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Picture: John Hopkins

Mum's memorial garden to soldier son one year on

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Editor's Comment

WHILE I reflected on the 30th anniversary of the Warrington bombing in last month's issue, writing this editorial on the actual day of the commemoration event makes it difficult not to again mention one of the darkest days in our town's history again.

It was a real sliding doors moment for a lot of people in our town that day as thousands of us went about our daily lives.

While I ended up on the streets of our town reporting on the atrocity as a 29-year-old local journalist, going on to get married later the same year, becoming a father twice and now a granddad, 12-year-old Tim and three-year-old Johnathan were robbed of their young lives and futures – through no fault of their own. They were simply in the wrong place at the wrong time.

As they lost their young lives, the lives of their families and friends also changed forever, as did the history of our town and possibly the entire

Northern Ireland peace process.

At the 30th anniversary event former Prime Minister Sir John Major explained how he almost gave up on the peace process on hearing the terrible news about the bomb attack on Warrington and the loss of two young lives.

But the way our town responded inspired him to carry on because if he didn't more lives would be lost.



While the troubles in Ireland still rumble on, they are nowhere near the same level they were 30 years ago.

Thanks to the way Warrington responded with dignity and the hand of peace, many lives have probably been saved, saving others from those sliding doors moments.

Warrington's response and the work of the Tim Parry, Johnathan Ball Foundation For Peace, are one of the many reasons I am proud to say I am from Warrington!



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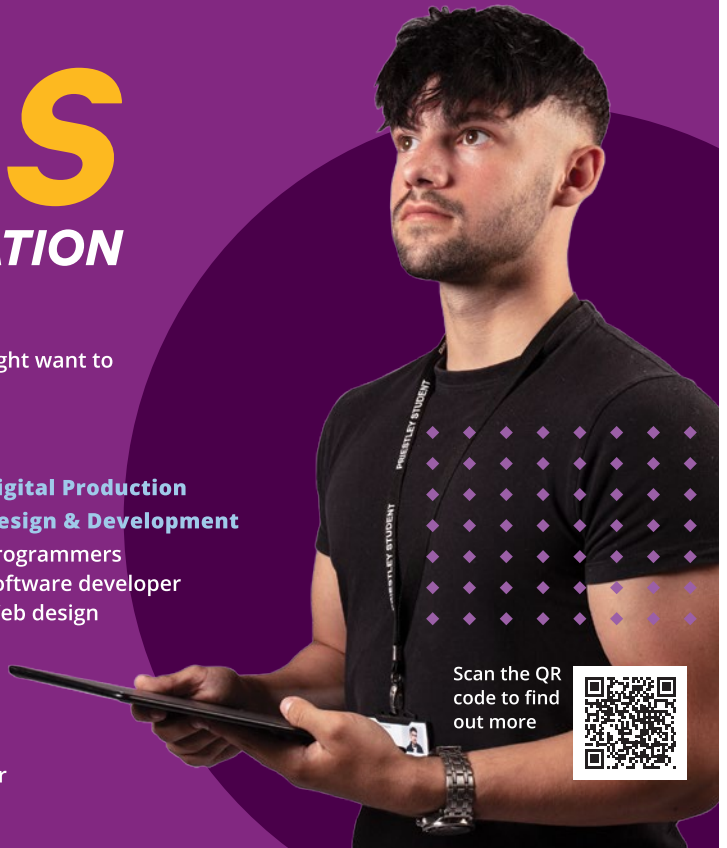
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Grieving mum's tribute to veteran who helped create memorial garden to soldier son

ELEVEN years on from the tragic death of her soldier son, grieving mum Lisa Billing paid tribute to a veteran who helped her create a memorial garden in her dead son's memory.

Denis Valentine, who served with 4th Royal Tank Regiment from June 1965 until June 1980 travelled down from Scotland on a regular basis to volunteer for Lisa helping create the memorial to her son at Marshall Gardens. But he sadly died in January before Lisa could give him a gift thanking him for his support.

Now a special memorial stone has been unveiled in his memory on the first anniversary of the opening of the new look Marshall Gardens – the 11th anniversary of the death of Daniel and other members of the Warrior six.

Daniel, a former Sir Thomas Boteler CE High School pupil, was one of six British soldiers killed by a massive Taliban bomb in Afghanistan in March 2012.


Private Wade and the five other soldiers had been on a security patrol in a Warrior armoured fighting vehicle when it was caught in an explosion in the Kandahar province.

Lisa has been instrumental in driving forward the revitalisation of the gardens, spending a number of years researching and developing the project. Work got underway in 2020, with Lisa, Warrington



Borough Council, community groups and volunteers working together to transform the gardens – which sit opposite the Cenotaph on Bridgefoot – into a haven of peace, reflection and remembrance.



In an emotional ceremony, Lisa was joined by members of Denis's family, veterans, volunteers and supporters, to unveil the memorial stone.







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Advertiser's announcement

We Are Warrington BID

Spring is upon us and we're already starting to see those lighter mornings and evenings draw in. This time of the year is my favourite time, because it means we can get stuff done more easily!

I've been dotting the I's and crossing the t's on two projects the BID has been waiting to start ready for the spring time. Firstly, as part of the 'Watch this Space' project, the BID is about to commence on two landscaping projects in the town centre. Firstly, at the bus station and secondly over at the raised bed area on Buttermarket Street (opposite Santander)

Working with the Communities team at Groundwork CLM and some talented landscape architects, we will be transforming the two area's due to finished by the end of March. The bus station is currently looking tired and in need of some TLC, and this is a great way to change the look and feel of your welcome to the bus interchange.

