Percy.





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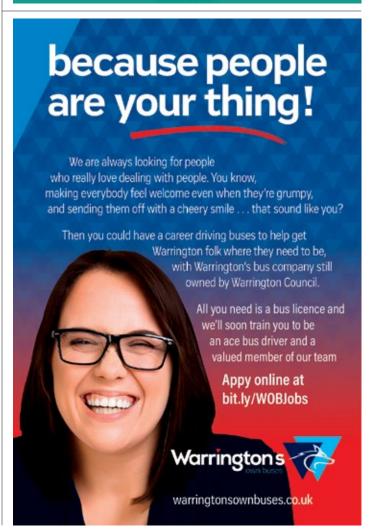


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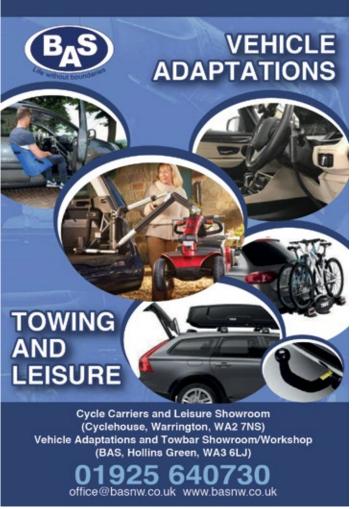
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# Walking Day postponed again due to COVID-19 pandemic



# WARRINGTON'S annual Walking Day will not be going ahead this year, following last year's postponement due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The decision has been made by the town's Walking Day church and school leaders, following extensive consultation with participating organisations led by a senior member of the clergy.

organisations led by a senior member of the clergy.

Warrington Walking Day is one of the town's most iconic events in the calendar but was cancelled in 2020 due to the coronavirus pandemic. The event has again been postponed this year, but is set to resume in earnest in 2022.

to resume in earnest in 2022.
Revd Canon June Steventon,
Rector of Warrington and chair
of the Walking Day Committee,
said: "Cancelling Warrington's
Walking Day this year has been a
very disappointing and extremely
difficult decision, but after consulting
with all of the participating schools
and churches, we have decided
that we will resume the historic
annual event in 2022.

"We are very hopeful that the national roadmap out of lockdown continues to be followed so that further restrictions can be eased next month. However, given that we cannot be certain about what exact restrictions will be lifted in June,

we also therefore cannot plan with certainty for Walking Day this year and so the regrettable decision to cancel the event has been agreed between all parties.

"We are committed to ensuring that next year's event is bigger and better than ever – and we are very enthusiastic for what I'm sure will be a very poignant Walking Day in 2022."

Mayor of Warrington, Cllr Maureen Creaghan, said: "It is a pity that Walking Day is cancelled again this year, but I understand the huge amounts of time, resource and planning normally necessary to make it a success.

"In these far from normal times, even with the hope of restrictions continuing to ease and the vaccine programme being rolled out successfully, I understand why the decision to postpone this year's event has been made.

decision to postpone this year's event has been made.

"We support the decision of our church and school colleagues and I look forward to next year's event, which I am sure will be extra special."





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Warrington Business

# College becomes centre of excellence in advanced manufacturing and engineering

THE Warrington campus of Warrington & Vale Royal College has become a centre of excellence in advanced manufacturing and engineering.

After the successful launch of the Advanced Manufacturing & Engineering Training (AMET) & Centre at Warrington & Vale Royal College's Winsford campus, the next phase of the project is underway and will see the specialist centre launching at the college's larger site, Warrington campus this September.

There has never been a better

There has never been a better time to study for a career in engineering and manufacturing. According to Prospects.ac.uk, there is sector-wide skills shortages there is sector-wide skills shortages meaning trainees will have ample job opportunities. Additionally, engineering and manufacturing is one of the UK's broadest growing sectors with almost 5.7 million people working in engineering in the UK, accounting for just over 19% of all UK employment.

Thanks to a £656,000 funding grant from the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) and support from local employers, the new AMET Centre will be fitted out with a range of specialist equipment designed

of specialist equipment designed for materials measurement, testing and analysis, and join the college's AMET Centre in Winsford to

enhance the provision of digital and manufacturing skills across Cheshire and Warrington

The AMET Centre will support and train students in applying smarter manufacturing techniques and Industrial Digital Technologies (IDTs) such as robotics, industrial control and digital intelligence. There will be a focus on Mechatronics and Metrology at Warrington campus, with the curriculum developed in line with demand from local manufacturing and engineering businesses located in and around the town. The AMET Centre will work in close collaboration with local employers who have voiced a need to digitalise their manufacturing processes and are keen to upskill their current workforce and recruit skilled employees.

