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# Editor's Comment



**WOW - it has been an incredibly busy period following the return of the many community events after an absence of nearly three years due to the COVID-19 pandemic.**

Our team has been kept busy out and about covering many of the events, none more so than Warrington Walking Day, which made a welcome return alongside the many other community events right across the town.

In this month's issue we give a snap shot of our coverage – but there is even more to see online with picture galleries and video coverage of many events.

While COVID-19 is still very much with us, we are now learning to live with it and although some people are still ending up in hospital, and some sadly still dying, the intensive care unit is nowhere near as busy as it was during the first and second waves.

But it is still important to remain cautious especially around those at risk, including the elderly and those with underlying health issues.

Meanwhile the long-running sagas at Warrington town hall, involving the signing off of the council accounts, the investments in Redwood Bank and Together Energy and still no indication of a suitable site for a permanent traveller site, continue to rumble on, keeping our inbox busy.

I am assured, again, the council accounts will be signed off in the not too distant future, once a national issue, which is holding up

all council accounts being signed off, is resolved. Meanwhile the council remains adamant that it is pleased with its investment in Redwood Bank, which has now recorded its first profit. While a little less forthcoming on the Together Energy investment, due to commercial sensitivity during the administration period, I am being told the loss to the town will not be as much as first feared – but the proof will be in the pudding.

Now the sparks are again flying about a proposed £63.5m investment in another solar energy company, which is now subject to a proposed "call-in" by concerned opposition councillors.

As always we will continue to

report on this issues in a balanced way without taking sides, while holding the council to account on its investment decisions.

Finally finishing on a positive note – it was an absolute honour to be the Media Partner for the first ever TEDx event that took place at the Pyramid, organised by Kirsty James and her hardworking team. My thoughts have been well documented online and I haven't got the space here to truly articulate what I witnessed – but suffice to say, witnessing eleven outstanding public speakers, living in the moment and wearing their hearts on their sleeves, was truly breath taking and life changing and I am now well and truly a TEDx convert.

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# Big boost for buses with 'Super Summer Service'

**WARRINGTON'S buses will be pulling out all the stops this summer, with major improvements to evening timetables, cheaper fares and no limits for concessionary card holders.**

Launched on Monday 25 July, Warrington's Super Summer Service is set to transform bus travel for nine weeks until 4 October. It aims to entice people of all ages back onto the bus for their evening journeys – whether they are heading into town to catch a film or grab a meal, meeting up with friends, or visiting the new Youth Zone.

There will be enhanced timetables, with more frequent buses every evening every day, making the bus a much better, easier and convenient choice for people looking to explore Warrington.

Evening services, after 7pm every night, will also have super-cheap fares, with a single ticket to any destination within the Borough of Warrington – on any Warrington's Own Buses, Arriva or Go North West bus – costing a maximum of £2 for adults and £1 for children.

And there will be no restrictions on when concessionary pass holders can use their pass. People who catch the bus from a Warrington Borough bus stop will no longer have to wait until 9.30am for their pass to be valid, and can get on-board at any time of day, seven days a week.

The Super Summer Service will offer:

- an enhanced timetable for evening services from 7pm, seven days a week
- Cheaper fares during the evening enhanced timetable, with children/adults single fares at no more than

£1/£2 respectively on any bus across the entire network (Please note, there will be no change to those services which are already capped at £1.90 single)

- The removal of the 9.30am weekday restrictions for concessionary passes, with pass holders able to travel at any time of the day, 7 days per week.
- Funded by Local Transport Fund money allocated to the council by the Department for Transport, the 'Super Summer Service' is the latest part of the council's work to invest in bus services in the borough, delivering an attractive, modern service which is affordable, reliable and responsive to local people's needs.

Everyone is being encouraged to use the service during the nine-week trial period, as the popularity of the project will help shape the development of long-term plans to drive up the attractiveness and reliability of buses in Warrington, whilst driving down fares.

Warrington Borough Council's cabinet member for transportation, highways and public realm, Cllr Hans Mundry, said: "This is a really exciting project, which will transform our bus services throughout the summer months and, at the same time, hopefully transform people's thinking about the bus as a viable, attractive way of exploring Warrington."

"People can look forward to a greatly improved evening offer,

better connectivity to key town centre locations, including Time Square, Golden Square, the Cultural Quarter and the Youth Zone plus the many wonderful places to visit in Warrington outside the town centre, where passengers can take advantage of cheaper fares and big benefits for concessionary passengers.

"This initiative is one of many we will be delivering in the coming months and years as part of our Bus Service Improvement Plan to help address reduced bus patronage during the pandemic and encourage many more people to consider swapping the car for the bus. We all know the huge environmental benefits increased bus usage brings – we now want to deliver a first-class bus service that people can count on."

"Initiatives like the Super Summer Service are an important part of this work, and will help set the scene for some of the revolutionary changes coming to our bus services in the near future. By 2023 – thanks to our Bus Service Improvement Plan and ZEBRA project – we will be providing our residents with a cutting-edge, all-

electric bus fleet that is more modern, reliable and cheaper for everyone.

"If you have never really used buses before – or have stopped using them, there's never been a better time to get on-board. We hope as many people as possible will take advantage of the benefits on offer over the summer, as the results of this pilot will help to inform decisions about the future of Warrington's bus network."