Both area's will be filled with popular favourites such as, Allium Cristophii and Giganteum, lavender, soft caress and Juniperus Horizontalis. This project is the start of a 4 phase project that we will be completing across the town centre in area's where we have identified as needing an aesthetic enhancement.

We know that area's of neglect can be a target for anti-social behaviour (ASB), so the enhancements are a priority in making our town centre a safe and accessible place for all to visit. In

continuing the great work we are doing to tackle ASB, the BID will be funding 2 additional youth workers to deliver outreach sessions in Warrington Town Centre on Monday and Wednesday evenings.

They will walk around the town centre, specifically targeting areas from which there have been higher levels of Youth ASB, Wherever possible engaging children and young people in the town centre. They will challenge any unacceptable or anti-social behaviour and encourage the young people to attend the Youth Zone, rather than continue to stay in the town centre.

The Outreach Team will also be engaging with business owners who have experienced ASB in their venue, and generally become a more familiar face around the town centre.

As well as delivering some great projects for Warrington town centre, the BID are gearing up to a new ballot for a second term BID to run in Warrington from 2023-2028. I therefore take this opportunity to ask town centre businesses to contact me with any questions they have about our plans for BID 2. Please email me on andrea.morley@groundwork.org.uk



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Fantastic response to apprenticeships and jobs fair

HUNDREDS of people attended an apprenticeships jobs fair organised by Warrington South MP Andy Carter at the town's Parr Hall.

With businesses matched with candidates and job offers made on the day, Mr Carter was delighted with the response to the event and is already planning to repeat it again next year.

Mr Carter said: "We've had a fantastic response from hundreds of people from across the town looking for their next steps into work and from local employers, wanting to engage with the brightest and

best talent locally.

"Many of the young people who I talked to today said they were really grateful that they could come and talk to respected employers, with their parents, about the apprenticeships they were offering before having to make decisions about what to do next. So many of the companies who attended today also had apprentices on their stands

to talk about their experiences and why learning while you earn is a viable option.

"We've also managed to match businesses with candidates and I know offers have already been made for jobs, with more to come in the next few weeks. I'm already looking forward to running the event again in 2024."

Picture: John Hopkins



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**

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Reflecting on the budget

by John Laverick - Warrington & Co

So it's the middle of March when I write this and we have just had the budget. There was much in the budget that is really outside of our remit and I will leave it to others to comment upon the wide ranging topics from nuclear power to potholes. The budget does not generally have that much of an impact on what Warrington & Co. does, but this time it was slightly different.

There are two strands to what Warrington & Co. really get involved in – regeneration and inward investment and both of these are, at the moment, heavily impacted by housing and skills. The budget noted a couple of proposals around these areas.

You'll be glad to hear that I won't go into the joys of 'nutrient neutrality' and its potential effects on housing development here, but will note that in relation to housing, there was an announcement that the cost of borrowing by Councils from Central

Government would be discounted for the development of new housing and in particularly Social Housing. The recent increase in the cost of borrowing has had a detrimental effect on the ability to deliver housing both by private companies and councils. This also impacts the ability to deliver affordable housing and other social benefits such as schools, roads, leisure facilities etc. and the reduction in cost of borrowing, once we know what the qualifying criteria are and what the discount will be, should help with this.

The consultation on business rates is a point to note, as it has potentially a large effect on investment within the borough and once we see some tangible output of this, we will no doubt come back to the subject at another date in the future.

The other thing that caught my eye was the measures for helping people into employment. A range of measures aimed at young and old alike and those with long term health or disability conditions that may be preventing them from working. Help with language support and learning should also unlock additional workforce and help greater integration.

A healthy workforce is also as important and the support for swimming pools, looked on the face of it to be welcome news. I think this will in practice support leisure centres more generally as the help will relieve the burden of heating and maintaining a pool which has increased significantly in the past year or so.

On a final note was the transfer of LEP functions to local authorities. We have always had a very good relationship with the Cheshire & Warrington LEP and they have made a difference to what has happened in the borough. The advance notice of this will allow some sensible planning to take place, hopefully with the



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John Laverick

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transfer of funding to accompany it. Whether this is a good budget or a bad budget is not really for us to say, but it is fair to say that there are some elements here that we can and should capitalise upon and assuming that the announcements are followed through could lead to improvements in Warrington. On a slightly contrary note I noted that there is still a desire to set up competitions for funding rather than give certainty of funding over longer timescales, which would enable planning, upskilling and longer term employment opportunities, taking advantage of new and emerging commercial sectors.

Local care village operator appoints Head of People



NOT-for-profit care village operator Belong, which has a care village on Loushers Lane, Warrington, has appointed HR specialist Maggie Wallace as Head of People, with the aim of attracting, inspiring and retaining the sector's most talented people.

Maggie will be responsible for all aspects of HR, including recruitment, engagement and learning and development, at Belong. Her priorities in the role include addressing the recruitment challenges faced by the care sector, which she says will be achieved by championing the social care industry and showcasing the rewarding career opportunities it provides, as well as ensuring colleagues are well supported in their roles. It will also involve bold new ways of attracting people, including adopting more flexible ways of working.

