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Warrington Worldwide

Issue No. 284 August 2023 FREE EVERY MONTH

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Picture: John Hopkins



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Editor's Comment



THROUGHOUT my journalistic career spanning more than 40 years planning matters have always been some of the most contentious stories I have written about.

Stories revolving around planning applications, whether they involve new business premises, property extensions or development on Green Belt land, they have always sparked a lot of interest – and the onset of social media certainly fanned the flames of public engagement as many people now express their opinions.

With all planning applications now available to view online lots more people also now have access to information and the ability to comment.

The fact Warrington has been developing a Local Plan, which involves the development of some Green Belt land has made the past few years even more interesting – particularly after the council was told the Local Plan wasn't fit for purpose, with amendments ongoing following even more consultation.

Planning decisions should never be political – they should be based on planning law and some common sense. Planning law is a complex issue and obviously is in place for a reason but can leave people feeling very frustrated and angry.

Here in Warrington, I have reported on the application proposing the huge Six56 logistics development on Green Belt land at Grappenhall and more recently

another large logistics development at Risley – both recommended for approval despite lots of opposition from local residents. The Six56 one was later halted by the Secretary of State following a call-in – which is a rare occurrence for Government to step in on local planning issues, citing not enough special reasons to develop Green Belt land.

On the opposite side of the spectrum The Holly's Farm shop at Penketh, has just been refused planning permission to improve its premises serving the local community. Something no one objected to. This is where common sense appears to go out of the window in the eyes of the general public.

What better use is there in

the Green Belt – a large logistics development or a farm shop?

I'm not qualified to give the answer, but I do have some common sense.

I'm not going to be critical of our town's planning officers as I know they have a thankless task and a minefield of rules to stick to. But it is important that our elected representatives in the community at parish and borough level work closely with those seeking planning permission, especially when it impacts their business and livelihood.

Deadline for the September issue of Warrington Worldwide is August 15

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Ian



'I am no longer the mum who can't help with homework, who doesn't know and doesn't understand'

Hanicka



'I'd say it's changed my life'

Samantha

Gulliver's welcomes local community for theme park takeover

MORE than 2,800 Warrington residents from the WA5 postcode enjoyed an evening of theme park fun when Gulliver's World opened its gates for an exclusive theme park take-over event.

The 'Westbrook Big Party' event, hosted by the Westbrook and Callands Communities Association, saw thousands of WA5 residents visit the park, with Gulliver's offering reduced price tickets and donations from sales going to the Warrington Hospital Dementia Fund and local junior football club, Cromwell Athletic.

Alan Guthrie, of the Westbrook and Callands Community Association, said: "It was great to bring together so many members

of our community, of all ages, for a very special evening at Gulliver's World.

Craig Clews, resort manager at Gulliver's World, said: "It was a real pleasure to open our gates for the Westbrook Big Party, giving the community a really fun, carefree night out while also supporting important local causes."

For further information about Gulliver's World, visit www.gulliversworldresort.co.uk



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It's time for summer in Warrington

TIME Square and Warrington town centre will come alive with fun and activity this summer with a packed calendar of live performances, art, music, activity and colour.

Throughout July and August, Warrington is hosting a range of events, from family friendly football skills days to food and drink festivals, so there's something for everyone to enjoy.

Visitors to the town centre can look forward to a host of exciting spectacles from music, puppetry and street theatre, to art exhibitions and dance displays, with the main launch weekend taking place on Saturday 29 and Sunday 30 July, as special events spring up across the town centre.

Funded by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) and delivered in partnership with the council, Culture Warrington, Warrington Market and the Warrington Business Improvement District (BID), a packed calendar of family friendly events will pop up in Time Square and other town centre venues, with more to be added over the coming weeks.

29 July – Street Games

Street Games return to Time Square, from 1pm to 4.30pm. Join in with an inclusive and accessible fun day, with games from around the world, and live music and dance with BSL performance and interpretation, hosted by fabulous game hosts and party music sets from EIF Sound.

