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**Life as a Viking!**

Page 10

Picture: John Hopkins

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# Editor's Comment



**JUST in case anyone is in any doubt - when it comes to reporting local news Warrington Worldwide and myself are completely politically independent.**

We also make every effort to give politicians a right of reply as we endeavour to provide balanced news reports.

Over the years I have been accused of being a "council mouthpiece," a "Tory sympathiser" and a "Lib Dem supporter." So I must be doing something right!

We work closely with both MPs, Andy Carter (Tory) in the South and Charlotte Nichols (Labour) in the North.

We deal with press releases from all political parties and Warrington Borough Council and work closely with parish councils in our local communities.

Our agenda is always to be fair and balanced and as factual as possible when it comes to reporting local issues.

I am totally transparent when it comes to my other roles in the community, either as Trustee of a charity, a director of a board or more recently as Chair of Warrington Healthwatch.

You might wonder why I am saying all this?

Well my integrity has been called into question a couple of times recently, including an accusation that I write sensationalism stories that are not factually correct – pretty much the biggest insult someone can throw at me.

Unlike some media we are not into click bait – but I was trained as a journalist how to write a headline to gain interest.

I was also trained on how to give all sides an equal opportunity to have their say.

After more than four decades as a journalist I am not going to change the way I write stories – and I'm also not going to tolerate people going on social media making wild accusations about me or **Warrington Worldwide**

If you have an issue with me or my publication just make direct contact by phone, email or letter – and I will happily discuss any concerns you might have.

I don't have a political agenda.

My only agenda is to try and promote Warrington in a positive light and make it a better place for us all to live.

Unfortunately we do have to carry negative news as well as positive – again to give a balanced picture – as just like pretty much every other town and city on the planet, bad things do happen.

When they do it is important to highlight issues of public interest.

Unfortunately some of our elected politicians don't practice what they preach and as I have

previously said, politics appears to be getting more and more toxic – with social media, a necessary evil for most people in public life, only fuelling the fire.

I try and follow the golden rule of never posting anything I wouldn't put in print or say to someone's face.

I certainly wouldn't post late at night after having consumed alcohol.

I understand Warrington Borough Council will be promoting a "Debate not hate" campaign in September. This is something I totally agree with and will support.

We all need to learn to tolerate other opinions and debate them in a healthy way.

Here at **Warrington Worldwide** we will not tolerate hateful comments – although it is impossible to keep track of every comment made on social media – if you find something offensive please alert us as we will do our best to deal with it.

In the meantime we will carry on being Warrington's "critical friend" highlighting all the good things that happen, while challenging as and when we required.

We are here to represent our readers to the best of our ability – maybe some elected politicians should take note.

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# Spectacular multi-cultural Mela celebrates 10 years of bringing down barriers

**WARRINGTON Ethnic Communities Association's "Mela" marked its 10th anniversary with a spectacular multi-cultural event in the town centre.**

After missing the past two years due to the pandemic, the town centre was transformed with bright colours, music and much more as various nations joined together to celebrate the town's diverse cultures and to enjoy other cultures.

Members of Warrington's Asian community were joined by Polish Dancers, African drummers, Chinese Dragon Dancers and much more as a parade, led by Mayor Cllr Jean Flaherty, made its way from the town hall, through the

town centre and finally Palmyra Square, where various activities took place.

One of the organisers Cllr Mo Hussain, General secretary of Warrington Ethnic Communities Association WECA said: "The aim is to bring all the community together and break down barriers."

He said anyone attending this year's event who felt their culture wasn't represented should get in touch to take part next year.

Pictures: John Hopkins



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# RLWC Women in Rugby League exhibition

**FOLLOWING on from the Lionesses' recent success, an exhibition celebrating the history of women in rugby league and encouraging other women to record their own memories of the sport is coming to Warrington this September.**

The council and Warrington Wolves Foundation are working in partnership with Common Sense Initiative (CSI) and Rugby League Cares to bring a National Lottery Heritage funded touring exhibition to Warrington.

To celebrate Warrington's role as a host town for the Rugby League World Cup 2021 (RLWC2021), the touring exhibition will stop off in Golden Square to mark the occasion and celebrate this history.

The National Lottery funded project looks at uncovering, documenting, and celebrating the history of the pioneering sportswomen who challenged traditional male dominance in rugby league, paving the way for thousands of girls and young women to play the game today.

