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Page 10

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Editor
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Production
James Bryan

Advertising
James Balme
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Address
New Media Centre
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Editor's Comment



AFTER an unprecedented 18 months things appear to be gradually returning to normal, although in some cases it remains the new normal, as infection rates remain relatively high in the Warrington area.

As we head towards the winter months we still face uncertain times and while life goes on we must respect those who still feel vulnerable and do our best to understand that there are still many people who wish to wear masks and maintain social distancing.

Even if you have been double jabbed the science tells us you can still catch COVID and you can most certainly still spread it unknowingly, so regular testing is important if you are out and about in the community. Live entertainment at theatres and concerts is one of the things I have missed throughout the pandemic so it is fantastic to see the Pyramid & Parr Hall re-opening at long last. Let's hope they can stay open throughout the autumn and winter season which is traditionally a busy time for concerts.

I've had plenty of memorable nights at the Parr Hall over many years and look forward to plenty more.

Meanwhile, it has been humbling to receive applications for our Legacy Project Awards which we launched last month, with the Litter Network becoming the first recipients of a £500 donation to help them continue their great work in the community.

The work these volunteers do

is truly amazing and long may it continue - see page 16 for more details.

We have already chosen our second legacy project and more will be revealed online in the coming weeks and in next month's issue.

In the meantime let's all do our best to help support the many organisations and businesses that have suffered during the last 18

months and while online shopping has helped many during lockdown it is more important than ever we support our local high street.

We have a town centre that is starting to take shape as a go-to destination and I look forward to my regular trips to Warrington Market.

While Warrington Borough Council doesn't always get things right - and I do hope the council accounts can be signed off sooner rather than later, the redevelopment of the town centre, especially the market - is first class.





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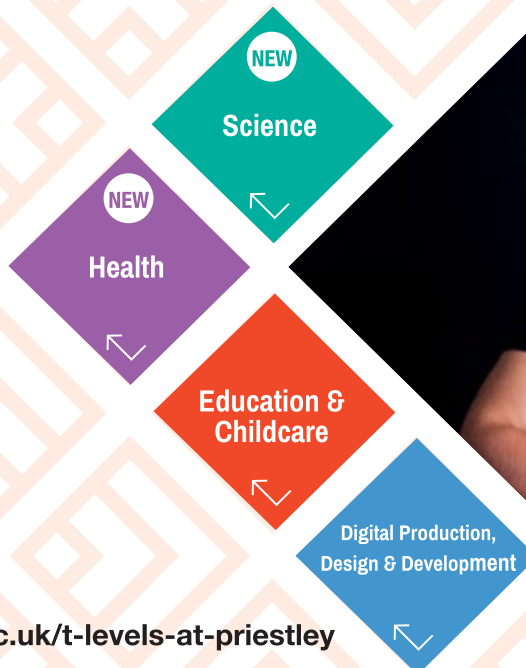
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Craft in Mind prepare to officially launch new store

COMMUNITY Help Hub Craft in Mind is preparing to officially launch a new store at the Cockhedge Centre next Warrington next month.

Following the success of the last 14 months, continually supporting the community through the Covid-19 pandemic by making masks to raise funds to buy food to give to individuals and families in need, the CIC has helped over 1500 families who have struggled due to job losses and awaiting benefits.

At Christmas, they handed out over 230 Christmas dinners along with presents and toys for children and adults who would have otherwise gone without. During the recent flooding in Dallam and Bewsey Craft in Mind were distributing food parcels, cleaning products, bedding and towels with a grant from Asda Cockhedge.

Funding from Torus helped those who suffered with larger items like white goods and essential items which were destroyed in the floods.

Now Craft in Mind is very proud to announce that they have opened a brand new store, Craft in Mind C.I.C Workshops, Craft Supplies and Hand Made Gifts.

Every week Craft Workshops will be held on most mornings. Crafts are a very useful and effective way of helping manage everyone's

mental health challenges and bringing people back together. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be provided. Every event is listed on the Craft in Mind Facebook page. Also being sold in store are craft supplies, all heavy discounted as well as locally crafted handmade gifts.

All proceeds are used to buy food for the Craft in Mind Food Bank so they can continue to help the community as the pandemic continues to cause economic uncertainty.

Craft in Mind Directors, Emma Green and John Wilson stated: "We would like to invite everyone to come to visit us on our opening day on the 11th September. We are very excited to be opening a new store which is located just inside the double doors next to Craft in Mind at Cockhedge Shopping Centre. This is a huge step for everybody after the last 18 months of lockdowns and isolation.

"To finally have some normality to get back to and with the main focus of mental health at the forefront of the shop's heart, it is so lovely to see the community being able to come back together."



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Residents urged to use walk-in centres to ease pressures on A&E

WARRINGTON & Halton Hospitals is appealing to residents to use local walk-in centres to ease pressures on the A&E department at Warrington Hospital which continues to be under "extreme pressures."

With many people choosing to visit A&E with minor ailments the extreme pressures are causing lengthy waiting times.

Urgent treatment centres are a facility you can go to if you need urgent medical attention, but it's not a life-threatening situation. They're equipped to diagnose and treat many of the most common ailments people go to A&E for.

You may be referred to an urgent treatment centre by a GP or NHS 111 who can book time slots to attend at the centre. You can also just turn up and walk-in.

There is also an online facility whereby people can check the waiting times before turning up. <https://dashboard.whh.nhs.uk/ed/>

Dr Alex Crowe, Executive Medical Director, WHH said: "Our hospital Emergency Department is currently under extreme pressure and we need your help.

"We are seeing a rise in patients coming into the hospital which means much longer waiting times with increased pressure on staff who are working hard to ensure that they see and treat the sickest patients first.

"Please remember that Accident & Emergency is for life-threatening emergencies or accidents only. Lots

of patients that are coming to the department could be better treated or advised elsewhere.

"If you need urgent medical advice and are not sure where to go then please ring NHS 111 and the trained advisors will direct you to the right service.

"Your GP should be your first point of call, if it is NOT a life-threatening emergency or accident. Your GP is open and your practice can be contacted online, through an app or by phone so you can be assessed.