29 July – Many Hands parade

Many Hands is commissioned by Billie Klinger- creative producer

and is premiered in partnership with Culture Warrington and choreographed by Ruth Jones. This vibrant parade will bring people together to explore the shared communicative power and expressive potential of hands. Four professional dance artists will be joined by the Warrington Wolves Foundation, Warrington Youth Zone, Velocity Dance, Mature Movers – and the Warrington community.

The performance starts at 2.40pm at Time Square and will travel past Warrington Market onto Bridge Street and around the Guardians before returning back to Times Square. Here the promenade performers will join the wider community for a en masse dance!

Want to join in? A drop-in workshop is taking place at Time Square between 12pm and 2pm, where you can make your own hand to join the big dance at the end of the parade. Suitable for all the family but children must be accompanied by an adult.

29 July – Wake Me Up Before You Dodo

Tying in with the environmentally themed events in the town centre, this family friendly exhibition at Warrington Museum and Art Gallery is about endangered wildlife, from the smallest insects to the biggest beasts, the importance of biodiversity – and what we can

do to help.

As well as taxidermy from the museum's collection, there will be artwork from two artists – Sculptor Val Hunt, who 'reincarnates' rubbish to create animal sculptures with an environmental message, and Warrington's 'Mini David Attenborough', Britain's Got Talent finalist Aneeshwar Kunchala. The exhibition runs until 5 November.

29 & 30 July – Out of the Deep Blue

Back by popular demand, everyone's favourite eco-friendly puppet Eko returns to Time Square. Out of the Deep Blue is a large-scale outdoor performance featuring a sea giant puppet and a contemporary dancer, inspired by the themes of the climate emergency and the biodiversity crisis.

30 July – The Whale: Plastic Ocean at Palmyra Square

Culture Warrington invites bold explorers to encounter an 'aquabatic' diver, a shipwrecked pirate with a treasure tale to tell, a real life mermaid with a haunting siren's song and an intriguing secret alongside a true-to-life 50ft inflatable sperm whale.

With the use of exquisite puppets, comedy and music, explore the tale of sea creatures and their battle to survive in an ocean full of rubbish. Their aim is to leave families feeling empowered that everyone can make a difference.

Shows will be held every half hour in Queens Gardens, in front of the Parr Hall, between 11am and

4pm (last performance 3.30pm).

30 July – Sunflowers performance at Palmyra Square

Culture Warrington presents a new, eye-catching dance, aerial and hand balancing performance designed for children and families by Tuckshop Dance Theatre. A show about self-care and personal growth, there are three opportunities to see Sunflowers at 12.15pm, 2.15pm and 3.30pm.

30 July – Be Kind to Our Planet family workshops at the Parr Hall
Six local artists, chosen by Culture Warrington, will host a programme of free, drop-in workshops themed around the environment, between 10.30am and 4pm. Suitable for the whole family but designed for ages 7+. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

5 to 6 August – Hop, Grape and Grain Festival

Some of your favourite Time Square retailers are coming together for a weekend long beer festival in the square, with live music, cocktails and a huge variety of beer.

17 August – Football Skills

In the run up to the women's World Cup on 20 August, test your football skills in Time Square with Streetwise Soccer.

27 August – Proms in the Square

Bank holiday weekend brings a new event to Time Square – Proms in the Square. Come along for a day full of live music showcasing the fantastic local talent of Warrington and beyond.



IT'S TIME FOR

Summer

IN TIME SQUARE



July



August

12th - 16th - International Food Market

22nd - Go Wild Warrington

26th - Crazy Golf

29th - Street Games

30th - Out of the Deep Blue

5th - 6th - Hop Grape & Grain Festival

17th - Football Skills

20th - Proms in the Square





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Time Square commended by Royal Town Planning Institute for "Planning Excellence"

WARRINGTON'S Time Square, which has helped revitalise the town centre, has received a commendation by the Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) for Planning Excellence.