She has over 30 years' experience working in HR across multiple industries, including in the care sector. Her career began in hospitality, progressing to be the regional HR manager with oversight of 16 hotels, and includes establishing the HR function of a multimedia company with 10 locations across the country, as well as a period as a freelance consultant. She was also Head of People at the UK's leading holiday letting agencies during a time that saw the company's headcount grow from 250 to over 1000 and throughout the challenges of the coronavirus pandemic. Most recently, Maggie completed a six-month role at a social care company.

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Business and tourism students take in bright lights of the Big Apple

TRAVEL, tourism and business students from Warrington & Vale Royal College recently jetted off to 'The Big Apple', fully immersing themselves into the iconic landmarks, art and culture in one of the world's most bucket-list destinations.

The fast-paced, vibrant city of New York is a once-in-a-lifetime trip for many, home to an array of historic, must-see attractions and landmarks, and students definitely wasted no time in exploring the city that never sleeps.

The group had an early start to their trip, taking a 7:30am flight from Manchester Airport. Once they hit the ground, they headed straight to Times Square to experience one of the world's busiest pedestrian locations and admire the neon lights of some of the most well-known brands. No New York trip is complete without a visit to the top of the Rockefeller Center, where students enjoyed views across the city and a beautiful sunset.

After unpacking their bags, catching a late-night bite to eat and some well-deserved sleep, students got straight into another busy day of sightseeing. They spent the day visiting the famous Grand Central Station, appreciating the spectacular views of The Empire State Building, and strolling around the trendy district of Soho, before finishing the jam-packed day with some delicious food in Little Italy. Level 3 Travel and Tourism student, Sofia Parr, said: "I really enjoyed

the authentic Italian food and quirky shops in Little Italy and I loved seeing how different people live in the city."

The next day, students explored Lower Manhattan and got to live like a true 'New Yorker' by catching the subway to Battery Park, before they boarded a ferry to the Statue of Liberty. This special experience inspired a lot of students, in particular Sarah Rigby, who said: "Seeing the city from different locations, landmarks and viewpoints was so amazing, especially from Lady Liberty." Then, after also admiring the views from Brooklyn Bridge, students strolled across to the famous financial district of Wall Street to experience its lively atmosphere and witness some of the titans on the New York Stock Exchange. They later visited Ground Zero, the memorial for the September 11 attacks to the Twin Towers of the World Trade Centre, and learned how this disaster changed not just American, but world history.

To round up their trip, the group stopped by the quaint and charming residential village of Greenwich in Manhattan, before taking the subway to 4th Street and

people-watching at Washington Square Fountain. After a relaxed morning, they spent the afternoon in the iconic Central Park area, home to thousands of movies and TV show cameos, before enjoying some tasty food in a true American diner and catching their flight back to the UK.

Students returned to college buzzing to share memories with

friends and bring their new experiences back to the classroom. The college is already planning next year's trip and can't wait to take its future students on more exciting adventures!

To find out more about the college's business and travel & tourism courses, visit wvr.ac.uk/16-18



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Former counselling student starts her own practice.

Robynne Wood graduated from our Level 4 Therapeutic Counselling course last year and has since gone on to open her own private practice: Robynne Wood Counselling.

Robynne is asked a lot whether it was worth leaving her previous career in teaching to become a counsellor, to which her answer is always yes. She says: "It is 100% the best decision I've ever made. I've been reflecting on this graduation being so meaningful because I've worked so hard, but also how lucky I am to have found my calling in life."



Barbering student's new business venture is a cut above the rest.

Jamie Baines, who studies Level 2 Barbering, chose to study at the college as it's local to him and the course fits in perfectly with his other commitments.

Jamie has recently opened his own barber shop in Newton-le-Willows and feels the course and college facilities have thoroughly prepared him for this.

Upon completion of his course, Jamie hopes to progress on to level 3 to further develop his skills.





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For more information, or to make an appointment to view Statham Manor contact Farai on 01925 596000 or email enquiries @newcarehomes.com.



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Planning chiefs reaffirm homes scheme for former Wilderspool Stadium

PLANNING chiefs have reaffirmed proposals they approved four years ago – for 160 homes on the former Wilderspool Rugby League stadium.

Members of Warrington Borough Council’s development management committee were asked to study the proposals again because of the length of time that has elapsed since their earlier decision.

The council is itself a part applicant because of its involvement with Wire Regeneration who own the site.

Outline plans were approved in February 2019.

Since then discussions have continued between the council and Wire Regeneration, although they have now concluded.

But officers – who still recommended the scheme be

approved – believed councillors should consider any changes in local and national planning policies that have occurred since the original decision was made.

The proposals are for 160 houses, of which 20 per cent will be “affordable”. There will also be open space and car parking provision.

The 2.2 hectare site is bounded by a railway line to the north east, by terraced housing in Priory Street and Fletcher Street to the west and by other urban, commercial development to the south.

To the east of the railway line there is an area of established

housing in Lord Street, Canterbury Street, York Street, etc.

Overall, planning officers believe the advantages of the scheme outweigh any disadvantages.

There were four objections to the scheme when it was first put forward in 2019, mainly with

regard to traffic and parking issues.

Warrington’s last competitive match at the Wilderspool Stadium was in 2003, although the ground was used for training, academy matches, etc until shortly before the stadium was due to be demolished in 2014.



The now demolished Wilderspool stadium.