"If you need a face-to-face appointment you will be given one. Measures have been put in place to protect patients and staff from COVID-19, so it is safe to attend.

"High street Pharmacists are also qualified to give advice and dispense medicine for a range of illnesses including coughs, colds, stomach upsets and skin conditions. They can provide many treatments 'over the counter' to help you get better at home.

"We also have two excellent Urgent Treatment Centres which are open 8am – 9pm every day in Widnes and Runcorn. There is convenient parking and a free shuttle bus between Runcorn and Warrington hospitals.

"Our closest Urgent Care Centre is based at Halton Hospital in Entrance 2, Halton General Hospital, Hospital Way, Runcorn, Cheshire, WA7 2DA."

Meanwhile, Dr Colin Wong says one of the significant Challenges is the number of children attending A&E/ED in Warrington hospital for minor ailments, and taking up precious time needed to care for poorly patients who need to be seen by a doctor or nurse, in an Emergency.

He says that with the easing of lockdown more children have been mixing and coming into contact with viruses usually seen in the winter months.

These include a range of respiratory infections, bronchiolitis, para flu and rhinovirus, all of which produce symptoms of cough, runny nose and fever. These can often be treated at home.

He said: If your child has a temperature then giving them medicine or tablets containing either ibuprofen or paracetamol, should help to bring their temperature down.

"However, if the child continues to deteriorate, then concerned parents should get medical advice and help. If in doubt call NHS 111 and they will be able to signpost you to the right treatment in the right place.

"Concerned parents can also take their children to the Runcorn Urgent Treatment Centre, at Halton, which is open every day between 8am and



9pm or if you live in Widnes – there is also the Widnes Urgent Treatment Centre.

"Also, local Walk-in Centres, GP practices or your local Pharmacist are fully trained to give expert advice on how to treat minor ailments."

Conditions that can be treated at an urgent treatment centre include:

- sprains and strains
- suspected broken limbs
- minor head injuries
- cuts and grazes
- bites and stings
- minor scalds and burns
- ear and throat infections
- skin infections and rashes eye problems
- coughs and colds
- feverish illness in adults
- feverish illness in children
- abdominal pain
- vomiting and diarrhoea
- emergency contraception

For the latest information on waiting times visit <https://dashboard.whh.nhs.uk/ed/>

When you think you need A&E, contact NHS 111 by phone or online.

NHS 111 is free and is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Depending on the situation, we can:

- Book you in to be seen quickly and safely, at an Accident & Emergency (A&E) / Emergency Department.
- Direct you to an alternative, more appropriate local service, such as an urgent care centre
- Connect you to a nurse, emergency dentist, pharmacist or GP
- Arrange a face-to-face appointment, if required
- Tell you how to get any medicine you need
- Help you with self-care advice

Contacting 111 first will help us manage the number of people in A&E / Emergency Department waiting rooms and maintain social distancing. It will also ensure that you receive the right care in the right place, in a more timely way.

If you or someone you know is experiencing a life-threatening medical emergency, you should still attend A&E or call 999 immediately.

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Birchwood Park survey shows business is booming

NEW research conducted by Birchwood Park reveals business confidence and growth has skyrocketed, with 84% of Warrington businesses surveyed predicting a return to some kind of "normality" in the next 12 months.

According to the survey created as part of its Business Support Series, survey data has revealed that the future is bright for the region, with almost 50% of its occupiers experiencing growth in the last quarter (Q1 Jan to March 2021), and 60% stating they are optimistic about growth for the rest of the year.

The research, conducted with over 100 local Warrington-based businesses at the North's largest out of town business park – from SMEs to large global organisations spanning a range of industries from accounting and recruitment to engineering and energy – reveals an encouraging trend, with more than a quarter (28%) of local businesses sustaining output, despite experiencing a significant impact on their business due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The news comes as 84% of businesses are predicting a return to some form of 'normality' within the next 12 months, with the vast majority expected to return to the workplace in a flexible capacity within six months' time.

The research has also revealed other positive workplace trends, including an increase in employee-focused wellbeing initiatives, with 60% of employees taking learnings from the past 18 months and now taking advantage of popular incentives such as flexible working, access to healthy refreshments, weekly team meets and access to complimentary exercise and treatments.

Martin O'Rourke, Commercial Director at Birchwood Park, said: "There's no denying that the pandemic has impacted businesses – over the past 18 months being flexible and adaptable has been vital. However, what some may find surprising is that as we acclimatise and move forward through the recovery period, the business outlook is very positive, especially here in Warrington and indeed at Birchwood Park.

"A greater focus on the environment and wellbeing seems to be having a positive impact on businesses, this combined with the benefits of flexible working and of course access to business support,

incentives and initiatives such as those provided at Birchwood Park, our occupiers seem to be offering a robust blueprint for future business success across Warrington."

Twinfix is a family-run business that has been designing and manufacturing Roof Glazing and Canopies from their premises on Birchwood Park for the past 30 years.

Vicky Evans, Director at Twinfix, comments: "Despite the many challenges this pandemic has brought for our business, it has definitely helped us move forward as

a business, allowing us to automate and digitalise, getting rid of manual processes where possible. It's also helped with time efficiency, utilising Teams keep connected, supporting homeworking while also highlighting the benefits of actually being in the offices – so we will utilise all of this knowledge going forward as we work to reach ambitious growth targets for the year ahead."

For more information, visit www.birchwoodpark.co.uk/business-support/



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Olympic effort for recovery and growth!

by John Laverick - Warrington & Co

So who won – USA or San Marino? It's not the start of a bad joke, but if like me you have finally warmed to an Olympic Games with no crowds it has caused me to ponder the real ranking of countries considering their size and financial clout.