Time Square received the commendation in the 'Successful Economy' category of the 2023 RTPI North West Awards which are the most established and respected in the UK planning industry. Running for over 40 years, they celebrate exceptional examples of planning and the contribution planners make to society.

In awarding a commendation, the judging panel were full of praise for Time Square, saying that since opening, it has had a transformative impact on Warrington, increasing both investments in the town centre and supporting wider economic viability.

The judges said the success of the challenging scheme has been driven by an ambitious vision, shaped by extensive and meaningful public consultation, and implemented through a combination of a clear planning policy framework, phasing strategy, strong leadership and partnership working.

Judges were impressed by the careful thought given to design, and in particular how the existing cultural heritage assets of the existing facades on Bridge Street were incorporated into the development. It was felt that this has

been key in allowing the scheme to become well integrated with the southern part of the existing town centre, whilst creating its own unique identity and sense of place.

Also praised was the vision to reuse a highly complex site to bring a renewed vibrancy to the town centre, and the introduction of several different but complementary uses, which are increasing footfall and supporting both the day and night-time economies.

The judges also noted the sustainability and green energy credentials embedded within the development and agreed that the Market is a standout asset, providing a contemporary destination for shoppers and visitors while attracting and supporting new business start-ups.

Cllr Janet Henshaw, cabinet member for housing, planning policy and development, said: "Time Square has been a huge success story for Warrington. Delivered through the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is now firmly established as a premier, family-friendly destination for our town centre, with high-quality restaurants, shopping and leisure venues, a cinema experience, and a modern, contemporary home for

our famous market.

"This praise from RTPI for the development is well deserved. It shows real recognition from national planning leaders of the fantastic work done by the council and its partners, to deliver a truly transformative project which is bringing in new investment, injecting economic vitality and driving the regeneration of our town centre."

Cabinet member for economic development and innovation, Cllr Tom Jennings, added: "The Time Square development has transformed the face of Warrington town centre, bringing a major boost to our economy and attracting visitors from across the borough and wider region. It's a destination that Warrington deserves, and one

that we can all be proud of.

"In delivering such an ambitious project, it was crucial we had a strong vision, high quality planning and design, excellent partnership working and meaningful community engagement. I'm delighted that all of this has been recognised by RTPI."

The RTPI champions the power of planning in creating prosperous places and vibrant communities. It is the only body in the UK that confers Chartered status to planners, the highest professional qualification sought after by employers. It supports its members – over 26,000 worldwide – throughout their careers.

For more information on the awards, visit rtpi.org.uk



Warrington plays host to leaders from across the North West

WARRINGTON played host to leaders from across the North West of England for this year's Northern Power Towns conference.

The event included a thought-provoking session led by Sir Philip Redmond – television producer and screenwriter best known for creating the television series Grange Hill, Brookside and Hollyoaks – who shared his views on culture, business, place-making, politics, leadership, levelling up, and societal challenges across the region.

Sir Philip also answered questions from attendees around deprivation, economic growth and his reflections and learning from Liverpool's time as European Capital of Culture in 2008.

The Northern Power Towns group, a partnership between public and private sector partners, including councils, businesses and community organisations, has worked together for the last five years to support inclusive economic growth across the region.

There was a focused discussion on devolution and "Northern leadership" and its potential benefits for the North of England. The session was led by The NP11, a business-led group for the North established in 2018 which brings

together the region's 11 Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs).

The conference also enabled attendees to consider how, by working together and sharing best practice, partners across the North West can support green growth, housing, planning, science and transport.

Warrington Borough Council's chief executive, Professor Steven Broomhead who chaired the conference, said: "It was good to see so many engaged partners across the North West attend this year's conference at Birchwood Park here in Warrington.

"I am a strong believer in how effective public and private partnership working can address local and regional challenges, and I'm pleased to have been part of stimulating discussion with a number of leaders across the region about how we can work together to make improvements for our communities.