Cllr Cathy Mitchell, Deputy Leader of Warrington Borough Council and Chair of Warrington's Own Buses, said: "Our Super Summer Service initiative gives people a great incentive to leave the car at home and take the bus instead. At the same time, it will bring big benefits to existing bus users, which is great news."

"We hope the enhanced evening timetables and cheaper fares will prove to be an attractive proposition to anyone looking to explore everything Warrington has to offer this summer." For more information, visit [warrington.gov.uk/super-summer-service](http://warrington.gov.uk/super-summer-service)



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# New Warrington BID manager wants to bring businesses together to be proud of their town

**BORN and bred Warringtonian Andrea Morley has been appointed as the new project manager of the Warrington Business Improvement District (BID) and was welcomed at a recent meeting with the Board.**

She has taken on the role until August 2023 covering the maternity leave of the current BID Manager, Amy Dawber.

Andrea has spent most of her career working for Warrington based organisations including LiveWire and Culture Warrington. She has worked on several town centre events including Warrington Music Festival, the LiveWire Mile, and the impressive 'Museum of the Moon' installation in 2019. She was the initiator of the Maker's Market launching in Warrington at Queen's Gardens and the Beach at Bank Park in 2018.

Andrea said: "Businesses and residents of the town need to be reminded of our quality events, leisure facilities, shops, bars and restaurants so they can be proud of where they live, work and entertain. We still have a lot of work to do but I know we can make real enhancements and improvements for Warrington's business community. We are already planning for Christmas with a weekend of festive activities for all the family with a finale event at the Town Hall. Importantly we'll be looking at how we can support the different business sectors and continue to deliver across our four key themes. I am proud to become

the BID manager and am looking forward to the next 9 months heading up to the next ballot".

She also told us as a born and bred Warringtonian, she is passionate about giving back to her town. She is a trustee for Warrington Charities Trust and advisor to the board at the Warrington Wolves Foundation. She is also an elected parish councillor for Great Sankey North, where she is a resident.

Warrington BID was approved at ballot in 2018 after the majority of businesses voted in support. The current term of the BID will end in 2023, when businesses will again have the chance to vote for it to continue for another five years. Since the BID started in 2018, Warrington BID has supported more than £1m of investment into the town centre.

Emma Hutchinson, chair of the BID Board, commented: "We are excited to welcome Andrea as BID manager, her experience and energy will drive forward our plans to continue Warrington town centre's evolution into a thriving place where people can live, work, play and learn. Ultimately becoming the consumers' destination of choice and supporting local businesses with the opportunities this will bring."





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# Fiddler's Ferry site sold – and set for major new development

**THE site of the iconic Fiddler's Ferry Power Station – a landmark in the Warrington area for 50 years – looks set to continue to play a key role in the town's economy.**

It has been purchased by natural resources and energy company Peel NRE who now plan to produce a 10-15 year mixed-use master plan for the 820-acre site – one of the largest brownfield sites in the country.

New developments for industrial use and new homes in a sustainable community are planned to provide jobs, skills and address housing shortages in the borough.

The plans will also create extensive new parkland and wildlife areas to enhance the environment.

Peel NRE is part of regeneration business Peel L&P. They have acquired the site from energy company SSE Thermal.

Fiddler's Ferry and its eight cooling towers were decommissioned in 2020 in line with Government policy to phase out coal-fired facilities by 2025.

With its parent company responsible for some of the country's most transformational projects across the North West including The Trafford Centre, MediaCity at Salford Quays and Liverpool Waters, Peel NRE will now help to mark a new era for Warrington by developing fresh plans to regenerate the former fossil-

fuel dependent power station.

The Fiddler's Ferry site, which also includes agricultural land, was identified in the 2021 version of the Warrington Local Plan for the development of around 250-acres for employment use and a minimum of 1,760 new homes.

Kieran Tames, development director for Peel NRE said: "Fiddler's Ferry power station has been a local landmark and part of the community for many years but as the UK moves away from the use of fossil fuels for energy generation, the site was recently decommissioned by SSE.

"We now want to work with local people to develop exciting new plans and mark a new era for the site that best respects its history and meets the future economic, social and environmental ambitions of Warrington, the neighbouring district of Halton and their communities.

"As echoed in the draft local plan, employment, housing, parkland and wildlife areas are a key part of this and with decades of experience regenerating towns and cities across the UK, we are confident that we can bring forward proposals that build on the strengths of both areas and

create new exciting communities with more jobs, better homes and facilities, and open space to help improve lives.

"We have a significant track record in regenerating redundant heavy industrial sites and we are keen to continue investing in more opportunities like this and work with partners to support local and regional economies."

Peel NRE will also help to oversee the land remediation of the site and will be in touch with the community as plans progress.

John Johnson, director of Development for SSE Thermal, said: "Fiddler's Ferry was a major contributor to our energy system

for decades, but as we power past coal the decision was made to close the site in 2019. As custodians of the site for more than 15 years, we know how much it means to the local community and during the sale process we wanted to find a buyer who would ensure the site continued to play a vital role moving forward.

