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Printed by TwentyFourSeven

Editor's Comment



AFTER all the hard work and sacrifices made by many it was hugely disappointing to see Warrington become an "enhanced support package area" due to the rapidly rising cases in the town, driven by the Delta variant of COVID-19.

Warrington had been doing so well with new cases and hospital numbers down to near zero towards the end of May with real light at the end of what has been a very long dark tunnel.

The impact of the lockdown imposed after Christmas along with the vaccination programme was clearly making a big difference.

Now at the time of press, new infection rates in Warrington are

more than double the national average and hospital admissions are again going up and again, just like during Brexit, we are becoming a divided town and country with opinion becoming more and more divided on the advice of Government, scientists and public health leaders.

Now after all the hard work and sacrifices made by many it is more important than ever that we all pull

together as a community and work together so we can come out of this pandemic a stronger town.

My heart goes out to those who have lost loved ones, their businesses and their livelihoods and I can not even begin to imagine how they feel about some of the outpourings of COVID-deniers on social media.

For those working around the clock in the NHS and all the volunteers helping with the vaccination programme - keep up the good work and together we will come out the other side, hopefully in the not too distant future.

National award for headteacher

WARRINGTON headteacher Beverley Scott-Herron has won national recognition with a certificate of excellence in the Headteacher of the Year awards.

Mrs Scott-Herron, head of Sir Thomas Boteler CE High School received the award in the Pearson's National Teacher Awards, for secondary schools.

Michael Morpurgo, president of the Pearson National Teaching Awards wrote in his letter to Mrs Scott-Herron: "The work you do, day-in, day-out, is life-enhancing, life-changing. I am writing to congratulate you and to thank you. "You open doors, shine a light. You spend your working life passing

on to children all that you know and love. Your devotion to them, to colleagues, to the school you work in has been extraordinary. So, bravo you, bravo!"

Mrs Scott-Herron said: "This is completely unexpected. I do the job because I absolutely love it. We've just been through one of the most difficult periods ever in education and for people to take time to nominate me in such difficult circumstances is extremely humbling.

"I believe in my young people, the staff and whole school community. We've come so far as a school: and it's a team effort. I see this recognition as being for all

of us here; for how we change lives for our young people on a daily basis."



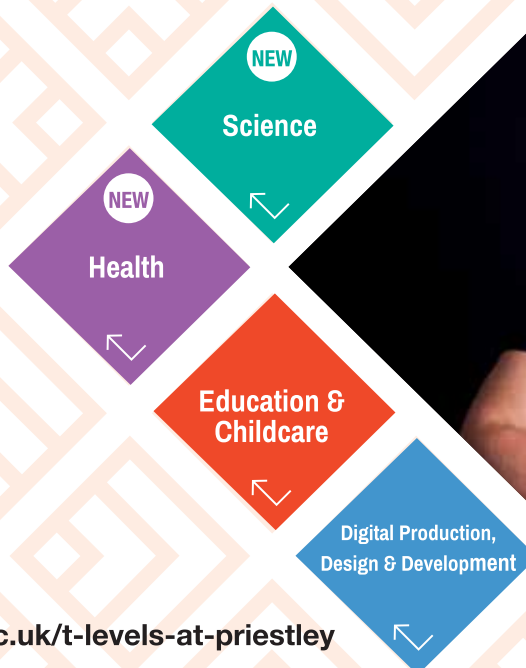
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Litter picking heroes break record collecting over 300 bags of rubbish

WARRINGTON'S litter picking heroes broke some new records recently, collecting over 300 bags of rubbish over two weekends!

Litter picking networks across the town now have more than 1,500 members and were recently joined by local Warrington Borough councillors and council officers.

It follows on from last year's "September 2020 Spring Clean". Yes, that's right, the Spring Clean was held in autumn, having been delayed by Covid-19 lockdown. Warrington held a cross-town litter pick which extended for 9 miles, from Whittle Hall to Grappenhall. You may also remember that the six teams of three volunteers gathered 60 bags of litter.

This year for the 2021 Great British Spring Clean (a Spring Clean held in Summer – it is getting better), Warrington's litter picking groups organised three events. For Covid safety these were all open to the public by pre-booking only and used small, socially distanced teams for Covid safety.

The first was the Sankey Canal pick on Saturday June 5th, which extended for 15 miles along the full length of the Sankey Canal. The Sankey Canal extends from Carr Mill Dam in St Helens, via Winwick and the Sankey Valley Trail through Warrington to Sankey Bridges, then runs alongside the Trans Pennine Trail all the way to Spike Island in Widnes. A total of 9 teams (including two small cycling litter teams) from Warrington and St Helens, tidied the whole distance over three days. Most of those teams came from Warrington, organised by Clean Up My Community Warrington and its allied local Litter Networks teams (see litternetworks.org). A total of 160 bags of litter were collected, of which 102 were from the Warrington teams, so the final score was Warrington 102, St Helens 58. Special same-day bag collection was organised by the council.

On Saturday June 12th a second Cross Town pick was organised, this time from Birchwood to Walton. This was planned to be a continuous 9 mile route, largely traffic free extending through parks and green spaces including Birchwood Forest Park, Victoria Park and the TPT. As well as the 32 volunteers in the six Litter Networks teams (gathering 42 bags of litter), other independent local teams contributed on the same day – these were Walton Parish Council

(6 bags) and Friends of Gorse Covert Mounds (10 bags). This extended the distance from near Junction 11 of the M62 towards the village of Moore, around 11 miles and the total of 58 bags of litter. Litter collection by WBC was pre-arranged – the organisers really appreciate their support!

Finally, on Sunday 13th June, a Warrington Town Centre Loop pick took place. Five more teams assembled before 8am (when traffic was quietest), and each tidied one section of a 10km town centre loop. The 42 volunteers had booked in advance through litternetworks.org and came from literally all over town, with large local contingents from Fairfield and Howley and Orford. The route included parts of the Mersey Way, Church St, Manchester Rd, Marsh House Lane, Cabul Close (Terry Flaherty's team of volunteers gathered 40 bags here), Battersby Lane, Lythgoes Lane, Orford Lane, Longford St, Kerfoot St, Folly Lane, Bewsey Road, Froghall Lane and Sankey St back to Riverside Retail Park. In total 141 bags of litter were collected, plus many fly-tipped items. Again same-day bag collection was supported by WBC preventing the waste from becoming a magnet for further rubbish.