"The Northern Power Towns group represents millions of residents, from Runcorn to Rossendale, from Crewe to Carlisle, and by learning from each other and sharing best practice we can continue to support our 'power towns' to thrive across the North West."



Another outstanding "can do" Disability Awareness Day

by Stephen Fitzsimons - Warrington & Co

I am delighted to contribute to this month's edition because John Laverick may have been replaced by the artificial intelligence he was discussing in July.

Well done to Dave Thompson and the team at Warrington Disability Partnership for delivering yet another outstanding Disability Awareness Day at Walton Hall & Gardens. Even the topsy turvy weather couldn't dampen the spirits of the team as the community came together to highlight what people can do, rather than what they cannot. The "purple pound"

is worth an estimated £274 billion a year in the UK, however too many businesses forget to cater for disabled customers, including their family and friends. It's often the same for attracting talent. The second Warrington Skills Commission will be published soon, and it has been meeting with relevant stakeholders all year to discuss future requirements.



Whilst this includes consideration of automation, cyber security and artificial intelligence, it also reminds us that there are very capable people to be found amongst the over 50s, young people leaving care and of course, the disabled community.

Companies in the town centre recently voted to extend the Business Improvement District for another 5 years. Whilst Warrington has undoubtedly been affected by the pandemic and the contraction of the high street, there is still plenty of vitality in and around the town centre. The fantastic mural under the bridge between the Youth Zone and the bus station has brightened up an important gateway into Golden Square. This autumn will welcome University of Chester students into the town centre and this will help to maintain footfall throughout the day and spending into the evening. The disappointment from seeing Parlour close its doors prematurely will be balanced against Yum Cha opening in Time Square and Newtons reopening as Gravity Social. Once visitors come to Warrington, they usually return – we often just need to convince them to venture beyond



Stephen Fitzsimons

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Ikea and Gulliver's World.

The 4th Warrington Business Conference will be returning to Time Square on Friday the 15th September. Kevin Hollinrake, Minister for Enterprise, Markets & Small Business will be joining our local politicians and businesses such as Sellafield, Eddie Stobart and New Balance to cover a "Maximising Performance" theme. We have some fantastic companies in Warrington and if you want to join us for some networking and a spot of lunch at the Botanist, bookings can be made through Eventbrite.

Enjoy the rest of the summer and see you soon.

Stephen

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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Villagers celebrate medieval tradition of Bawming the Thorn

VILLAGERS turned out in force to celebrate the medieval tradition of Bawming the Thorn at Appleton Thorn.

With a slight change in tradition the event was organised by Appleton Thorn Primary School, with a school fete taking place at the school after the traditional fancy dress parade and Bawming the Thorn ceremony, when local school children perform the traditional Bawming dance.

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

Adam de Dutton, a knight of the crusades and local landowner brought it to Appleton Thorn in 1178, although the current tree is a relative newcomer, believed to be at least the third tree to have been

planted at the site. Bawming the Thorn involves decorating the tree with flowers and ribbons.

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

Commenting on the event Warrington South MP Andy Carter said: "It was great to be at Bawming of the Thorn and lovely seeing so many residents coming out to be part of this tradition in Appleton Thorn. I'm really pleased I could congratulate the children for their excellent performance after they were awarded medals."

Pictures: John Hopkins



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Our Community

Last year, we had the privilege of working with 270 volunteers in our charity shops. They bring skills, knowledge and passion and we provide training, mentoring and a copious amount of gratitude. By working together, our shops are a joy to visit.

So, whilst many people still associate charity shops with rummaging through musty old clothes and piles of jigsaw boxes held together with parcel tape, we are proud that we are leading the way in the future of charity retail. If you haven't visited one of St Rocco's Hospice shops in a while, make it your mission to see for yourself how things have changed.



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Order placed for town's 105 new all-electric buses

THE future of zero emissions bus travel in Warrington is now a step closer – with the contract awarded for the town's 105-strong all-electric buses – one of the biggest orders of electric buses by any town or city in the UK to date.