Thanks to the sportswomen in the exhibition and unprecedented growth in women's rugby league, this year's RLWC women's tournament is set to be bigger and better than ever. The tournament will see eight teams compete over three weeks, and it will be the first time that teams from four different continents will play in the competition.

The exhibition will launch on Saturday 17 September, with an exciting programme of entertainment in The Old Market Place, Golden Square from 11am till 4pm, which will be hosted by Jenna Brooks, Sky Sports' Rugby League presenter and

will also include some special visitors.

The programme will include interviews and talks from ex-Lionesses, dance and music. The day will be rounded off with an exclusive showing of the award-winning documentary, 'Power Meri' which follows Papua New Guinea's first national women's rugby league team, the PNG Orchids, on their way to competing in the 2017 World Cup in Australia.

The film documents the fascinating journey these inspirational women take from their home towns to the world stage. Power Meri explores how the women playing this male-dominated sport in the public eye for the first time could change mindsets in a country where the status of women is one of the most troubling in the world.

Prior to the exhibition, an intergenerational podcast workshop will take place with young people and former Lionesses to share memories and experiences of the sport.

Cllr Tony Higgins, cabinet member for leisure and community, said: "Thanks to the pioneering sportswomen in this Women in Rugby League exhibition, women's rugby league has gone from strength to strength.

"Warrington is proud to have a strong rugby league heritage, so it is fitting that this exhibition, which showcases what women have done

for the sport, is coming to the town ahead of the RLWC in October.

"Hearing stories and memories from pioneering sportswomen is a fantastic way to see how these people have made the sport what it is today, and contributed to the biggest and best women's RLWC tournament yet.

The exhibition will be open most days from Saturday 17 September to Sunday 25 September from 9.30am – 4.30pm in the Golden Square mall,

in front of the Customer Services.

A full programme will be available in September at <https://wearwarringtonbid.co.uk/events/>

For more information about the Women in Rugby League exhibition, visit: [www.womeninrugbyleague.org.uk/](http://www.womeninrugbyleague.org.uk/).

To find out more about the Rugby League World Cup in Warrington, visit: [www.warrington.gov.uk/rlwc-2021](http://www.warrington.gov.uk/rlwc-2021).



The 'Power Meri' documentary will be on show at the September 17 launch.



PROUD TO HOST RLWC21

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## SCHEDULE

at Halliwell Jones Stadium

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# Optionis Group named one of UK's best apprenticeship employers

**WARRINGTON-based professional services provider, Optionis Group, has been named one of the UK's top 100 apprenticeship employers by the Department for Education.**

Optionis which is headquartered in Centre Park, was listed 34th in an annual Top 100 list published by the Department for Education in partnership with High Fliers Research.

The British Army took top spot in the awards list, followed by the Royal Navy and BT. Other major national employers such as Tesco, Network Rail and Lloyds Banking Group also made the list.

Over the last few years, Optionis has supported more than 650 employees to gain an apprenticeship as part of its commitment to offering an alternative pathway to university for school leavers seeking careers in accountancy.

The company's apprenticeship programme offers professionally recognised qualifications for aspiring accountants and provides job and development opportunities in a range of roles including accounting, payroll, marketing, sales and tax.

Optionis Group specialises in accountancy, tax and umbrella employment solutions for

contractors, freelancers and small businesses around the UK.

Karen Pay, Chief People Officer at Optionis, said: "We're thrilled to have been named as one of the UK's top apprenticeship employers. We've always invested in our people and supported their progression, and we've found apprenticeships to be a fantastic vehicle for helping people to develop professionally.

"I'm particularly proud that we've been recognised in this way despite the challenges of the last couple of years. We've worked hard to keep our team motivated and engaged – especially when we were forced to work remotely, so this award is testament to that and the commitment of our people to continually learn and achieve more."

The top 100 apprenticeship employers rankings celebrate England's outstanding apprenticeship employers and are aimed at helping future apprentices, parents and careers advisers identify apprenticeship opportunities at the country's

leading employers.

The listing marks another milestone for Optionis and its ongoing focus on apprenticeships. In 2019 the company was given the 'Inspiring Apprenticeships Award' at the Cheshire Business Awards and has previously been praised as a 'shining example' by vocational education specialist City & Guilds.

The group has multiple UK offices and operates brands including SJD Accountancy, ClearSky Accounting, Parasol, First Freelance and Nixon Williams.

