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## Remembering Her Majesty

Centre pages

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# Editor's Comment



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**WHILE the death of the late Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II was not unexpected, aged 96, it still came as a complete shock to many – just two days after being pictured with a beaming smile welcoming new Prime Minister Liz Truss to Balmoral.**

It certainly marks the end of an era, as she was a constant through many of our lives and while I am not a monarchist as such, I had huge respect for Her Majesty as I will also for her son, King Charles III.

No one can question the late Queen's selfless dedication to duty after being handed such a huge role so young in her life, which had seen many ups and downs over the past seven decades.

Whatever woes have been taking place, the Queen was always there, as reassuring Head of State.

She made four official visits to the borough of Warrington during her lengthy reign.

Her first visit was in May 1968, when she visited Bridge Street which had undergone a facelift.

The Queen's next visit came in November 1979 when she toured the newly opened Golden Square with Prince Phillip.

In August 1998 the Queen visited the newly opened Hollins Park Hospital at Winwick and her last visit was when the Queen and Prince Phillip officially opened the Orford Park Jubilee Hub in May 2012.

As we enter a new era I am

hopeful King Charles, will follow in his mother's footsteps and continue her legacy.

As we witnessed the outpourings of national grief following her death, followed by her State Funeral it is clear The Queen's loss will be felt greatly for some time to come.

But on a positive note it was pleasing to see the unity of our country in mourning and hopefully this can continue moving forward under the reign of King Charles III.

The images of her state funeral were like nothing we have ever witnessed before and will live long in the memory.

She has set a fine example and our politicians now need to follow suit.

Rest in Peace the late Her Majesty the Queen – Long Live the King!

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# All set to celebrate 100 years since start of local Blind Society

**FORMALLY known as the Blind Society, Warrington Visually Impaired People (VIP) is set to celebrate its 100th anniversary next year.**

Originally set up by Rex Furnace in 1923 under the name The Blind Society, Warrington VIP, is an essential support service offering its VIP members home visits, advice on aids and devices, support with benefits and a weekly lunch.

Their Tuesday & Thursday afternoons at their centre are filled with chatter and laughter as VIPs tuck into a freshly prepared 3-course meal with entertainment and a raffle afterwards.

Approximately 3% of the population in the UK is blind. As you age, you are increasingly likely to experience sight loss, with the RNIB reporting that sight loss occurs in one in nine people aged 60 years and over, in one in five people aged 75 and over and one in two people aged 90 and over.

Sight loss can be extremely overwhelming, you can lose your confidence, you may feel that you have no control and you may be worried that you will lose your independence as your vision deteriorates. Often your family and friends will be at a loss on how to fully support you. That's where Warrington VIP (Visually Impaired People) come in.

During the pandemic, staff and volunteers delivered meals to the homes of their VIPs along with pen

drives filled with jokes, stories, quizzes and even a pantomime, all great boredom busters to keep in touch with their VIP's and to keep them uplifted during those difficult and trying times. 2022 has seen their services restarted, changes in staffing roles and new members joining the team.

They have great partnerships with many local support services including Warrington Hospital, Adult Social Care and Warrington Voluntary Action that they will continue to build upon. The first VIP holiday in three years is booked for November, their new website, designed by Blue Whale Media, will soon be launched and next year, with the support of Culture Warrington, they will be celebrating their centenary.

The group is incredibly proud to be celebrating their centenary next year. Please keep an eye on their Facebook page @WarringtonVIP and website [www.warringtonvip.co.uk](http://www.warringtonvip.co.uk) for further details. In the meantime, if you feel you or a family member would benefit from their service or you would like to offer support please contact the group on 01925 632700 or email [info@warringtonvip.co.uk](mailto:info@warringtonvip.co.uk) for further information.



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Motability

# Busy summer in Warrington town centre as plans start for Christmas!

**IT was a busy summer period for the Warrington Business Improvement District (BID) as new manager Andrea Morley took over the reins.**

Andrea has been working with stakeholders and BID members to support a programme of activities and events within the town centre.

The BID has prioritised marketing resources to support and promote events and activities being delivered by businesses within the Town Centre. They have also pledged financial support to events that were at risk of not happening if vital funds were not available.

Golden Square opened their Summer Fair in the Square from

12th August to 4th September. Warrington BID supported the event with a five week social media campaign, also utilising social influencer, Girl about Cheshire to showcase the town centre offer for families.

This work included, a day out in Bank Park, the iconic Town Hall and Golden Gates, family attractions such as Warrington Museum & Art Gallery and Super Bowl. The BID was keen for promotions to include FREE family activities within the

town centre and importantly vital resources available, such as the uniform bank at Warrington Food Bank. Andrea travelled into the town centre via Warrington's Own Buses, highlighting this form of transport as accessible to all.

CineWorld launched their Movies for juniors scheme that gave families the opportunity to watch films for as little as £2.50 with free parking included. Again the BID has been able to support this campaign with coverage on social media, blogs and via their website.

The successful MELA event returned to Palmyra Square after a 3 year gap, supported with a finance grant from the BID. The event was a huge success, generating thousands of visitors to the town centre, highlighting the ethnic and diverse communities.

Andrea spoke at the event and welcomed visitors to the town, encouraging them to stay and utilise additional offers across the town centre, returning on other occasions.

This summer, the BID's Our Watch This Space project also relaunched. Identifying area's across the town centre where they need to improve and develop the green space and landscaping. Phase one is about to commence, the Groundwork CLM team have been tasked to redesign an area in front of the Bus Station to

improve the aesthetics and safety.