Warrington Borough Council is moving ahead with the Zero Emission Bus Regional Areas (ZEBRA) scheme and has now signed an agreement with Volvo Buses. The order has officially been placed for 105 Volvo BZL Electric vehicles.

The council has also awarded the contract for the bus chargers to power the new electric buses. EO Charging, a leading provider of electric vehicle (EV) charging solutions for fleets – will supply the chargers, which will be installed at Warrington's brand new bus depot. All energy will be supplied directly by one of the council's own solar farms.

It means the countdown can now begin to the arrival of Warrington's all electric bus fleet – replacing Warrington's Own Buses' entire fleet of diesel buses – in 2024. The state-of-the-art Volvo BZL Electric, which will soon be making Warrington its home, provides clean, near-silent, comfortable and efficient public transport. It is built to a high safety standard and complies with the toughest restrictions on emissions and noise.

Launched in 2021, the zero-tailpipe emissions vehicle features low interior noise, making it easier

for passengers to talk to others or listen to music during the ride, with the driver also benefiting from a calm and quiet workspace. The silent propulsion also reduces noise for residents along the route.

Warrington's Own Buses covers 85% of the bus mileage in the borough, and the conversion of its entire fleet to all-electric supports Warrington's ambitions to introduce greener, cleaner and more sustainable transport options throughout the borough.

The progress being made with the ZEBRA scheme is the latest boost to the wider work to transform bus services in Warrington, as part of the borough's Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP). A range of work is under way between the council and local operators to deliver cheaper fares, increased reliability and high quality, accessible vehicles.

This included the launch of the latest phase of Warrington's Better By Bus initiative, which is capping single fares at £2 for adults and £1 for young people aged 5-18, until 2025.

Warrington Borough Council's Cabinet Member for transport, Cllr Hans Mundry, said: "It's fantastic news that our ZEBRA



project is moving forward, with the orders placed for our new, zero emissions buses and chargers. The introduction of our all-electric fleet will bring massive benefits, helping to decarbonise our transport system as we work towards a net-zero future.

"We will be delivering a fleet of buses fit for the future with zero tailpipe emissions which will improve air quality across Warrington, supporting our work to tackle the climate emergency. It will also support a key aim of our Local Transport Plan, to reduce emissions and congestion and build sustainable transport into everyday life in Warrington."

A delighted Ben Wakerley, Managing Director of Warrington's Own Buses, said: "The electric

buses, powered by solar energy will make our bus services as carbon neutral as they can possibly be. This is great for the environment and air quality, and will provide a huge improvement for customers and employees.

"I think this is bigger than Warrington as there is a climate emergency happening and we want to do our bit. By bringing in these electric battery powered buses means we no longer will be using diesel.

"The most exciting bit for me is all the energy for these buses will be coming from the council's solar farm – so the energy to operate these is as green as it is possible to be, which has to be the way forward."

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DAD 2023 sees launch of raffle to press the button to demolish Fiddler's Ferry towers!

AS thousands of people flocked to another hugely successful Disability Awareness Day, a special raffle was launched giving the lucky winner the chance of pressing the button to demolish four towers at Fiddler's Ferry Power Station, scheduled later this year!

Landowners Peel has teamed up with Warrington Disability Partnership to provide one lucky person with the unique opportunity of pressing the button to press the big red button, scheduled for November. All proceeds will go to Warrington Disability Partnership, which celebrated the 32nd DAD event at Walton Hall and Gardens.

It is sure to prove to be a hugely successful fundraiser for the charity set up by founder Dave Thompson after he broke his neck playing American Football.

Dave said: "A huge thank you to Peel for providing us with this fund-raising opportunity which will provide the lucky winner with a truly memorable and unique experience."

He also thanked the many sponsors and volunteers who made the event possible.

"Without all their support it simply wouldn't happen."

The DAD 2023 event attracted huge crowds to Walton Hall & Gardens at the event supported by headline sponsors United Utilities and Expanse Learning and numerous other local organisations and businesses.

