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Warrington Worldwide

Issue No. 268 April 2022 FREE EVERY MONTH



Picture: Hannah Skentelbery

Warrington 'Passes Go'

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Editor's Comment



GROWING up as a youngster playing Monopoly I couldn't help but get excited when it was announced that Warrington is going to get its own version of the iconic board game in time for Christmas.

With all the doom and gloom in the world at the moment, this was an ideal tonic for the town, whether it wins city status or not.

I can't wait to see local landmarks, that have been voted for by the public, featuring on the board game - and I suspect a lot of people will be getting it for Christmas - if not before!

Its certainly helped solve my annual problem of what to buy family and friends.

Fingers crossed Warrington Worldwide might also get to feature - watch this space!

Meanwhile we are delighted to be able to support St Rocco's Hospice's Bereavement Café project with our latest Legacy Project £500 grant.

The Bereavement café is an informal drop-in that opens once a month in Stockton Heath.

Facilitated by the St. Rocco's Counselling & Emotional Care team (CEC) and Hospice volunteers, it is intended to provide support with the opportunity to meet and talk to others going through similar experiences.

With more funds, the hospice can look at opening another Bereavement Café in Warrington so that more people can access this peer support.

Legacy Grant applications for other projects supporting the Warrington community can be

applied for by emailing us at info@warrington-worldwide.co.uk titled "Legacy Project".



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Warrington 'Passes GO' with its very own Monopoly game

WARRINGTON is set to become the first place in Cheshire to get its very own official Monopoly game as members of the public got a chance to suggest famous landmarks to feature in the iconic board game and pick three local charities to appear on the community chest squares.

While Palm Springs, Dubai and Sydney are amongst the most glamorous and glitzy places on earth and honoured with their very own official MONOPOLY game, the company with the license to produce these unique editions has now bestowed the same honour on Warrington.

Still a town, but bidding to win city status in this the Queen's Platinum Jubilee milestone year, Warrington has seen off nine other places in Cheshire to become the first county place to land its very own official MONOPOLY game.

The Warrington edition of the world's most popular and famous board game will see the typical addresses, landmarks and playing cards from the original MONOPOLY game, replaced by Warrington landmarks.

Although famed for being a 'New Town' that saw a population boom in the 1960s, Warrington's history dates back to the eighth century.

"We are going to be spoilt for choice with Warrington's heritage putting this edition together," says MONOPOLY's Jennifer Lau.

Warrington becomes the very first Cheshire place to land its own official MONOPOLY game. In 2001 there

was a part Chester one, with other Cheshire towns featuring too. No city or town in Cheshire has ever had its very own game.

To land the honour Warrington has beaten nine other places including rugby rivals Widnes.

The Mayor of Warrington, Cllr Maureen Creaghan, says: "This provided people with an exciting opportunity to share their ideas about Warrington locations that should be included as part of this iconic game.

"Could we see a MONOPOLY board potentially with the Halliwell Jones Stadium included? Or Walton Hall and Gardens? Or perhaps Gulliver's World? Our residents and families will have many memories and favourite places across our town, and I look forward to seeing what suggestions are proposed."

Landmarks that are very likely to be tipped to feature in the board include:

Warrington Town Hall – maybe to land on 'Whitehall' from the game's classic London original.

The Transporter Bridge – on a train station. The four train stations for this game are being handed over to a 'travel' theme.

Halliwell Jones Stadium – this could feature on a blue square bearing

in mind Super League Warrington Wolves' club colours.

Lymm Dam – this could appear on the Water Works square.

IKEA – in recognition of the Swedish firm's first store in the UK – in Warrington in 1987 – this also could be on a blue or a yellow square (the colours of Sweden's national flag).

Winning Moves UK are the makers of this new version of MONOPOLY, who are producing the game under official licensing from Hasbro.

Over the last 25 years Winning Moves UK has been producing official versions of MONOPOLY all over the world from Palm Springs to Dubai, The Hamptons to Harrogate.

"The game will reflect the flavour and feel of these suggestions," added

Ms Lau, Custom Games Executive at Winning Moves UK.

"The game will be themed in sets largely around different genres. From sport to shopping, business to heritage. Chance and Community Chest cards will be themed too.

For example, one could send players 'Back 3 Spaces' for getting stuck in traffic on the M56 and M62.

The board will hit the shops this October (2022), in time for Christmas and three local charities will be included following a public vote.

Votes have also been cast for Warrington Worldwide which could also feature on the iconic board game - watch this space!



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Priestley student's voice is heard on international podcast

PRIESTLEY College student James Scanlan got a birthday surprise when he featured on podcast with an international audience and two of the most well-respected BBC journalists at the helm.

No wonder the Priestley College student was buzzing after he was heard asking a question on a recent edition of Americast.

"I was revising when I heard it and had to stop," he said. "I was laughing because I couldn't believe I was on Americast."

James, who also studies History and Media A-Levels at Priestley College, posed a question that was answered by journalists Emily Maitlis and Jon Sopel along with the BBC's senior North American reporter Anthony Zurcher.

Earlier they joked about how James, who is aiming for a career in politics, was planning to send in a question every week until one was discussed on the show.

"I got back from work on the Tuesday night and had a message from Americast saying they really liked my question and would I record it for them," said James.

"I thought if it was used in that week's episode it would be a great birthday present for me."

It was, indeed, a great birthday present. The popular trio – whose knowledge and chemistry entertains and informs listeners every week – spent around 10 minutes on the 'Americanswer' as it is known to

the podcast's listeners.

James had asked who they thought the rising stars in American politics were given the age of the current crop of leaders.