The local litter picking movement is now growing apace from Clean Up My Community Warrington's (CUMCW) origins in Westbrook to an increasing number (currently 17) of Litter Network groups across the town now with over 1500 members. At the micro-level, these local pages encourage coordinated solo picks, or adopting a street, but also enable small groups to combine for larger events like these. Providing flexibility to make litter picking fit into individuals' day to day lifestyles, while providing the means to coordinate and collaborate the clean-up of each area of the borough.

Potential volunteers, please note organisers hope to return to the town centre early one Sunday in July and are considering routes now.



Booking details will be posted on the various local Litter Network Facebook groups and CUMCW pages as soon as they can.



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All the world's a stage for aspiring actress



Jenna Smith on the set of Priestley College's latest production of Titanic.

AN ASPIRING actress from Warrington is heading to a drama school that has been producing stars of stage, TV, film and radio for more than half a century.

Jenna Smith, who studies Drama, Dance and PE at Priestley College, has chosen to study at East 15 Acting School in London after also receiving an offer from the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama.

"They were the two schools at the very top of my list, but I never expected to actually receive offers from them," said Jenna.

"I couldn't believe it when I found out and was very excited."

East 15 has been training actors, directors, producers, theatre practitioners and technicians for more than 50 years.

On its website Hollywood actor Colin Firth is quoted as saying: "East 15's extraordinary legacy and its reputation for rigorous and inspired teaching ensures students consistently display an unusual degree of courage, vision and versatility that is very exciting to watch."

Jenna, a former pupil at King's

Academy, will be in East 15's newest cohort after two successful years at Priestley College.

She opted for the drama school because she felt it offered the best chance to train in a wide variety of disciplines.

"It means I can combine my interests in acting with other interests such as dance and physical theatre," she said.

Jenna, who hopes to one day work with physical theatre companies such as Frantic Assembly and Kneehigh, said A-level study had improved her acting skills and confidence.

Tutors also supported her application and with improvements to her audition pieces.

"The Drama exams and Dance shows have been a highlight of college as we were finally able to perform together even though it wasn't in front of a big audience because of covid," said Jenna.

National award for Priestley teachers

TWO teachers Priestley College have won a national award recognising how they were able to maintain standards of education during the pandemic by creating a community of online learners.

The Sixth Form College's Association Awards celebrate outstanding practice across the country and Priestley was successful in the 'Covid Above and Beyond' category.

Sarah Graham, Assistant Principal for Teaching, Learning and Assessment, oversaw Priestley's efforts to maintain standards during difficult months of lockdown, but the award was in special recognition of the efforts of tutors Wendy Winnard and Michael Grainger.

Together they helped create a community of more than 2,000 online learners, allowing people of all ages to continue their education.

Charlotte Nichols MP

Warrington North

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No Brainer partners with Peace Foundation to support survivors

WARRINGTON-based Digital PR, SEO and content agency No Brainer is working alongside the pioneering Peace Foundation to provide PR, media and social media guidance to those impacted by terror incidents.

The Peace Foundation and award-winning agency, both based in Warrington, are working together on a series of PR and social media workshops, following backing from the Home Office's Victims of Terrorism Unit to support communities and families impacted by terrorism.

The vital government funding, which will also see No Brainer provide bespoke advice on media and social media handling to victims and families, was awarded to the Peace Foundation as well as three other agencies working to promote peace and support survivors.

Established following the deaths of Tim Parry and Johnathan Ball in the March 1993 IRA attack in Warrington, the Peace Foundation

has been delivering conflict resolution and peace projects for more than 28 years.

Nick Taylor, chief executive of the Peace Foundation, said: "As a charity we've been supporting victims, families and communities impacted by terror incidents for almost three decades. We were pleased to be able to secure vital funding to bring in experts in various fields, and we're pleased to be partnering with No Brainer to ensure we're providing expert support to victims, families, communities and stakeholders who have been impacted by terror incidents. Often people are thrust in the limelight for reasons out of their control, so knowledge of media handling, social

media and campaigning can be incredible useful.

"We've always received an incredible amount of support from Warrington-based businesses, and I'm looking forward to seeing the benefits of this partnership with No Brainer as we remain focused on our mission for peace."

Gary Jenkins, managing director at No Brainer, said: "As an agency we're rooted in Warrington with many of our team living in the area

too, so when the opportunity came up to partner with the Peace Foundation, we wanted to help with this project.

"The Peace Centre carries out some truly incredible work in the UK and internationally, and support many survivors, families and communities, so if we can help them in any way then we will do all we can."

For more information about No Brainer and its team, visit www.nobrainieragency.co.uk

Eureka! moment as agency becomes PR and comms partner for new attraction

Meanwhile No Brainer has been appointed to help launch a new north-west visitor attraction.

Eureka! Science + Discovery, a new visitor attraction set to open in Wirral next summer, has selected No Brainer to lead on its PR and social strategy after a competitive 4-way pitch.

The exciting new science and discovery centre is a sister site to Eureka! The National Children's Museum in Halifax, West Yorkshire, and is due to open in summer 2022.

Located at the former Spaceport site in Birkenhead and facing the iconic Liverpool skyline, the 2,700 sqm interactive centre has been co-created with children and young people from the local community, with part of the attraction set to be housed within the existing Seacombe ferry terminal.

No Brainer has been brought on board to develop and implement Eureka!'s PR and social media strategy, leading up to the launch of the new science and discovery centre in summer 2022.



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What's the impact of G7 summit on Warrington?

by John Laverick - Warrington & Co

I wonder if President Macron was pestered by seagulls. I am sure he was glad of his mini-break in Cornwall after being slapped by a French medieval combat enthusiast (I promise I am not making this up) and granted not something you would ordinarily ponder, but with the leaders of the G7 gathering in Falmouth for 3 days at the English seaside you do wonder if their experience of the English seaside was anything like the rest of us.