Warrington Arts Council launches £1,000 pot of Arts Grants for budding local artists

WARRINGTON Arts Council has proudly announced a new initiative aimed at supporting the next generation of Warrington based artists.

They are offering four £250 grants to promising students of the arts living in the Warrington postcode area. The grants will provide financial support to help the students progress in their chosen artistic field.

The grants are open to all students of the arts, including musicians and visual artists, and are available to applicants from 16-19 years old.

Whether your style is classical or modern, all applicants will be considered. The grants can be used to purchase materials, equipment, or to pay for private lessons in your area of expertise.

To apply for a grant, simply email the Warrington Arts Council with a 200-word statement and two photos or sound files of your work. The council will review all submissions and select four deserving recipients.

This is a unique opportunity for Warrington-based artists to receive financial support and recognition for their work. Warrington Arts Council is dedicated to representing and promoting smaller arts groups, supporting the arts in the town and helping artists achieve their goals.

Chair of the Arts Council, Paul Taylor, added “The closing date is June the 30th so get your entries done by then! Hurry! Tick Tock!”

For more information on the £250 Arts Grants or to submit your application contact us at info@WarringtonArtsCouncil.Org

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Healthwatch Warrington is YOUR local Impartial and Independent Health and Social Care Champion.

The focus of our Enter and View visits throughout 2023-2024 is community care settings (inc. care homes). The review team aims to gain insight from patients and staff about their experiences.

Enter & View Authorised Representative

Becoming an Enter and View Authorised Volunteer Representative offers the opportunity to observe local health and social care services at the point of delivery; by speaking with staff, patients, residents, relatives and carers. This is done by visiting the service. We can inform change, but only you can make it happen. Be part of the change.

What will volunteers be doing?

Volunteers will be working as a member of a small team, observing health and social care services at the point of delivery.

The role involves speaking to patients/service users, carers, relatives/friends and staff about their experiences of the service. Examples

of services include Residential Care Homes, GP Practices, and Inpatient Wards.

Following the visit, volunteers provide feedback to the Enter and View lead and contribute towards the production and publication of the report.

Time commitment is flexible - it's up to you how much time you can commit. On average this could be 2-3 hours per month.

When is the training?

We currently have two date options available for training at the Gateway Sankey Street Warrington where refreshments will be provided.

Tuesday 18th April 2023 10.30 am - 12.30 pm OR Thursday 20th April 2023 4pm - 6pm




If you are unable to attend, please register your attendance for another date and we will be in contact with you.

Contact@healthwatchwarrington.co.uk

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White horse-drawn carriage leads the way as mourners bid fond farewell to “beautiful” and “loving” Brianna Ghey

A white horse-drawn carriage led the way as grieving loved ones of murdered 16-year-old Birchwood schoolgirl Brianna Ghey attended her funeral at St Elphin’s Parish Church in Warrington.

Mourners wearing pink, including members of the LGBT Transgender community, turned out to pay their respects to Brianna at an emotional service led by Reverend Debbie Lovatt and attended by the town’s Mayor Cllr. Jean Flaherty.

The Year 11 pupil at Birchwood

Community High School, who was stabbed to death at Culcheth Linear Park, was hailed as a larger-than-life character who was ‘beautiful’ and ‘loving.’

Her light pink casket, which arrived in a white horse-drawn carriage, was carried into Elphin’s Parish Church by loved ones, who

Pictures: John Hopkins

paid an emotional tribute to her.

As dozens of Brianna’s loved ones gathered outside the church, onlookers could hear a rendition of I Dreamed a Dream. Lana Del Rey’s ‘Video Games’ was then played as Brianna’s coffin entered the church.

The congregation prayed and sang ‘Amazing Grace’.

A family member held back tears as she read a poem while letters from friends and classmates were also read out.

Brianna’s school ended the tributes with a letter saying: “We will miss her determination and grit. Her wit and humour. Her insults and her putting us in our place.

“We learned so much from her, and how to be our true self. She was a true one-off.”

Mourners left the church to ‘Somewhere Over The Rainbow.’

Vigils have previously been held across the country for Brianna.

Two teenagers – a boy from Leigh and a local girl, both aged 15 – who can’t be named for legal reasons, who are accused of Brianna’s murder are due to appear in court on July 10 for a trial expected to last three weeks.



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Chris and Liz, husband and wife team who own Sandstone Supplies would like to thank the Warrington community for their support so far in their journey.



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A deaf, blind and emaciated dog dumped from a car on a busy road near Warrington has sadly died.

Warrington Animal Welfare, who helped rescue Roxy, the 14½-year-old dumped Staffordshire Bull Terrier, announced that she passed away peacefully.

In a statement, the animal charity said: "Roxy came into our care last month, she was emaciated, deaf, nearly blind, with an abdominal tumour, she has been dumped from a car near a busy road by her owner.

"She was such a charming and determined little dog, so full love,

still enjoying a cuddle, a potter around and her food. She had been seen by the vet and was waiting in her amazing foster home for the results to see if there were any options for treatment.

"But sadly, life had other ideas and she quietly slipped away in her sleep

"Roxy ended her life in comfort, surrounded by love, with a full tummy and knowing her BFF Tinks was safe! She will remain forever in our hearts!"

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The day good triumphed over evil as Warrington remembers the IRA bomb attack 30 years on

Pictures: John Hopkins



THIRTY years ago on March 20th 1993 was the day former Prime Minister Sir John Major almost gave up on the peace process with Northern Ireland when he heard the devastating news about the IRA bomb attack on Warrington.