Among those namechecked as likely future presidential candidates were Ron Desantis, Mike Pompeo and Pete Buttigieg.

For James, a former pupil at Lymm High School, it was a great moment to hear his question answered, but he's not finished yet.

"I've messaged them saying I know my question can't be answered every week because everyone needs a chance, but if I do have a good one I will send it in," he said.

"Then I asked 'who they think Trump's running mate might be if he runs again in 2024?' so we will see if they answer that."



Volunteers clear litter from towpath beauty spot

NEARLY 30 volunteers turned out to do a major litter-pick on the towpath of the New Cut Canal at Woolston, Warrington.

The blitz by members of the New Cut Heritage and Ecology Group, carried out in conjunction with Warrington Borough Council, resulted in 30 bags of assorted rubbish being cleared from the path and undergrowth.

The annual event helps ensure the popular walk was in pristine condition for the spring.

It is organised to clear some three kilometres of towpath before the summer growth and bird nesting season starts.

This year, the most "prized" items were a computer and a new

microscope still in its box.

Vacuum cleaners, gas cylinders and three bicycles all in need of

repair were also found.

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Business as usual as familiar faces takeover at The Looking Glass

IT will be business as usual at popular Warrington town centre pub The Looking Glass, which was recently sold by Wetherspoons.

Mike Mason and James Glover, who already run a number of other successful town centre bars, have agreed to take on the lease at the Looking Glass, saying it will be "business as usual."

They aim to complete the takeover of running the premises, based in Buttermarket Street, by the end of March.

The pub, built on the site of the former Odeon Cinema and originally built as a Yates Wine Lodge, was one of two run by the Wetherspoon chain, along with The

Friar Penketh on Barbauld Street. Mike, who owns PJs, The Institution and Hop & Co and James who has the Hideout and Block One, recently teamed up to open the successful The Grand on Bridge Street and have now joined forces again to take over The Looking Glass.

Mike said: "The Looking Glass is a fantastic town centre pub and our aim is to carry on with business as usual. We are looking forward to working with the current staff and are delighted to add this to our

existing portfolio of town centre premises.

"With all the ongoing changes in the town centre and the future proposed re-developments nearby,

these are exciting times."

Mike added that while things had been tough during lockdown, things were now getting back to normal.



Hybrid working leads to shortage of rental properties

WARRINGTON'S boom town status means housing rental stock has reduced significantly since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic as more people seek hybrid working.

On Rightmove for Warrington, pre-covid there would have been circa 900 properties available to rent, with plenty of supply, whereas now the average number of properties at any one time is between 100 to 125.

As a result, as soon as a rental

property comes on the market it is generally snapped up.

Highlighting the problem, Gary Pemberton from Belvoir Sales & Lettings on Sankey Street, Warrington said: "Hybrid working has meant more people have moved to suburb towns like Warrington where we have a high % of rental stock in houses rather than apartments. People want gardens/back yards ie, their own space.

"Warrington is a boom town with more and more people coming to work in Warrington and in most cases, they initially rent.

"Taxation and Legislation changes have also meant that accidental and traditional landlords are selling up as they are getting strong sales prices for their investments."

Gary added: There are also new landlords coming into the market, but not at the same rate as ones

selling, thus stock has contracted significantly and rents have risen dramatically over the last two years.

"Good quality landlords that buy and maintain good quality rental properties is what we need in the market. However, the government legislation and tax changes over the recent years have worked against rather than with those good landlords."

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A taste of what's to come in the Warrington business world

by John Laverick - Warrington & Co

This column is normally a light-hearted look at what is happening in the world of Warrington particularly development, but in the context of what is happening at the moment it would seem that that would be out of place. However, despite world events I thought I would give you a taste of what is happening on a slightly wider Warrington & Co basis this month. And if you like any of it, more can be found on our website under the publication of our latest newsletter.

In terms of major projects the recent Northern Powerhouse rail announcements were understandably disappointing for a number of places like Leeds and Bradford, however Warrington will benefit from faster north-south and east-west connectivity. This will also lead to significant regeneration in and around Bank Quay station so plenty of opportunities for Warrington businesses. The other major project will be Fiddlers Ferry, a familiar feature on the Warrington landscape for a generation. Current owners SSE

are selling the land to developers and after remediation, it could be home to a significant number of homes, businesses and leisure opportunities. Part of our offer at W&Co is to support businesses with recruitment and to link them in with our employment support programmes. Our aim is to link local people with local opportunities, and we do this in partnership with a network of partners and employment support providers, as well as matching participants from our own programmes into job interviews with employers.

Bus company stands with Ukraine

LOCAL bus company Warrington's Own Buses has unveiled a Ukraine-designed bus as a show of support to those currently suffering due to the ongoing conflict.

The bus, which will be circulating throughout the borough, is a symbolic tribute that the company is standing in solidarity with those who have currently been displaced, are suffering or have been killed due to the unfolding, distressing situation in Ukraine.

Managing Director of Warrington's Own Buses, Ben Wakerley, said: "Like many across Warrington and indeed the world, we've witnessed the deeply disturbing and gut-wrenching scenes in Ukraine.

"We want to show our support to those who are currently affected by the conflict, with predictions showing that around 4 million people will be displaced or forced to leave their homes, with a

further 18 million people projected to be affected by the conflict.

"It may only be a simple gesture, but I hope in a small way that our Ukraine bus can help bring people's attention to the conflict, so that they in turn can equally show their support.

"We are in discussions with the council and other partners to see if there are other ways that the company can help. In the meantime, I would urge anyone looking for ways to support, to consider donating to the Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal, if you are in a position to do so."