Since the reactivation of the RLWC steering groups the BID have actively supported the communications for Warrington as a host town.

The town centre dressing to promote the RLWC and Warrington as a host town will commence at the start of October, the BID are leading on this project working alongside the steering group.

Since April they have been planning a 2 day Christmas Extravaganza taking place across the town centre on 26 & 27 November. The weekend will be led by the BID team with support from their stakeholders and partners, Warrington Market, WBC, Culture Warrington and Golden Square.

The weekend is an opportunity for families across the borough to start their Christmas celebrations with a weekend of activities which will be free of charge wherever possible. The programme includes, a 70 stall Christmas Market, traditional fairground rides, Christmas films and choirs, a visit from Father Christmas and his sleigh, a drummer led lantern parade and projection mapping across the Town Hall. Christmas will also be supported with a brand campaign which will include, adverts, social assets, signage and a full suite of design assets for partners to use.



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Dates for your diary

**Birds of Paradise Town Centre Art Trail**, starting at Time Square  
Until Saturday 19 November

**RLWC 'Coming Together' student exhibition at Warrington Market**  
Friday 30 September to Saturday 19 November

**Papua New Guinea Civic Welcome Event**  
Wednesday 12 October from 5.30pm at Halliwell Jones Stadium

**RLWC2021 Opening Weekend**  
Saturday 15 October and Sunday 16 October

**Take His Leg Screening at Cineworld**  
Monday 24 October from 6.30pm

**TRY Sports Day at Time Square**  
Saturday 29 October from 10am - 4pm

[warrington.gov.uk/rlwc2021](http://warrington.gov.uk/rlwc2021)

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**10**

2012-2022

# No Brainer continues winning streak with latest industry ranking

**WARRINGTON-based digital PR, SEO and content agency, No Brainer, has been ranked amongst the top 20 PR agencies in the north.**

The Prolific North Top 50 lists are the region's benchmark ranking for the public relations industry and are compiled based on private data including staff retention, clients and financials as well as publicly available information on Companies House.

Recognised by the organisation as one of this year's 'high climbers', the agency rose eight places from last year's list, entering the top 20 list for

the first time at number 18.

Launched in 2015 by co-owners Gary Jenkins and Lee Cullen, the business was also recently shortlisted for The Drum's Best Performing Agency of the Year (up to 49 employees) for the first time, competing alongside well-established agencies across the country.

No Brainer currently holds a clean sweep of industry awards this year including the Chartered Institute of Public Relations (CIPR)'s 'PR Consultancy of the Year' for the north-west, the Public Relations and Communications Association (PRCA)'s 'Medium Consultancy of the Year' and PR Moment's 'Healthcare Campaign of the Year'.

Gary Jenkins, managing director and co-founder of No Brainer, said: "It's such an exciting time for our business. We're pushing boundaries, growing the right way, and working hard to keep our clients and team happy, and to have this recognised by our peers and leaders of our industry is fantastic."

For more information about No Brainer and its team, visit [www.nobrainagency.co.uk](http://www.nobrainagency.co.uk)



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# Rugby League will once again put Warrington on the map

by John Laverick - Warrington & Co

**I have mentioned in a couple of previous columns that the Rugby League World Cup (RLWC) is coming to Warrington from the middle of October, but I wanted to take the opportunity to further explain why I think it will be a great event for many of our businesses and residents to be part of.**

First, a quick recap. Warrington – the Halliwell Jones stadium to be precise – will host three men’s group fixtures, beginning with New Zealand v Lebanon on Sunday 16 October, alongside a quarter final game in early November.

Not only this, but Papua New Guinea – a possible front-runner in this year’s competition – will be basing themselves in Warrington. Many will remember how we embraced the Samoan national side as part of the Rugby League World Cup in 2013. I am sure Papua New Guinea will receive the same raucous and passionate welcome – the civic welcoming event for the team will be on Wednesday 12 October at the Halliwell Jones Stadium from 5.30pm.

And finally, and perhaps the standout for me, is that Warrington will be the sole host of the first ever Physical Disability Rugby League (PDRL) World Cup event which will showcase the very best of physical disability sport. England, New Zealand, Australia and Wales will battle it out at Victoria Park in the town centre, before a showpiece

final at the Halliwell Jones on Sunday 30 October.

Warrington is proud to support disability sport. The continued work of Warrington Disability Partnership and Warrington Wolves Foundation ought to be celebrated, and the council has also submitted a bid as part of the Levelling Up agenda for funding for a new flagship, inclusive sports centre at Victoria Park. This facility would provide regionally-important accessible facilities, designed with people with disabilities in mind. Plans include a new indoor wheelchair sports hall, a new artificial grass pitch and a new Warrington Wolves training facility – supporting women’s, men’s, youth, physical and learning disability teams.

With this in mind, the PDRL tournament is a mouth-watering prospect and furthers Warrington’s credentials as a beacon of disability sport.

I must stress that the World Cup is for everyone – not just the diehard fans – and there’s a full programme of activities and events linked to the tournament. This includes a

Bird of Paradise trail (the national emblem of Papua New Guinea), a student art exhibition at Warrington Market, a sports day event at Time Square and a screening of the epic Take His Legs documentary by Adam Hills, hosted at Cineworld with a guest appearance by Hills himself scheduled.

There’s also a family fun activity weekend across 15 and 16 October at Time Square, outside Warrington Market, including retro arcade-inspired outdoor games, arts and crafts and a dance and theatre performance featuring a 13-foot puppet which will wander the town centre between Time Square and Golden Square.