"In Peel NRE, we are passing the baton to a developer with ambitious plans to regenerate Fiddler's Ferry, providing new economic opportunities for the local community, and we look forward to seeing those plans progress in the years ahead."

For more information about Peel NRE or the plans, visit [www.fiddlersferry.com](http://www.fiddlersferry.com)



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# Exciting investment enquiries continue

by Stephen Fitzsimons - Warrington & Co

**It's nice to feature in Warrington Worldwide again whilst the usual contributor, John Laverick, suns himself somewhere that naturally won't be as good as Warrington!**

That said, most countries across the world are struggling with the lingering effects of Covid, Brexit and the war in Ukraine. Double digit inflation is not something that those of a certain vintage (me!) ever wanted to see again, especially when it also brings stagnating growth. It's therefore a tough environment out there, although paradoxically,

we have plenty of companies in Warrington that are growing. Time Square and Golden Square are both very close to confirming some major new tenants, and when they do, you'll see further evidence of the shift from traditional retail towards leisure and hospitality. We continue to receive exciting inward investment enquiries from companies keen to establish

operations in Warrington, including a Chinese electronics company and French IT provider. The issue we have is where to house them – work is due to start on 161,000 sq ft of new property at Birchwood Park and it's nearly been let before a spade has touched the ground!

Consultation continues on the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, the replacement for European Union grants. The process was held up briefly when the relevant Minister, Michael Gove, was dismissed by the outgoing Prime Minister, however Greg Clark has now taken over and we look forward to working closely with him. At £7 million it's about a third less than what we received from Brussels, however we do have more flexibility over how we can spend it. Similar to the £21m Town Deal that we secured in 2020, we need to present an investment plan to government so Council colleagues are busy engaging with stakeholders to ensure that the most important issues and opportunities are addressed. Warrington is the 6th worst funded local authority in the country so we need to maximise the return for every pound spent through this scheme.

I had the pleasure of attending the church service for the new mayor of Warrington, Councillor Jean Flaherty. Jean was born in Fairfield & Howley and represents

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Stephen Fitzsimons

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## First Carbon Neutral mortgage broker in town



SINCE 2017, Warrington Mortgage Centre (WMC) has taken significant steps to reduce its carbon footprint and in January 2022 pledged to become Carbon Neutral by 2024.

After only a few months the broker firm has now achieved its goal and become a fully Carbon Neutral business.

Sam Fox, Founder of WMC, said "We're committed to change. We're thrilled to announce our family-owned business is now Carbon Neutral. We've worked incredibly hard over the past few months to not only provide a friendly, down-to-earth service for our clients but create a positive impact on the planet during the process."

Becoming Carbon Neutral means that WMC has measured its entire business emissions, including its supply chain, and has purchased carbon credits to offset its carbon footprint. This year it's funding the planting of 1060 trees, the removal of 106kg of plastic from the ocean, and a range of social and environmental projects globally which will reduce carbon emissions by 106 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e. WMC is not only creating a positive impact on the planet via these projects but is supporting 16 of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals including good health and wellbeing, gender equality, decent work, and economic and climate action to name a few.

In addition to offsetting the company's carbon footprint, the team is going one step further by planting 1 tree in the Scottish Highlands per customer to offset the carbon emissions associated with their mortgage products. 1 tree has the potential to sequester up to 1/4 tonne of CO<sub>2</sub>e over its lifetime. WMC is also committing to helping customers reduce their household emissions.

The company has gone from strength to strength and to achieve these goals WMC worked alongside Positive Planet and Trees For Life.

WMC is not stopping there though. The company is now setting a Net Zero goal of [2035] which means they aim to reduce their own emissions by approximately 90% and continue to offset any residual emissions. This is much more ambitious than the government's Net Zero 2050 goal but with the help of Positive Planet, the team believes it will be more than achievable.

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# MP to take on marathon challenge again!

**WARRINGTON North MP, Charlotte Nichols, has announced that she will be taking part in this year's London Marathon to raise money for Warrington Women's Aid.**

Last year Charlotte took part in the marathon to raise money for the Warrington Wolves Charitable Foundation and raised over £3,000.

The Foundation was created to provide life changing opportunities through sport, education, health and the arts which enrich, inspire and celebrate the Warrington community. The money raised by Charlotte is being used to support this vital work.

After successfully completing

last year's marathon Charlotte has decided to take on the 26.2-mile challenge once again in October.

This year, Charlotte is running the London Marathon to raise money for Warrington Women's Aid. The local charity provides accommodation, support and advice to women and children escaping domestic abuse. Since opening their doors over 40 years ago, their services have grown to include support for male victims and specialist support for children.

You can sponsor Charlotte via the following link: [www.justgiving.com/fundraising/charlotte-nichols-mp](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/charlotte-nichols-mp)

Charlotte said: "Last year we smashed our fundraising target for the Warrington Wolves Foundation. This year I'm hoping to match that success running this time for Warrington Women's Aid."

"During the pandemic, we know that sadly domestic violence cases increased enormously – putting a huge strain on the services to support victims and survivors. Warrington Women's Aid have done an incredible job in difficult circumstances."