John Laverick

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www.warringtonandco.com

We've been working with Gousto, Costello's and Parlour – new tenants at Time Square to source good employees and with DWP, who have arranged a Sector Based Work Academy for Production Operatives (5 days training with a guaranteed interview on completion), which we have hosted at The Base.

A new report has found that the resilience of high street spending in Warrington during the Covid-19 pandemic has seen the town outperform most other big cities and towns. Cities Outlook 2022, the annual health-check on the UK's largest economies, has revealed that Britain's biggest cities have lost almost a year's worth of sales during the coronavirus pandemic, with lockdowns and a lack of visitors causing a collapse in consumer spending.

The Business Exchange launched in the Spring of 2018 and it quickly became the largest networking group in Warrington. Before the pandemic it hosted weekly meetings, social events and an annual conference. These switched online through Covid, however are now back to in-person events attracting business owners from a wide variety of sectors.

When joining, members now benefit from automatically becoming a member of the Warrington Chamber of Commerce too. As a member you benefit from listing on the Business Directory on the Business Exchange website, social media shared on Linked In, Twitter and FB, opportunity to provide news stories or offers on the Business Exchange newsletter and potentially here.

On a last note the Warrington Annual Property Review will take place on 22nd April and I hope as this is the first time in 2 years we have been able to get together I hope to see as many people there as possible.

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Work starts on £80,000 Penketh Pool refurbishment

WORK has started on an £80,000 refurbishment of the existing swimming pool at Penketh Pool and Community Centre.

Penketh Pool owned by Penketh Parish Council, closed in March 2020, due to the Coronavirus pandemic.

It had been previously identified that there were several cracks/leaks in the pool walls and pipe infrastructure and a failure of the filtration system.

The anticipated cost of the first phase of refurbishment work – about £80,000 – is being wholly funded by the existing 2021/22 council budget. This has been enabled by a number of cost efficiencies made by the council

following last May's election.

The refurbishment of the existing pool is also being complemented by an overall review of the business operating model. A new business plan and strategy has been devised – in draft format – by the council's business management committee, which aims to streamline and improve the viability of the pool and community centre and reduce dependency on the local precept.

Historically, the pool was supported by around £120,000 a year from the main council budget.

Cllr Kieran Layfield, chairman

of the business management committee said: "It's great that after many months of hard work to get to this point, building works are commencing on the pool. After seeing first-hand the work that our appointed contractor has completed at other local centres, I'm really looking forward to seeing these works come to fruition over the coming weeks.

"The council has also conducted an optioneering study on different approaches to take with the overall centre, including the entrance and the changing rooms. Various options have been identified and subsequently costed. Once the remedial works to the pool have been completed, the council will move into this next phase – and a public consultation process will be completed before any final decision is made.

Council chairman Cllr Dale Solan-Cooper said: "I'm thrilled that works are starting at the pool.

"I've spoken to many passing residents who have asked when they are going to be able to come back for a swim. The pool is a fantastic asset for the people of Penketh – it provides vital swimming education to our local young people and serves a leisure activity for the wider community. I'm really excited to finally be able to welcome back our previous service user groups and customers over the coming months.

"I really encourage the local community to get behind us as the centre reopens and help us to rebuild your asset.

"The remedial works at the pool are planned to take around eight weeks to be completed, and further updates regarding the progress and reopening of the pool will be provided as the project moves forward."

More details are available from the council clerk via email to clerk@penkethparishcouncil.org.uk

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Nine month closure as plans move ahead for swing bridge refurbishment

PLANS are moving ahead for the long-awaited full refurbishment of Stockton Heath swing bridge, with works, which will result in the bridge closing for nine months, targeted to take place next year.

The works will involve Peel Ports investing around £6million in undertaking a complete structural, mechanical, electrical refurbishment and repainting programme to improve the longevity of this key asset.

The swing bridge, across the Manchester Ship Canal, links Stockton Heath village to Warrington the town centre and the north.

Peel Ports and Warrington Borough Council are in advanced discussions for the major refurbishment works to begin in April next year. The date has been chosen to ensure there is sufficient time for preparations to be made for the works to cause as little disruption as possible.

However, the essential works will cause considerable inconvenience, and both Peel Ports and the council feel it is vital to give as much warning time as possible.

The chosen start date will also ensure that the majority of the works are undertaken during more favourable weather conditions. In addition, the inclusion of the summer holidays in the works period – where traffic flows and associated disruption will also be reduced) -should minimise

disruption to children travelling to and from school.

Peel Ports estimate that the works will take about nine months to complete and have ensured 12 months' notice to communicate this so bridge users can make alternative arrangements during this time.

Their appointed contractor has looked at all options to undertake these works while maintaining some access for people to cross the bridge. However, due to the extent of the refurbishment, the works can only be carried out safely with the bridge being completely closed to all users, including pedestrians, cyclists, bus services and motorists.

In the coming months, the council and Peel Ports will be working together to develop a mitigation and logistics plan which will help prepare and inform the community, for the social, transport, environmental and economic implications of the work.

This will include a focus on maintaining normal movement of traffic and minimising disruption to people in Warrington as much as possible.

The council's cabinet member for transportation, highways and public realm, Cllr Hans Mundry,



said: "Stockton Heath swing bridge plays a vital role in Warrington's highways network, and major repair and repainting works have been needed on the bridge for some time.

"I'm pleased that we are close to reaching a way forward with Peel Ports for a full programme of refurbishment works to take place next year. This will be a transformative project, providing a more reliable, attractive and safer bridge which will benefit our town for many years to come.