Information about these events and wider tournament information can be found at [warrington.gov.uk/RLWC2021](http://warrington.gov.uk/RLWC2021)

I would encourage businesses across Warrington to get into the tournament spirit for what I am sure will be a memorable occasion for our town. It is sure to have plenty of “I was there when...” moments and we can also expect an increase in tourists when the tournament begins.

So, whether it’s attending one of the fixtures – there are



John Laverick

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[www.warringtonandco.com](http://www.warringtonandco.com)

still a small number of group and hospitality tickets available alongside the standard allocation – decorating your business with some Papua New Guinea flags and tournament posters (why not?) or simply sharing your support for the competition through your networks and channels, the Rugby League World Cup will yet again put Warrington on the map and provide an opportunity for our many communities – businesses and beyond – to come together and celebrate our town’s place on the world stage.



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# College set to unveil brand-new Health & Social Care Academy

**WARRINGTON and Vale Royal College is set to officially open the doors to its brand-new Health and Social Care Academy this October.**

With thanks to a £1 million investment from Warrington Town's Fund and significant support from key partners including Warrington Borough Council, Warrington & Halton NHS Trust, the University of Chester, employers and many other stakeholders from voluntary sector organisations, the Health & Social Academy will closely align with the aspirations and employment needs

of the sector.

The academy, based at the college's Warrington campus, contains a simulation hospital ward, an independent living flat and specialist dementia training resources. These facilities, combined with top-grade teaching from experienced tutors, will equip students with the knowledge and skills needed to enjoy a

rewarding career in the sector. Strong employer partnerships are already being established, which will provide students with fruitful opportunities for professional development and progression.

Students joining the college from September 2022 can look forward to studying in a fully-immersive learning environment and benefiting from industry placements that will prepare them for their future career. Those already in employment will also benefit from the academy, which will accommodate sector-specific, bespoke training designed to retrain and upskill the current workforce.

Amy Yorke, Health & Social Care Academy Manager at the college, said: "We are really excited to be launching the brand-new academy

and couldn't be prouder of what has been achieved. We look forward to welcoming students, employers and members of the local community into the academy to make use of the outstanding facilities."

Those looking to study a healthcare, social care or childcare subject need look no further! The academy officially launches in early October and students can see it for themselves on a number of Open Evenings.

These are being held on Monday 3rd October, Tuesday 18th October, Wednesday 9th November and Tuesday 7th February. For more information about the college's Open Evenings and to book your place, visit: [wv.ac.uk/openevenings](http://wv.ac.uk/openevenings)

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Member of Parliament for Warrington South

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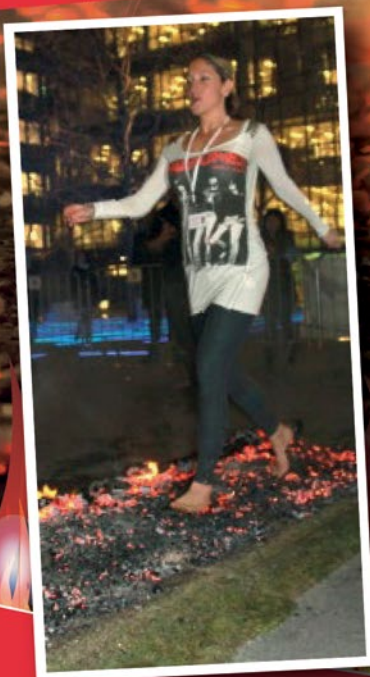
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5.00pm - 8.00pm

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5.00pm - 8.00pm

Open Evenings are a great way for you to explore our campuses. Tour our new state-of-the-art facilities, take part in subject activities and chat to staff and current students.

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**Warrington  
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# EDGE

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## BACK TO SCHOOL TIME

It's that time again. Time to pack your kids off back to school. I can hear the collective "phew" echoing through the streets of Warrington. The biggest one is probably coming from me!

I'm sure, like me, you've made sure they've got their uniform sorted, and their shoes, and their PE kits etc. But have you made sure they've got their eyes sorted out? It's great if they look all smart and ready to start a new school year, but less great if they can't actually see the board!



Graham Weir  
Optometrist + Owner

### Is your child short-sighted?

Kids these days are becoming short-sighted at a younger age. It used to be early teens. Now it can be as early as 6 years old. It's very important that we test a child's eyes at this age, especially if there is a history of short-sightedness in the family. If there is that family history then the eye examination should include drops being put into the child's eyes. If you can't get an NHS eye examination that includes this, you can come to EDGE and have it done privately. It's very important to make sure, as because being short-sighted can greatly increase the chances of serious eye problems later in life.

### What to do if your child is short-sighted

In the past there wasn't a lot of choice. Get glasses, and maybe some contact lenses too. These would help the child to see clearly, but with time the prescription would get stronger and stronger and there was nothing we could do about that. The good news is that there are now state of the art glasses and contact lenses that can help to slow down the increase in prescription. It's called myopia management and EDGE's optometrist, Graham (that's me), is an expert. I am fully accredited to prescribe various solutions to help slow down short-sightedness. These include glasses, contact lenses, and night lenses.

Slowing down short-sighted prescriptions is a passion of mine. It's very important and can massively impact a person's future. Please email me, call me, Whatsapp me, or pop in to speak to me. I'll give my advice for free. More information is also available at [www.edge-eyewear.co.uk/myopia](http://www.edge-eyewear.co.uk/myopia).