I also quite liked the new sports in the Olympics; surfing, skateboarding, BMX riding. Whilst some may say these are not sports and are modern affectations to pander to a younger audience, I would disagree and point to the Olympic games in Paris (1900). In their wisdom the organisers saw fit to include the sports of Live Pigeon Shooting and Pistol Duelling and St Louis (1904) brought us the riveting but completely bonkers - Plunge for Distance (dive into a pool and see how far you can get without swimming). I promise I am not making these up. And I am slightly disappointed to say that the sport of poodle clipping didn't quite make it in 1900 being a demonstration event – the gold medal was 17 in 2 hours if you are wondering. But, of course, we know

better now and only introduced High Jump for Horses in 1960 and solo synchronised swimming in 84, 88 and 92.

I'll be honest. I quite like high jump for horses.

So without detracting from the achievements of 4, or in this case 5 years of hard work to be expended in 10 seconds or several hours depending on your sport, you will have probably looked at the medal table during the final week or so to see how we were doing. Although GB came fourth, the ranking by gold medals was a bit annoying, so I looked for medal tables ranked by overall medals and of course disappeared down the rabbit hole of rankings by other measures. If you look at total medals then the USA wins (113) if you look at total medals

per capita then San Marino wins (1 per 11,310). If you look at total Gold Medals then US wins again but per capita Bermuda wins. In terms of medals by GDP San Marino comes out top again and so on and so on. Even better when you think they only sent 5 athletes to the games and won 3 medals. So in my opinion San Marino won the Olympics.

We always feel a need to compare ourselves and tabulate things so if you do the same for Warrington where do you get to? The Centre for Cities data (and in this case large Towns, so there are 63) is the best league table we get and at the moment and depending on your preferred measure our rankings vary quite a lot. Business Churn is very low and we come 2/63, Employment rate is good at 19/63 but conversely Housing Affordability Ratio is lower at 29/63 and for GDP per worker we come 36/63.

So what's the point of this. Not sure really, other than it reiterates that recovery and growth are complex but that our strong business base gives us an overall recovery rating which is quite good at 73/100 and spend index is increasing compared to last year. So not quite a USA but not quite a San Marino either.

Whilst we have had the Olympics, there is the equally as absorbing,



John Laverick

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yet jaw-droppingly impressive Paralympics coming up. This just leaves me in awe at the hurdles (pun intended) overcome to compete at that level and if you are still missing sport after all that I would remind you that the Tour of Britain will be coming through Warrington on 9th September. The tour will finish its stage in front of the Golden Gates outside the Town Hall. The event is televised and there are opportunities to get involved on the tour of Britain and Council website.

I wonder if San Marino has entered anyone?



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St. Rocco's Hospice launch Forget-Me-Not Garden at town hall

A special Forget-Me-Not Garden is being created in the grounds of Warrington town hall to help raise funds for St Rocco's Hospice.

With Covid and the subsequent lockdown, many people who have had loved ones pass away in the year have not had a chance to properly celebrate their lives and time to reflect on their death.

Now, St. Rocco's Hospice is launching the Forget-Me-Not Appeal (sponsored by Helen Horne Family Funeral Directors) to help those who lost loved ones remember them and celebrate their lives.

Forget-me-nots represent 'true love' and symbolise that your loved ones will be ever-present in your thoughts. St. Rocco's will be celebrating the lives of our loved ones in their garden of forget-me-

nots, at the very heart of our town, in the gardens of Warrington Town Hall.

Sonya Currey, CEO of St. Rocco's explained, "We are working in partnership with Warrington Council who have very kindly allowed us to make use of the flower beds in front of the town hall. We will be offering metal Forget-Me-Not flowers which will be displayed during September in the Gardens of the Town Hall.

"Following the display, St Rocco's Hospice will take and clean the flowers and return them to you as a permanent keepsake in remembrance of your loved one.

"We hope this appeal will

allow our town the opportunity to remember together and create a fitting tribute to those whom we hold close in our hearts and memories."

St. Rocco's is asking for a minimum donation of £20 for a

Forget-Me-Not which has been custom-made by Red Dragon.

For more details visit www.stroccos.org.uk/Get-Involved/Fundraise/Events/Forget-Me-Not2021



A&E to be extended at Warrington Hospital

PLANNING chiefs have given the go-ahead for a two-storey extension to the emergency department at Warrington Hospital.

The proposals put forward by Warrington and Halton Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust will provide improved facilities within the emergency department in Appleton Wing to enable the hospital to cope with present and future demand.

Clinical and staff areas will be separated where possible to provide clear, legible accommodation for patients and staff and an improved assessment/treatment area to provide better patient experience.

An enclosed plant space will be located on the flat roof of the new building.

The extension has been designed in consultation with hospital staff and

user groups.

It will be to the south of Appleton Wing in an area currently covered in tarmac where there are six disabled parking spaces and an ambulance drop-off area. Some re-routing of traffic routes within the hospital grounds will be necessary.

Appleton Wing was built in the early 1970s to provide outpatient facilities. Over the past 50 years there

have been a number of alterations and additions, the most notable being a single-storey extension to the A&E department in the early 2000s



St. Rocco's Hospice **Saturday 11th September 2021** **Arley Hall and Gardens**
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St. Rocco's Hospice **Saturday 27th September - 10th October 2021**

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"Biggest ever" reunion planned for Woolston High School

FORMER pupils and staff of a Woolston High School which closed nine years ago are being invited to a special "all years" reunion.

Woolston High School closed in 2012 following a lengthy battle by the school community to keep it open.

It had been judged "good" by OFSTED – the Office for Standards in Education – only a year before its final closure.

Now former pupils and staff are being invited to attend the special reunion by a local group headed by the school's last head boy, Jonny Scotland.

He said: "This is going to be Woolston High's biggest ever reunion. It's open to all former students and staff. It's £5 a ticket but it is limited to a maximum of 125 and when they gone, they are gone!"

The event is being held at the Monk Sports and Social Club in Hillock Lane, Woolston, on Friday, September the 17th at 7pm.

The price includes a buffet and any profits will go to Warrington's St Rocco's Hospice.

Tickets can be purchased via EVENTBRITE – www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/woolston-high-school-all-years-reunion-raising-money-for-st-roccos-hospice-tickets-162849959613School

Woolston High School only closed after a fiercely fought campaign to keep it open.