For more information about Optionis and the range of apprenticeships available, visit: [www.optionis.co.uk/apprenticeships](http://www.optionis.co.uk/apprenticeships)



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# Local Plan will bring certainty and investment

by John Laverick - Warrington & Co

**Despite the headwinds we all face at the moment, high inflation and the impact it will have on families and awaiting new leadership at Government level, locally we continue to progress those things that are important to the future prosperity of Warrington and its people.**

Most impactful is probably the Local Plan. Now even I, the most optimistic of people, will admit that it might be a bit of a stretch to say that the Local Plan will immediately bring some good news to those people facing real concerns over food and fuel and income, but the Local Plan does bring a measure of forward thought and also a measure of certainty. A plan is intended to bring certainty and certainty brings

investment and this is important and scarce in these rapidly changing times.

A good measure of certainty is the delivery of residential developments within the Town Centre. The apartments on John Street are once again moving towards completion and are proving to be very popular with prospective tenants and the development on the former Spectra site is likely to be accelerated in

response to greater than expected demand. Our own housing company is also seeing demand outstrip supply. But these developments do not come at any cost and the delivery with a view to carbon reduction and the development of sustainable communities within the Town Centre will be central for new proposals such as the redevelopment of New Town House, which will come to planning next week.

We have the Rugby League World Cup coming soon and I hope you will keep an eye out not only for the games that are at the Halliwell Jones but also the events and parades that are planned for the Town Centre, bringing people to the Town who wouldn't normally come. I hope it generates the sort of engagement that we have recently seen at Euro 2022, opening up the game to all.

We were obviously shocked to see the removal of equipment from Gravity, in the midst of the summer holidays, when children should be enjoying it the most, but take comfort from Gravity's stated commitment to Warrington and re-opening operations of this critical offering within Time Square, which compliments the other food and drink offerings within the square.



John Laverick

01925 442 243

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Whilst retail within the Town continues to see tough trading conditions, online retail, which has a large impact on jobs and income within Warrington has surprisingly increased, albeit by a small amount over the Summer, underlining the changing requirements of a town centre. We have secured occupiers for the last remaining restaurant units under the cinema within Time Square and have enhanced our ability to hold enhanced public events here to further reinvigorate the town as it changes its nature. So as always the path to regeneration and inward investment is not always straight or fast but in general heading in the right direction.

## MP backs Fiddler's Ferry Power Station development

WARRINGTON South MP Andy Carter has given his backing to Peel NRE's redevelopment plans for the former Fiddler's Ferry Power Station site near Penketh.

He described it as "a great brownfield development opportunity for Warrington" during a tour of the site.

Last month it was announced that Peel NRE, part of regeneration business Peel L&P acquired Fiddler's Ferry Power Station from energy company SSE Thermal.

Since the acquisition, Peel NRE has been engaging with residents and key stakeholders about what this means for the future of the site and welcomed the opportunity to organise a site visit for the local Member of Parliament.

Mr Carter has been a supporter of the regeneration and reuse of the site since his election to parliament and lobbied for its inclusion in the 2021 version of the Warrington Local Plan as a key brownfield development opportunity.

The site is currently proposed for development of around 250-acres for employment use and approximately 1750 sustainable new homes.

Peel NRE is at the early stage of

developing its plans, but these will include the demolition of the former energy facility and restoration of ash lagoons to make way for the new developments for industrial use, creating high quality jobs and the creation of a new sustainable neighborhood to address local housing needs.

Mr Carter said: "The redevelopment of Fiddler's Ferry Power Station is something I've long pushed for. It's a great brownfield regeneration opportunity for Warrington and I was pleased to get a run down on plans from the new owners of the site.

These plans have the potential to bring about high quality jobs, an economic boost for the region as well as homes to allow local people to get on the housing ladder. I look forward to seeing the proposals begin to materialise over the coming months."



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# From Teddy Bear's Picnic to town hall – Central 6 campaigners plan next protest

**AFTER a peaceful Teddy Bear's Picnic in Victoria Park opposing the controversial Central 6 low traffic schemes in Westy and Orford, campaigners are already gearing up for their next event at Warrington town hall.**

Despite a relatively low turnout, the Teddy Bear's Picnic was hailed a success by organisers, who are now planning to stage their next protest outside Warrington Borough Council's Cabinet meeting on September 12, when they are hoping most people will be back from holidays – and the weather will certainly be cooler!