"Of course, we know – as with any works of this scale – that there will be an impact on people who use the bridge, while the refurbishment takes place. That's why, ahead of the start of works next year, we will be working very closely with Peel Ports to develop

a comprehensive plan which will minimise disruption to the travelling public as much as possible."

Phil Hall, port director, Mersey Division at Peel Ports Group, said: "We are committed to continuing to work closely with Warrington Borough Council to refurbish Stockton Heath swing bridge, subject to final operational approval. Although we looked at all options to provide some continued access to the bridge, safety is paramount and we must close it completely to ensure this for both bridge users and our contractors.

"By targeting April 2023 for the beginning of the work, we are providing 12-months' notice that should assist bridge users in making alternative arrangements for travel."

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From small beginnings to four million plants a year!

LYMM based family business E Smith and Son has grown from small beginnings to four million plants a year, specialising in perennials, seasonal bedding and basket plants and Christmas holly wreaths.

Started by Edwin in 1959 in Statham, they moved to their present site on Booths Lane in 1961 where they grew bedding plants and beautiful cut flowers, and where they continue to grow.

From small beginnings, the family now produce around four million plants annually, from seeds and cuttings.

Over 90% of the seedlings are sown on the nursery, using the latest technology and newest varieties to produce healthy plants for sale to retail, wholesale, landscapers and local authorities. Irrigation is mechanised using collected rainwater through watering booms to minimise waste and as much as possible they use recycled and recyclable plastics in their pots and trays.

Sadly, Edwin and Barbara are no longer with us, but Derek and Sarah continue the work they started, helped by David and Rachel when needed. Business has changed over the years, and they no longer grow cut flowers: they specialise in growing quality bedding plants and making beautiful hanging baskets, bespoke to your own requirements, or straight off the shelf, in summer and winter. Alongside the horticultural produce

they offer a comprehensive range of pots, composts, and fertilisers for those who want to grow their own,

and plenty of advice!

The Christmas wreath production continues with greater emphasis on wreaths for doors and decorations, but still traditionally made using local holly and greenery. The wreath workshops

proved to be very popular last year and will be repeated this year.

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Boris Johnson official radiology centre at

PRIME Minister Boris Johnson made a whistle-stop visit to Warrington Hospital to officially open a new £5m radiology centre funded by the Government, taking time to pose for a selfie with staff and to receive a No. 10 "Boris" Warrington Wolves shirt.

He was joined by Warrington South MP Andy Carter, who is campaigning for a new hospital for the town, as he met staff following the recent government investment of over £5m to deliver new MRI and CT scanners with accompanying new reconfigured imaging suites and facilities.

This has enabled the Trust to deliver more diagnostic services for patients and increased research and teaching capabilities, further bolstering the town's healthcare infrastructure.

Mr Johnson was also able to take a tour of the new A&E department at the hospital, seeing the progress that has been made on the impressive

£6.3m extension. He also praised the efforts of staff for their work and resilience throughout the pandemic.

During the visit he took time to pose for a "selfie" with staff and was also presented with a primrose and blue Warrington Wolves N. 10 "Boris" shirt, by Club Chairman Stuart Middleton, showing support for the Ukraine. Mr Middleton pointed out to the Prime Minister that House of Commons Speaker Lindsay Hoyle, son of former Warrington North MP Lord Hoyle, wore the club tie in the House, showing his support for the country under attack from Russia.

He also performed the ribbon-cutting ceremony in front of the MRI Centre and also toured other



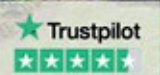
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Warrington Hospital opens new £5m



building works taking place on site.

The visit comes as the Prime Minister wished the NHS Trust every success in its bid for a new hospital, currently with the government for consideration, following a question from Andy Carter in PMQs.

Commenting on the visit, Mr Carter said: "I asked him to support my campaign for a new hospital in Warrington and just a week later he's here, seeing first-hand the progress that has been made in following investment in our radiology and A&E services, but also why for the long-term we need a new hospital to help cope with growth in population and increasing demand.

"Everyone I speak to is very proud of the brilliant staff at the hospital for the work they put in every day to care for people in Warrington, they led the way with different innovations

throughout the pandemic to save lives, but now is the time to update the facilities with modern, state-of-the-art theatres and ward with much greater capacity.

"Getting the Prime Minister to come to Warrington is a very welcome step in the right direction, and I will continue to make the case in Parliament and with officials until we get the decision that we need, a new hospital for the town."

Warrington & Halton NHS Trust has submitted a bid to the Government for a new hospital in a town centre location and a decision is due to be made in the coming months. Currently, the national programme comprises 40 pre-existing schemes with a further 8 yet to be confirmed new hospitals, totalling 48 new hospitals across the country.

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MP asks for Six56 planning decision to be "called in" while Langtree boss pledges to support local supply chain

WARRINGTON South MP Andy Carter has written to the Secretary of State asking for the controversial decision to allow the huge Six56 logistics development on Green Belt land at Grappenhall, to be "called in."

Commenting on the six56 planning decision taken by Warrington Borough Council's Development Management Committee Mr Carter said: "I'm incredibly disappointed that Labour Councillors ignored the 948 letters of objection, my submission and the impassioned and very reasoned statements from residents groups and councillors representing the area at the planning committee to approve the logistics hub near the M6/M56 junction.

"This decision looks likely to have a massive impact on the local area.

"It's not lost on me that just 18 months ago Labour councillors were kicking up a tremendous fuss when the Government decided to re-use a relatively small, existing brownfield site in the same area for an HMRC inspection site saying it

would create chaos on the roads.