It had opened in 1957 and served three generations of families in Woolston and neighbouring areas of Warrington. The closure followed the borough council identifying a significant surplus of school places in Central and East Warrington. At the time, Woolston had 970 pupils.

In its final years it was judged to be one of the top 40 most improved schools in the country and was awarded specialist Science College status.



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Showjumper and horse defy the odds by both bouncing back from brain tumours

SHOWJUMPER Jenny Keepe has defied the odds, winning a national competition, after both she and her horse bounced back from life-threatening brain tumours!

Jenny, aged 29, from Warrington, feared she would never ride again when a very large brain tumour was discovered in June last year.

Her consultant Mr Yousaf from Walton hospital commented that the operation would probably be one of the largest ones he would ever have to do and she would have to have MRI scans for the rest of her life.

After a 10 hour craniotomy in July 2020 and a second operation in October, only a certain percent of the tumour was able to be removed.

Equestrian Jenny, loves her horses and it was feared that after her operation she might not be able

to ride again.

After a few months gently getting herself back to health she started riding, but her horse Quinn, after developing a nose bleed, was diagnosed with exactly the same tumour as Jenny!

Now worried that Quinn might have to be put down he was taken to Rainbow equine hospital to have surgery through his skull and his tumour removed.

Her beloved dog was then also diagnosed with a brain tumour ... talk about coming in threes !!

After coming 2nd in an earlier competition at Cheshire Royal Show she was one of ten chosen in the country for a puissance competition to be held at UK Nationals, Arena

UK recently.

The competition consists of 5 rounds where the a wall is built bigger and bigger and the winner is the one that jumps the highest without knocking it down.

Jenny decided to set up a funding page for the brain tumour trust, which raised nearly £1,500 and focus on the competition.

Proud mum Sally said: "After such a horrible time and not even a year after her second operation, we doubted Jenny and Quinn would ever make the competition.

"But against all the odds and supported by family and friends with all her determination they both proved us all wrong and not only

entered the competition went on to be one of the winners, jumping 1.70m....just beyond amazing and raised over £1500 for the brain tumour charity!"

Jenny is also connected to the town's nightlife. Sadly, due to the Covid, the family club The Showbar went into liquidation earlier this year but still determined to follow in her dad, Paul Keepe's footsteps and not to be beaten by her problems, Jenny has recently taken over the role of manager at PJs nightclub on Friarsgate.

Sally added: "There is just no keeping her down! It shows you what can be achieved with the right attitude and determination!"



College celebrates outstanding vocational results with 100 percent pass rate

WARRINGTON & Vale Royal College is celebrating this year's vocational results and is extremely proud of how hard students have worked to achieve such impressive grades.

Students achieved an incredible 100% pass rate, with 75% of Level 3 BTEC students achieving Distinction grades and 98% achieving Merit grades.

The students are now looking forward to taking their next steps, with record numbers progressing onto their first-choice university for further study.

Level 3 Health & Social Care students Jade Woods and Mason Dodd (pictured) achieved an overall A grade and B grade respectively, and will both be heading to Edge Hill University this September to study Psychology & Criminology.

Level 3 Art & Design student Molly Horrocks, who achieved a Distinction grade, said: "I'm delighted with my results and so pleased I've got into university. I will be studying Photography at Manchester Metropolitan University."

Looking to join Warrington & Vale Royal College this September? There will be plenty of opportunities to call into college and enrol onto your dream course!

The college's Warrington campus is open for enrolment sessions taking place for both schools leavers and adults throughout August (9am-7pm on Thursdays,

9am-4pm every other weekday).

For enquiries, please contact the college's friendly Admissions Team on 01925 494400 or learner.services@wvr.ac.uk



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WE ARE

Without doubt, this past year and a half has changed everything - not least for the arts and entertainment industry. In March 2020, our whole world ground to a halt but thanks to you and your support, we are here to tell the tale. For that, we can't thank you enough.

During this time, our doors have remained closed, our stages have been empty, and the world has been a quieter, less colourful place than before. As the lights stayed down low, our team has been working from hard behind the scenes to keep you entertained at home. But locked down in our homes, meeting only via Zoom, we have sorely missed the buzz of our living, breathing venues. As time went on, we kept our sights on the horizon, always looking for a brighter future in an increasingly uncertain world. But finally, we saw light at the end of the tunnel.

Now, the curtain is rising. Now, the doors are opening, and our Culture Warrington family can't wait to welcome you back to a jam-packed programme of music, comedy, theatre, dance, art, history, and more! From the famous faces we all know and love, such as Jimmy Carr, Sarah Millican, Scouting for Girls, Dave Spikey and Katherine Ryan, to our ever-expanding support for local, emerging talent, this is set to be a season we will never forget.

Never again will we take for granted the sound of laughter in our venues, or the feeling of dancing with our friends to live music pumping through the air, or spending the day with our families learning and exploring.

Yes, Covid has changed everything but now we're back, we have a sneaking suspicion that we might just be better than ever before.



PARR HALL PYRAMID ARTS CENTRE

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Fri 27 Aug

Wed 1 Sep

Fri 3 Sep

Sat 4 Sep,
2 Oct, 6 Nov
& 4 Dec

Wed 8 Sep

Fri 10 Sep

Fri 17 Sep

Sun 19 Sep

Sat 25 Sep

Sun 26 Sep

Wed 29 Sep

Fri 1 Oct

Sat 2 Oct

Sun 3 Oct

Wed 6 Oct

Thu 7 Oct

Sat 9 Oct

Sun 10 Oct

Sat 16 Oct

Mon 18 Oct

Wed 20 Oct

Sun 24 Oct

Wed 27 Oct

Thu 28 Oct

Cast

Dave Spikey

Martin Stephenson

Comedy Store

True Tales of the Tour de France - In Conversation with Carlton Kirby

An Evening with
Graeme Souness

Jimmy Carr - Terribly Funny

Illegal Eagles

Mark Watson - How You Can Almost Win

Fireman Sam LIVE

Jason Manford - Like Me

The Slow Readers Club

Scouting For Girls

The Bohemians

John Lydon - I Could Be Wrong, I Could Be Right

Steve Hughes -
Are You Serious?