### Is your child long-sighted?

If they are then it's, of course, important that we help them to see better. However, unlike most short-sighted kids, long-sighted ones can often see pretty well without their glasses on. This will sometimes mean that they don't want to wear their glasses. I'd say that's understandable. I was young once (so I'm told - I can't remember). I probably would have felt the same way. It's important that we do correct their vision though, because not correcting a long-sighted prescription can cause problems like eye strain, headaches, and even one of the eyes to turn.

### What to do if your child is long-sighted

So what's the answer? Making their lenses thinner and lighter can help. Getting rid of the reflections on their lenses so that they can see better and the glasses look better can help too. But better than either of these is often contact lenses. Kids can wear them too! In fact, in my experience they're often much better than adults with contact lenses! And there's very little as satisfying as an optometrist as seeing a child's face light up when they see themselves clearly in the mirror without any glasses on. The confidence boost it gives them is amazing! And it's so much easier to play out and do sports in contact lenses than glasses.

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## Three grieving dads become four



**THREE** grieving dads who stopped off in Warrington during a 500-mile walk raising funds in aid of suicide prevention became four when they met anti-hate campaigner Adrian Derbyshire.

The three dads were greeted warmly by staff and well-wishers from locally based suicide prevention charity Papyrus, as they continued their walk raising awareness through Warrington promoting suicide prevention.

As they stopped off in Warrington it provided an opportunity for local anti-hate campaigner Adrian to meet the three dads and discuss ways of working together to support young people.

Adrian, who has now spoken to more than 350,000 young people since the tragic death of his teenage daughter in 2015, commented: "It was inspiring to meet the three dads who have lost children to suicide like myself and see firsthand their fight and courage to save lives."

The Three fathers who lost young daughters to suicide began an epic trek across the United Kingdom on September 10, World Suicide Prevention Day.

Andy Airey from Cumbria, Mike Palmer from Sale and Tim Owen from Norfolk completed a 300-mile fundraising walk last year and are now aiming to trek more than 500 miles in support of the Warrington-based charity PAPYRUS Prevention of Young Suicide.

They have already raised more than £880,000 as part of their quest to have suicide prevention included in the school curriculum.

Adrian's daughter Julia took her own life aged just 16, in October 2015 after emotional and physical abuse in the community and online.

Despite his own health problems, including an inoperable brain tumour and suffering Takotsubo Cardiomyopathy, a heart attack brought on by stress and known as "broken heart syndrome," Adrian has continued his campaign work.

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# Remembering 16 innocent victims of Warrington's worst war-time atrocity

**SIXTEEN innocent victims of Warrington's worst war-time atrocity were remembered more than 80 years after the Thames Board Mills bombing.**

Local resident Derek Vernon laid flowers and paid his respects with a minutes silence in memory of the sixteen men, women and children who were killed at Arpley Meadows at 5.03 pm on September 14, 1940, as he recalled the day that has always stayed fresh in his memory as his late Grandad, who fought at Dunkirk, talked about it regularly.

It was exactly 82 years since the day women and young children were amongst the casualties when a German bomber, on its way back from a bombing raid at Manchester, targeted the factory's annual fete.

The stray German bomber was travelling along the Manchester Ship Canal and spotted a large crowd of people at the fete and decided to unload its last remaining bombs.

There was carnage as one bomb fell on the canteen burying 150 people in the wreckage, killing 16, and injuring a further 28, 15 of them seriously.

Later there were many conflicting eyewitness accounts from those who had seen the plane swoop over the town, but most agreed that the pilot was low enough to see exactly what he had bombed.

The Warrington Fire Officer's log reported, however, that German radio reports that evening claimed that the "Aluminium Mills at Bank Quay had been bombed."

Those who lost their lives were:

- Donald Ackerley,
- Henry Williamson Cooper
- Albert Wallace Cox,
- Albert William Cox,
- Rhoda Hannah Gittings Cox,
- May Domville,
- Amy Heath Edwards,
- Ruth Jackson,
- Beatrice Hannah Parker (Canteen

Manageress)  
Ann Lawson, aged two,  
William Stanley Reynolds,  
Lilian Maud Springham,

William George Springham,  
Williams James Taylor  
William John Taylor aged three,  
Albert Webb, aged three.



## Local care village operator ranked in UK Top 20

Not-for-profit dementia specialist Belong, which has a care village on Loushers Lane, Warrington, has been listed as a Top 20 Mid-size Care Home Group by leading online review site Carehome.co.uk.

The rankings are based on verified customer reviews, with Belong achieving an average review score of 9.8 out of 10 from residents and their relatives across its eight villages in the North West for the past year.

Customers leaving reviews are asked to rate all aspects of a care home's offering, including

its people, care and support, management, facilities, and overall value for money.

One recent five-star review from a relative of a resident at Belong Warrington said: "My wife spent the last four years of her life at Belong Warrington. She was cared for by the "Family" of carers and staff who all gave her the best possible care in every respect. She was happy there and I couldn't have wished for a better environment than they provided. I would have no hesitation in recommending Belong Warrington."

Commenting on the result, Belong Warrington General Manager Claire Bibby, said: "We are particularly delighted to feature in the Carehome.co.uk Top 20 Mid-size Care Home Groups because the listings are based on reviews by people whom we support and their relatives. It is a reflection of the hard work and dedication of our teams and their consistency in achieving the highest standards of care."

You can read other reviews of Belong Warrington on Carehome.co.uk

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# Remembering Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

## A number of events took place in Warrington to mark the sad passing of Her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

On the evening before the State Funeral there was a National Moment of Reflection at Warrington Cenotaph and outside Warrington Town Hall.

Mayor of Warrington Cllr Jean Flaherty lead the Moment of Reflection on behalf of the borough at Warrington town hall, at the same time veterans paid tribute at Warrington Cenotaph organised by Veterans campaigner Julie Francis.