Fish and chips by the seaside is a very nice way to eat lunch but you do wonder if they were bothered

by the traffic and seagulls. I assume the large contingents of armed police and convoys helped deal

Entrepreneurial mum celebrates Dragons' Den EasyTots success



WARRINGTON mother of two Helen Davies is celebrating after securing an £80,000 investment on the hit TV show Dragons' Den for her baby weaning brand EasyTots.

Entrepreneur Helen from Westbrook pitched her range of portable weaning suction plates to the Dragon's, with an amazing response – but had to keep her success under wraps after transmission of the BBC1 show was delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

EasyTots started out in 2015 as a brand that sold on amazon. Despite running a successful window cleaning business for 12 years, Helen was inspired to embark on a new venture by her daughter Keira's messy eating habits. Selling up her previous business to put all efforts into creating her range of baby suction plates that help reduce mess during the weaning stages.

Today, EasyTots is a multi, award-winning brand and continues to make innovative design feeding solutions to help with mealtimes, from the very start of weaning to age 4. The company already exports it's products across Europe, Asia, Australia, the UAE and Canada.

Helen had the 'The Call' from a BBC producer in January last year, and recalls; "Dragons' Den had received my application and I had been shortlisted for audition, I was

absolutely over the moon".

It wasn't until March 2020 that Helen got the final go-ahead. Due to Covid, there was no certainty when, or if, the series would happen, and whether she would make it to the Den. But in September 2020, everything happened at once... With lockdown restrictions easing, she got the call that filming for Dragons' Den would resume. In just three weeks, Helen found some brilliant local warehouse space, built an office and moved in; took on her first full-time employee; and launched a new Unicorn Collection – all whilst rehearsing for her pitch to the Dragons!

Helen was delighted to receive an offer of investment in the Den of £80,000 from Dragon Sara Davies, who has made her millions through her company Crafters Companion, for a 30 percent stake in the business.

Since the show aired Helen has had her first meeting with Sara at her company Crafters Companion's Head Quarters in Durham. The day was spent meeting the extended team, planning ahead and some studio filming.

Helen added, "Finally meeting my Dragon in person was absolutely fantastic, Sara is incredible and I am positive she will help accelerate the growth of EasyTots across the next year."



John Laverick

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with the traffic issue, perhaps they helped deal with the chip-stealing seagulls as well or maybe that was the job of HMS Northumberland, set up in the bay to detect threats from sea and air.

The G7, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, UK and US and the EU (so is that technically 8 or not?) who generate 40% of global GDP with a 10th of the world's population (but excludes the 1 billion people in China and Russia) is set up to discuss issues facing developed countries and this year focussed on discussions on health, climate change and the environment and international development. It also crucially invites other states to attend this year it was India, South Korea and Australia. Also good I think that many people chose to use the event to, peacefully, make their voices and concerns heard, particularly around climate and environmental issues.

So what's the impact for Warrington? Whilst I am sure the challenges facing Warrington were high on the agenda I think the main pledges around multi-national corporation tax and recovery

from the pandemic, with a focus around levelling up and building back better chimed well with the challenges faced by the Borough and I was particularly intrigued by the references to gender neutrality and inclusiveness in the opening speech, not sure how that chimes with reduction in overseas aid, but they are issues that we are actively addressing in the responses to our Town Deal and High Street funding awards. It will be interesting to see who gets there first.

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Warrington Market hosts largest ever Young Traders Market



WARRINGTON Market is again celebrating success after hosting the largest ever local heat of the Young Traders Market, in the nine years of the competition's lifetime.

The event, which took place on Saturday 5 June, doubled in size from the previous event held in 2019. The market welcomed 45 local business owners, aged between 16 and 30, to Time Square for the first ever outdoor event hosted by the market in its new home due to delays caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

Over 5,000 people came down to support the young local business owners as well as enjoying some fantastic musical talent on a live stage hosted by Warrington Music.

The Young Traders Market scheme is a national competition hosted by the National Market Traders Federation (NMTF), which was set up to encourage young business owners across the country to utilise markets as a viable trading space, while searching for the next National Young Trader of the Year.

This title was previously won in 2018 by Warrington Market's Rob Leicester of Warrington Fruit & Veg who was part of this year's judging panel, alongside Christine Ditchfield of Warrington's 3 Pugs Gin and the council's cabinet member for economic development and innovation, Cllr Tom Jennings.

Cllr Jennings said: "The Young Traders Market is a great initiative and I was so pleased we were able to welcome this popular event back to Warrington this year. Our successful local heat saw the level of competition at an all-time high.

"We are very proud to have been asked by the NMTF to host the regional final for the North West for the second year.

"It was wonderful to see so many talented young people showcase their talents and take the opportunity to trade at the event. The standard of products and services on offer was truly fantastic. I'm really looking forward to seeing the work of so many talented young people in one place when we welcome finalists from across the region back to Warrington next month."

The judges were so impressed by the high standard and quality of all the businesses that were showcased on the day that a total of 12 young entrepreneurs progressed to the next round of the competition, the highest amount of traders put through from any local heat across the North West.

The four category winners on the day were URURA, GeeArte Makes, Rub & Roll, and Archchis. Also making it through to the Regional Final are Entwined Kokedama, Kingswood Candle Co, Threaded Needle, Ellie Francesca Design, Loom & Jute Living, Mint Green Penguin, Trufflicious and Sweet Stephella – all of which were awarded Highly Commended in their respective categories.

Georgina Atkinson of GeeArte Makes, a macramé homeware business, was also crowned

Warrington's Young Trader of the Year after setting up her business during lockdown last year as a way to keep her busy, soon turning her hobby into a thriving business.

She said: "When I first heard about the opportunity to get involved in the Warrington Young Traders Market I was so excited and jumped at the chance. It was my first ever market stall and it was such an amazing day. I met so many passionate, creative, like-minded people and it was so nice to talk to customers about my products and how I make them.

"The event was organised really well, everyone was so supportive of one another. I still can't believe I won! Warrington Market is a great addition to the town centre and I'm hoping to be able to host some macramé workshops in the market in the near future, but for now bring on the Regional Final!"

Joe Harrison, Chief Executive of the NMTF visited the heat in Warrington and was blown away by the standard on show.

He said: "What a great visit it was to Warrington's local heat – to say it truly blew me away when I walked up from the car park is an understatement. The venue, together with the most incredible array of Young Traders, is the most the NMTF's Young Trader Programme has ever had at any of the local events over the last nine years.