Dom Joly's Holiday Snaps

Not Lady Chatterley's Lover

Comedy Club 4 Kids

An Evening with
Sir Michael Parkinson

Judy & Liza

Boyzlife

Beth Hart

Sounds of the 60s with
Tony Blackburn

Fri 29 Oct

Sat 30 Oct

Sat 30 Oct

Fri 5 Nov

Fri 5 Nov

Sun 7 Nov

Mon 8 Nov

Fri 12 Nov

Fri 12 Nov

Sat 13 Nov

Sat 13 Nov

Thu 18 Nov

Fri 19 Nov

Fri 19 Nov

Sat 20 Nov

Fri 26 Nov

Sat 27 Nov

Thu 2 Dec

Fri 3 Dec

Fri 3 Dec

Fri 10 Dec

Fri 10 Dec

Sat 11 Dec

Fri 17 Dec

**Fri 7 Jan to
Sun 16 Jan
2022**

One Night in Dublin

Sounds Familiar Music Quiz:
Halloween Special

Any Suggestions Doctor?

Icons of Darts

Crissy Rock

Adventures of the Yorkshire
Shepherdess Amanda Owen

Rob Brydon - A Night of Songs and Laughter

The ELO Show

Only Fools and Boycie

The Noise Next Door - Run Wild
(2pm, Family Friendly)

The Noise Next Door - In Charge (7.30pm, Age 15+)

Luther

80s LIVE

Gary Delaney -
Gary in Punderland

Magic of Motown

James Phelan - Mindblown!

An Evening with Nick Butter

Katherine Ryan

Sarah Millican - Bobby Dazzler

Peter Price

Kate Rusby at Christmas

Houghton Weavers

For Those About to Rock

Ultra 90s

Snow White Pantomime

Penketh Carnival returns after a year like no other

WITH more than 40 years of tradition and a year like no other, Penketh Carnival returned to Greystone Recreation ground with a carnival atmosphere.

Although there was no parade, it was business as usual as the event was officially opened by the Mayor of Warrington Cllr Maureen Creaghan.

There were lots of stalls and charities excited to fundraise again after last year's event had to be cancelled due to the

pandemic, during a full day of free entertainment.

The team behind the event had worked tirelessly to try and bring the event together after only officially deciding to go ahead on July 19 – no easy feat for an event this size.



Pictures: John Hopkins



Art to Happiness exhibition

A group "Art to Happiness" exhibition at The Old School community centre in Fairfield, Warrington, had a message for everyone about what it means to be happy.

Art To Happiness, which was at The Taylor Gallery at The Old School in Fairfield, saw six people who use Warrington Day Service come together to explore the joy of creativity.

The six worked with artists Erica Wilkinson and Lauren Muir from See Change Art Club, to explore a number of arts and crafts techniques, from charcoal drawing to clay making.

During 16 twice-weekly sessions, Jess Brand, Chris Mitchell, Mavis Cross, Doris Cargill, Sonya White and Leigha created enough works of art to host a joint exhibition.

The project was funded by Warrington Town Deal and was a

collaboration between See Change and Making Space, the adult health and social care charity that operates Warrington Day Service.

Stephanie Dolan, service manager, Warrington Day Service, said: "Our day service members have made fantastic progress during this project.

"It has not only improved their art skills but has really enhanced their self-confidence and mental wellbeing."

Erica Wilkinson, co-founder of, See Change Art Club said: "Art to Happiness is the amazing result of eight weeks of art classes at Warrington Day Service. Six people who use the service and their friends have created work every week, exploring new and exciting artistic techniques that many had never tried before.

"The hope for our classes was to inspire, and build relationships and

confidence as a group.

"The exhibition celebrates the amazing talent and effort the group have made."

Jess Brand, one of the project participants, said: "I have really enjoyed experimenting with things I haven't tried before, including

weaving. The lovely, relaxing atmosphere of these sessions has been a real added bonus.

"I feel much more confident in my abilities and have enjoyed getting to know the group and building on friendships. We are all now one big happy family."



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In 2012, ICC Solutions was delighted to become double winners of the Queen's Awards for Enterprise in the Innovation and International Trade categories. This was quickly followed by another Queen's Award for International Trade in 2016 and Innovation in 2017.

Wendy and David have also been recognised for their achievements individually, with David becoming a Deputy Lieutenant for Cheshire and also recognised as Outstanding Cheshire and Warrington Business Leader in 2018. Both are Northern Powerhouse Export Champions and, in addition, they were delighted to be recognised for their contribution to international trade and the UK economy when they were both awarded with an O.B.E. in the Queen's 2020 New Year Honours List.

After 25 years of success, the company is looking forward to celebrating the achievement in 2021, although with the fast paced, ever-changing payment industry, there's no such thing as a day off, and ICC Solutions is looking forward to the next challenge, and hopefully the next award!



Website: www.iccsolutions.com
LinkedIn: Sales & Marketing | ICC Solutions Ltd
Twitter: @iccsolutions

£5m improvement project for nine-storey Kingsway House gets green light

A major £5 million improvement scheme for the nine-storey high Kingsway House in Latchford, Warrington, has been given the go-ahead by town planners.

With the project now approved by Warrington Borough Council's (WBC) planning department, North West housing and regeneration group Torus visited the site, speaking to existing residents to seek their views on the proposed works, providing information, sharing plans and answering questions.

As part of the ambitious investment programme, the ageing 1960s block, which contains 51 one-and two-bedroom apartments, will be fitted with new windows, kitchens, bathrooms, front doors, lifts and balconies, as well as converting current storage areas into two additional residential apartments, asbestos removal, improved insulation, landscaping and improvements to the entrance area.

The plans also include increasing the number of parking spaces from 10 to 44, by removing the unused garages.

Torus Group Stock Condition and Planning Manager, Debbie Stewart, said: "Residents at Kingsway House have been in limbo for several years with a question mark over the future of their homes, so we are delighted to announce that our major improvement and modernisation scheme is now finally about to start.