Various entertainments were provided by the likes of the Rock Choir and Warrington Male Voice Choir, following on from a week of activities in the park – showcasing a "Can do attitude" for those living with disabilities.

Dozens of organisations showcased their offerings in a tented village in the park.

Meanwhile anyone interested in tickets for the raffle contact Caroline Thompson C.Thompson@disabilitypartnership.org.uk

Pictures: John Hopkins



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Walkers dodge the showers at Stockton Heath Walking Day

WALKERS taking part in the annual Stockton Heath Walking Day managed to dodge the showers on their annual Walk of Witness.

Congregating on Alexandra Park in the village, the churches, joined by marching bands and drummers, paraded through the village in mainly warm and sunny conditions, finishing before the showers arrived.

Special guests included new Mayor Cllr Steve Wright and

Warrington South MP Andy Carter.

Mr Carter said: "It was great to see so many people supporting Walking Day in Stockton Heath, a tradition dating back many years with schools, churches and community groups coming together in the sunshine."

Pictures: John Hopkins



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Transport Day raises over £8,000 for good causes

LOCAL good causes are set to benefit from over £8,000 raised at the recent Lymm Historic Transport Day.

A contribution of £3,000 towards the upkeep of the Lymm Heritage Centre is the single largest donation. The centre was created by Transport Day founder Alan Williams, who handed over the organisation of this year's event to Jack Levy and a team of volunteers.

Lymm Air Cadets will receive £700 for the purchasing of equipment that will help increase the level of training they can provide.

Lymm Swimming Club, a volunteer group that's been teaching kids to swim for 50 years is set to benefit from a bursary that will pay for a young volunteer to train as a professionally qualified swimming

instructor, enabling them to give back to the community by teaching even more children to swim.

Lymm High PTA will receive £500 to help fund new equipment for the school.

Warrington Community Transport (Dial-a-Ride), will receive £600. The money will go towards the purchase of a fifth vehicle. Money is also being donated to Lymm Rugby Club, Ravenbank PTA, Oughtrington Luncheon Club, St Roccas Hospice, Cheshire Blood Bikes, the Wooden Canal Boat Society, Bikeability, the Lancashire Mining Museum at Astley Green and Warrington Disability Partnership.

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Walkers greeted by grey skies and drizzle!

GREY skies and drizzle greeted thousands of walkers as they took to the streets for the annual Warrington Walking Day.

Walkers from local churches braved the drizzle as they left their churches and headed to the town hall lawn for the annual Walk of Witness.

The service was led by the Archdeacon of Warrington Simon Fisher, with the drizzle thankfully stopping as the walkers set off.

Mayor of Warrington Cllr Jean Flaherty took the salute – and become one of the few Mayors to perform the duty twice after an extended period in office of 13 months.

Incoming mayor Cllr Steve Wright, took part in the walk and

took over the chains of office the next day.

This year's event was believed to be the 187th time the walk has taken place. Last year's walk was the first after an absence of three events due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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

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

Pictures: John Hopkins



Family gather to remember football mad Steve – and carry out his last wishes

FRIENDS and family of a football mad Warrington man who died suddenly last December will gather in Penketh on Saturday to remember him – and help carry out his last wishes.

Steve Marshall lived in Maple Crescent, Penketh throughout his childhood but as an adult lived in the USA. But he never forgot the happy times he had playing football on Greystone Road Recreation Ground in Penketh.

On his many trips home he was saddened to see that football was no longer played there – and in his will he made a bequest to the Penketh community to have two sets of goalposts erected there in the hope that grassroots soccer could be revived. This Friday (July 21) the posts will be erected and on Saturday a junior football match will be played there.

A family spokesperson said: "Football was his passion. He started playing football at a very young age at the Greystone Road Recreation Ground in Penketh and on his many return visits home would visit his own 'hallowed ground'.