Following a minutes silence the bagpipes sounded at the Cenotaph.

A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II also took place at St Elphin's Parish Church.

Mayor of Warrington Cllr Jean Flaherty and Rector Revd. June Steventon helped lead the service which was attended by members of the armed services, air cadets, police, fire service, Borough Council, Warrington Wolves and community leaders.

Hundreds of people signed a Book of Condolence at Warrington town hall while the Mayor visited care homes to share memories and reflect with residents on the life and service of Her Majesty the Queen.

The visits, which saw the Mayor stopping off at 13 care homes, have given people the chance to remember the contributions made by the Queen, as Britain's longest-reigning monarch.

As part of the visits, the Mayor

brought a book of condolence, so people who couldn't physically get to the Town Hall to sign the book would have the opportunity to pay their own respects.

The Mayor also announced the Proclamation of His Majesty King Charles III during a special ceremony at Warrington Town Hall.

She was joined by the King's representative Deputy Lord Lieutenant Howard Platt, who started proceedings, which included a Royal Salute by Trumpeters from Warrington Brass Band and the singing of the National Anthem by members of Warrington Male Voice Choir.

After reading the historic proclamation the mayor called on the crowd to cheer the new King, which was followed by the singing of the National Anthem.

Proclamations were also read at Lymm and Culcheth.

During her 70-year reign, Her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II officially visited Warrington four times, the last occasion being the opening of the Orford Jubilee Hub in 2012.

Her first visit was in May 1968, when she visited Bridge Street, which had undergone a facelift.

In these rare colour photographs, captured by local photographer Eddie Whitham, the Queen is pictured with Warrington's Mayor at the time, Arthur Boyle and Raymond Broadbent, who ran

Broadbents shop on Bridge Street.

The Queen's next visit came in November 1979 when she toured the newly opened Golden Square with Prince Phillip.

In August 1998 the Queen

visited the newly opened Hollins Park Hospital at Winwick and her last visit was when the Queen and Prince Phillip officially opened the Orford Park Jubilee Hub in May 2012.



The Queen during her first visit to Warrington in 1968. Pictures: Eddie Whitham.



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# Queen Elizabeth II in Warrington



Moment of reflection on behalf of the borough



Thanksgiving service at St Elphin's Church

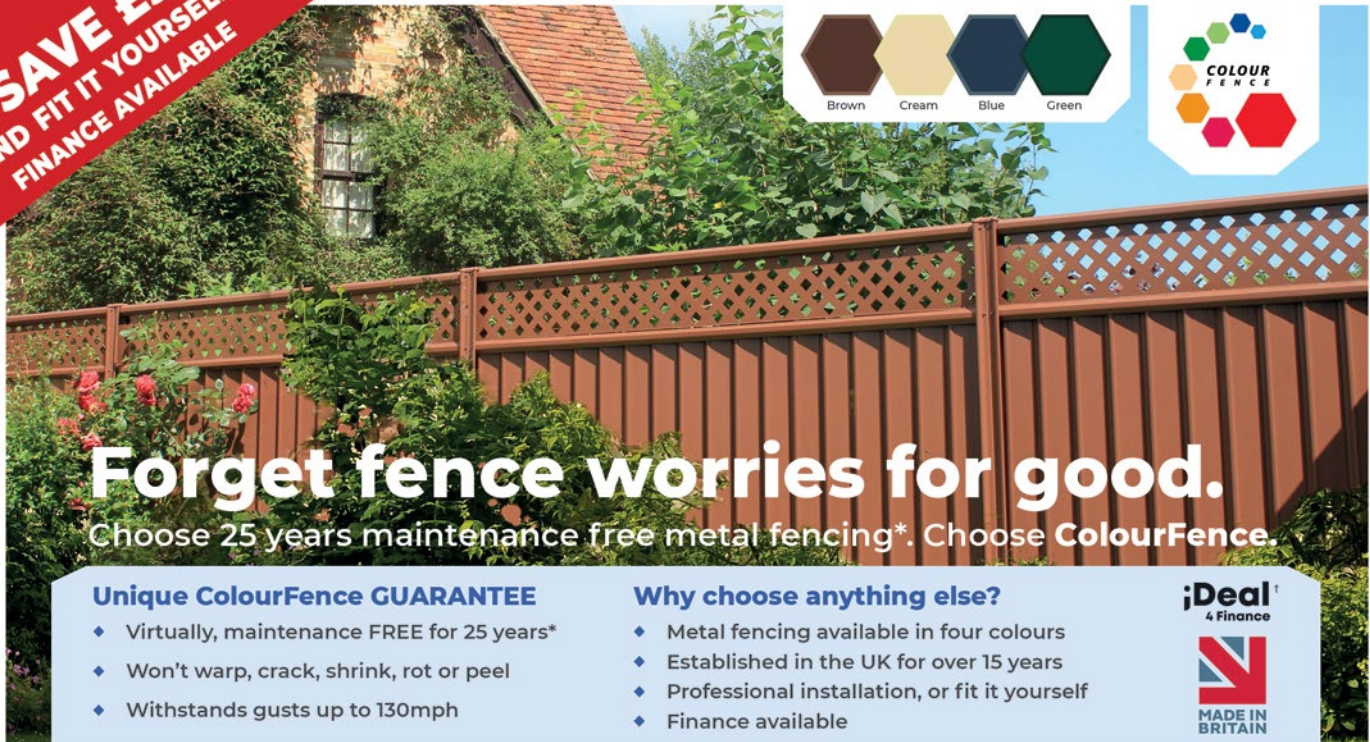


The Queen during the opening of Orford Jubilee Hub in 2012



The Mayor announcing the Proclamation of King Charles III

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# St Rocco's Sunset Walk helps raise valuable funds for hospice

**HUNDREDS** of walkers enjoyed the beautiful grounds of Arley Hall and Gardens on Sunday September 11 in the second St. Rocco's Sunset Walk.