"This is an exciting development for Torus and our residents, and

we are confident that this long-awaited refurbishment programme will not only benefit the residents who live here, but it will also contribute to the aims of WBC's Central 6 masterplan, contributing to achieving a cleaner, greener, healthier Warrington.

"It was great to be able to discuss the plans with the residents and get their views and we look forward to working with them, as they will be an important part of the project team."

The external of the building will benefit from a new external wall insulation system, with external walls finished with non-combustible render, incorporating stone wool insulation which will improve the

energy efficiency of the building and reducing carbon emissions.

Torus Assets Project Manager, Ste Simm, added; "The £5 million investment in Kingsway House demonstrates our commitment to investing in our existing homes and providing social and affordable homes.

"The refurbishment will create a modern block that will not only look great, but will also help to reduce carbon emissions, whilst benefiting tenants by improving energy efficiency, lowering fuel bills and making their homes warmer."

Though already fully compliant, the refurbishment of Kingsway House will also include enhanced safety features, featuring a full sprinkler system, apartment front doors replaced with fire doors, upgrading the fire alarm with

upgraded and increased number of detectors and though not required by law, Torus are also installing a Fire and Rescue Service evacuation alert system.

Kingsway House resident of 10 years, Maureen, commented on the plans; "The plans look brilliant. I am looking forward to my new apartment, especially the balcony, it will be nice to have some outside space."

Torus is working alongside experienced construction firm, HMS, who have been appointed to remodel the building. The refurbishment works are set to start in September 2021 and is likely to take 18 months to complete. Residents are being kept fully informed as the scheme progresses.



Warrington Worldwide Legacy Project No. 1 – Litter Networks

VOLUNTARY group Litter Networks has become the first recipient of Warrington Worldwide's Legacy Project with a £500 donation towards their ongoing work in the community.

The Litter Networks started in September 2020 in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic and now reach out across the town involving more than 1,500 volunteers.

The networks were started by volunteers Paul Connor and James Coates who have been presented with a £500 donation to help them continue to grow the litter networks and make a positive ongoing difference in the local community.

They jointly developed the "Litter Network" concept, and co-founded

the Litter Networks organisation, which simply connects and empowers local communities to pick up litter.

The first Litter Network was launched in Lymm in 2020 and the concept has rapidly spread to with various networks across Warrington.

James said: "On behalf of myself and Paul as the co-founders of Litter Networks, it gives us great pleasure and satisfaction to be the first recipients of the WW LEGACY PROJECT AWARD and we will directly share this joy with the true community champions who have been out litter picking through out all of our Litter Networks pan Warrington. Over the last 12

months in wind, rain, snow & shine they have been expertly collecting litter whilst also collecting conversations with others about not dropping litter in the first place. A big huge thank you to Warrington Worldwide. We very much look forward to working with you more and more over the coming years to transform Warrington with support from local residents and anchor institutions into a safe and clean plan to live, work & visit!"

Paul added: "Key to each Litter Network is an emphasis on empowering, motivating and bringing together the community to solve environmental problems themselves. A fundamental and priceless part of this is the ideas, camaraderie and selfless drive of the volunteers themselves. Many are solo and family pickers who communicate via our Litter Network Facebook Groups. Some people run formal and informal Litter Picking groups who also use each Litter Network to publicise their events, find out where their

members report problems that might need a group effort, and recruiting new members. This funding will help all those fantastic people to not only have the kit they need, but also seed-fund some of the fantastic community project ideas that spring up all the time. With ideas ranging from alley clean-ups and wildflower planting to information boards and novel equipment purchases, we are confident that this award will be put to very good use!"

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

Meanwhile, to be considered for a Legacy Project grant simply email garys@warrington-worldwide.co.uk titling your email Legacy Project Application and in less than 500 words describe your project and how a grant will help.

Also include a supporting photograph of your organisation if possible.



**warrington
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LEGACY
PROJECT

Despite the challenges of COVID Priestley's Class of 2021 ready to fulfil their dreams

THEY had an experience like no other with the challenges of COVID, but despite the pandemic, Priestley's 2021 cohort have left college ready to fulfil their dreams and ambitions following their A level and BTEC results.

Around 1,000 Year 13 students received their results and looked forward to the next stage of their lives whether that be university, an apprenticeship or employment.

For Thomas Shaw, who is heading to the University of Oxford to study Chemistry, it was a day to celebrate as he collected four A*s in Biology, Chemistry, Maths and the Extended Project.

"I was nervous that even if I got good grades they might not be enough to get into Oxford," said the former Cardinal Newman High School pupil. "The pandemic changed my mind as to what I wanted to do and now I want to go into research and possibly teach at a high level."

Uniquely for results day grades were being revealed for A-Levels and vocational options such as BTECs. That meant students on courses as diverse as Architecture, German and Public Services all found out the results of two years' hard work.

Among the cohort at Priestley College were future medics, lawyers, vets, entrepreneurs and civil engineers.

Phoebe-Leigh Van Embden, a former pupil at St Nicholas Catholic High School, collected a triple

distinction* in Performing Arts and will be continuing her studies at University of Chichester.

"Covid has made it a stressful time because we didn't know what would be happening with exams, but I'm really excited to be going to university now," she said.

Priestley's Class of 2021 achieved a 100% pass rate in 31 A-Levels with 79% of all grades awarded at A* to C.

Across vocational courses there was a 100% pass rate in 56 Level 3 subjects and a high-grade rate of 78%.

Overall the cohort received 361 offers from the Russell Group, which are considered some of the UK's finest universities.

Principal James Gresty said he felt immense pride in students, their families and college staff for all that had been achieved despite the challenges posed by the past year.

"This cohort has shown a resilience and determination to fulfil their potential in the most testing of circumstances," he said.

"They were supported throughout by their families, carers and our community of staff who all pulled together to ensure the education – and therefore the futures – of these young people didn't suffer."