"Each and every one of the businesses involved were brilliant, with some truly unique products on offer and with the new market in

full swing as a backdrop, it was a terrific sight to see.

"We're experiencing an increase in interest at a lot of the local events this year, which is an even bigger demonstration of what great young entrepreneurial talent the UK has on offer, which, in turn, is a great boost of enthusiasm for UK markets and their future. We can't wait to return to Warrington for the Regional Final next month."

The 12 Warrington businesses will now compete with the other local heat winners from across the region at the North West Regional Final, which is taking place in Warrington on Saturday 3 July, from 9am to 5pm.

For more information, visit warrington.gov.uk/market



Winner Georgina (centre) with (L-R) Cllr Tom Jennings, and Cathy Beck, Jay Seville, and Paul Blaney from Warrington Market.

Earn while you learn at Beechwood Industries

BEECHWOOD Industries in High Legh near Lymm has launched their 2021 Apprenticeship programme and have four Apprentice vacancies starting in September.

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Two of the vacancies are in the Grounds Maintenance team and two are in the Landscape team. Both positions are being offered in conjunction with Reaseheath College where the apprentices will attend one day per week in term time to study for a Level 2 in Horticulture and Landscape Operative standard. Beechwood's Director, Adam Halford, is a former student of Reaseheath himself and knows first hand the quality of teaching at the college.

As a Grounds Maintenance Operative Apprentice your typical working day could include grass cutting using various types of

machinery, grass strimming, hedge and shrub pruning, leaf collecting and jet washing.

For the Horticulture Landscape Operative Apprentice you'll gain experience in planting shrubs and trees, preparing ground for turfing, seeding and planting, manual laying of turf and using small plant machinery such as rotivators, tractors etc.

Beechwood Industries are a multi-disciplined, young and rapidly expanding company who appreciate the value of their employees. They understand that creating a positive and enjoyable working environment directly contributes to the level of service they provide to their clients. Their Apprenticeship scheme has been developed with these principles in mind. The weekly salary on offer is higher than the apprentice minimum wage in recognition of the contribution that the apprentices will make to the business.

To apply you should email your CV to info@beechwoodindustries.co.uk. The closing date for applications is 27th July. For more information please call 01925 860544.

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Latchford mum launches campaign to raise awareness of rare autism and epilepsy syndrome

A LATCHFORD mum has launched a fundraising campaign in a bid to send a book, inspired by her seven-year-old daughter who suffers from a rare autism and epilepsy syndrome, to more than 400 special educational needs schools.

Sarah Caldwell is bidding to raise £2,000 so she can provide a copy of *Amelie & Albie's Adventures* to 413 Primary SEN Schools in UK & Ireland.

Amelie & Albie's Adventures is a children's picture book in rhyming tale about a little girl with Autism & Epilepsy out on her daily adventures, with her best friend Albie the Dragon.

The book is inspired by her eldest daughter Amelie who was born with a rare condition – Sebaceous Nevus Syndrome. This includes – Autism, Epilepsy and Sensory Processing Disorder.

Meanwhile Amelie and her three-year-old sister Albie have launched an exciting competition to help with fundraising!

They are asking for ALL children of ANY age to draw a picture of Amelie & Albie! There is a £1 entry fee per picture. (All entries to be submitted by 7th July!)

1st Prize – The winning picture will be used in the next *Amelie & Albie* book (child's name can also be included with picture – with parent's permission). And you will receive a signed copy of the book once it is published.

2nd Prize – A signed copy of *Amelie & Albie's Adventures* with a personalised message & purple monster book stand (RRP – £32)

3rd Prize – A signed copy of *Amelie & Albie's Adventures* with a personalised message & a set of Dragon Crayons (RRP – £12)

Facebook: [amelieandalbie](https://www.facebook.com/amelieandalbie)

Instagram: [amelie_and_albie](https://www.instagram.com/amelie_and_albie)
Website: www.amelieandalbie.com

Sarah said: "Our aim and ambition is to provide a copy of *Amelie & Albie's Adventures* to x413 primary SEN Schools in UK & Ireland.

"This book was created so that children & families with loved ones

who are either on the spectrum or have Epilepsy, have a book that they are able to identify with, in a fun interactive way, while also spreading awareness and inclusion to all.

Donations can be made via www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/amelie-and-albie



Warrington's got its "Zen" as one of the best places to live!

NEW research has again shown Warrington as one of the best places to live in the UK!

Scoring well across the board in a special "Zen" lifestyle survey, Warrington has earned its place as one of the most chilled places to

live in the country.

SupplementPlace used ONS data to find how 50 of the UK's highest populated towns and cities rank for quality of life factors such as happiness, life satisfaction and anxiety.

Warrington ranks 3rd for "Zen" and joint 2nd with Bournemouth for highest life satisfaction, just behind top-placed Reading.

Stress and anxiety are often unavoidable parts of daily life. Whether you're worrying about work, family events, relationships, or even big global issues, being able to effectively deal with your stress is vital for your personal wellbeing.

1. Bournemouth – 7.72/10 Zen Score

In first place, claiming the title of the UK's Zen Capital is Bournemouth, with a score of 7.72 in the zen city index. With so many fantastic beaches within reach, it's no wonder that the residents of Bournemouth are the most chilled-out in the country. The town is also home to several public gardens, a delightful seafront, and the unmissable Bournemouth Pier.

Bournemouth did so well thanks to its high score for life satisfaction and coming top in the country for happiness, while at the same time scoring in the bottom 5 for anxiety levels. It must be all that sea air that keeps the locals so calm!

2. Reading – 7.14/10 Zen Score

Not far behind in second place is Reading, with a score of 7.14. This large Berkshire town is most widely known for the Reading Festival, one of the biggest festivals in the country. When the locals aren't frequenting the mosh pit, they're actually some of the most laid-back people you'll come across.

Reading actually scored the highest in the country for life satisfaction and is also the place with the most searches for 'yoga' compared to its population!

3. Warrington – 6.9/10 Zen Score

The final podium place went to Warrington, claiming third place

with a score of 6.9. Located in the North West of England, nestled between the major urban centres of Manchester and Liverpool, Warrington is an unassuming entrant to the list.