The 5Km walk traversed parkland and woodland as the walkers and dogs received a medal for completing the walk with very penny raised from this event enabling the Warrington-based charity to continue to provide patient care to the Warrington community.

The walkers, many in fancy dress

were entertained beforehand with music, a performance from AT School of Dance then warmed up courtesy of a session provided by Pure Gym.

Everybody was looked after by St. Rocco's staff as volunteers generously gave up their time to help on the day.

Pictures: John Hopkins



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# College opens brand-new Skills Centre

**WARRINGTON & Vale Royal College is delighted to officially announce the opening of its brand-new Advanced Creative & Digital Skills (ACDS) Centre.**

A £1.3m investment from the Department for Education (DfE) has helped create an ACDS Centre at the college's Warrington campus. Students will have full access to a world of innovative technology inside the college as it boasts an impressive roster of features, including: virtual reality (VR), robotics, a motion-capture studio and virtual effects (VFX).

The ACDS Centre is fit with new, outstanding facilities including a recently renovated theatre on sprung floors with specialist lighting and sound equipment, as well as dance and acting studios – also fully equipped with sprung floors and floor-to-ceiling mirrors. All digital suites and classrooms are equipped with advanced Apple Macs and PCs, optimised for running the latest specialist software that students of the college use on a daily basis.

Working with a wide range of carefully selected partnerships means there is no doubt students will always reach their full potential. All courses that fall under the ACDS subject umbrellas, such as art & design, digital & IT, graphics or performing arts, have been designed in collaboration with industry experts, aiming to meet sectoral skills gaps and supply a local pipeline of talent.

Students joining the college from

September 2022 can look forward to studying in an immersive learning environment and benefiting from industry links and opportunities to prepare them for a bright future. Those already in employment will also benefit from the ACDS Centre as it will accommodate sector-specific, bespoke training designed to retrain and upskill the current workforce.

Stephanie Doyle, ACDS Business Manager at the college, said: "We are amazed with how the ACDS Centre has evolved and been brought to life at the college. We have enabled a world of digital creativity where students will learn and develop skills that are transferable throughout every single industry and every aspect of the future."

Those looking to study a creative and / or digital subject need look no further! The ACDS Centre officially launches in February 2023, and students can see it for themselves on a number of college open evenings.



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# Heritage Open Day event marked 200th anniversary of Old Billy's death

AS part of Heritage Open Days an "Old Billy Local History Day" took place on Victoria Park.

The family-friendly event commemorated the 200th anniversary of Old Billy's death.

Old Billy was the longest living horse on record (1760-1822) - aged 62 years when he died. This was a chance to learn about Old Billy's life as a working horse interpreted through theatre, storytelling, crafts and much more. There were also local heritage stalls

as well as food and drinks. Old Billy was a barge horse from Woolston who worked for the Mersey and Irwell Navigation Company until 1819 and made it into the record books as the holder of the record for equine longevity, though some sceptics have questioned whether he really did live to such an advanced age. There are well-recorded

Pictures: John Hopkins

instances from the 20th century of domesticated horses living into their 40s and even 50s, but none has ever matched Old Billy.

The evidence for Old Billy having achieved his great age is good, thanks to the appearance at the start and end of his life of the same man, Mr Henry Harrison. Old Billy was bred by a farmer, Edward Robinson, at Wild Grave Farm, Woolston, near Warrington, in 1760. Henry Harrison was 17 when he began to train Billy as a plough horse at the farm and Billy was just two years old, according to Harrison's account.

Due to his celebrity, there were various accounts of Old Billy's life, from which it is possible to piece together the facts. He was also the subject of paintings by several

19th-century artists, the best-known being Charles Towne and William Bradley. Bradley was a rising star portraitist from Manchester when he painted Old Billy in his retirement in 1821, the year before Old Billy's death. According to one account, Old Billy was in the care of Henry Harrison then, who had been given the job by the navigation company to care for the horse as "a special charge to one of their old servants, like the horse, also a pensioner for his long service, to look after him."



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# Care home residents pay respects

**RESIDENTS at St.Oswalds care Home in Winwick paid their last respects to HRH the Queen Elizabeth II**

Carer Jill Mumford said: "The passing of her majesty Queen Elizabeth II is a profound loss for the residents. We have given them support and time to reflect on her extraordinary life and long service in the variety of activities we offer."

Home Manager Ria Percival added: "As we mourn the passing of her majesty her reign has been a beacon to so many in uncertain times guiding light throughout her reign, on behalf of everyone here at St.Oswalds we send heartfelt condolences to her family and the nation she faithfully served over seven decades."

Residents and staff are pictured with a memorial picture they created.



Advertiser's announcement

## Have your say on Women's Health services in Warrington

Healthwatch Warrington is your local health and social care champion. From North to South Warrington and everywhere in between, they make sure NHS leaders and other decision makers hear your voice and use your feedback to improve care.

As voted by the Warrington public, one of their main priorities of work this year is Women's Health.

They have linked this to the National Gov.UK Women's Health Strategy for England (updated 30th Of August 2022) Department of Health and Social Care. 51% of the population (Women) faces obstacles

when it comes to getting the care they need. Although women in the UK on average live longer than men, women spend a significantly greater proportion of their lives in ill health and disability when compared with men.