"But as the cost of living soars, charities like Warrington Women's Aid that were relied upon so heavily during the pandemic, are

not exempt from the crisis. Rising costs and an increase in demand for services is hitting many charities hard. That's why I am raising money to support Warrington Women's Aid. I hope not only to raise money for this crucial local charity but also to raise awareness of the important work they do all year round."

Sally Starkey, Chief Officer, Warrington Women's Aid said: "We are absolutely delighted that Charlotte is taking on this challenge to raise funds on our behalf."

"The money raised is important for us to deliver our services. It will also raise the profile of what we do for the whole community. So, victims and survivors know about our services for themselves and others."

## 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.

0207 219 3000

[CharlotteNicholsMP.com](http://CharlotteNicholsMP.com)

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## Enrolment Open Day Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> September

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This is a free event and you do not need to register.

We look forward to seeing you!



## Meet the stars of the Adult Summer Guide!

### Future Counsellor

Julie Snell enrolled on a counselling course after she was involved in a life-changing accident. She said: "the college's team of counselling tutors are out of this world in terms of their teaching skills, support, and personal experience which they bring to each lecture and class."



### Future Manager

Sean Conreen enrolled on the HNC Electrical & Electronic Engineering course to further his engineering knowledge. He then progressed onto the HND course which is preparing him for university. He said: "The HND makes it possible for me to progress into an even more technical role within my organisation as well as allowing me to one day progress onto a management position at ABB."



### Future Nurse

Aveesha Collins enrolled on the Access to HE: Nursing & Midwifery course after a hugely positive previous experience studying at the college. She said: "My tutors have been very supportive. I have learnt so much and have more confidence in my ability!"



### Future Actor

George Moore enrolled on the HNC Performing Arts course to follow his dreams of becoming an actor. He said: "There is so much to get involved with at Warrington & Vale Royal College, from pantomime to musicals. Coming to this college was the best choice I could have made!"



### Future Social Worker

Claire Leech enrolled on the Access to HE: Social Work course as she wanted a change in career. She said: "The course has helped me to better prepare for the future. I would definitely recommend the college as you are learning from supportive tutors who have first-hand industry knowledge."



### Future Hairdresser

Stewart Brown enrolled on a hairdressing course to follow his true passion. He said: "I like the fact that the course is so practical and allows me to do the theory element at home in my own time."



## COULD THIS BE YOU?

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# EDGE

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## THE NEW OPTOMETRISTS IN WARRINGTON MARKET

(formerly Maskell + Josephson)

You may know that there is an opticians in Warrington Market. You may know they have a long name that's really hard to spell and really hard to remember.

Well not anymore! They are now rebranded and under new ownership. Graham, the optometrist there since they opened in September 2020, is now the owner. He's come up with a snappy new name, a stylish new logo, and has big ideas to bring eyecare innovation to the people of Warrington.

Graham has kept the services of the excellent Joan – AKA the Glasses Whisperer. Have you never been able to find glasses don't suit you? See Joan! She'll prove to you that there's a pair of glasses for everyone!

### New Ideas - Sustainability

Optics is not an eco-friendly industry. EDGE Eyewear would like to help to change that. We are using lenses whose production process employs minimal water, chemical and energy consumption. We are also stocking frames that are more sustainable – like Coral Eyewear. Their fabulous Econyl frames are created from rescued ocean fishing nets and recycled plastic. Now you can be planet friendly, look great, and see brilliantly!

### Old Ideas - The Eye Examination

The eye examination at EDGE Eyewear will remain of the highest standard. It is exactly the same as it was under Maskell + Josephson (good enough for every Google review to be 5 stars) **but is now £20 cheaper.**

We have the latest equipment, and Graham is the one to get best use out of it. He has been a qualified optometrist for 16 years, and for the last 7 years he's also been teaching Optometry at The University of Manchester. He has special interests in contact lenses and myopia management (slowing down short-sightedness in children).



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## New name - same face at Edge Eyewear



**THIS is Graham. He's a self professed massive nerd, but more about that in a minute.**

He's been working in Warrington Market since September 2020 as the optometrist at Maskell + Josephson Opticians. Last month he bought the practice for himself and has changed the name to EDGE Eyewear.

So, why does he think he's a nerd? Sorry - a massive nerd. Well, before he did a degree in Optometry he did a degree in Mathematics. And in-between the two degrees he was a computer programmer. And now he has finished studying at university he goes back there to teach Optometry at his alma mater, The University of Manchester. Nerd alert!

Why go back and teach? Most optometrists don't. He says partly because it makes him a better optometrist, but also because he has a lot of knowledge to share. He doesn't lack for confidence in his abilities!

And why did he decide to buy his own practice? Well, because he feels it's the only way to make sure his patients are looked after the way they should be. Everything in optometry these days is about

speed. Most optician practices will give a patient 20-25 minutes for an eye examination. And for the first part of that time the patient will be with a member of shop floor staff for the initial tests. With EDGE Eyewear it's 45 minutes, and all of that time is with Graham. This gives enough time for a patient's eye health to be checked in the required detail, and for everything to be properly explained to the patient. He says once you've had an EDGE eye examination there's no going back to anything else!

The other reason for buying his own practice is to be able to do things that most opticians practices simply don't do. Things like night lenses (contact lenses that you wear while asleep, take out when you wake up, and see perfectly all day). Things like myopia management (slowing down short-sightedness in children and thus reducing the risk of serious eye complications as adults).