The terrorist attack claimed the lives of 12-year-old Tim Parry and three-year-old Johnathan Ball and later young mother Bronwen Vickers, who died a year later after losing her leg in the bomb last, while 56 shoppers, out shopping the day before Mother's day, were also injured.

But seeing the way Warrington responded, helped inspire Sir John to continue the work towards the peace process and the eventual Good Friday agreement as Warrington responded with dignity and the hand of peace – leading to the creation of the Warrington Peace Centre and the charity named in memory of the young victims, which continues to help victims of terror to this day.

Sir John, who was one of the guest speakers at the 30th-anniversary event said: "I am honoured to be here to commemorate that desperate day. I have never forgotten the moment I got the call about what happened. It is the day I almost gave up on the peace process. This was the closest I got to giving up on peace for Ireland."

"What families suffered is beyond the nightmare of any parent."

"But I could not give up, as if we did there would be more bombs, more children dying and more grieving families."

"There is always hope."

Meanwhile, Colin Parry, with wife Wendy by his side, along with their other children Dominic and Abbie, as well as grandchildren said: "I have often wondered why

Warrington?

"It was the day my 13-year-old son Tim suffered fatal injuries and died five days later. Our future changed forever that day."

He talked about how it led to the creation of the Peace Foundation which had contributed greatly to combating the spread of extremism and will continue to do so.

He said that he was hopeful that the Peace centre could become a place for children with special educational needs, while the Foundation could carry on helping victims of terrorism.

Tim Parry's best friend Gareth Boldsworth, who runs a business based in the Peace centre and also now works in Northern Ireland, paid a touching tribute to the "tall, handsome boy from Great Sankey."

He talked about how they had got in trouble locked in the school toilets doing their hair for the school photos – a photo which had now become a symbol of peace.

He said: "I'm proud to be from Warrington, but most of all I'm proud to be Tim's friend."

"When I work in Northern Ireland and I say I am from Warrington, I receive love and care."

Finally, Colin and Wendy's grandson Arthur Parry read out a poem called "World Peace" dedicated to the uncle he never got to meet.

Liverpool's Metro Mayor Steve Rotherham and Manchester Mayor Andy Burnham were also among those present to pay their respects.



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Dad and daughter team reach for the stars with deep-sky photography

A DAD and daughter team from Warrington are reaching for the stars and beyond with their Astrophotography hobby of deep-sky photography.

Chris Digata from Houghton Green, Fearnhead, has now become hooked after his 21-year-old daughter started visual astronomy.

Now when the skies are clear over Warrington they are capturing stunning images of the night skies including the Milky Way and beyond, with images that once could only be viewed from space.

Explaining how their hobby has developed Chris said: "A few years ago, a friend of mine showed me a live video and image of the planet SATURN taken from his back garden.

As a keen photographer and videographer these images stuck in my mind.

"A few years later my daughter started visual astronomy and got me hooked (thanks Charl), after a few months looking at the planets, moons, sun and taking what images we could using an attached mobile phone I then got involved in Astrophotography with dedicated Astro video and image equipment and hi tech star tracking mounts for deep-sky photography of DSO (deep sky objects).

"There are many different types of astrophotography, from wide-angle Milky Way photography to deep-sky photography through an astronomical telescope. The basic elements of this hobby include the understanding of long exposure images, focus, and image processing.

If your passion is strong enough, it will carry you through the steep learning curve involved in astrophotography and will begin to appreciate the scale and vastness of space.

"Over time, my equipment evolved into a deep-sky astrophotography kit that allows me to photograph galaxies, nebulae and star clusters. A tracking telescope mount and dedicated camera are required as it cannot be visually used via an eyepiece. A visual astronomy telescope is what sparked my passion to photograph deep-sky objects.

"Along with the individual photos you capture (light frames), you can benefit from taking calibration image frames such as dark, bias, and flat frames to help correct the issues that come with long exposure

photography.

"In astrophotography, we use ultra-long exposures to capture dim objects in space. I'm talking exposures of 3-4 minutes each or longer.

"As the sensor records the light entering the camera, it collects much more detail than our naked eye could ever see. As well as faint details of galaxy spiral arms and nebulosity, we are also able to record the intense colour of the gasses, dust, and stars in space.

"Using high speed photo filters for different narrowband light wave lengths (Ha, OII, SIII and Infrared) and Anti light pollution.

"To produce detailed images of these DSO's (deep-sky objects), we need to increase the signal to noise ratio of the image. The signal is the light collected by the camera, and noise is - well you all know what camera noise is.

"To combat this, we can improve the signal to noise ratio by stacking several images together.