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Warrington Business

# Warrington Market helps validate mood for optimism

by John Laverick - Warrington & Co

I was not sure if I should have been concerned for my own sanity at the end of last year, as I seemed to be quite optimistic about this year.

But it seems that redemption for my soundness of mind has come in the odd and unexpected shape of the Warrington & Co Property

By the time this article is read, Warrington & Co will have held its Annual Property Review and whilst

this is a hard core, industry focussed review, I was struck by the sense of optimism in it about Warrington.

Views from both Centre for Cities and the property experts who contributed to the review seemed to chime well with the sense of optimism expressed last year.



# Priestley College students learn about NHS careers

MORE than 70 students took a step towards their dream jobs during an NHS Careers Day at Warrington's Priestley College.

Members of the Health and Social Care cohort took part in the virtual event run by Cheshire and Warrington Pledge. Priestley's work experience co-ordinator, Pam Gardner, said: "The aim of the day was to raise awareness of more than 300 roles within the NHS.

"It was a chance for our students to look at entry routes into these careers and hear what the speakers thought were important aspects to

thought were important aspects to consider when applying for the

Those who took part were able to ask questions of the speakers via an online chat. The experts included a GP, physio, healthcare assistant and paramedic along with people in non-clinical roles such as IT and administration.

Kesia Jimmy, who studies Sociology and Religious Studies alongside Health and Social Care, said the day had helped her make who

some decisions about her future.

"I wanted to find out from different healthcare professionals what the experiences of their jobs have been like," said the former Cardinal Newman RC High School

pupil.

"Before this event I was thinking about going into adult nursing, but now I am keeping my options open and exploring different careers in the NHS."

the NHS."
For former Bridgewater High School pupil Joe Evans the highlight was hearing from a paramedic about what it takes to do the job.
"It provided me with crucial information that I will take on board when applying to university," said Joe, who is studying Applied Science with Health and Social

"I hope to become a paramedic with St John's Ambulance service because I like the idea that no two days would be the same and the work environment would always be fast-paced.



The Centre for Cities once again confirming that Warrington has a strong economy that has only marginally been affected, and economically at least, we should only see a short term Covid-19 related impact.

In keeping with good scientific practice any theory should be tested against experiment and empirical

The best I can offer by way of validation of the sense of optimism is Warrington Market.
Granted It's not a standard test, but its availability to all and broad

but its availability to all and broad appeal does give it a certain uniqueness in gauging optimism in relation to the Town Centre.

Recently the Makers Market returned to Warrington with a bang, being hosted in Time Square with incredibly high attendance rates and vibrant town centre feel.

There were concerns raised

There were concerns raised about social distancing but also huge amounts of positive feedback in relation to having activity back in the town centre

So we seem to be emerging from the hibernation of winter and the hibernation of Covid. But we're not all out of the woods yet.



John Laverick 01925 442 243

www.warringtonandco.com

As I write it is 15 Degrees, but the forecast is for snow next week so not quite sure to put the jumpers away or get the thermals out.

And we have the strange position of some people having been vaccinated and optimistic -jumpers away, and some not vaccinated and so maybe not so much – thermals out.

And this is I think our major challenge over the coming years. How do we deal with the uncertainty that this halfway house brings and how do we live our daily lives in an ever changing landscape. Or is this nothing new?



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# University receives green light to move into town centre

THE University of Chester has been given the green light by planners to deliver education to the heart of Warrington town centre at a building that is currently empty in Time Square.

Warrington Borough Council planners have granted permission for the University, currently based at Padgate campus, to move into the premises in Time Square in between the Cineworld Complex and The Botanist.

The University has received planning permission for change of use of a unit in Time Square to F1 class (learning and non-residential institutions) which it is now leasing. It has also completed the purchase of a property on Barbauld Street.