Google "EDGE Eyewear Warrington". From there you can see the glowing reviews and get all the information you may need.

## New ambulance station and training centre approved by planners

HEALTH and First Aid charity St John Ambulance has been granted planning consent for an ambulance station and training centre at Warrington.

The facility is at the former Cerberg Matec storage and distribution unit in Leacroft Road, Birchwood. Up to 11 ambulances will be based at the site, together with 35 staff.

Warrington Borough Council planners have approved the change of use of the site – which is already in use.

St John Ambulance will be delivering the transport services of the North West and North Wales Paediatric Transfer Service and the North West Neonatal Transport

Service and Connect North West from the site, as well as continuing to support NHS Ambulance services, including the North West Ambulance Service.

Planners were told the site was crucial to help St John Ambulance teams reach critical care units quickly to deliver critical care to patients.

An essential service, it would be operational 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

There were no objections to the proposals – and given the urgent need for the service, work on the conversion of the buildings started ahead of planning consent being given.



# Disability Awareness Day is a sizzling success!

**UNDETERRED by the hot weather thousands of people flocked to the 31st Disability Awareness Day at Walton Hall & Gardens organised by Warrington Disability Partnership.**

The event marked the end of a week of activities highlighting what people can achieve with a disability and the positive attitude of a "can do" mentality.

Various organisations from across, Warrington, the North West and beyond, exhibited at the event, which ran simultaneously with a Disability Awareness Day in Cameroon, which Warrington Disability Partnership supported with a donation several years ago and is now one of many similar events taking place across the world.

Town Crier Peter Powell was joined by WDP Chief Executive Dave Thompson, to launch the event with mains sponsors United Utilities and Expanse Learning, who have already confirmed they will again be supporting DAD next year.

Special guests included Lord-Lieutenant of Cheshire Lady Alexis Redmond MBE and her TV producer husband Sir Phil Redmond, of Brookside and Grange Hill fame

and Mayor of Warrington Cllr. Jean Flaherty.

Event founder Warrington Disability Partnership Chief Executive Dave Thompson MBE, said: "The event has continued to grow both nationally and internationally and is now widely recognised as the largest voluntary led, pan-disability event in the world!

"During the past 31 years, the DAD team has inspired and supported other organisations to develop similar events across the UK, Europe and the world. This has resulted in Disability Awareness Day becoming a truly international occasion, with events taking place across the globe, including India, Cameroon, Egypt, Sudan, Thailand and Uganda.

"I would like to thank everyone involved with this year's events, our sponsors, supporters, management team, staff, families, friends and everyone who has been involved over the past 31 years."

Pictures: John Hopkins



**For video and more pictures visit [www.warrington-worldwide.co.uk](http://www.warrington-worldwide.co.uk)**



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# Warrington Walk

**AFTER an absence of three years due to the pandemic Warrington Walking Day returned as local churches and schools took part in the historic Walk of Witness!**

While showers were forecast, the rain held off until the final walkers had left the town hall law and passed through the town centre.

While Mayor of Warrington Cllr Jean Flaherty took the salute from hundreds of walkers, at her 68th Walking Day, it was the first

for Rev Canon June Steventon, as St Elphins Church led the Walk of Witness.

All but two of the regular churches took part in the event, the first since 2019 due to the pandemic.

Warrington-Worldwide covered the event live with viewers tuning

**For a gallery of more than 100 pictures and video**





# Walking Day is back!

in from not just Warrington, but across the country and the world.

The town's two MPs Charlotte Nichols and Andy Carter were both in attendance.

The only previous time the walk had been cancelled was in 1915 because of the First World War.

This year's event is believed to be the 186th time the walk has taken place.

Warrington Walking Day was originally founded by a former Rector of Warrington as a counter-attraction to Newton Races which, he believed, were attracting many townsfolk to gambling and drink.

Newton Races died out years ago – but the great Walk of Christian Witness continues.

More photos are below in a special picture gallery.

coverage visit [www.warrington-worldwide.co.uk](http://www.warrington-worldwide.co.uk)





# Crowds flock to Thelwall Rose Queen as village celebrates music and bands

**CROWDS** flocked to Thelwall Rose Queen which had a theme of music and bands this year as local school girl Summer Whittaker-Ive was crowned Rose Queen.

The weather stayed fine for a fantastic day of processions, competitions, entertainment and stalls as an amazing selection of floats paraded through the village.

Following the traditional Thelwall Rose Queen parade, the fun continued on the Parish Hall field for displays in the arena as well as a host of food, games, cakes and much more as 11-year-old Summer was crowned by Kath Mellor.

Summer is a pupil

at Thelwall Primary School, and her interests include her hoverboard and reading Harry Potter and Lord of the Rings books. She hopes to be an author or actress one day. Her favourite subjects at school are maths, english and art.

Prior to the event, there was the 5th Annual Scarecrow Parade the week before, with amazing scarecrows displayed around the village.

Pictures: John Hopkins



Check out [www.warrington-worldwide.co.uk](http://www.warrington-worldwide.co.uk) for more pictures

## Return of Bawming the Thorn

AFTER an absence of three years due to the pandemic the ancient and unique tradition of Bawming the Thorn returned to Appleton Thorn village.