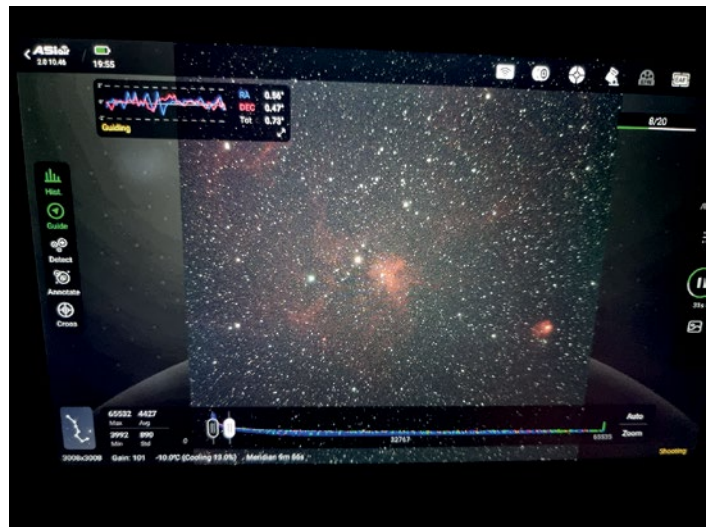
"The signal (the light in our DSO) continues to layer on top of each other, yet the noise falls in random patterns and eventually cancels itself out. I use a software application called Pixinsight to combine multiple image exposures together and for final image processing.

"An image will get smoother and smoother as you stack more and more data together.

"Don't like? Cloudy nights, do like? Clear skies."

Chris added: "My main scope is The Rowe-Ackermann Schmidt Astrograph (RASA), An optical system for space surveillance, Space Situational Awareness (SSA), other scientific applications, and advanced wide field astroimaging. It offers unprecedented value in aperture, speed, field of view, and optical performance."

He added: "I spend an hour outside setting up and checking/programming it all for what I want it to look at and look for.. I then sit in side nice and warm and operate it all remotely from my pc!"



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Toilet inlet/ ball valve replaced	£70 +vat	Bath plug hole replaced	£90 +vat		

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Volunteers return from humanitarian mission to Turkey earthquake victims

GREAT Sankey South Cllr. Mo Hussain and a team of volunteers from Warrington have recently returned from a humanitarian mission to Turkey, to ensure aid collected locally reached victims of the earthquake disaster.

Cllr Hussain and the team visited the Hatay province in Antakya, Turkey which was the epicentre of the recent earthquake of 7.8 magnitude claiming the lives of over 45,000 people and affecting millions more. Leading up to the visit the team raised over £22,000 through the Muslim Community of Warrington and other fundraising events.

Cllr Hussain and Mohammed Maruf, the Imaam at Warrington Islamic Centre worked effortlessly to ensure that the money raised was 100% allocated to the victims of the earthquake. Creating hundreds of care packages that included sustainable food and essentials, as well as purchasing storage containers for the victims to be used as temporary accommodation. The secured containers are made to house a small family which includes two bedrooms, a kitchen, and a toilet.

Cllr Hussain said: "First of all, I would like to thank everyone in Warrington including the local community, councillors, friends and colleagues who came together

to raise so much money amidst financial difficulties to support the victims of the earthquake. We couldn't have completed the project without the help of Adana District Council and council official Mr Serkan Hepsag and Mr Onur Baki ,who provided us with transportation for the packages to be delivered to Hatay, and the local volunteers who helped pack and distribute the packages.

He added: "Having first-hand experience of seeing the aftermath of the devastation left by the earthquake, left me and the Imaam absolutely heartbroken. The sorrows and first-hand stories of so many families are those which will never be erased from my memory. The magnitude of the devastation is so severe that aid coming from us and various other communities and authorities only scratch the surface. In my opinion, it will take years and years for this province to be brought back to its original joy."

He thanked the people of Warrington for their donations.

Meanwhile, Cllr Sagheer Zaman who helped and supported the

campaign in Warrington said: "Thank you to Cllr Mo Hussain and Imam Hafiz Mahroof for their fantastic efforts in going out to reach the victims, believe me it's not easy to do this you have to plan the logistics, be mentally & physically strong.

"The people of Turkey & Syria have been through intense pain this past month, physical and emotional both! No one deserves to go through this.

"Finally, I would like to thank the Warrington community for their kindness and generosity with donations which have been overwhelming and inspiring."

In recent months, the team has come together to raise over £50,000 for various other emergencies including the Pakistan floods, the Bangladesh floods, the Ukraine war and Afghanistan earthquake.



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Heartbroken mum launches fundraising appeal to help terminally ill daughter go on "bucket list" cruise



A MOTHER whose worst nightmare came true when she heard her terminally ill 20-year-old daughter agree to a DNR when her poorly heart fails, has launched a "bucket list" fundraising campaign.

Samantha MacVicar has launched the fundraising appeal to help her daughter Caitlin tick her bucket list – which includes a family cruise, as she is too poorly to fly.

Already more than £6,000 has been raised, but with the cost of cruises being expensive, the family is aiming to raise £10,000 for the "brave, strong, young lady" from Warrington.

Her mother Samantha, who launched the fundraising page, said: "Caitlin's biggest wish is to be able to go abroad on holiday. Sadly she is unable to fly due to the complexity of her heart and lung condition and the cabin pressures. The only option we have is to take her by cruise which will prove expensive with the added expense of holiday insurance.

"Caitlin was born with a severe heart condition called aorta stenosis and regurgitation of the mitral valve and leaky valves, also a hypoplastic left lung leaving her with only one lung working and needing oxygen and bi-pap at night.

Samantha added: "Caitlin went through life-saving surgery at 3 and 6 weeks old and again age 6-years-old, which did stabilise the aorta for some time. We have now been told that the aorta has again narrowed and the doctors have upgraded the stages to severe from mild and moderate but this time it's become inoperable, leaving the doctors to make the heartbreaking decision to withdraw treatment and to start palliative care treatment being told the longest you can live with severe aorta stenosis is 1-3 years.