Methodology

SupplementPlace wanted to find out which towns and cities are the most chilled-out places in the UK, crowning the winner as the country's "Zen Capital".

To do this, they first built a list of the 50 UK towns and cities with the highest populations using official data sources.

Next, they used ONS data to find how well the locations on their list ranked for quality of life factors such as happiness, life satisfaction and anxiety.

They also used these figures to calculate the rate of change since the figures from five years ago, which were available in the same data set.

They also found the number of annual Google searches for several keywords which relate to the ideas of peacefulness, calm, and "zen", using Google Ads Keyword Planner.

The keywords used were "green spaces", "meditation", "parks near me", and "yoga". Once they had the figures for each of these search terms, they divided the search volumes by the populations of each city to give a proportionate score.

Finally, they gave each town and city a normalised score out of ten for each factor, before taking an average score across all of the factors. This allowed them to produce an overall ranking and crown one location as the UK's zen capital.

*Warrington is ranked as a city by size of population.



A "BRHAIVE" new wellness journey

LOCAL hairdresser Leanne Bartlett opened BRHAIVE (pronounced brave) Salon in Stockton Heath during the Coronavirus Pandemic back in July 2020.

She introduced a salon with a fresh take to the hair and beauty industry which in her own words was "much needed" - especially during the times we are facing.

The team helps to inspire those who visit BRHAIVE on a journey to wellness through self-love techniques that are incorporated into the salon experience—changing the traditional salon image and its concept to something a little more "chilled".

BRHAIVE recently won an award for "Best Business Branding" and continues to thrive after recently reopening its doors.

Leanne said: "I feel passionate about the importance of well-being and using it to incorporate into our everyday lives, helping us to feel at peace with our authentic selves - Just what being brave is all about... I created BRHAIVE based on a vision of helping people to disconnect from the outside world and be taken through a journey to wellness whilst enjoying some self-care time. True beauty lies from within, and we must bring the two together."

Leanne has recently teamed up with Well-being practitioner Amy Skentelbery who will be the first to incorporate well-being sessions into a salon environment.

Amy has a passion for well-being and helping others feel good. She has a MA in dance movement psychotherapy, completed yoga teacher training, is a Reiki practitioner and also teaches meditation.

Amy first visited the salon in

between lockdowns and was inspired by the different feeling of the salon.

She said: "The salon is not only filled with very talented hairdressers, but with people that genuinely care and love making people feel good. The beautiful decor of the salon, uplifting music and relaxing essential oils make this experience in hairdressers like no other."

"Leanne has been so thoughtful about the whole experience - there are mirrors you can push down, kindles with self-love books downloaded and boxes to put your phone in if you need a break".

Leanne and Amy talked about all aspects of well-being and their experience of Reiki during Amy's visit to the salon and have decided to bring their visions together.

Amy will now begin working at the Salon to offer people a whole well-being experience to combat mental health after the pandemic.

She will also be offering a well-being running club, private yoga classes and workshops. She will also offer Reiki at the salon on a Sunday when it is not open for hairdressing.

The yoga classes can be booked for 1-4 people and will be a personalised experience. Reiki is a 1-1 experience used to induce deep relaxation, assist in the body's natural healing processes, and develop emotional, mental, and spiritual well-being. Reiki can help people cope with difficulties, relieve emotional stress and improve overall wellbeing. People

who receive Reiki describe it as "intensely relaxing."

The running club will be built around well-being and begin and end with yoga stretches. Those who join the group will also be taught about mindful breathing and be given a free T-shirt with their membership.

The well-being classes will include movement, yoga postures, meditation and breathing exercises

to help feel people relaxed in both body and mind.

Together Leanne and Amy hope that they can show people that beauty does start from within and self-care goes further than looking after your appearance.

Amy will also have some availability outside of brhavior for private yoga classes (1-1 and group) and reiki sessions in the comfort of your own home.



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Sunday: Private Reiki Sessions £40 for 45minutes. Reiki is used to induce deep relaxation, assist in the body's healing processes and develop emotional, mental and spiritual wellbeing. Reiki can help people cope with difficulties, relieve emotional stress and improve over all wellbeing.

Various days: Private yoga, please enquire for prices (1-4 people)

Salon: 01925 382955 • Amy directly: 07496 992726
Email: Amyjaneskentelbery@hotmail.co.uk

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Coronavirus, so what now...?

By Nigel Garner



The impact of lockdown cannot be under-estimated enough; it has affected every aspect of our day to day lives.

I have spoken to many people who have used lockdown as an opportunity to "take stock" of their lives and have pursued new interests, learned new skills or decided to embark on a new career path. Sadly, other people have had career change forced upon them.

So, what to do now....?

We have seen household name business' disappear this past 16 months, so it would seem job security is a thing of the past. Perhaps having control of our own destiny is the future. Why not start your own business ?

Whether you embark on this journey for lifestyle reasons or have huge ambitions to change the world; starting a business can be daunting but is very exciting. Whatever your motivation is, there are many steps to take and challenges to embrace and overcome.

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Youth worker, professor, surgeon and teacher receive Queen's Birthday Honours



A youth worker, a professor, a surgeon and a teacher from Warrington, are among those honoured in the Queen's Birthday Honours.

Dave McNicholl, aged 44, Chief Executive at Warrington Youth Club has received British Empire Medal.

Dave was "completely shocked and humbled" as he normally doesn't appear in the limelight, preferring to put other people forward.

He said his honour was an accolade for the staff and volunteers at the Youth Centre which is part of the multi-million pound OnSide Project, currently being built in the town centre

"We have a brilliant team who go above and beyond for young people," said Dave, who is looking forward to the new facility opening next year.

It won't be Dave's first visit to the Palace as he attended four years ago when OnSide Warrington Youth Club attended the Queen's Garden Party at Buckingham Palace

after being awarded the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service.

Others honoured include Professor William Winima Denbeigh Hope from Lymm who has received an OBE.

He is director at the Centre of Excellence in Infectious Disease Research.

Meanwhile consultant breast surgeon Lester Barr, also from Lymm, has received an MBE.

He founded Prevent Breast Cancer in 1996 to research the disease, as well as effective preventative interventions, helping raise over £11 million for research into the prevention of breast cancer.