The event was opened by local vicar Rev. Alan Jewell, with special guest, local historian Mark Oly.

The Bawming dance was performed by local school children from Appleton Thorn Primary School who had been preparing for their big day for seven years!

Legend has it that the thorn tree, which stands beside the local church, is believed to be an offshoot from the Glastonbury thorn which grew from the staff of Joseph.

Adam de Dutton, a knight of

the crusades and local landowner brought it to Appleton Thorn in 1178, although the current tree is a relative newcomer, believed to be at least the third tree to have been planted at the site.

Bawming the Thorn involves decorating the tree with flowers and ribbons.

Bawming the Thorn is a unique event to Appleton Thorn. After parading through the village, youngsters dance around the tree, with members of Appleton Thorn Village Choir singing the Bawming song.

Various activities then take place on the field behind Appleton Thorn Village Hall.





# Laskey Farm opens gardens to help support Breast Cancer patients



**THE award-winning Laskey Farm in Thelwall opened its stunning gardens to help raise funds to support breast cancer patients at Warrington and Halton Teaching Hospitals, with a special "Moobs and Boobs" fund-raising event.**

In partnership with the National Open Gardens Scheme, the Farm welcomed visitors to its 1.5 acre site which features herbaceous borders, rose beds and a grass maze with prairie-style planting.

A network of pools accommodates both specimen Koi and terrapins, creating an interconnected water garden that includes a swimming pond. Family-friendly, Laskey Farm offers a treasure hunt, treehouse and even a mini menagerie with chickens, rabbits and guinea fowl.

The Hospitals' Head of Fundraising, Helen Higginson said: "WHH Charity would like to extend a special 'thank you' to Laskey Farm's generous hosts Wendy and Howard Platt for their generosity in sharing their beautiful gardens with us for such a worthy cause."

A luscious selection of donated home-made bakes and refreshments were on sale to help raise money to support patients living with or recovering from breast cancer through the hospital's 'Moobs & Boobs' campaign.

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# Stunning showcase of artistic talent

**STUDENTS from Warrington & Vale Royal College's art department recently came together to present a spellbinding showcase of their artistic talent.**

The exhibition ran for one week in The Crescent, Warrington campus, and was a fantastic display of the hard work put in by both staff and students this year.

Work was presented from students at all levels: from Level 1 through to Higher National Certificate (HNC). Audiences were wowed with work spanning a variety of mediums including digital collages, paintings, sketches, ceramic models, 3D set designs, interior designs, video and more!

While it was amazing to view the work, it was equally special to witness the inspiration and passion in the room.

Alysha Griffiths, Level 3 Art & Design student, chose a theme of time for her digital collage, which shows how statues inevitably decay over time. She found the entire exhibition to be a fun and positive experience, saying: "The people at Warrington & Vale Royal College have been really welcoming and the tutors have helped me a

lot." Alexandra Jakimow, NCFE Level 2 Creative Craft student, reiterated this, saying: "I've found this experience lovely. I've really enjoyed this and it's been so intimate! I'm very, very pleased; the course has allowed me to focus on my artwork and has really guided me as I worked to a brief. I would recommend this college to anybody!"

Another student who displayed gratitude toward the college for its support and encouragement is Joshua Holley, Level 2 Art & Design student, who said: "The college is very inviting and nurtures imagination." Will Dean, Level 3 Art Foundation student, echoed this, saying: "My year here has been great! I've experimented with lots of different practices and really branched out. The support from my tutors has been good and there's always someone to talk to!"

Upon completion of his course, Will is heading to The Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama where he'll be studying performance design. A fantastic achievement!

Gratitude and enthusiasm

didn't just come from the students, though. Ben Brady, Assistant Director: Curriculum at Warrington & Vale Royal College, said: "We're absolutely thrilled to be able to present a face-to-face exhibition again to showcase the incredible and diverse skills of our creative art students. The students and staff have worked exceptionally hard all year round and this exhibition really does showcase their brilliance. The college would like to congratulate all of the talented students who exhibited their work, along with the dedicated staff body who made the exhibition possible, for their hard work this year. It truly was an inspiring evening that left a lasting impression on all who attended."

If you're a keen artist, take a look at all of the courses on offer at Warrington & Vale Royal College. If you're just about to leave high school, or have been working for years already, the college has a course at the right level for you. Visit the college's website to find out more [wvr.ac.uk](http://wvr.ac.uk)



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# AUTUMN / WINTER

## WHAT'S ON

## AUG-DEC 2022



Sat 27 Aug	Bombay Bicycle Club
Tue 30 Aug	The Psychology of Serial Killers with Jennifer Rees
Sat 3 Sep	Northern Live
Sat 3 Sep	Comedy Store
Mon 5 Sep	Sir Ranulph Fiennes
Fri 9 Sep	Sounds Familiar Music Quiz
Sun 11 Sep	What's Love Got to Do with It?
Thu 15 Sep	An Evening with Robbie Fowler
Fri 16 Sep	An Audience with Vinnie Jones & Paul Gascoigne
Sat 24 Sep	Tom Ståde - The High Road
Thu 29 Sep	Dave Gorman
Fri 30 Sep	Brutus Gold's Love Train
Sat 1 Oct	The Clone Roses, Oas-is, The Smiths Ltd & Clint Boon
Sat 1 Oct	Comedy Store
Thu 6 Oct	Gods of League
Sat 8 Oct & Sun 9 Oct	Helen Forrester's Twopence to Cross the Mersey
Thu 20 Oct	Kenny Wayne Shepherd Band
Fri 21 Oct	Kerry Godlliman - BOSH
Sun 23 Oct	Dirty Dusting
Thu 27 Oct	Levison Wood - The Art of Exploration