The University, which will now be relocating over the next 18 months, starting this September, says its plans will support the UK's recovery from the pandemic by providing opportunities for adults to further develop the skills needed for wellpaid employment throughout their

This reflects the pledge made by the Government to revolutionise skills and training opportunities in the Queen's Speech and will also result

refurbished and equipped to be operational from mid-September 2021 and is to be the 'shop front' for the University in Warrington. It will host an information point for members of the public to engage and understand the learning opportunities available from the University. It will also include bookable learning

space for students with laptops and digital resources, breakout spaces for seminars and a small lecture space for talks and events. This town centre location will also work with partners to showcase the opportunities available for both learners and businesses and will include offers from Further Education partners and key business support programmes, such as the Accelerate skills such as the Accelerate skills programme, working with Cheshire and Warrington Local Enterprise Partnership.

It is proposed that the former office It is proposed that me former office building on Barbauld Street currently called 'Mersey Bank House' will house the majority of the teaching provision, namely Education and Nursing, and will be renamed the 'Sarah Parker Remond Building,' which was announced to coincide with International Women's Day

(March 8.)

The University has decided to name its new building after Sarah Parker Remond (1826-1894), a prominent anti-slavery and women's rights campaigner from America, who after arriving in Liverpool, was hosted in Warrington and gave a series of lectures at Warrington Music Hall and the Red Lion Hotel. Remond's first lecture, free to enter, was described by contemporary accounts as the best-attended public event in the town's history and following the lecture series she spoke of the reception and sympathy she

had found in Warrington. Remond's speeches and writings also speak of her wider commitments to education, human rights and women's suffrage and her later career as a doctor enabled her to put these into action.

By naming the building after Remond the University signals a continuing link with Warrington and the local community, whilst supporting and promoting the supporting University's University's mission, vision and foundational values, which have such resonance today.

Professor Eunice Simmons, Vice-Chancellor, said: "The University's desire to grow its Warrington presence in the heart of the town is aligned to its Citizen Student strategy and purposeful' experience to its learners. The town centre location helps to realise the ambition to broaden the reach and accessibility of the University in Warrington whilst supporting Warrington Borough supporting Warrington Borough Council to focus on areas of growth, providing strategic support for the post-COVID economic and cultural

recovery."

Warrington Borough Council's
Cabinet Member for Economic
Development and Innovation, Cllr
Tom Jennings, said: "This is great
news for the ongoing growth of the
heart of our town. The purchase of
the Mersey Bank House building by
the University of Chester will serve
as another excellent addition to a
bustling town centre and will bring bustling town centre and will bring footfall and further business to Time Square and other businesses in the

area. "This move complements the University's recent announcement that it will be establishing a new information and learning hub at Time Square. Their decision to establish key academic locations in Warrington is testament to the in Warrington is testament to the in Warrington is testament to the tremendous progress being made here and is another really important step forward, as we continue the development of our town centre."

No official statement has been issued on the future of Padgate Campus although it is expected the site will be sold for housing.









# Firefighters who rescued woman from River Mersey receive Queen's Commendation for Bravery

TWO firefighters from Warrington have been honoured with a Queen's Commendation for Bravery after putting their own lives at risk rescuing a woman from the River Mersey.

Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service's Nigel Quarmby and Colin Burgess were recognised with the commendation for their

efforts in rescuing the woman from the River Mersey in 2018.

Based at Warrington Fire Station, the crew were alerted at around 9.10pm on Saturday 22 September following reports of a woman threatening to enter the

River.
While at the scene, the woman fell into the water and became caught up in the fast-flowing Mersey.

Despite the obvious risk to life, Firefighter Quarmby and Firefighter Burgess entered the water using a line secured to the waterside in order to move closer to the woman.

Unfortunately, she had already been swept away by the current and the rescue line was not long enough.

Firefighter Burgess used himself as the tether for Firefighter Quarmby to wade into the water to provide enough line to reach the

Both firefighters managed to pull the woman from the water and take her to safety through deep mud and poor visibility.

Due to the quick thinking and

determinedness of Firefighter Quarmby and Firefighter Burgess, they saved the woman's life.

They were both nominated for the accolade and received their commendation following approval of the George Cross Committee.

A gallantry award recognises those who have put their lives in danger to save the life of someone else. The recognition is judged on the degree of risk, how aware the nominee(s) were of the danger to themselves and their persistence to

save the person.
Chief Fire Officer Mark Cashin said: "The service is extremely proud of the quick thinking and brave actions of Nigel Quarmby and Colin Burgess on the evening

of 22 September 2018.
"This was a high-risk incident where a life could have been lost. Thankfully, a woman's life was saved due to the actions of the

watch and particularly Firefighter Quarmby and Firefighter Burgess.