Charlotte Nichols MP Warrington North

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

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Heritage Centre says a special thanks



The Evolution of the RAF Burtonwood Heritage Centre (Part 7)



By Heritage Centre manager John Cotterill

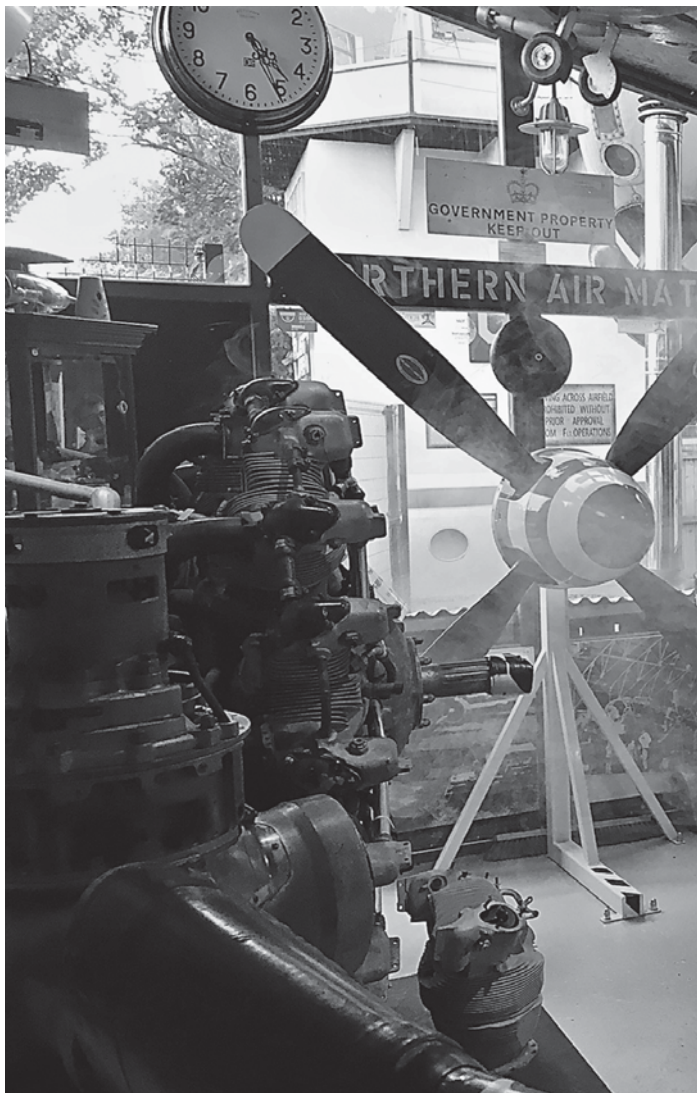
As we approach the second full month of reopening, after the forced closure, due to the Covid19 pandemic, we have just welcomed our 8000th visitor through the RAF Burtonwood Heritage Centre doors during this period. We would like to give a special thanks to each and every person who has made the effort to pay us a visit in what is still an uncertain time.

Donations are still incoming, which will enable us to increase our displays and we are continually indebted to our donors. From paintings and books to aircraft components and communication equipment, we are building up a vast array of artifacts.

As part of a commitment we made in 2020, which sadly had to be cancelled due to the Pandemic, we

are very pleased to announce, that we will be hosting the North West Casual Classics 25th Anniversary car show at the Heritage Centre on the 26th September. This event will run from 10.00am until 4.00pm and refreshments will be available. With several classic car clubs scheduled to attend, we are hoping for a great day for the Anniversary celebration.

From the beginning of September we will be reverting to our pre Covid opening times, which will be Wednesday to Sunday 2.30pm until 5.00pm. Our recently expanded staff are looking forward to welcoming many more visitors in the weeks and months to come.



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Financially yours

By David Watkinson

Save nearly 6% on the cost of meals or holidays

Do you want to save nearly 6% on the cost of taking your family out for a meal or on holiday? If so then please read on.

One of the Covid-19 schemes introduced during the pandemic was a temporary reduction in VAT charged in the hospitality trade on most sales. This reduction is being withdrawn over the next few months.

Since 15 July 2020 hospitality businesses have charged VAT at 5%. This reduction applies to most supplies made by cafes, restaurants, pubs, hotels, members clubs, caravan parks, tourist attractions such as zoos and many others. Unfortunately, it excludes alcoholic drinks, so the following does not apply to your weekly (or daily) visit to your local for the odd pint.

This 5% rate will increase to 12.5% on 1 October 2021, and will subsequently rise further to the standard 20% rate on 1 April 2022. Normal tax point rules will be applied to these rises. This means that VAT will be charged at the rate applying at the earlier of

- The supply of the goods or service,

- The date of invoice, or
- The payment date, whichever comes first.

Therefore, hospitality businesses which take advance bookings and payments before 1st October can charge 5% VAT rather than 12.5%, thus providing both a saving for their customers and a boost for their sales.

It would have been possible for the government to have included anti-forestalling provisions in the legislation. If there had been anti-forestalling legislation in the equation, the supply date would have been relevant. However, with all of the recent rate changes, the government has not applied any anti-forestalling legislation. In other words, if a business receives an advance payment before 1 October for a supply being made on or after this date, it will still be 5% VAT based on the payment date. HM Revenue and Customs have confirmed last year that the absence of anti-forestalling legislation was intended to help the hospitality industry. They said that the intention was to accelerate receipts as the advance payments would

provide important working capital to cash-stretched businesses.

This means that if you are organising a function that will take place after 1st October, such as a birthday bash, but book and pay for it before 1st October then you will pay VAT at 5% rather than 12.5%. If, for instance, the cost of the evening is £50 plus VAT per head, then it will cost you a total of £52.50 if you book and pay early, but this will increase to £56.25 if you do not pay before the increase.

Prices are, of course, frequently quoted at a VAT inclusive rate. If you operate a business that charges on this basis then during September you have the opportunity to promote your business in a way that will benefit both yourself and your customer. For instance, suppose you operate a guest house and charge £300 per room per week. At a 5% VAT this equates to a sales value of £285. Once this rises to 12.5% then your sales value will drop to £266. Why not, therefore, offer a 2.5% discount on Christmas or next year's bookings. This will mean that your customer only pays £292.50, saving



Margaret Black and David Watkinson

£7.50, whilst providing you with a sales value of £278. Not only, therefore, will you get your money quicker but you will also get £12 more than you would if you received the money after 1st October.