Fri 4 Nov	The Meatloaf Songbook
Sat 5 Nov	Comedy Store
Sun 6 Nov	Foster & Allen
Thu 10 Nov	Al Murray - Gig for Victory
Fri 11 Nov	The ELO Show
Sat 12 Nov	Fleetwood Bac
Fri 18 Nov	Seann Walsh - Back from the Bed
Fri 18 Nov	Luther
Fri 2 Dec	East 17 - Stay Another Day Christmas Tour 2022
Fri 2 Dec	Peter Price
Sat 3 Dec	ABBA Reunion - Christmas Party
Fri 9 Dec	Mark Watson - This Can't Be It
Fri 9 Dec	For Those About to Rock
Sat 10 Dec	Showaddywaddy
Fri 16 Dec	The Houghton Weavers
Sat 10 Dec	Showaddywaddy
Fri 6 Jan - Sun 15 Jan	Dick Whittington Pantomime 2023

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# National award for inspirational fundraising twins

**THE amazing fundraising efforts of 11-year-old twins from Warrington has been celebrated at a star-studded national award ceremony hosted by Eamonn Holmes.**

Ruben and Elena Evans-Guillen's work to raise money for charity saw them – at just six – becoming ambassadors for the Warrington & Halton Hospital.

Their achievements were recognised at The Child of Britain Awards, the first national awards ceremony to celebrate the courage, fortitude, talents and triumphs of exceptional British children.

The awards took place at the Grosvenor House Hotel in Park Lane. The inspirational and emotional evening featured a stellar cast of celebrity guests.

The twins, aged eleven, have made it their mission to make a positive difference to children who are less fortunate than themselves.

At just six years old, they became ambassadors for the Warrington & Halton Hospital. Ruben and Elena have ADHD, which means they overcome their daily challenges and manage their symptoms to ensure this doesn't stop them on their mission.

They've completed many challenges on their fundraising



journey, starting in 2018 by completing a 100 km running challenge, followed by another in 2019.

In 2020, they worked with Paralympian and 3-gold medallist Stephen Miller on a summer decathlon challenge and a winter superhero 100 km cycling campaign to help with Covid-19 grant funding. In 2021, they became ambassadors for MedEquip4Kids and conducted 100 acts of kindness across the region.

In total, their fundraising efforts have helped to raise more than £45,500 in just four years.

Ruben and Elena won the Young Fundraiser award.

Cash for Kids supports young people affected by poverty, abuse, neglect, life-limiting illness, and those with additional needs.



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# MP helps secure £6m Government cash for Penketh High School re-build

**WARRINGTON** South MP Andy Carter has welcomed the Government's announcement that Penketh High School will receive almost £6 million in funding as part of the national Schools Rebuild Programme.

Penketh High School is one of sixty-one across the country which is set to receive state-of-the-art rebuilds or refurbishments that will transform education for their pupils.

Work to deliver the project will start immediately. It will include updating and modernising buildings, and creating state-of-the-art facilities. The new school buildings will be net-zero carbon in operation, helping meet the Government's net-zero target.

Mr Carter has prioritized Penketh High School for support by the Department for Education following a visit to the site when he was first elected in 2019. As well as securing meetings for the Penketh High's leadership team with the Schools Minister, the MP managed to get a condition improvement survey brought forward because of his concerns over the safety of buildings. He has also raised the matter in Parliament recently when he asked the Education Secretary to support the school's application to fund a re-build programme.

The funding, which is around £6 million, is in addition to a grant from Warrington Borough Council recently agreed.

Mr Carter said: "Our children deserve the best start in life and I

made a commitment when elected to work to secure better facilities for our local schools. During my first tour around the school with Head Teacher Mr Carlin I saw the problems for myself, some of the classroom blocks are in urgent need of replacement and some couldn't be used. I very quickly arranged a meeting with the Ministerial Team to make the case that Penketh be part of the Schools Rebuild Programme. TCAT submitted a strong bid and are also using some of the funds allocated to Academies to support this project. This is very welcome funding and I know the school are keen to get underway with the building project.

"I also pay tribute to Penketh High's improving educational achievements, this is really great school where renewed leadership and inspirational teaching is paying off for children in Penketh. The school recently received an improved rating from Ofsted and a sports gold award. It's fantastic news that they will now be getting the funding to replace the buildings that they so urgently need."



## ANDY CARTER MP

WORKING HARD FOR WARRINGTON SOUTH

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*Andy*

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# £financially yours

By David Watkinson

## The taxman is not always right as has recently been illustrated by two cases

The first concerns a couple of our own clients who were in partnership until 30 June 2017, after which they traded on their own. The 2018 partnership return, and the individual partners' tax returns, correctly showed this cessation date as well as the commencement date of the sole trader business. All of the individual tax returns for 2019, 2020 and 2021 were submitted on time, all of which only referred to the sole trader business.