"They appear to have been hit by a double dose of amnesia and hypocrisy when they voted 7-5 in favour of approving the plans, despite the land being almost ten times the size of the former Shearings interchange, on green belt and with the Local Plan not yet having been approved.

"I have written to the Secretary of State to ask him to call the decision in for a review by an Independent Planning Inspector."

Councillor Ken Critchley (Con) commented: "It was an appalling decision taken by the DMC's Labour members, imposing the dreadful Six:56 development on South Warrington. A huge warehousing scheme at the junction of the M6 and M56. Conservative Councillors Jervis and Balding not only voted against the proposal but

also strongly challenged the content and conclusions of the Council's Report. I welcome the immediate intervention of Warrington South MP Andy Carter in writing to the Secretary of State to call in this planning application for review by an Independent Inspector".

Meanwhile local resident Sally Chisholm added: "I was "lucky" enough to be given the opportunity to have 3 mins to try and communicate the views of residents to DMC.

"An entirely unsatisfactory set-up that demonstrates Warrington Borough Council couldn't give a hoot about what residents think.

"Stranded at the end of the council chamber, unable to actually see most of the committee due to the room layout meant no chance of actually communicating with them in any realistic way.

"Fortunately I've done a lot of public speaking in my career so don't find such setups intimidating but that would not be the case for many I suspect.

"Given the significance of Six56 for Warrington, giving residents only 3 minutes to voice their concerns, incidentally the same time a resident would get to object to someone applying for a dormer window, is an insult!"

Meanwhile the Group Executive of Langtree, John Downes, has pledged to support the local supply chain in the development of the controversial Six56 development on green belt land at Grappenhall.

As well as creating 4,100 new jobs, the development, will add more than £7m pa in new rateable income.

The £180m development, called Six56 Warrington, will provide approximately 3.1m square feet of new warehousing and distribution space. Its approval now unlocks £7.1m a year in new rates income for investment in local services by Warrington Council.

The development is on land bounded by junction 20 of the M6 and junction 9 of the M56 motorways at Grappenhall.

Tutor creates 3D flag emblems to show support and raise funds for Ukraine

ELECTRICAL tutor Steve Haney has created over 170 flag emblems to raise money for the refugees affected by the conflict in Ukraine.

In his own time, Steve, a tutor at Warrington & Vale Royal College, spent a weekend drawing the emblems via Computer-Aided Design (CAD) before printing them using a 3D Printer- the industry-standard Original Prusa i3 MK3.

Each batch took Steve around 12 hours to make, with him changing the colour from yellow to blue halfway through the process.

The emblems, which are easily clipped onto a lanyard, are being sold in the college for £2 each, with all proceeds going to charities helping the people of

Ukraine during these uncertain and turbulent times.

As well as creating the emblems for college staff and students, Steve made a further 50 for a contact who works locally within the NHS. The college's 3D printing facilities mean Steve can continue producing more emblems in college as well as at home.

Steve is also planning to upload his design to Thingify, a site that allows people all around the world to access and print designs via 3D printers.

The college is incredibly proud of Steve for this fantastic project and is delighted to see so many of its staff and students wearing the emblems around the campus.



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APR-JUL 2022



Fri 1 Apr Jason Manford
Fri 1 Apr Martin Stephenson
Sat 2 Apr Calling Planet Earth
Sat 2 Apr Comedy Store
Sat 9 Apr 90s Live
Sat 9 & Sun 10 Apr Sleepover
Thu 14 Apr Two Pints Podcast - Live!
 With Will Mellor and Ralf Little
Sat 16 Apr I Spy With My Little Eye
Fri 22 Apr The Thinking Drinkers:
 Pub Quiz
Fri 22 Apr Sounds Familiar Music Quiz
Sat 23 Apr Daliso Chabonda
Sat 23 Apr Mark Billy Billingham
Sun 23 Apr The Johnny Cash Roadshow
Sat 30 Apr The Drifters
Sun 1 May Square Hits - The Big 90s Party
Wed 4 May T.Rextasy
Fri 6 May The Magic Of The Beatles
Sat 7 May Comedy Store

Thu 12 May Forbidden Nights
Fri 13 May Jasper Carrott's
 Stand Up And Rock
Thu 19 May An Audience With
 Liverpool Legends
Thu 19 May Sam Avery - Role Model
Fri 20 May The Bohemians
Sat 21 May Miles Kane
Sat 4 Jun Comedy Store
Fri 10 & Sat 11 Jun The Gruffalo
Sun 12 Jun Chris McCausland
Sat 25 Jun Mark Watson -
 This Can't Be It
Sat 25 Jun The Proclaimers
Sat 2 Jul Comedy Store
Tue 12 Jul Strictly Presents
 The Power Of Dance
Mon 18 Jul From The Jam

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United Utilities recruits Warrington Wolves captain as apprenticeship ambassador

LOCALLY based United Utilities has recruited Warrington Wolves Women's Rugby Captain Michelle Davis to help raise awareness for its apprenticeship programme.

Michelle, who is breaking gender stereotypes and training to be a firefighter, recently visited United Utilities' Head Office in Warrington. During her visit, Michelle met current apprentices Jessica who is a scientist and Ethan who is a Credit Controller to see what their day-to-day life was like in action.

Currently there are 115 new apprenticeships open for application at United Utilities.

These apprenticeships will give candidates the chance to achieve nationally recognised qualifications, including degree-level, all while working alongside and learning from best in the business.

Apprentices could find themselves working on big, exciting projects in the engineering team, on a treatment plant, cooking up a storm in its state-of-the-art labs, working in the head office at Lingley Mere in Warrington or even out on the network fixing leaks.