The Victoria Park event saw the campaign group introduce their new Super Ted, who took part in a short "skit" performance highlighting the opposition to the low traffic scheme planters!

One of the organisers Rachael Harper said: "It was truly a great day for democracy. To see families come together to oppose the street

plans and have fun while doing it was really something special. We didn't have as many people as we'd like show up considering how many people we know oppose the plans, but there were many families there. We put the lower attendance down to numerous factors including quite a few people being on holiday, the traveller presence, the heat, and people not wanting to protest in this particular way.

"Our campaign group has always been about standing up and giving a voice to those who don't feel heard. The voices of families and children are just as important as anybody else's if we want to instil a sense of democracy into the next generation. Of course, a teddy bear's protest picnic isn't for everyone, but my kids and

many others absolutely loved it.

"Many will question whether this event was successful if it didn't have a high turnout, but I don't view individual events as win or lose situations. We did what we were hoping to do; giving families a chance to come together and oppose these plans in a less aggressive way than some of our other events. That combined with the great feedback we received plus the children's reactions I think speaks for itself. To me, success would be getting these plans scrapped and the council engaging more people into creating something that actually works for the community. Each event that we organise, and hold is in service of that outcome."

**ANDY CARTER MP**  
Member of Parliament for Warrington South

I hold regular constituency advice surgeries at my Warrington South office and around the area.

To make an appointment call **01925 231 267** or email **Andy.Carter.MP@parliament.uk**

Promoted by Stephen Taylor on behalf of Andy Carter MP of 1 Stafford Road, Warrington WA4 6RP. Funded through the allowances available to the Member of Parliament.



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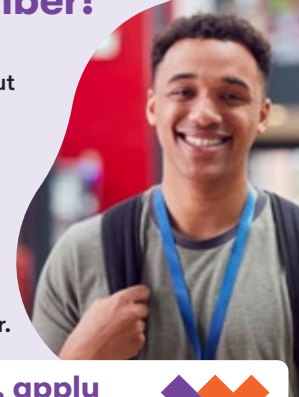
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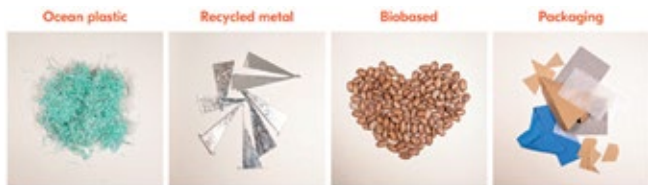
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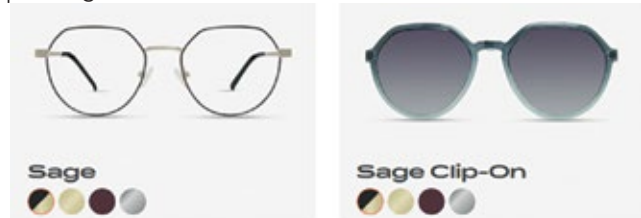
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## Youngsters given insight into life as a Viking!



### VIKING invaders from the newly formed Odinn Born re-enactment group kept youngsters entertained at St Elphin's Park, Warrington, during school holiday activities.

The new group which meets at Westy Community Centre every Monday gave children an insight into life as a Viking.

The group would like to hear from anyone interested in the Viking way of life who would like to join the group which meets every Monday evening from 7 pm-9 pm.

Medieval events and weekends are planned for the future.

For more details on the group email [Odinnborn@outlook.com](mailto:Odinnborn@outlook.com)



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## 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

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 and Sun 9 Oct Helen Forrester's Twopence to Cross the Mersey

Thu 13 to Sat 15 Oct Warrington Oktoberfest 25

Thu 20 Oct Kenny Wayne Shepherd Band

Fri 21 Oct Kerry Godliman - BOSH

Sun 23 Oct Dirty Dusting

Thu 27 Oct Levison Wood - The Art of Exploration

Fri 4 Nov The Meat Loaf 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

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Fri 6 Jan - Sun 15 Jan Dick Whittington Pantomime 2023



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# Thames Barrier-style solution needed for Sankey Canal water supply crisis

**A THAMES barrier-style barrage/weir on the Sankey Canal, above Bewsey Lock, would solve a water supply crisis.**

The proposal has been put forward by canal campaigner Jeff Round, of the Sankey Canal Restoration Society (SCARS).