Penalty notices for the late submission of a partnership return were issued by HM Revenue & Customs ("HMRC") in respect of the 2019 tax year. These were successfully appealed against and the penalties were cancelled. However, this did not stop HMRC issuing penalty notices in respect of 2020. Again, these were successfully appealed against and the penalties cancelled.

So did HMRC now accept that the partnership no longer existed? Not at all! Penalties were again issued in respect of the 2021 tax year in March 2022. These were immediately appealed against by letter stating that the penalties should be cancelled. In June 2022 a second demand was issued, stating that penalties were now increasing on a daily

basis. Again, a further letter was sent together with a copy of the original appeal. HMRC failed to act on either of these letters.

When a third demand was received in July we visited the client and contacted HMRC by telephone. After a 20 minute wait we spoke to someone who understood, and we are now hoping that the matter is resolved..

**However, if the penalties are not cancelled then we will be following the route that had to be taken in the second case.** This basically concerns the meaning of the word "late". You may think that you and everyone else knows that but HMRC does not agree. In fact, they seem to think that it means the same as "early".

Real Time Information ("RTI") has been with us for 10 years, so everyone involved in the preparing a payroll should by now be aware of the RTI deadlines for filing the Full Payment Submission ("FPS"). In fact, HMRC's own guidance "When to send your FPS" states that the FPS must be submitted "on or before your employees' payday", otherwise a Late Filing Penalty will be issued unless you have a "reasonable excuse".

**Very straightforward, you might think, and so did**

**Quayviews Ltd until they ran foul of HMRC's interpretation of "late".**

Quayviews had already been issued with late filing penalties so wanted to avoid any more. Therefore, on 4 September 2020 (Month 5), they decided to file submissions for the tax months ending 5 November 2020, 5 December 2020, 5 January 2021 and 5 April 2021 (months 7,8,9 and 12 respectively). They used HMRC's very own Basic PAYE Tools software which HMRC had altered to allow early filing, when previously returns could only be submitted within three weeks of the payday. They even received a message saying that the FPS had been successfully filed.

**However, this did not stop HMRC from issuing late filing penalties.** They agreed that the FPS had been received, but were unable to allocate them to a specific tax month. **HMRC considered that no filing within a tax month indicated late filing.** Even when they had been made aware of the early filing they maintained this view. Furthermore, they did not consider that Quayviews had a "reasonable excuse" for filing early, hence the reason for the late filing penalty notices and the rejection of the company's appeal.



Margaret Black and David Watkinson

**Fortunately, the company's subsequent appeal to the First Tier Tribunal was successful.** They stated that the company had a reasonable excuse, because:

1. HMRC's guidance did not state that filing early and not within the tax month could constitute late filing, stating only that the FPS must be filed "on or before",
2. Although Quayviews had been sent a previous "education letter" by HMRC, that again did not say the FPS could not be submitted early
3. HMRC's Basic PAYE Tools allows files to be submitted early without an indication that early could mean late if too early
4. The fact that the HMRC Basic PAYE software gave a success message.

**So what is the moral of this story? When you receive a nasty letter from HMRC then do not automatically think that it is right. Speak to them or your tax adviser.**

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# Youngsters invited to join in local Commonwealth Games this summer



**LIVEWIRE is inviting youngsters aged 10-17 years, to go for gold and help the Warrington community celebrate the 2022 Commonwealth Games by joining in with a series of fun sporting activities and challenges.**

The weekly sessions, made possible by Sport England as part of the Together Fund and partners Mad Runners, will be held at Orford Jubilee Neighbourhood Hub, on Saturdays throughout the school holidays.

From boxing, dodgeball and netball, to squash, athletics, bike rides and boxing, there's something for every age and ability.

The project runs on Saturdays until September at 12:30-3:30pm and costs just 50p.

The sessions include opportunities to win prizes, lots of incentives and

visits from local sporting heroes.

Paul Flannery, Community Sports Development Manager, said: "Thanks to this funding we will be able to offer a fantastic menu of different sports every Saturday for young people in central Warrington. We will be giving young people the chance to try out a wide variety of sports in a safe environment.

"This is a great opportunity for young people to keep busy during the weekend period and use the inspiration of the commonwealth games to participate themselves!"

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### PUBLIC NOTICES

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

Norwood Restaurants Ltd has given to Warrington Borough Council an application for the grant of a Premises Licence for Il Cortile 30 Common Lane Culcheth Warrington WA4 4HA

The licensable activities which it is proposed will be carried on at the premises are:

Supply of alcohol (On Sales) Monday-Sunday 11:00-23:30

Provision of recorded music Monday-Sunday 11:00-00:00

Late night refreshment Monday-Sunday 23:00-23:30

Provision of live music Friday & Saturday 20:00-00:00 Sunday 13:00-18:00

The Licensing Register of Warrington Borough Council is held at East Annexe, Town Hall, Sankey Street, Warrington, WA1 1UH and, where applicable, at [www.warrington.gov.uk](http://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 15/08/22

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.

(J8/22)

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