Of course, if you are yourself VAT registered, and the expense is a properly deducted business expense such as staff travel, or the annual staff Christmas party, then this will not apply to you as can reclaim any VAT paid. However, even VAT registered businesses will save if the expense is not wholly deductible, such as if they invite customers to the party.

And finally, we repeat that it does not apply to alcoholic beverages. Therefore, if you are a member of a pub quiz team and go to your local every week then you will not make any savings by offering to pay up front for your next 12 months alcohol intake!

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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Peel Hall decision could be anytime say campaigners

THE Save Peel Hall Campaign Group's Rule 6 Party has confirmed it has received notification that the future of North Warrington's last natural green space now lies in the hands of the Secretary of State.

Campaigners recently received notice that the Public Inquiry Inspector Christina Downes had submitted her report to Robert Jenrick, Secretary of State for Housing, Communities, and local Government, and that a deadline for the decision announcement has been set by November 9th.

The report was expected to be submitted in July, but this was delayed to allow parties to comment on the revised National Planning Policy Framework which came into force on July 20th.

The inquiry came after a legal battle when landowner Satnam Millennium Ltd appealed against Warrington Borough Council's Development Management Committee's refusal to allow the developer permission to build a 1,200-home 'multi-neighbourhood' on the former farmland site. Although this appeal was eventually dismissed by the Secretary of State, it was overturned by the High Court, forcing the council, Satnam and the Save Peel Hall campaigners into the complex inquiry ring again.

The inquiry opened in September 2020 but was promptly adjourned. It then reopened this year and officially closed in March giving Ms Downes time to re-visit the site and to compile her official report.

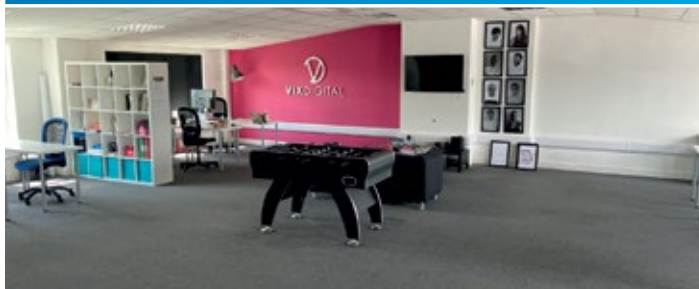
"All the hard slog has been done now. Our Rule 6 Party were absolutely outstanding at the inquiry. We could not have performed any better. Our professionalism shone through, and this was acknowledged by the Inspector who took time to emphasise that our conduct had been exemplary throughout." said campaigner Wendy Johnson-Taylor.

She added: "We sincerely hope that all our demanding work pays off and that common sense prevails. It is evidently crystal clear that this site, although classed as 'available' for housing, is most definitely not a sustainable or compatible piece of land for development. We are keeping everything crossed. This will be a tense waiting game, but to be honest, even though we are anticipating some wait, an announcement could break at any time between now and the November 9 deadline."



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Warrington & Vale Royal College celebrates outstanding results



Warrington & Vale Royal College is celebrating an incredible 100% pass rate, with 75% of Level 3 BTEC students achieving Distinction grades and 98% achieving Merit grades.

We are delighted with this year's vocational results and extremely proud of how hard all of our students have worked to achieve such impressive grades. The students are looking forward to taking their next steps, with record numbers progressing onto their first-choice university for further study.

Congratulations class of 2021!

Emilija Taneska

Level 3 Business

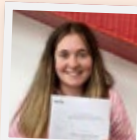
Level 3 Business student Emilija has achieved an outstanding Triple Distinction*, the highest vocational grade possible. This September she will be progressing onto The University of Manchester to study Modern Language and Business & Management (French), combining her passion for business and language.



Rhianna Gregory

Level 3 Health & Social Care

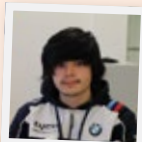
Level 3 Health & Social Care student Rhianna will be progressing onto University of Salford to study Learning Disabilities Nursing, after achieving a brilliant A* grade. Rhianna is delighted with her results and looking forward to this exciting next step.



Joseph Redmond

Level 3 Science

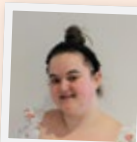
Level 3 Science student Joseph has completed his course and achieved an amazing Double Distinction* & Distinction. He has secured an impressive role as an Apprentice Service Engineer with Thermo Fisher Scientific, the leading company for developing and manufacturing scientific products.



Molly Horrocks

Level 3 Art & Design

Level 3 Art & Design student Molly is delighted with her excellent Distinction grade and excited to be progressing onto Manchester Metropolitan University this September to study Photography. Molly loves being creative and is looking forward to developing her skills further.



Not enrolled yet for September 2021?

Don't worry if you haven't enrolled yet. You can call in, speak to our tutors and enrol all on the same day. We are open **Monday - Friday, 9.00AM - 4.00PM**, with late opening until **7.00PM every Thursday**.

To enrol, remember to bring your photo ID and GCSE results!

For enquiries, please contact our friendly Admissions Team on **01925 494 400** or learner.services@wvr.ac.uk.

Exciting courses for adults!



Did you know that Warrington & Vale Royal College offer a wide range of courses for adults?

Whether you are looking to develop new professional skills to help progress in your career, strengthen your knowledge to help make you more valuable to your current employer or just want to learn something new we are confident you can find something for you.

Our course options include:

- Apprenticeships - open to all ages
- Access to HE - for those wanting to study for a degree in the future
- Higher Education Certificates & Diplomas - with significantly lower tuition fees than universities
- Professional courses accredited by specialist awarding bodies in their field
- Online courses - perfect for adding new skills to your CV
- Basic digital skills courses for those who usually avoid using a computer, tablet or smartphone
- Plus, a whole host of short leisure courses including topics such as: art & design, creative writing, floristry, hair & beauty, languages, sign language and well-being.

What are you waiting for?

Check out the full range of courses starting this September in our summer course guide at: wvr.ac.uk/summer.