He says the move would ensure there was sufficient water in the canal at Halton and also create significant flood protection for all towns on the canal – including Warrington and St Helens.

Water levels have been maintained in the canal since 1985 by pumping at the Fiddler's Ferry Power Station. But with the plant being decommissioned in March, the pumping ceased causing reduced levels in Halton...

Boats have run aground, fish have had to be rescued and there have also been other impacts on wildlife.

The matter has been discussed in Parliament, with both Warrington South MP Andy Carter and Halton MP Derek Twigg criticising Halton Council.

Halton has allocated £500,000 over five years to deal with the issue.

Mr Round says a barrage/weir above Bewsey Lock would solve the problem. It would have to be similar to the Thames Barrier – having the ability to be lowered to allow flood water to pass through, then being

raised towards the end of a flood event to capture water again.

A new sluice at Bewsey Lock would allow water into the lower reaches at times of low flow, as per the original design of the 200-year-old canal, although volunteers have cleared the original sluice and found it to be in good condition and requiring little repair work.

Mr Round said the canal should be restored along its original length from Blackbrook to Sankey Lock and through to Spike Island using modern remote-controlled valve systems which could, at times of imminent flooding, could lower levels in preparation for the increased water flow.

This significant control of flooding and water supply would easily justify the work and investment required, he added.

Volunteers from SCARS and other organisations will be working again this weekend to clear the overflow for Bewsey Lock and Mr Round is offering to lead a walk of the area, to explain how the proposals would work.

He said: "We know they would work because they have worked for 200 years."

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# Student nurse lands dream job while on work placement

**A student nurse on Warrington & Vale Royal College's Health & Social Care course has landed her dream job while on work placement.**

Kelsey Siddall enrolled on a Level 3 Health & Social Care course in September 2020 with the dream of becoming a child nurse. This dream started to become a reality when Kelsey was offered a place to study Child Nursing at Edge Hill University, starting in September 2022.

However, Kelsey recently completed a work placement at Warrington and Halton Teaching Hospital. Kelsey was working on the Respiratory Ward which contains 33 beds and cares for people with complex respiratory conditions, tracheostomies and those who require additional respiratory support.

Such an impressive and lasting impression was made by Kelsey that she has been offered a job at the hospital, who will support her while she continues her education in nursing. Once qualified, Kelsey has been offered a full-time nursing job at Warrington and Halton Teaching Hospital!

As a result of this incredibly positive work placement experience, Kelsey has completely changed her career pathway from child nursing to

general nursing. Rather than take up her offer from Edge Hill University, Kelsey is going to continue her studies at Warrington & Vale Royal College, where she will complete her Higher National Certificate Level 4 in Healthcare Practice. She will study in the college's state-of-the-art Health & Social Care Academy, and complete her placement hours on the respiratory ward. Once Kelsey has completed her HNC, she will transfer to the University of Chester where she will complete a degree in Nursing.

To find out more about the College's Health & Social Care Academy, and to view the range of Health & Social Care courses on offer visit: [wvr.ac.uk/facilities/health-social-care-academy](http://wvr.ac.uk/facilities/health-social-care-academy)



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# Golfer "living with Parkinson's" raises £3,700 to fight the disease

**A WARRINGTON man who has been living with Parkinson's for 16 years has raised £3,700 to fight the disease - by playing golf!**

Martin Holbourn, 65, from Appleton says Parkinson's doesn't mean to have to put your life on hold - and certainly isn't going to stop him playing the game he loves.

He pushed himself to complete a 40-hole round of golf at Antrobus Golf Club to raise the money for Parkinson's UK

The funds were raised through

sponsorship, a raffle, coffee morning and sweepstake.

Martin said: "In 2010, four years into my diagnosis, I took on a 72-hole golf challenge to raise funds for Parkinson's UK. Fast-forward to 2022, and I wanted to recreate my previous challenge. But, as I have been living with Parkinson's for 16 years now, 40-holes seemed like a more realistic target."

Parkinson's is the fastest-growing neurological condition in the world. Around 145,000 people in the UK have Parkinson's. Martin's symptoms include slowness of movement and involuntary movements, amongst many others.

He added: "My daily life revolves around my condition and taking my medicine on time. I wanted to take on this golf

challenge to show people that Parkinson's doesn't mean you have to put your life on hold.

"Golf is a challenging and difficult sport, and Parkinson's just adds another challenge into the mix. I won't let Parkinson's stop me from doing what I love."