"They both showed courage and determination in the most difficult of circumstances and they accepted significant risks to their own safety

to save someone's life.
"I was delighted to present the watch with a Chief Fire Officers Commendation in recognition of their efforts and for Nigel and Colin to receive such high recognition as the Queen's Commendation for Bravery is very well deserved.





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# Abuse survivor mum launches her first book

A SOLO mum, abuse survivor and empowerment coach from Warrington has launching her first book, Time to Ignite – The 5 Step Mindfulness system to improve your well-being and ignite your spark.

Louisa Herridge, 41, (pictured) from Woolston, will, in doing so be raising money for the Countess of Chester Hospital Maternity Ward. Louisa, writer, speaker and founder of Mamas Ignited hopes the book will help her continue her mission to inspire other mums. She has quit teaching in the midst of the pandemic to launch her project -

supporting other mums especially those who, like her, have suffered trauma – to find their spark, so that they can turn up the dial on living lives they actually love.

Last year, Louisa collaborated in a book called "Pride – motivation and inspiration for women juggling motherhood and busines's in April this year, she took to the

stage as a key speaker at a global entrepreneurial event, BEE Inspired, sharing her journey and her knowledge worldwide. She said; "I felt empowered after writing my story of survival, when it was públishéd – the feedback I got from readers and strangers reaching out to me about how it had inspired them – I accepted and believed that I could inspire other women.

In the first stages of last year's andemic, Louisa developed pandemic, Louisa developed beyond the classroom and trained mindfulness and relaxation coaching, sharing the wonder and healing that simple mindfulness can bring with the power of connecting the body and mind. Initially working with children, Louisa soon realised that actually mums were in the most need of support, as due to lockdown, women's mental health was suffering - and this concerned

Louisa.

Through launching Mamas Ignited, Louisa was able to reconnect with mum-of-three Becks Jones who she had originally met on maternity leave whilst living in Wirral. Having supported each other through the early years of motherhood, Louisa and Becks lost touch when Louisa relocated from Wirral to escape her abusive partner. partner.

Connecting again via social media, Becks was inspired by

Louisa's story. She said: "I think Louisa's strength, with what she has been through and now what she is achieving is just incredible.

trauma. The year after losing her mum, she became a one in 100 statistic, losing her son Oscar in statistic, losing her son Oscar in 2018, when he was stillborn at Countess of Chester Hospital. Living with the grief of losing her son, Becks has set up Oscar's Mission as his legacy.

In March, Becks announced that she would be taking on her biggest challenge yet. On May 28, she will be Stand Up Paddling the 100km of the Wirral Peninsula over three days – raising awareness of

three days – raising awareness of stillbirth and fundraising for the Countess of Chester maternity unit.

To donate to Oscar's Mission https://www.justgiving.com/ fundraising/oscarsmission









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By Nigel Garner

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# LiveWire's weightloss bootcamp Fit To Tackle returns after lockdown



LiveWire has relaunched its popular weightloss bootcamp Fit To Tackle after lockdown – with participants already losing 35kg between them in the first three weeks.

The 12-week programme has relocated to the outdoor pitches at Great Sankey Neighbourhood Hub due to its usual home of Halliwell Jones Stadium being used as a Covid

vaccination site.

Around 40 people are taking part in the weekly bootcamp, which is split into two separate groups, one male, one female – all of which take place outdoors and socially distanced.

Tom Kearney, LiveWire Lifestyles
Advisor and Fit To Tackle coach
said: "It has been great to have
Fit To Tackle up and running again
following our recent timeout. With
the support of the FTT mentors, and
a dedicated private Facebook group, after three weeks participants have lost a combined total of 35kg, and are already seeing improvements in their fitness.

"The sessions at Great Sankey Neighbourhood Hub are going really well and are equipment free using body weight exercises. There are also weekly challenges set such as step counts and home workouts to help keep everyone motivated in between the sessions. It's looking set to be another fantastic programme and we can't wait to see how everyone progresses over the next couple of months. We know Fit To Tackle makes a real difference to the mental and physical health of those taking part so it's brilliant to be back.

Participants will also receive guest passes to Livewire leisure sites to allow them to try gym workouts – which could inspire them to continue on their fitness journey after the programme ends.