There are also a variety of benefits that come with the United Utilities award-winning apprenticeship scheme, including private healthcare, discounted gym membership, up to 10 driving lessons – and many more! The apprenticeship programme starts at £15,000 salary – with this rising after the first year.

The majority of the new cohort will join in September 2022, but

the company is looking to put candidates into the Customer Service and Credit Controller apprentices over the coming weeks.

Michelle Davis, Captain of the Warrington Wolves and United Utilities Apprenticeship Ambassador said: "It was fantastic to visit United Utilities and see the apprentices in action. If you want to start a career, or are after a career change, United Utilities

apprenticeship programme is the place to look. There's a huge variety of roles available so make sure to visit the website and get applying!"

Julie McGovern, Head of People said: "At United Utilities we are committed to reaching and recruiting fantastic people from every community and supporting employees to achieve their full potential, ensuring they feel valued and included, regardless of their gender, age, race, disability, sexual orientation, or social background.

"We're delighted to have Michelle on-board as our ambassador to help us raise awareness for our apprenticeship programme. It was great to have Michelle come down to visit us at our offices recently to meet our apprentices, talk about her own experience as one training to be a firefighter, and hear her words of encouragement for women looking to get into male dominated fields!"

Head to www.unitedutilities.com/corporate/careers/apprenticeships to find out more.



New prosthetic hand makes hockey child's play for Lillie

A NINE-year-old girl from Warrington has become one of the first children in the UK to receive a new type of prosthetic hand, thanks to an innovative project – and it's proven to be an instant hit on the hockey field!

Lillie, who lives with her mum, dad, brother and younger sister at Latchford, was born with a below-elbow limb difference meaning that her right hand did not develop before birth. While she has never let that hold her back, there are certain tasks and activities she can find more challenging.

She has now received a groundbreaking Koalaa soft prosthetic through an initiative called Project Limitless. The result of a collaboration between charity Douglas Bader Foundation and quadruple amputee and adventurer Alex Lewis, the project aims to provide every child in the UK who needs one with a free prosthetic arm.

Thanks to its supporters, enough money has already been raised to help more than 350 children, including babies as young as 2, and has also enabled the project to be extended to help all those under the age of 18.

Becki Hutchinson, Lillie's mum,

said: "Being able to skip has been a big thing for Lillie and she amazed us with how well she could do it! She's also been using her Koalaa to hold the paper still when she's been painting and crafting.

"But the biggest thing has been playing hockey. Before getting her Koalaa, Lillie found it hard to control a hockey stick and she was getting really frustrated. She now has no problems and proudly takes her Koalaa into school with her every week, especially since she got a special Roblox-inspired cover."

Becki continued: "Lillie has always been independent and this has given her even more opportunities to try new things and go wherever her interests may take her. We're so thankful to the project and I grow more and more proud of her every single day."

Becki was shocked to find out at her 15-week scan that Lillie's hand had not developed. At the time she was devastated and worried 'what won't my baby be able to do?'. She came across a charity called Reach, where she went on to connect with other parents in a similar situation and to hear their stories. It was at one of the charity's family meet ups that she first came

across Project Limitless.

Becki explains: "It was a shock when I first found out about Lillie's hand but if I knew then what I know now, then things would have been very different. Nothing fazes Lillie. She always works out her own way of doing things and I don't believe there's anything she can't do if she sets her mind to it – there really are no limits.

"She may currently be the only child with a limb difference at her school, but other children have been asking their parents to get them a Koalaa too, because they think it's so cool. And that's just amazing."

Lillie has been given a Koalaa soft prosthetic, which unlike traditional prosthetics is more like clothing, in that it's lightweight and made from material, making it perfect for an active child. The sleeve is worn and can then be fitted with a range of different tool attachments, which can be used for different tasks, including bike riding and painting, playing an instrument, using a racket and holding cutlery or drinks.

To find out more or to register a child for support through Project Limitless, visit www.yourkoalaa.com/projectlimitless



Foodbank receives £4,000 donation from chemical company

INGEVITY UK Warrington has donated £4,000 to the Warrington Foodbank through its IngeviCares philanthropy program.

The presentation was made by Ingevity's HR Assistant, Louise Clifton, and technical product manager Steve Birch to David McDonald, Foodbank chief

executive. Louise Clifton said: "It is really pleasing to be able to support Warrington Foodbank. "They do a lot of great work in

supporting our local community through the many support services they offer. It was great to meet David and his team to see first-hand the level of support they offer and the challenges they face."

Ingevity is a global specialty chemical company with a site in Lower Walton, Warrington that employs 155 people.

Through the IngeviCares philanthropy program, the company donates a portion of

revenue and volunteer time to local communities, providing budgets to all manufacturing locations to be used for plant-level funding tailored to each community.

David McDonald said: "We are really pleased to have been contacted by Ingevity UK and are very grateful for the kind donation of £4000. Their support allows us to fulfil our mission and continue to serve our community."



Charlotte Nichols MP
Warrington North

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Former army Field Medic appointed as first Warrington Together Place Director

FORMER army Field Medic Carl Marsh has been appointed as the first Place Director of Warrington Together following a thorough recruitment process.

Working closely with local partners, Carl will play a central role in the future integration of health and care, taking a lead on tackling the health inequalities within our communities.

Carl has over 40 years of experience within healthcare and is currently Chief Commissioner at NHS Warrington Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG).

After completing 24 years' service as a Field Medic in the Army Medical Services, Carl joined the NHS in 2004. He worked at the heart of delivering the NHS Five Year Forward View with NHS Right Care and as Programme Director for the Pan-Cheshire Integrated Care Pioneer programme before joining the Care Quality Commission (CQC) as Head of Inspection for Integrated Care.