"At the age of 10 Caitlin was also diagnosed severe klippel-fee syndrome, severe scoliosis kyphoscoliosis and a combination of health issues that had never

been seen before in our country rendering her unique.

"Caitlin was unable to undergo any surgery to correct her spine due to her heart conditions and lives in constant pain and restricted mobility.

"The hardest thing a parent had to do was listen to their daughter agree to a DNR, which she was sent home with only a few days ago.

"Caitlin is a very strong, brave young lady and an inspiration to others. She has a smile that lights up the room and an infectious laugh with a wicked sense of humour that everyone loves. She has and still remains to put up one almighty fight, and battles against all odd's, baffling the medical team along the way.

"Now free of the medical team, that had been restricting what she could do for most of her life, she now would like to do some of the fun things she couldn't do.

"We are hoping as a family that we can achieve at least this one last wish with the help and support of others to complete some of her bucket list before her health deteriorates anymore and see her continuing to smile.

"Thankyou for all your support, we really do appreciate it"

Other items on Caitlin's bucket list include: Spa day, photoshoot, pull a pint behind a bar, visit Edinburgh Castle, go on the London Eye, spend a day at the golden retriever sanctuary, spend a day with a horse, afternoon tea with her nan's, glamping or camping with her aunts and finally to visit Coronation Street – she is mad on Soaps!

To make a donation visit www.gofundme.com/f/caitlins-wishes

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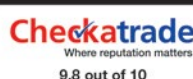
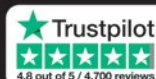
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Public consultation starts on main modifications to unsound Local Plan

AN online public consultation about modifications to ensure Warrington's Local Plan is 'sound' have been launched.

Leader of the Council, Cllr. Russ Bowden says it "is an important chance for residents to continue shaping our Local Plan."

Government inspectors have previously told Warrington Borough Council its proposed Local Plan is not sound and will require some significant modifications, including reducing the impact on Green Belt.

Inspectors, Andrea Mageean and Kevin Ward's findings last December, in relation to the employment land requirement, The South East Warrington Employment Area (Policy MD6) (SEWEA), Fiddlers Ferry and Warrington Waterfront will have significant implications. They have also sought the council's views on the need for a travellers' encampment within the Local Plan.

Following the examination in public of Warrington's Proposed Submissions Version Local Plan ("draft Local Plan") in late 2022, Planning Inspectors made their initial view that with some modifications, Warrington's Local Plan can be found sound.

These modifications will now be consulted on publically for six weeks, from Wednesday 15 March.

The consultation only relates to the Main Modifications recommended by the Inspectors and not the wider Local Plan. The consultation's main

questions relate to whether the Local Plan Main Modifications comply with legal requirements and meet the tests of 'soundness'. These are the key issues that the independent Inspectors will consider when assessing consultation responses. Comments should focus on whether the proposed Main Modifications comply with the legal requirements and can be considered 'sound'.

At the close of the consultation, the representations made will be passed to the independent Planning Inspectors for their consideration. Following a review of responses to the modifications, the Inspectors will then issue their final report before the Plan is then expected to proceed to Full Council for adoption.

The full schedule of main modifications can be found on the council website at warrington.gov.uk/main-modifications-2023

Cllr. Bowden said: "We are hopeful that following this consultation, we will be able to satisfy the views of the Planning Inspectors and put forward a Local Plan for adoption."

"This consultation specifically relates to the Main Modifications recommended by the Independent Planning Inspectors. It's important to note that it is not an opportunity to raise matters that either were, or could have been, part of the earlier

representations or hearings on the submitted Plan, and any comments received will be passed directly to the Planning Inspectors for consideration once the consultation closes.

"This is an important chance for residents to continue shaping our Local Plan so that ultimately we have a framework in place to guide and support the considered development of our town."

Find out how to take part in the consultation by visiting warrington.gov.uk/main-modifications-2023

All representations must be received by the council no later than 5pm on Wednesday 26 April 2023. Late representations will not be accepted by the council, but they will be brought to the attention of the Inspectors.



Cllr Bowden

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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By David Watkinson

Tax changes following the Budget

Wednesday March 15th 2023 was the date of the budget. This is when the Chancellor announces the changes that will take effect for the following tax year. So following this year's budget what will we be facing from April?

Income Tax. This is the area that affects the most people, and so what changes will there be:

Rates of Tax: No change to the Basic rate, Higher Rate, or Additional Rate.

Allowances and Thresholds: Ignoring inflation, there is no change except for a substantial reduction in the level at which the Additional Rate is applied. Therefore, you will pay no tax on the first £12,570, 20% on the following £38,171, 40% on the following £74,400 (currently £99,260), and 45% thereafter. However, in real terms this represents a substantial reduction. By law, allowances and thresholds increase in line with inflation by default unless the government decides otherwise. The Personal Allowance, for example, in April 2019 was £12,500. **By default, therefore, the**

allowance in April 2023 should be increasing to £15,900 and this represents an effective tax increase of £680 for anyone paying tax at basic rate. It is expected that there will be no future increase until at least 2026.

Capital Gains Tax: Since 2020, the Annual CGT Allowance has been £12,300. From April 2023 this will be more than halved to £6,000, and it is expected to be further reduced to £3,000 in 2024. The rates at which CGT is paid remains at 10% for basic rate taxpayers and 18% for higher rate taxpayers, unless the gain arises from properties when the rates are 18% and 28% respectively.