Local firm Countryside Properties have provided participants branded Fit To Tackle t-shirts.

branded Fit To Tackle t-shirts.

Matt Bass from Countryside
Properties said: "After a difficult
year which has really affected
leisure providers like LiveWire it is
great to see Fit To Tackle helping
to get people back to some sort of
normality. Countryside is keen to
help in the local community and
being able to provide kit for Fit To
Tackle is one way to do this so it's
a pleasure to be able to support this
fantastic programme that makes a fantastic programme that makes a real difference to people's mental and physical health."

## Noah's Ark theme for interactive display



NOAH'S Ark will be the theme for the week 12th to 17th July at St Paul's Church

Penketh, supported by other churches in the area.

There will be a series of seven interactive displays with words, pictures, videos, objects and activities for adults and children, with opportunities for fun and learning as you go around.

"We began planning this during Lockdown and saw how much the story has to say for our time: a crisis, a threat, a solution involving faith and action, confinement and finally a new world," said Joy Holmes, one of the project's leaders. The rainbow is a part of the story in the Bible. Its seven colours speak of the beauty of diversity." She added, "This is one result of how church members coped with the pandemic: by making it a time for preparing for the future. Of course, it has been a challenging time but also a time when faith has been such a help."

a help."

Another church member, Marilyn Layfield, said, "We have been reminded that Church is not just a building as many activities have continued online and many people found their private prayer and Bible reading more meaningful."

In addition to St Paul's Sunday services, which can now be experienced in the flesh as well as on Facebook, the Thursday morning LifeTime event has continued on Facebook and Whatsapp throughout the pandemic and will be resuming in church from Thursday 24th June, while the Oaks café has been open from Monday 17th May.

Under present covid restrictions, people are required to book in advance for any on-site events. Please contact Churchwarden Margaret Bennett on 01925 722375 for events in the church, or the Oaks office on 01925 486955 for those at the Oaks.

those at the Oaks.

# Vaccination heroes receive special awards from High Sheriff

THE High Sheriff of Cheshire Robert Mee DL has praised the tremendous work of staff and volunteers at Warrington vaccination sites where he delivered special awards.

The High Sheriff visited both Halliwell Jones Stadium and Orford Jubilee Hub, to deliver a thank you speech and to present an award to staff and volunteers at both vaccination sites.

The visits were to commend the incredible contribution they have made to their local communities as part of the vaccination programme. The High Sheriff of Cheshire said:

"It's my great pleasure to recognise the incredible teamwork of staff

and volunteers at Warrington's GP-led vaccination sites. Since the of the year, their efforts have potentially helped save thousands of lives. All our communities will be forever thankful. It is my privilege to present a High Sheriff Award to

Dr Rakhi Raj, a GP and Clinical Director of The East Warrington Primary Care Network, who greeted The High Sheriff at Halliwell Jones Stadium said:

"It was an incredible honour to receive a visit by The High Sheriff of Cheshire today. He was able to meet the Clinical Directors, GPs, vaccinators, paramedics, co-ordinators, pharmacists and volunteers – all of whom have played an important role in the successful delivery of our local vaccination programme."

Dr Laura Mount, a GP and Clinical Director of Central and West Warrington Primary Care Network who leads the Orford

Jubilee vaccination site added:

"It is exactly six months ago since the first Warrington resident receive their COVID vaccination. Since then, our staff and volunteers have gone above and beyond to run scores of vaccination clinics for our local communities. Today's visit was a chance to reflect on what has been achieved during this time and recognise the efforts of those behind the scenes who have contributed so much to the programme."







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# The work continues



## The Evolution of the RAF Burtonwood Heritage Centre (Part 4)

By Heritage Centre manager John Cotterill



As we head into the summer months, we are continuing with our preparations towards the reopening of the Heritage Centre. Sadly, due to technicalities within the Covid regulations for our particular business, this reopening has been put back a little further, but we are hoping that by the end of June we will be able to open up our doors to the public, once again.

We are however, in a position to welcome back school groups, within class 'bubbles' and are looking forward to having the first school visit for over 18 months, at the end of May, with more schools hoping to join us through June.

On top of this we have once again been working with Barrow.