In his new role, Carl will oversee Warrington Together's key objectives. These are:

- Improving quality of life for all citizens
- Narrowing the gap between differences in life expectancy quality of life across Warrington communities
- Reducing A&E attendances/admissions and emergency ambulance callouts
- More residents self-managing their health and care, and those with long term conditions having access to their own care record and shared care plan involving the borough's health and social care workforce in developing

and delivering more effective services

- Greater use of digital technologies to create better, smoother support pathways and more control over individual wellbeing.

Warrington Borough Council Chief Executive, Professor Steven Broomhead MBE, said: "Following a rigorous recruitment process, we are very pleased to have appointed Carl as Place Director for Warrington. I look forward to us working together to tackle the big local health issues on the agenda."

"He brings with him a wealth of experience and knowledge, and his leadership and partnership-oriented approach will bring added benefit and support to achieving our health goals across the borough."

Dr Andrew Davies, Chief Clinical Officer at NHS Warrington CCG said: "I would like to congratulate Carl on his appointment as Place Director for Warrington."

"I'm entirely confident that Carl's experience and dedication make him the right person to lead Warrington Together in working with partners to continue our journey of improving health and reducing inequalities."

With much of the work to improve Warrington's health and social care already underway, Carl says he is looking to build on what has been put in place already.

Speaking of his appointment, Carl Marsh said: "I am delighted to have been appointed Place Director

for Warrington and I welcome the opportunity to build on what we have already achieved and continuing to work with partners to improve the health and wellbeing of local people.

"I am committed to ensuring that our teams are well supported through the transition, and I look forward to seeing what we can achieve together as we move forward for the benefit of the people of Warrington."

Carl is one of nine place directors who have been appointed across Cheshire and Merseyside and who will take up their posts on 1 July 2022, when NHS Cheshire and Merseyside Integrated Care Board (ICB) is established. In the meantime, Carl will become involved with the ICB from early April so he can contribute to the further design of the integration agenda.

This was a robust, inclusive process and the selection panel for each post included the ICB Designate Chief Executive, a non-executive director, a place-specific

elected member or members, the relevant local authority Chief Executive, and representatives of both primary care and NHS providers.

Graham Urwin, Designate Chief Executive of NHS Cheshire and Merseyside Integrated Care Board, said: "I am really excited we have put together an excellent team of people to carry out the pivotal role of place director throughout our Integrated Care System. They all have relevant experience and skills, and comprise a complementary team who will work together and alongside NHS Cheshire and Merseyside ICB and the wider Cheshire and Merseyside Health and Care Partnership."

"As well as delivering on effective integration, they will also address the very real health inequalities our communities experience – a primary objective of the ICB and all our partners."

"I would like to personally congratulate all the successful candidates and wish them every success."



Gulliver's thank customers for helping raise £15,000 for Ukraine support

GULLIVER'S Theme Park Resorts based in Warrington is thanking customers for their generosity after they helped raise more than £15,000 to support the people of Ukraine.

The family firm pledged that £3 from every ticket bought over a weekend at its three open resorts – Gulliver's Valley theme park in Rotherham, Gulliver's Land in Milton Keynes and Gulliver's World in Warrington – would be given to the Disaster Emergency Committee (DEC).

In total the initiative raised more than £15,000 which will now be donated straight to the DEC's Ukraine Appeal.

Julie Dalton, managing director of Gulliver's Theme Park Resorts, said: "As a company, we like to do what we can to help the communities we serve but sometimes there is a need to offer support when things are happening further afield. The awful scenes in Ukraine have affected us all and we knew we wanted to financially help the official appeal."

"And our customers did not disappoint! Together we have raised over £15,000 which is an incredible amount and will go to the Disaster

Emergency Committee's Ukraine fund which is used to provide support, medical aid, food and shelter to people affected by the crisis.

"We'd just like to say a massive thank you to our customers for their support."

Anyone who wants to donate to

the DEC appeal individually can do so by visiting: www.dec.org.uk/appeal/ukraine-humanitarian-appeal.



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Renovations, refurbishments and new exhibits



at RAF Burtonwood Heritage Centre

By Rebecca Cotterill

Since reopening to visitors on the 19th February, the RAF Burtonwood Heritage Centre has welcomed a host of new and old faces alike through its doors.

The renovations, refurbishments and construction of new exhibits, that the team undertook over the winter break, are now fully completed.

The generous stream of donations that we continue to receive, ensures that we'll have plenty to keep us busy in the coming months, as we look to incorporate these into existing displays. Over recent

weeks, we've been able to add an aircraft tug, military uniforms, Berlin airlift memorabilia and vintage cameras into our collection and it's rewarding to know that we are being thought of by so many who are looking to re-home their items and ensure that the histories and stories attached to them are kept alive.

External talks to various groups

have been particularly popular through the opening months of 2022, many more booked in throughout the rest of the year. Many of these talks lead to reciprocal group visits to the Heritage Centre, enabling us to further expand public knowledge of RAF Burtonwood and wider role that Warrington played during WWII and in the decades that followed.

Anyone interested in organising a talk, or with items that they would like to donate, can contact

us, via email, at: john.cotterill@rafburtonwood.co.uk

The Heritage Centre is now open to the general public, Wednesday - Sunday from 14:30 - 17:00.

We hope to see you soon.