Senior professional tutor Colin Wong, from Warrington, a faculty senior academic adviser, primary teacher education at Liverpool Hope University, has received a BEM for services to education.

New family law specialist joins team at FDR Law

WARRINGTON-based and full-service law firm, FDR Law has appointed Darren White as Associate Solicitor in the Family department.

Darren has over 12 years experience specialising in Family Law having worked at Morecrofts and more recently at Maxwell Hodge across their Merseyside offices.

Darren is a Member of Resolution and joins FDR Law, dealing with all private law aspects of Family Law.

On his move to FDR Darren said: "FDR Law has an outstanding

reputation with great lawyers and support teams; I am joining them at an exciting time and I am very much looking forward to working with colleagues to develop and grow the Family department".

Commenting on Darren's appointments, FDR Law's CEO Mark Lockett said: "Darren's appointment FDR's commitment to reshaping our business to meet the legal needs of our clients going forward. The legal advice we provide to clients is important to our firm and we always strive to provide current and potential clients with a wide arrangement of legal services.

"Our most important asset is our people and we are delighted to welcome Darren to FDR. We were very impressed with Darren's positivity, enthusiasm, his approach to doing his best for our clients and his wealth of knowledge, experience and ideas."

Darren can be contacted at FDR Law on 01925 230000 or via email at Darren.white@fdrlaw.co.uk



Future secure for historic Drill Hall

THE long-term future of the historic Drill Hall which is part of Warrington's Town Hall complex now seems secure following a decision by borough planners.

Members of Warrington borough council's development management committee have given the go-ahead for the re-roofing of the Grade 1 Listed building which is part of the East Annex of the Town Hall.

They were told urgent work was necessary to prevent water leaking into the building, which was used by the military until 1975 when it was taken over by the council.

In recent years the Drill Hall has been considered for conversion to a theatre but the proposal never went ahead and it remains in use for offices and storage by the council.

Warrington Town Hall was built in 1750 as a family home for successful businessman Thomas Patten. It was regarded as the finest building of its type and period in what was then Lancashire.

It was purchased by the borough council for use as a Town Hall in

1872. Its grounds became Bank Park.

The Drill Hall was built in the late 19th century as the headquarters of the 1st Volunteer Battalion of the South Lancashire Regiment. It was decommissioned around 1975 when the successor regiment, the 5th/8th (Volunteer) Battalion The King's Regiment moved to Peninsula Barracks at Orford.

The roof of the building will be re-slatted to match the existing roof which is now letting in rain. There will also be a heritage-approved glazed roof light system and new rainwater goods. The scheme has been drawn up by the council itself.

Planning officers recommended the scheme go ahead and were confident the work would not cause harm to the structure and would help to secure its long-term future.

Pictured below is a photograph supplied by Warrington Worldwide



reader Brian Handley from one of his grandparent's photo albums, which he believes records a celebratory dinner that looks as if it could relate to VE Day after World War II.

His grandfather Harry James, is on the left-hand front table, third from the left and was the Works Manager at Joseph Crosfields at the time and also headed-up a Fire-Watch group.



ANDY CARTER MP

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Re-opening the doors!



The Evolution of the RAF Burtonwood Heritage Centre (Part 5)

By Heritage Centre manager John Cotterill



The covid 19 pandemic has given us all the most unprecedented test in living history and as we write this article, an extension of many of the government imposed restrictions has only recently been put into place.

From the point of view of the RAF Burtonwood Heritage Centre and with special thanks to and support from, Gulliver's World, The Heritage Lottery Fund and a very special group of exceptional volunteers, we have managed to keep up the development of the Centre, despite being closed for so long.

It has been greatly rewarding to us at the Heritage Centre to have received many donated items during this time. The latest of these, being a propeller hub assembly, from a WB50 Aircraft, which was purposely manufactured at RAF Burtonwood, as an instructional item for the engineers of the 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron, who were operational at Burtonwood in the 1950s. A huge thank you is given to all of those who have taken the trouble to get these items to us during this trying time.

With all the painting refreshed and the landscaping upgraded; our

Pratt and Whitney R2000 Engine has been refurbished and on display, along with a great number of previously unseen artefacts, which form the basis of many new exhibitions, our Heritage Centre is bigger and better than ever before.

We have been working together with several local schools, including collaboration with Calland's Primary School; an enjoyable visit from Bewsey Lodge Primary School and a future visit scheduled for the Year 6 pupils of Barrow Hall Primary School, to the Heritage Centre, at the end of June; we are all looking forward to regaining a little bit of normal running order.

After 15 months of enforced closure of the RAF Burtonwood Heritage Centre, we are more than delighted to confirm that as of the 25th June we will once again be able to reopen our doors to the general public.

Our opening times will be confirmed via Social Media".

A massive thank you to those of you who have continued to show your support for the Heritage Centre, over the past year, we look forward to being able to show you everything we have been doing. To all future visitors, old and new, we are glad that we are finally able to welcome you all back and to continue "Keeping the Memory Alive".



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Wolves lure two Tigers from the Jungle

WARRINGTON Wolves have signed Oliver Holmes and Peter Mata'utia from Castleford Tigers as incoming Head Coach Darryl Powell starts to prepare for next season.

But first, both players are keen to finish their Castleford careers in style with Powell, which includes a Wembley final against St Helens, before heading to the Halliwell Jones Stadium for the 2022 season.

Second-rower Holmes joins on a three-year deal until November 2024. The 28-year-old is a product of Castleford's Academy system and has made over 200 appearances for his hometown club, scoring 39 Super League tries. He has represented both England and England Knights.

Mata'utia joins on a two-year contract until November 2023. The versatile back joined the Tigers from

Leigh Centurions midway through the 2018 season having previously featured for Newcastle Knights and St George Illawarra Dragons in the NRL. The 30-year-old has previously represented Samoa on the international stage.

The duo will join new head coach from 2022 Daryl Powell in making the switch to Warrington.

Commenting on his move, Holmes said: "Warrington is such a big club and I'm looking forward to the challenge next season. Having been at Cas my whole adult life it was a decision which took a lot of thought but I'm excited for the challenge

ahead next year.