"He was sad to note that football was no longer played there. So it's not surprising that he made a bequest to the Penketh Community to have two sets of football posts erected on the site, with the hope that grassroots football for local kids could be reinstated. We are delighted to say this is the case.

"Losing Steve at the age of 65 has devastated his family and friends

in his locality in Illinois and here in the UK. Anyone who knew him will be welcome to join us at 11.30am on Saturday when a junior football match will be played for the inaugural Steve Marshall Memorial Cup.

"At 1pm there will be a short dedication ceremony where his wife, family and friends will be there to celebrate the life of Steve and will be scattering his ashes on the ground in line with his wishes."

The family has worked with Penketh Parish Council to organise the occasion.

Steve Marshall was more than a football enthusiast, however. He was an award-winning hairdresser, originally training at Pete Nolan's salon in Warrington town centre.

He opened his own salon – British Hairways – in Crystal Lake, Illinois in the 70's. It became well established mainly due to Steve's talent and charismatic personality. He later expanded the business and together with his business partner Claudia Heinz created International Hairways, an award winning salon.

Steve was also a well-known philanthropist, entertainer and avid collector of memorabilia, establishing an annual Beatle fest in Chicago.

A lifelong Tottenham Hotspur supporter he was the founding member of the Crystal Lake

Supporters Club which embraced the team motto 'To Dare is To Do'.

His wife, Cheryl and other members of his family will be present on Saturday.

The family spokesperson added: "Steve will be remembered as an all round good human being who loved his family, friends, people, music,

laughter and course life itself. But football was his passion.

"Anyone who knew Steve and anyone from the local community are welcome to join us as we bring this local lad back to where he said he had so many happy memories and such good times with his football mad friends – Greystone Road Rec."



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Threat of rain fails to dampen spirits at Penketh Carnival

DESPITE a severe weather warning for rain, it was on with the show at Penketh Carnival as hundreds of people joined the annual parade.

The carnival theme was Disney movies with lots of children in fancy dress for the parade from Penketh High School to Greystone Recreation ground where the carnival continued throughout the afternoon until the heavens opened!

Due to a downpour at 4 pm festivities had to end early.

The event included Phoenix Dog Rescue Fun Dog Show, marching bands, stalls, a sports day, street food and the Great Penketh Bake

Off. Mayor of Warrington Cllr Steve Wright joined the festivities as did Warrington South MP Andy Carter.

After the event organisers said: "Thank you so much to everyone who marched, had a stall, volunteered and displayed such amazing community spirit today. The Penketh public are amazing."

"The children in fancy dress looked wonderful and we were so lucky the rain held off until 4pm."

Pictures: John Hopkins



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Schoolboy conservationist to display his artwork in his hometown

BRITAIN'S got talent finalist and conservationist Aneeshwar Kunchala is to display new artwork in his hometown of Warrington as part of a new exhibition with an environmental message.

The eight-year-old from Westbrook has teamed up with sculptor Val Hunt to present "Wake Me Up Before You Dodo" at Warrington Museum, starting on Saturday, July 29.

The thought-provoking showcase will look at many of the creatures at risk of extinction from tiny insects to magnificent beasts.

Aneeshwar's goal is to show the beauty of wildlife through his art and how little changes in our lives can help a variety of creatures impacted by issues such as habitat

loss, pollution, poaching and climate change.

It is the award-winning schoolboy's second exhibition after an incredible opportunity as guest artist at The Kennedy Centre's RiverRun festival in Washington.

Images of some of Aneeshwar's favourite animals will be on display including the lemur leaf frog, Bengal tiger and Peregrine Falcon.

He said: "I hope we can all work together to save the animals and make sure the Earth looks beautiful."

"I am very excited to collaborate with Warrington Museum to showcase my artwork here in the UK for the first time. I had an amazing experience at my first art exhibition at The Kennedy Centre, where I met lots of children and had a great time exploring some of the fantastic animals in my gallery."