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By David Watkinson

Not the 2022 Budget... ...(that will follow later)

As you read this you may be wondering why we are not discussing the recent budget and the effect that it has on you and your living standards. Well, unfortunately, whilst you are reading this post-budget the deadline for submitting this article is pre-budget, so has not occurred at the time of writing. We are already aware of some of the provisions, including the substantial increase in both employers and employees National Insurance contributions, to pay, initially, for additional services to cut the NHS waiting lists caused by Covid and then for improved Social Care for the elderly and disabled. However, everyone is hoping that there will be some new provisions to help mitigate the horrendous increases in the price of fuel and heating oil that have occurred during February and March.

Clearly, the war that is currently being inflicted on Ukraine by Russia is primarily a humanitarian disaster for the unfortunate people of Ukraine caught up in it. However, the imposition of sanctions as a result of the invasion emphasises the importance of the anti-money laundering regulations and, specifically for this article, the role of Companies House.

If the government is to successfully impose sanctions and identify suspicious activity that may be related to kleptocrats, organised crime gangs and other money

launderers, they need to know, firstly, what assets are held in which companies and, secondly, who owns those companies. They are, therefore, accelerating the introduction of the already planned changes to Companies House procedures and filing requirements. To achieve this the government has now issued a whitepaper on corporate transparency and register reform together with detailed proposals, and they have accompanied this with a draft economic crime Bill.

Who will these proposals affect?

These proposals will affect everyone who operates a business through a Limited Company, as well as advisers appointed by those companies to prepare and submit financial accounts, etc.

The impact of these proposed changes on those who are not money launderers but are just law-abiding business people with registered companies is potentially significant. To implement these changes Companies House aims to become a fully digital organisation. Also, to increase transparency in annual filings there will no longer be options for abridged or filleted accounts for micro and small companies, removing some of the privacy (and cost savings) currently enjoyed by these entities.

What are the proposals?

Firstly, it is currently incredibly

simple to set up a new company in the UK and there is no requirement to verify the directors' identities. It is also incredibly simple to file almost anything, including micro-entity accounts, whether you are entitled to do so or not. It is now proposed that if you are setting up a company or making filings on behalf of a company, you will have to have a verified identity with Companies House. This affects not only the company and its directors but also any adviser used by them to prepare and submit documents on their behalf.

Secondly, there will also be restrictions on the use of corporate directors and officers. This is to maintain a direct link from the company to natural persons.

Thirdly, in order to identify suspicious activity people need to know more about these companies. Because Companies House aims to become fully digital, directors or their agents will have to file digitally tagged accounts, using iXBRL. Once information is tagged in this way it can be easily searched and cross-referencing with data held by HMRC.

Fourthly, the registrar will have greater powers that will help in the fight against economic crime. Their role will be to promote and maintain the integrity of the register and they will have new powers to query information and



Margaret Black and David Watkinson

share data with other authorities. The registrar can also apply fines when company directors or secretaries fail to meet their responsibilities and to remove incorrect information from the register.

Abridged and 'filleted' accounts

Finally, the most noticeable changes proposed for small and micro-entities will be the increased transparency required in annual filings, meaning that the options for abridged or "filleted" accounts will be removed. Currently, where all the shareholders agree small companies can submit abridged accounts. This reduces the detail in the accounts that both shareholders and Companies House receive, compared to the basic small company provisions. The option for abridged accounts will now be scrapped meaning that all companies will have to file a profit and loss account as well as a balance sheet and small companies will have to file their directors' report. Micro-entities will retain an exemption from the requirement to prepare or file a directors' report.

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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Foundation join stars to make Best Day Possible for care users

SOCIAL care services in Warrington enjoyed a once-in-a-lifetime celebration with Strictly Come Dancing and US theatre stars, and some of the UK's most loved sporting organisations.

The national social care charity Community Integrated Care, which is one of the leading social care providers locally, hosted The Best Day Possible, a world-first digital festival for people who access and provide social care services. Delivered on their www.What-To-Do.co.uk platform, an award recognised website that offers free accessible activities every day, the festival saw people who access care and support locally enjoy a packed day with VIP experiences.

Held to celebrate the charity's 34th birthday, Community Integrated Care's festival included a dance masterclass with Strictly legend Vincent Simone, activity sessions with Manchester City in the Community and Warrington Wolves Foundation, a virtual styling session with make-up artist to the stars, Clare Pinkey, and even an exclusive performance from New York City by award-winning US theatre star, Morgan Kirner.

Andrew Brady of the Warrington Wolves Foundation said: "Community Integrated Care are a key partner of our charity, so we were thrilled to play a lead role in the Best Day Possible festival and

celebrate their anniversary. It was an unforgettable experience to see so many people, not only in Warrington but also across the UK, getting active and having fun with our team. The www.What-To-Do.co.uk website is a brilliant platform and we are excited to support more sessions in the future."

Oliver Thomason, who is an active member of the www.What-To-Do.co.uk community, says: "The Best Day Possible festival was brilliant. It was very special that stars took so much time to do so many great sessions.

"What To Do has given me the chance to enjoy and learn so many new things. It has been amazing to try exciting activities for the first time, like Yoga. It's really helped me in my home life too, because I've learned great things like how to make my own delicious meals. I'd love to see many more people benefit from this exciting website."

Since its launch in 2021, it has supported many profound outcomes for people who access the site - including enabling people to cook independently and form new friendships.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

LICENSING ACT 2003: NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR GRANT OF A PREMISES LICENCE

PLATINUM RETAIL LIMITED (Company No. 07800291) has given to Warrington Borough Council an application for the grant of a Premises Licence for Gemini Service Station, Europa Boulevard, Westbrook, Warrington, WA5 7TY.

The licensable activities which it is proposed will be carried on at the premises are: the supply of alcohol for consumption off the premises 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. 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 April 2022.

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. (18/4/22)

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