On top of this we have once again been working with Barrow Hall Primary School, helping to set up their "Burtonwood Week", where the children spend the week learning about RAF Burtonwood. Something which is particularly relevant for the children at Barrow Hall, with their school locating at the end of one of the old runways. As part of this we have successfully managed to squeeze our jeep (the last official jeep from RAF Burtonwood) into the main corridor of the school, as a centre piece for their display, which features several other artefacts from the Heritage Centre. This year's "Burtonwood Week" was a huge success and the opening day of celebrations was covered by Granada Reports.



We were hoping to be able to combine this week, with our Reunion week, as was the case in 2018, which saw returning veterans, who served at Burtonwood, visit the school and share their memories with the children. Unfortunately, due to the ongoing pandemic situation the reunion that should have taken place in May 2020 and was rescheduled for 2021 has once again had to be postponed. We are however hoping, that should circumstances allow, we will be able to arrange for our veterans to visit the school again next year. Although, we have been forced to stay closed for what is now 14 months, we have still been receiving many fantastic donations. Artefacts

Although, we have been forced to stay closed for what is now 14 months, we have still been receiving many fantastic donations. Artefacts such as: uniforms, previously unseen photographs recovered at the time the Base was cleared out prior to demolition, tools from the workshops, toolboxes and many more items. We are forever grateful for these donations, all of which help us to expand our current displays, so much so, we may well need to add another building! Please keep them coming.

It is thanks to, donations like these, the ongoing interaction with local schools and the expansion of

It is thanks to, donations like these, the ongoing interaction with local schools and the expansion of the Heritage Centre, that we are able to continue with what we set out to do in 1987 and that is to "Keep the Memory Alive".









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# Lymm Festival returns – with live events!

A little bit of normal life will be coming to Lymm village as Lymm Festival returns from June 24 to July 4, including the popular Historic Transport Day which will include a Spitfire flypast.

Last year's live events had to be cancelled due to the pandemic situation but a few virtual events were delivered with great success.

The organising group has worked hard to create a safe and suitable programme that nonetheless offers the usual variety of usual variety of events and vities. This will include online activities. and outdoor programming, but also plenty of socially-distanced indoor events that will appeal to those keen to get out of the house and back into

Whilst there will not be as many events as in previous years, there will be a mixture of old favourites together with some exciting new events, with a focus on local talent and community participation. There will be lots of music for every taste, comedy, art, literature and even some science that will fascinate all ages.

Special guest Eddie "The Eagle"
Edwards will be flying in to chat
about his unique experience as a
downhill skiing legend!
On the music side, there will be

some great blues, folk and even humorous music as well as classical.

The Eblana Trio, trained at Royal Northern College of Music, will give a string recital and there will also be a concert especially for children with The Story of Anansi.

Local resident and top crime writer, Martin Edwards, will be talking about how to write a crime story when he tells us "Howdunit" and there will be a presentation about "The Physics of Star Wars" by Professor Carsten Welsch from the Cockcroft Institute at Daresbury Laboratories.

Outdoor favourites such as the Historic Transport Day, Open Gardens and Scarecrow Trail will also be returning, with appropriate social-distancing measures in place. As always, there will be familyfriendly events including a Family Fun Day with lots of entertainment for

You can get involved in the Festival right now by submitting an entry for the Scarecrow Trail or entering our community Poetry Competition -prizes of up to £50 to be claimed!

Full details of these and all other events can be found on the Festival's website at lymmfestival.org.uk



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# Linancially yours

By David Watkinson

# Work expenses and tax relief rules

The rules that govern whether an employee can offset expenses against his taxable income, and get any tax repaid, are very stringent. To be tax deductible an expense must be "wholly, exclusively and necessarily" incurred "in the performance of the duties". Meeting these conditions are very difficult. The main obstaclés to be cleared are:

- 1. The expense must relate solely to the employment. The usual example given is the use of a personal telephone. If a business call is made on your home phone then the specific cost of the minutes used on that call can be claimed. However, no claim can be made for costs that would be incurred in any event such as monthly line rental, and it precludes claiming any part of bundled minutes.
- 2. The expense must be incurred in actually doing the work. The usual example given is the travel costs between your home and your usual place of work. These cannot be claimed as the duties only commence when you arrive at your place of employment so the expenses are incurred in getting you into a position to perform your duties. Similarly, training costs are generally not claimable.

3. There can be no choice about whether the expense is incurred. If the duties can be performed without incurring the expense then there is a choice and the claim fails as the expense is not necessary. The usual example is claiming for home expenses when you choose to work from home.