"I found out recently that my Grandad's brother, Geoff Oakes, played for Warrington in the 1960s so to be following in my family's footsteps is great too.

"Powelly [Daryl Powell] had spoken to me and said he was keen to take me over with him. I've been coached by him for the last seven years, we've got a great relationship and I think he's a fantastic coach. I'll be good to continue that partnership over at Warrington.

"I think this year has definitely been a big step in the right direction for me in terms of getting my body right and getting to know where the sweet spot is for myself. I feel like I've hit some great form this year. I'm hoping my prime years are still to come and I can keep improving.

"I'm fully focused now on finishing well for Cas in the best possible way. We've got the Challenge Cup Final at Wembley to come and having

spent my whole career so far at Cas the club means a lot to me and I want to end my time here on a high before making the switch to Warrington."

Mata'utia said: "I'm excited to have signed for Warrington for next year. It's a big Super League club and it's going to be a great challenge for me to bring my experience and have an impact on the team in 2022.

"The chance to continue working with Daryl was a big factor in the move. We've got a great relationship. I have huge respect for him. He allows me to be me and challenges me to be the best that I can be. I enjoy playing under him.

"The Halliwell Jones Stadium is similar to the Jungle with the fans being up close and making for a great atmosphere. When 2022 comes I'll be excited to play there but for now my focus is on finishing the season strongly and enjoying the rest of the year with Cas."

Warrington launches new Community Champions project

A new Community Champions project has been launched in Warrington with funding that will be used to expand work to support those most at risk from coronavirus and encourage vaccine take-up.

Warrington Borough Council has received £318,000 through the government's Community Champions scheme to put measures in place to support groups most at risk from coronavirus, including people with disabilities and people from ethnic minorities.

Warrington Disability Partnership, alongside Warrington Voluntary Action, have been commissioned to deliver the project, where Community Champions will work directly with local communities to communicate the latest accurate health information to residents.

The dedicated Community Champions will be a trusted voice in their local community, working to encourage take-up of the COVID vaccine, as more people become eligible to receive their jab. They will also feedback any issues or questions from residents to help make sure the right support is being offered, at the right time.

Dave Thompson MBE DL, Chief Executive of Warrington Disability Partnership, said: "We are really pleased to have the opportunity to work closely with Warrington Voluntary Action and the council, and other local partners to deliver this scheme.

"Our Community Champions, who have been recruited from the communities most affected, will be fully trained in line with the latest information, advice and guidance, and will play an important role in communicating key messages to and from local communities.

"This will include guidance on how people can keep themselves and others safe as restrictions ease and life starts to return to normal, as well as myth-busting and providing factual information to ensure people know the facts about the vaccine and how it will benefit their health.

"The Champions will form a vital link with people who may have been disproportionately affected by COVID-19 and the feedback they receive will be used to develop ways of supporting those in greatest need."

A range of materials will be provided for Community Champions

to use to communicate timely and accurate information and they will receive relevant training and regular updates so they are able to support communities.

Thara Raj, Warrington's Director of public health, said: "Over the last year, our priority has been to protect our residents as much as possible, providing clear and up-to-date information, particularly to those most at risk from the virus.

"The new Community Champions have really hit the ground running and will be a fantastic resource to expand on this work, which will help us to reach more people who may be worried or concerned and need a little extra guidance or support.

"We know so far the vaccine roll-out in Warrington has been a resounding success, but we also know that for each eligible cohort, there are some communities and residents that we struggle to reach. The Champions will be able to increase our outreach and make sure everybody in Warrington can be offered the vaccine and receive it when it's their turn.

"Please remember that it's important we don't relax too much as restrictions are eased and continue to stick to the rules to keep everyone as safe and as well as possible as we learn to live with coronavirus."

To support the Community Champions project, the council would like to understand more about resident's experiences throughout the pandemic, particularly around self-isolation, testing and vaccinations. In order for the work of the Champions to have a real impact, we are looking to gather your views – please complete our short survey and be in with the chance of winning 1 of 20 £30 Love to Shop vouchers.

The survey can be completed online at warrington.gov.uk/consultations. To ask for a paper copy of the survey, or if you require the survey in another language or format, require assistance to complete it, or if you have any concerns or questions, please email E.Cropper@disabilitypartnership.org.uk or call 01925 240064.

Further information about the Community Champions project can be viewed on the council's website at warrington.gov.uk/community-champions



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Financially yours

By David Watkinson

Working from home, how this affects expenses

Last month we looked at how the Covid-19 lockdown has changed the way that many of us work, and how this has affected the expenses that employees can claim against tax. This month we will look at other expenses. Firstly, however, remember that where employees work from home as part of a home working policy, an employer can pay an un-receipted allowance of up to £6 per week (£26 per month) from 6 April 2020 to cease the additional costs of working from home, where certain tests are met. Alternatively, HMRC has confirmed that employees may claim tax relief to the same value directly from HMRC while the current situation continues. For further details please refer to our article last month.

Now let us look at some other items that may be of interest.

Equipment costs

There is a specific tax exemption applying to 'employer-provided' supplies and services in the employee's home. The exemption applies where, firstly, the sole purpose for the provision is to enable the employees to perform the duties of their employment and, secondly, any private use is insignificant. 'Employer-provided' means the employer arranges and pays for the item (ie, monitors, keyboards, desks and chairs, etc) and the equipment always remains the property of the employer. If ownership is transferred to employees, a taxable benefit will arise.

Ordinarily, where any items are purchased by employees and the cost is reimbursed by the employer then this exemption would not apply and the reimbursement would

be taxable. However, in May 2020, the Treasury announced the introduction of a temporary tax and national insurance contribution (NIC) exemption that will cover any home office equipment purchased by employees and reimbursed by employers as a result of the coronavirus pandemic. This measure applies retrospectively from 16 March 2020, but ceased at the end of the 2020/21 tax year.

To be eligible the reimbursed expenditure must meet two conditions. Firstly, the equipment is obtained for the sole purpose of enabling the employee to work from home as a result of the coronavirus outbreak, and secondly, the provision of the equipment would have been exempt from income tax under the existing exemption had it been provided directly to the employee.

Under this temporary exemption, a taxable benefit will not arise if the equipment is retained by the employee rather than being given to their employer.