Dividend Tax: When Dividend Tax was introduced in 2016, there was an annual Dividend Tax Allowance of £5,000, below which no tax was payable. This was subsequently reduced to £2,000 where it has remained since. In April, however, the allowance will be reduced to £1,000, with a further reduction expected in April 2024 to £500. The rates at which you pay dividend tax

remain at 8.75% for basic rate taxpayers, 33.75% for higher rate taxpayers and 39.35% if you pay additional tax.

Pension Contributions: It had been widely anticipated that the maximum that anyone could hold in a pension pot was to be increased from £1.3m to £1.8m. However, the Chancellor actually went further and removed all restriction, a move that will benefit the very richest. More people may be affected, however, by the increase in the Money Purchase Allowance, the amount that you can put into a pension each year once you have started taking a pension, from £4k to £10k.

Corporation Tax: For many years there has been a single rate of Corporation Tax, currently 19%. From April the rate will remain at 19% for companies with taxable profits below £50,000. However, companies with profits above £50,000 will see their rate of corporation tax increase. Companies with profits of £250,000 and above will pay corporation tax at 25% on the whole of their profits. Companies with



Margaret Black and David Watkinson

profits between £50,000 and £250,000 will pay tax on these profits at 26.5%, which has the effect of gradually increasing the rate of tax on the whole profit from 19% to 25% over this range.

Other Announcements:

Free childcare up to 30 hours per week will be introduced over the next two years for children aged over 9 months provided each parent works at least 16 hours.

Duty on Draught Beer and **Duty on Fuel** are both frozen again.

The increase in the **Energy Price Guarantee** from £2,500 to £3,000 will be deferred by 3 months at least to July, resulting in an average saving of £160.

A **Full Capital Expensing** (ie 100% Capital Allowances) will be in place for at least 3 years. Research intensive businesses will be able to claim **Enhanced Credit**.

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Rugby stars endorse fashion label on a mission to champion mental health



A fashion label created to raise awareness of mental health issues is being championed by two Warrington Wolves stars.

Cerebral Clothing, which has pledged to donate 10% of its 2023 profits to mental health charity Manchester Mind, has received the endorsement of Warrington Wolves players Pete Mata'utia and Stefan Ratchford.

Friends Charley Rich and Dan Lloyd, both 23, launched Cerebral Clothing in 2020 after suddenly losing a close friend due to a struggle with mental health.

Dan said: "Losing a close friend in that way came as such a shock to us, and we wanted to do something to help people who need support with their mental health."

"Our vision is to not only design and sell high-quality clothing, but to create a lifestyle brand that becomes synonymous with promoting awareness for mental health."

"We want to change the way young people communicate, as well as improving the overall attitude towards mental health in general."

As well as donating part of their profits to Manchester Mind, Charley and Dan aim to organise events to raise further funds and build a supportive community promoting mental health awareness.

Manchester Mind is one of 105 local Mind associations nationwide, all of which are independent charities.

Joanna Huddart from Manchester Mind said: "We're touched by the kind commitment made by Cerebral Clothing, as their charity efforts will spark important conversations surrounding men's mental health, whilst raising vital funds in aid of our services."

"Manchester Mind are so proud to have Dan and Charley's support and we look forward to working together this year."

The ethos of the brand has gained endorsement from

Warrington Wolves rugby league players Pete Mata'utia and Stefan Ratchford.

Pete said: "Charley and Dan's story of losing their best friend was something that resonated with me because I've been through that situation myself and now I'm a big advocate for mental health."

"I try to get people to understand that it's not the load we carry, it's how we carry it. If we're not speaking to each other about mental health, that's when the load becomes heavy."

Stefan said: "After meeting the team at Cerebral and listening to the story of the brand it was obvious that I should get involved and support them."

"Too often, people are told to 'man up' or 'just get on with it'. Cerebral's message that people need to open up about mental health is so important."

Cerebral has gained a loyal customer following in the north west by creating high-quality unisex garments that are not only affordable, but fit well and boast a clean urban aesthetic.

Charley said: "We've always liked to stay up to date with the latest trends and collections from our favourite designers, and that has been the starting point for our own range."

"Essentially, we are our own target market, so we just try to design and sell what we know."

"What sets us apart is that we see it as our responsibility to use our brand to share that mental health message."

"Mental health can still be a taboo subject. We want to change the way people communicate, and help people to realise that support is there if you need it."

Learn more about the work of Manchester Mind at manchestermind.org

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PUBLIC NOTICES

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

Notice is hereby given that I Jack Peter Critchley have made an application to Grant a Premises Licence at 10 Bridge Street, Warrington, WA1 2QW on 10th March 2023 to Warrington Borough Council.

The application is to apply for Late Night Refreshment (indoors) & the Sale of Alcohol (on & off sales) Sun - Thurs 10.00 - 00.00, Fri & Sat 10.00 - 02.30 with opening hours Sun - Thurs 10.00 - 00.30, Fri & Sat 10.00 - 03.00.

Representations to this application must be made in writing by the end of 7th April 2023 to the Licensing Section, Warrington Borough Council, Town Hall, Sankey Street, Warrington, WA1 1UH.

The register of licensing applications can be inspected at the above address between 09.00 and 16.00 Monday to Friday or at www.warrington.gov.uk. It is an offence on summary conviction, to knowingly or recklessly make a false statement in connection with an application. (18/23)

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