To find out how to fundraise for Parkinson's UK visit [parkinsons.org.uk/fundraising](http://parkinsons.org.uk/fundraising)



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# Tribute to Olivia Newton-John

**WARRINGTON'S Walton Hall and Gardens will be celebrating and honouring the passing of Olivia Newton-John by showing a special outdoor cinema screening of Grease.**

All profits from ticket sales will go to the borough's favourite charity – St Rocco's Hospice.

The 1970s hit will be shown on Friday September 30 and follows two previous successful outdoor film shows earlier this year.

In addition to Olivia Newton-John, the film stars John Travolta and features a number of hit songs so members of the audience will be able to sit back and sing-along.

VIP tickets will be available, with Walton Hall providing deckchairs in a prime location.

But you can simply go along with

something to sit on and choose your own spot on the lawn.

Children's tickets will also be available – but once they're gone, they're gone!

Food and drink will also be available to buy on the night.

All profits from ticket sales will go towards a range of uses at St Rocco's, including nursing costs, providing delicious food for patients, providing counselling to help bereaved families through difficult times, or providing a course of relaxing and calming therapy.



Olivia Newton-John at the 1989 Academy Awards Picture: Alan Light

## Do you want to make a difference to healthcare in Warrington?

Do you feel passionate about your local healthcare services? Do you wish there was someone who could help people get the support they need? That someone could be you by joining the Healthwatch Warrington Volunteer Team!

The past two years have been difficult for everybody trying to access local health and social care services, with providers dealing with effects of the pandemic which has left them with backlog of appointments and long waiting lists for many.

As the pandemic has eased, the NHS and other health and social

care providers have prioritised working through the backlog of healthcare cases, but this will take time and is expected to be impacted by the cost of living crisis and an already stretched health service. This is where Healthwatch volunteers can really help make a difference.

Volunteers are at the heart of what Healthwatch Warrington do, from talking to people about their experiences of health and social care, to writing reports, to updating social media channels - volunteers are vital to their work. Whether you have a few hours to spare or are

looking for a regular commitment, they have got a volunteering role to suit you:

**Virtual Voices Volunteers** - Get involved by taking part in email polls, online questionnaires and surveys. (15 minutes per month)

**Peoples Panel Volunteers** - Share your experience and understanding of Health and Social issues that are important to the residents of Warrington. (2hours per month)

**Enter and View Volunteers** - Help observe health and social care services at the point of delivery; speaking with staff, patients, residents, relatives, and

carers, and producing reports with recommendations to improve service delivery. (3hours per month)

**Events and Engagement Volunteers** - Support Healthwatch Warrington at local and county-wide events.

Volunteers make everything they do possible and love to help make local services better for everyone.

If you want to know more and get involved, check out the Healthwatch Warrington website - [healthwatchwarrington.co.uk/how-can-i-volunteer](http://healthwatchwarrington.co.uk/how-can-i-volunteer)

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# Warrington is in the top ten in the region for sports access



**THE North West has been ranked England's second-best region for sports access - and Warrington is in the Top Ten in the region.**

Sport and fitness experts Runner's Needs has carried out research comparing more than 100 English towns and cities, uncovering each one's sports accessibility score.

The study ranks each town and city by considering the number of local sports facilities and government sports expenditure data and compares this to local physical activity rates, well-being rates and sports expenditure from the past five years.

In total, the North West has 1,492 sports facilities per 100,000 people - more per capita than any other region.

Manchester has more sports

facilities per capita than any other town or city, with 460 facilities per 100,000 people. But overall, the top performing towns in the region were Burnley, which ranked 9th in England and Blackburn, which ranked 11.

Warrington with facilities like the Halliwell Jones Stadium, Victoria Park and Orford Jubilee Hub and Woolston and Great Sankey Hubs was 8th in the North West, with annual expenditure per person of £37.48 and 70 sports facilities per 100,000 people.

The town was ranked 27 in England.

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# University offers all-round for college students

**WARRINGTON & Vale Royal College was "absolutely delighted" that their Access to HE: Nursing & Midwifery Class of 21/22 have each successfully secured places at their chosen universities.**

One hundred percent of the class are going to university in September! A reality the students only dreamed of before applying for an access course at the college.