Working from home, however, is not always from choice. Since March 2020 it has been a government instruction that you must work from home if possible. This means that there no choice involved, and the expenses can be claimed.

HMRC is reminding taxpayers to submit tax relief claims for working from home due to coronavirus during 2021/22 via the easy to use online portal

So far this tax year more than 550,000 employed workers have already claimed and are benefitting from the tax relief, which pays £6 a week for home workers. If employed workers were told to work at home by their employer because of coronavirus and, as a result, their household costs have increased, they are eligible to claim the working from home tax relief.

HMRC received more than three million claims for the tax relief for the 2020/21 tax year.

general for customer services, said: 'Half a million people have already reduced their income tax this year by up to £125, by claiming tax relief on their working from home expenses. We want everyone who's eligible to benefit, so we've made it quick and easy to do online. Check if you're eligible and apply at gov.uk by searching 'working from home tax relief'. 'HMRC is continuing to help and support people to help and support people affected by the pandemic.

Myrtle Lloyd, HMRC's director

The online portal can be found at https://www.gov.uk/tax-relief-for-employees/working-

From 6 April 2020, the amount employers have been able to pay tax-free without employees having to provide evidence of an increased bill is up to £6 a week. Employees who have not received the working from home expenses payment direct from their employer can apply to receive the tax relief from HMRC. If the employee wishes to claim more than £6 per week then they will need to provide evidence of the increased expense.

Eligible employees can claim tax relief based on the rate at which they pay tax. For example, if an employed worker pays the 20% basic rate of tax and claims tax relief on £6 a week, they would receive



Margaret Black and David Watkinson

£1.20 a week in tax relief (20% of £6 a week) towards the cost of their household bills. Higher rate taxpayers would receive £2.40 a week (40% of £6 a week). Over the course of the year, this could mean taxpayers can reduce the tax they pay by £62.40 or £124.80 respectively.

Once an application has been approved, the online portal will adjust the individual's tax code for the 2021/22 tax year. They will receive the tax relief directly through their salary until March 2022.

If employees were required to work from home last year but did not claim for the tax relief, they have not missed out; HMRC will accept backdated claims for up to four years. They will receive a lump sum payment for any successful backdated claims.

Unfortunately, agents will not be able to use the online portal to apply for the relief on a client's behalf. The claim must be made personally by the taxpayer.

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



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Tel: 01925 413210

or email: info@warrington accountants.co.uk

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# Rugby Royalty launch Sharks Community Trust programme

A double helping of England rugby royalty was on show at Warrington's Sir Thomas Boteler Church of England High School, as two of the sport's most decorated stars helped launch a new Sharks Community Trust programme, Community Trust programme, designed to encourage girls to

get into rugby.
Sharks and England legend Jason
Robinson marked his return to the club as a non-exec director by joining England and Sale women's star – and fellow World Cup winner – Katy Daley-McLean at the launch of the Girls Tackle Rugby programme. The programme will run across ten rugby clubs and 40 schools across the north-west and coaches are aiming to work with around 3,000 girls from age 11 upwards.

Some of Boteler's Year 7 girls were treated to a masterclass from two of the sport's finest. Jason, who appeared more than 50 times for his country and scored a vital try in England's 2003 World Cup win, passed on his knowledge and showed off his famous quick feet to the girls. While Katy, who is England's third most capped women's player with 116 international appearances, demonstrated exactly why this programme matters as she told the girls about her rise to the top.

Katy, who is currently a player-coach at Sharks' women's team, said: "This kind of programme is absolutely essential if we're going to grow the women's game, both in

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terms of getting girls interested in the sport, but also providing a pathway to the top level of the game. I would never have been able to achieve what I have done without role models and without someone pushing me to get involved. If you can see it, you can be it. As a club we're committed to showing that rugby is truly a sport for everyone. We have so many role models across the men's and women's teams and we're passionate about telling people that rugby really is a sport for everyone. It was amazing to see how much the girls loved playing rugby. There was some real talent on show too.

Jason said: "Girls Tackle Rugby is just one example of the fantastic work this club does in the community through the Sharks Community Trust. I know what this game has done for me and I know the impact rugby can have on lives. I've gained a lot of experience in the 14 years since I finished playing and now I'm really excited to be back at a club where I can use that to make a difference. I can't wait to get out there to show people that this club, and this game, truly is for everyone."

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