Not enough focus is placed on women-specific issues like miscarriage or menopause, and women are under-represented when it comes to important clinical trials. This has meant that not enough is known about conditions that only affect women, or about how conditions that affect both men and women impact

them in different ways.

Healthwatch Warrington would like to find out what is important to the women of Warrington. Please visit their website to complete the online survey. This is a short poll of four questions, this will help them identify what is important to you and they then can focus their work around areas that you have prioritised.

Contact Healthwatch Warrington to talk about this project or to feedback on any health and social care services in Warrington: 01925 246 893. Contact@healthwatchwarrington.co.uk

\*A note on the use of language in this article, while in this article Healthwatch Warrington refer to women, they recognise that some transgender men, gender-diverse people, and people who are intersex may be affected by some of the same issues. Healthwatch Warrington also recognise that people who are trans, gender-diverse or intersex have specific needs, experiences and health issues that need addressing. The use of the term "women" in this article is not intended to exclude other groups or overlook the challenges they face.

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of the population faces obstacles when it comes to getting the care they need.\*

### Have your say about Women's health services in Warrington.

Healthwatch Warrington want to understand what is important to the women of Warrington when it comes to Women's health priorities.



## Let us know your views



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\*Figure from the Governments Women's Health strategy for England.

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# Oktoberfest Jubilee – celebrating 25 years of community support

**WARRINGTON Oktoberfest, organised by Warrington Rotary Club, is celebrating its Silver Jubilee this year, its twenty-fifth year of raising money for local and international charities and community groups.**

From humble beginnings of a few casks of real ale, to a festival of over 70 casks of various beers, a gin and fizz bar and live music over three days and raising over £300,000 over the years, it has become a regular feature in the town's year.

The idea of a beer festival came from Cliff Houghton, a member of the club and also a master brewer at a local brewery.

Having just taken the Santa Sleigh out with other members on a dark

night in heavy rain, and having collected only a small amount of money for charity, he suggested that a beer festival may have a better result.

The rest is history, with thousands of people attending over the years.

Many friendships have been created due to Oktoberfest, making it an annual meet-up.

This year Oktoberfest starts Thursday 13th October until Saturday 15th October.

[www.warringtonoktoberfest.org.uk](http://www.warringtonoktoberfest.org.uk)



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Advertiser's announcement

# Urgent Treatment Centres

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Accident and Emergency departments around the country remain under severe pressure and with winter on its way demand for emergency or urgent care is expected to increase. Warrington Hospital's Emergency Department (A&E) is no different; with record numbers of patients seeking treatment the hospital is experiencing significant delays in delivering care.

Residents in the Warrington area can access alternatives to Warrington Hospital's Emergency Department, which in many cases are a more appropriate choice for treatment.

NHS Urgent Treatment Centres in Runcorn, Widnes and even St Helens can often be the better choice when you need urgent but not emergency treatment.

By choosing to attend one of the Urgent Treatment Centres not only can you experience shorter waiting times, but you will be freeing up resources at the Emergency Department for more seriously ill or injured patients.

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Widnes Urgent Treatment Centre  
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If you travel by car, there is onsite parking (sat nav WA8 7GD)

There is also an Urgent Treatment Centre in St Helens at the Millennium Centre.

In August 2022 more than 95% of patients attending Runcorn Urgent Care Centre were seen and treated within four hours.

You can find current waiting times for Runcorn Urgent Treatment Centre, as well as Warrington Emergency Department at [www.whh.nhs.uk](http://www.whh.nhs.uk).

Please ensure you arrive well before the Urgent Treatment Centre closing time, to allow time for you to be seen.

A free shuttle bus service runs throughout the day, seven days per week between Warrington Hospital to Halton Hospital/ Runcorn Urgent Treatment Centre and takes only 25 minutes.

A full timetable is available on the Trust website pages 'Getting here, maps and transport'.

Not sure where to seek help or advice?

If you need urgent medical advice and are not sure which is the best place for you to seek help and advice, then please contact NHS 111 free at [111.nhs.uk](http://111.nhs.uk) or call 111. NHS 111 is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. NHS 111 can also provide appointment slots for patients at local Urgent Treatment Centres, where appropriate.

If you're experiencing a 999 emergency, which means that it is critical or life-threatening, then phone 999 for emergency help.

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- Runcorn Urgent Treatment Centre**  
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# Bus company confirms route revisions

**LOCAL bus company Warrington's Own Buses has confirmed a number of route revisions and service changes, which will come into effect from Monday, October 3.**

The decision to revise these routes comes as COVID support monies are being phased out, following the height of the pandemic.

Following this widespread review of the routes, there are also a number of improvements being brought forward to support more people to get the bus across the network. This notably also includes new evening services for the number 17 which operates across Birchwood and the CAT5 which allows for better evening connectivity to Stockton Heath, Grappenhall and Lymm.

- The route changes are:
- Off-peak 1 and 2 services have been retimed
  - The 17 service will have a new evening service to Birchwood
  - The first 28A journey from Warrington operates earlier will operate earlier at 1:56 pm
  - The 19 service will arrive slightly later in Leigh, with evening trips retimed to 15 minutes past the hour
  - The 20 and 21 services will have additional running times, to improve punctuality
  - The 32 will have improved punctuality
  - CAT5 has been revised to improve journey times but will not serve Star Lane/Barsbank Lane in Statham. Customers can instead use the nearby stops on the A56. The route from Lymm to Altrincham will also change to include Partington.