Mobile phone costs

As employees will not have access to their work phone, they may have to use their mobile phones more frequently during 2020/21. Where the mobile phone has been provided by the business, and the contract is between the employer and supplier, no taxable benefit arises.

Where employees are using their personal mobile phone then:

- where an employee is claiming for itemised business calls, texts and data only (and this is evidenced), the cost reimbursed is not taxable;

- where an employee is claiming for their fixed call plan (say £30 all-inclusive calls, data, etc), the cost will always be taxable;
- where an employee is claiming for costs over and above the fixed call plan, if they can demonstrate that the additional cost relates to 100% business use, the cost reimbursed is not taxable;
- where there is no justification for the costs being claimed, and so the business use and personal use cannot be determined, the total claim will be taxable through payroll.

Broadband

If an employee needs a broadband connection installed as a result of needing to work from home during the pandemic, and the business arranges this, then any costs are tax free. However, for employees that have an existing broadband connection, if it is not possible to split the business use and personal use, any reimbursement will give rise to a taxable benefit, and the whole payment will be taxable. As with mobile phones, if the employee can split their bill and claim only for the business use element, eg, additional data requirements, etc, a reimbursement can be made with no tax implications.

Unused company cars

HMRC originally took a firm line on cars, saying that a benefit in kind continues as they remain available for private use during the Covid-19 lockdown if they are still with the employee (regardless of whether or not the car is actually used). However, during the coronavirus pandemic, where a hire contract



Margaret Black and David Watkinson

has expired, HMRC will accept that the benefit ceases immediately if the keys are returned to the employer/hire company (at the employer's instruction) so that it cannot be driven.

Employer-provided Covid-19 testing for employees

The costs of such tests are not to be treated as a benefit liable to tax and NIC. Similarly, the cost of PPE provided to employees relating to their work is non-taxable and need not be reported on P11Ds. In contrast, where employers reimburse the costs of a normal flu vaccination, this is a taxable benefit in kind that must be reported.

Travel and subsistence expenses - temporary workplaces

HMRC has advised that if an employee was furloughed when they were travelling to a temporary workplace, the period of furlough is classed as a period of continuous work. A period of working from home will also be classed as a period of continuous work - ie, the clock continues to run for the 24-month test.

However, the workplace stops being temporary from the date that attendance there is expected to be more than 24 months. Tax and NICs will then become liable and reportable on any payments of travel and subsistence expenses.

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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Death of Warrington born Australian Immortal Bobby Fulton

WARRINGTON born Australian Rugby League legend Bobby Fulton has died after a short and private battle with cancer, aged 74.

One of the original four Aussie Immortals, Fulton was born in Stockton Heath before moving to Australia with his family.

Following the 1969 NSWRL season after a decade with Manly-Warringah, Fulton accepted an offer to play a season with his 'home town' club Warrington in the 1969-70 English season.

Fulton played 16 games for Warrington, scoring 16 tries and kicking 1 field goal before returning to Australia and Manly for the 1970 season.

He returned with the touring Australians in 1979 and played at Wilderspool on the night Warrington pulled off a shock victory.

The legendary Manly, NSW and Australian representative is survived by wife Anne, sons Scott, Brett and daughter Kristie.

His long-time mate and radio colleague Ray Hadley announced Fulton's passing saying: "It is with great regret and sadness that I report Bob Fulton has passed away just a short time ago after a battle with cancer that was kept very private," he said.

"He was surrounded by Anne and his children and dear friend Royce Ayliffe when he went.

"He was first diagnosed some time ago and obviously those close to him knew of it and myself and

Peter Peters were advised by Bob at the time. Sometime during that later part of last year he was given weeks to live.

"He fought and fought and fought. One of the things he promised me he'd do he came to my wedding on the 27th of March even though he was not in the best of health.

"I received a message from Anne four days ago that things were not looking too good and that he'd be in contact with me shortly. That never occurred because he's passed away this morning in hospital."

Fulton had worked alongside Hadley for 32 years, forming an unbreakable bond on and off the airwaves, before he retired from radio at the start of 2020.

"He was the first of those Immortals and I always thought he would be immortal, I just thought he'd live forever."



Bobby Fulton pictured with Wire skipper Billy Benyon at Wilderspool in 1979 - Picture Eddie Whitham

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Licensing Act 2003: HAVANA SUPREME CIGARS LIMITED.
Licensing Act 2003: Notice of Application for Grant of a Premises Licence: HAVANA SUPREME CIGARS LIMITED has given to Warrington Borough Council an application for the grant of a Premises Licence for SUPREME CIGARS 43a Sankey Street, Warrington, WA1 1SL.
The licensable activities which it is proposed will be carried on at the premises are: The sale by retail of alcohol, Tuesday to Saturday 9:30-18:00, Sunday 10:00-16:00.
The Licensing Register of Warrington Borough Council is held at East Annexe, Town Hall, Sankey Street, Warrington, WA1 1UH and, where applicable, at www.warrington.gov.uk.
The record of the application may be inspected during normal office hours at the Council's above address and, where applicable, at any time on the above website.
Representations which shall be made in writing may be made by a responsible authority or any other person to Warrington Borough Council to be received at their above address by no later than 8.7.2021.
It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application; the maximum fine for which a person is liable on summary conviction being £5,000. (5/21)

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Hayley Wilkinson

Adult student Hayley believes it's never too late to change your career. Having previously worked in security, Hayley enrolled at the college and completed her Level 2 and 3 in Electrical Installation, before progressing onto the HNC Electrical & Electronic Engineering course.



Hayley still studies at the college one day a week alongside her full-time role as a machine operator and assistant manager in the warehouse of a local manufacturing company. After completing her course, Hayley intends to become a successful electrical engineer in the manufacturing industry.

Aron-Lee Curzon

Level 3 Health & Social Care student Aron studied at the college's Winsford campus. Aron undertook a work placement which led to securing a part-time job as a support worker for adults with learning disabilities.



After completing his course, Aron progressed onto the University of Chester to study Adult Nursing and took part in a work placement caring for patients on a Covid-19 ward. After university, Aron intends to work in a palliative care setting and possibly complete a master's degree in order to become a dual qualified adult/learning disability nurse.

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