This is a true testament to the hard work and dedication of staff and students alike. One student, Kayleigh, had nothing but good things to say about her experience at the college and how it has

helped her progress toward her dream career. She said: "This course has definitely helped with my future career plans, without the course I wouldn't have been able to go to university! It has taught me to have more confidence in the work I create and I've made some friends for life too." Kayleigh has been offered a place at University of Bolton to study Adult Nursing.

Another student with praise for Warrington & Vale Royal College is Natasha, who chose to study at the college after it was recommended to her by a friend. She said: "The best aspect of the course is the support from other students and our tutors, who've helped us in each unit with clear instructions and by sharing useful resources. The course has helped me build my self-confidence, particularly with my academic writing." Natasha wants to become a midwife and has been offered a place at Edge Hill University to study Midwifery.

Amy Yorke, the college's Health & Social Care Academy Manager,

said: "We are exceptionally proud of all our access students and the midwifery cohort are no exception. All students gaining a place on one of the most competitive degree courses is an excellent achievement. This is testament to the hard work and determination of the students and support of the outstanding staff in the access department." It most certainly is!

Could this be you? It's not too late to apply for an access to higher education course and take the first steps toward your dream career today. Visit [wvr.ac.uk/access-to-he](http://wvr.ac.uk/access-to-he) for more information.



## Charlotte Nichols MP Warrington North

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

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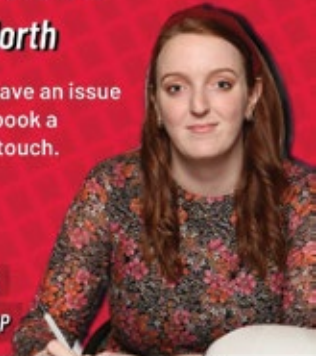
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By David Watkinson

## When a stroke happens then speed is essential

We are all aware of Face Arms Speech Telephone 999, FAST, which indicates the urgency of receiving treatment fast.

What you may not be aware of, however, is that one crucial treatment is a **thrombectomy**, which can greatly reduce the chance of death or permanent disability by removing a blood clot from a vein or artery.

Unfortunately, this treatment is currently not available 24/7, treatment very much depending on being in the right place at the right time. In fact, in 2021 only 2.8% of people who suffered a stroke were lucky enough to receive a thrombectomy. A pledge by the NHS to increase this to 10% by 2022 has been missed due to lack of funds.

Margaret's husband, **Phil Black**, was one of those lucky ones. In gratitude, Margaret is raising funds to try and get that pledge achieved. **WatkinsonBlack** and **Northwich Art Shop** are pleased to support her in that mission.

As part of her campaign she is organising an Art Event on Saturday 3rd September at Moulton Royal British Legion from 10.00am to 2.00pm. As well as the work of local

artists and craftsmen being on display there will also be refreshments and a tombola. Some of the works will be for sale, others will be for display only.

Margaret would love to see you there. However, if you are unable to attend or you are reading this after the event then she would be so grateful if you make a donation to The Stroke Association. This can be done in one of two ways:

1. By sending a donation to Watkinson Black Client Bank Account Sort-Code 20-91-48 Account number 80764426, quoting STROKE as your reference. Please send an email to Margaret@WatkinsonBlack.Com if you wish to get a receipt.
2. By direct donation to The Stroke Association by going to [www.stroke.org.uk/donate/make-donation](http://www.stroke.org.uk/donate/make-donation) We would ask if you do this that you send an email to Margaret@WatkinsonBlack.Com to let her know that you have done so and how much.

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Margaret Black and David Watkinson

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# Magnificent gold for Lucy Glover at European Championships



**WARRINGTON'S Lucy Glover** celebrated gold as Britain's rowers romped to a magnificent haul of six medals and four golds inside two hours at the European Championships in Munich.

Lucy stroked the women's quad to gold by clear water, one of the performances of the day across the board, alongside Georgina Brayshaw, Lola Anderson and Jess Leyden.

Warrington Rowing Club posted on social media:

"HUUUUUUGE WELL DONE to Lucy Glover who raced to Gold in the European Championships with crew mates Jess Leyden, Lola Anderson and Georgina Brayshaw today!

Leading practically the whole

race, they added to the Gold medal tally for Team GB today on the Olympic Regatta course intwitter Munich.

We're so proud of you Lucy! And are championing you from Mrs Mersey as always!"

The 23-year-old former Lymm High School student was introduced to rowing through a Project Oarsome partnership between Lymm High School and Warrington Rowing Club.

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