The morning extension to Blessed Thomas Holford College is also set to be removed.

- X5 replaces the CAT5A and will run a new route from Warrington via Bank Quay Station, Knutsford Road and then to Grappenhall and Lymm, before joining the A56 to run faster to Altrincham and reconnecting Broomedge
  - CAT6/7/8/9/9A will see minor time changes to maintain frequencies between Warrington & Stockton Heath. CAT8 services have been retimed in evenings
  - 62/62A (Halon/Runcorn) will now operate hourly, Monday to Friday as a supported service between Warrington and Runcorn Bus Station. Customers between Runcorn and Halebank can use alternative duplicate Arriva services
- A spokesperson for Warrington's Own Buses said: "We have made these improvements in light of bus funding being phased out, but we are confident that these changes will be quickly adopted with minimal impact to our passengers. "We have been able to make improvements to a number of routes, including our new evening services, with better reliability across some of our key routes, too."
- For more information, and to view revised timetables, please visit the Warrington's Own Buses [www.warringtonsownbuses.co.uk](http://www.warringtonsownbuses.co.uk)



**Charlotte Nichols MP**  
Warrington North

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By David Watkinson

## The largest mini-budget for 50 years

The Chancellor has announced a major U-Turn in government policy in the largest mini-budget since 1972. As well as the substantial universal help being given to individuals and businesses the Chancellor has now announced substantial cuts in taxation and national insurance. So what is included?

Firstly, the increase in **National Insurance Rates** from 12% to 13.25% which took effect on 6th July will be reversed from 6th November. Similarly, the increases in National Insurance paid by employers and by the self-employed will also be reversed. This will benefit anyone earning over about £1,000 per month from employment or self-employment, but will not benefit anyone whose income is primarily pension or investment income. Savings at various salary levels are:

- £30 per annum on salaries of £15,000
- £218 per annum on salaries of £30,000
- £468 per annum on salaries of £50,000

Secondly, the reduction in the **Standard Rate of Income Tax** from 20% to 19%, originally planned for April 2024, will be brought forward to 6th April

2023. This will benefit anyone whose income is above the Personal Allowance, which has been frozen at £12,570 for the past two years. The average saving was estimated by the Chancellor to be £170 in a full year.

Thirdly, whilst the **Higher Rate of Income Tax** remains at 40%, the Chancellor announced that the **Additional Rate of Income Tax**, which is currently 45% on taxable income over £150,000, will be scrapped from April 2023 resulting in a cut in income tax of 5 percentage points for an estimated 660,000 higher earners who will save an average of £10,000 in a full year.

Fourthly, the previously announced increase in the **Rate of Corporation Tax** to 25% in 2023 has been scrapped, the rate now remaining at its current level of 19%.

Fifthly, the Chancellor announced a reduction in **Stamp Duty on Property Purchases**. From today:

- The Nil rate band is increased by £125,000 from £125,000 to £250,000.
- First time buyers enjoy a larger Nil rate band.

Previously, they enjoyed a Nil rate band of £300,000 provided the cost of the property did not exceed £500,000. From today, these are also increased by £125,000, meaning that they will have a Nil rate band of £425,000 provided that the cost of the property does not include £625,000.

Sixthly, the planned increase next February in duty rates on beer, wine, cider and spirits has been cancelled. Had this gone ahead the price of a pint of beer would have increased by 7p a pint, and a bottle of spirits would have increased by £1.35.

**The above are the main provisions affecting the average "man in the street". There are, however, a number of other announcements.**

The **most publicised** change is that the current limit on **bankers bonuses** will be scrapped. Following the financial crash in 2008, bankers bonuses were limited to double their annual salary (**lucky bankers**). They are now even luckier, as their bonuses will once more be unlimited.

At the same time there will be a **Crackdown on Working Benefit Claimants**. Currently, if you are on **Universal Credit**



Margaret Black and David Watkinson

then you need to "actively seek" work. However, a "light touch" is currently applied to this requirement once you work for 9 hours a week on the National Minimum Wage. This will increase to 12 hours a week immediately, and to 15 hours a week from next January, resulting in potentially more benefits being sanctioned.

The Chancellor has also announced that talks have begun with 38 areas of the country to set up "**Investment Zones**" which will enjoy substantial tax advantages including:

- **No Employers National Insurance** on the first £50,000 of salaries paid to new employees
- **No Stamp Duty on Land Purchases** for new Commercial and Residential developments
- **Accelerated Tax Relief** on qualifying plant and buildings

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# Wolves Women promoted and crowned champions in Shield Final



**WARRINGTON Wolves Women were crowned champions in the Shield final with a convincing 34-6 victory over Featherstone Rovers at the Totally Wicked Stadium in St Helens.**

The victory saw the team promoted to the top tier of the competition for 2023 after an outstanding undefeated season.

Featherstone scored first to lead 0-6 after 13 minutes but it was then one-way traffic on the scoreboard as the Wolves Women took control.

Within two minutes of Rovers opening the scoring the Wire hit back as Amy Johnson crashed over with Michelle Davis converting to level the scores.

Then on 21 minutes, Dani Bound forced her way over from dummy-half for a lead they were not going

to surrender.

On 27 minutes Bound went over for her second of the game with Davis converting to make it 16-6 and then on 34 minutes Emily Baggaley scored, with Davis again converting to make it 22-6 at the break.

In the second half, Lauren Roberts spun her way over and Davis converted to make it 28-6 on 54 minutes with the final score coming on 63 minutes with a 43rd try this year for Georgia Sutherland with a sensational break which Davis converted.

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