Aneeshwar will be joined by recycling artist Val Hunt (pictured left), who "reincarnates" rubbish to create animal sculptures with an environmental message, and there will also be specially curated items from the Museum's own collections.

After almost 30 years as an artist, Val continues to be amazed by the versatility of "creative recycling" and her favourite material to work with is drinks can metal.



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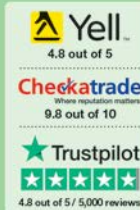
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In partnership with Transport for Greater Manchester and Warrington Borough Council, local bus company Warrington's Own Buses are pleased to announce the arrival of a brand-new express bus service to Manchester Airport.

The brand new X5 service will run hourly from Warrington, whizzing travellers to the airport for the rest of their holiday.

This service gives customers one of the cheapest ways to the airport, compared to other modes. It also means you can beat car drop off costs, parking costs and enjoy a journey to the airport for just £2!

Ben Wakerley, Managing Director for Warrington's Own Buses said: "We are always

looking at ways we can expand the network for the people of Warrington and give them great public transport connections.

The new X5 represents incredibly great value travel to Manchester Airport whether it's for holidays or work. Joining our popular Cat5 route this service is another positive addition to the Warrington Bus network."

The service operates regularly around Warrington and a full timetable is available online now via www.warringtonsownbuses.co.uk/take-style-manchester-airport

It follows on from news that the bus company has ordered 105 new electric buses.

Priestley College staff and students team up with Litter Network



VOLUNTEERS from the Latchford Litter Network teamed up with students and staff of Priestley College in Wilderspool on their final day of term for a joint litter pick.

A total of 20 volunteers organised into six small mobile teams tidied many of Wilderspool's litter hot spots.

In the morning these included both sides of the A49 between Morrisons and the Blue bridge roundabout, and part of Chester Road. They also tidied River Road and Wilderspool Park.

Further teams tidied Black Bear Park, the litter hot spots along the Loushers Lane embankment and double bridge arch, and the nearby play area and car park.

The total bag haul was an amazing 30 bags of litter, including two bags of aluminium drinks cans which will be recycled.

Tony Dixon from the Litter Networks said: "This exercise was a

success as an educational exercise in citizenship and stewardship of the local environment. It was a valuable link between our local college and the local litter team"

"Large amounts of plastic waste were removed from the above public park and trail areas, which will help to reduce the volume of future micro plastics and nano plastics.

"Some of the students had never litter-picked before, so it was a good experience for them to see the consequences of some aspects of human behaviour.

"We see litter removal as a vital step in enhancing the local environment for the health and well-being of the whole community."

Tony added: "Thanks to the 12 Tuesday team volunteers and the 8 Priestley staff and students for their support.

"We hope to organise another Priestley College pick in September."

Local care workers named winners in national awards

THREE Warrington care workers have been named winners at the annual Making Space Colleague Awards.

Regional head of operations Kim Smith was named Frontline Leader of the Year, while people and wellbeing workers Pelagia Avloniti and Daisy McCormick shared the Behind the Scenes trophy for their work with the people services team.

All three workers are based at the national charity's head office in Allen Street, Warrington.

The trio was presented with trophies at a ceremony held at the Hilton Hotel in Liverpool, with a keynote speech by motivational speaker and leadership expert Gavin Ingham.

The audience heard judges describe how Kim's constructive approach helped her team to navigate change and find solutions, while Pelagia and Daisy were praised for their passion and approach to wellbeing.

Making Space chief operating officer Nick Farmer said: "Kim's dedication to Making Space and the people who use our services shines through in everything she does."

"She coaches service managers and their teams to do better for the people we support and is the go-to

expert on care and housing."

Hester Pownall, people and culture partner, Making Space, nominated Pelagia and Daisy. She said: "They work in unity to support all people across our services and head office. Everyone who comes into contact with them comments on how friendly, kind and caring they are."

Award winner Kim Smith said: "I was really overwhelmed to win the award. It's not about the recognition for me, it's more about the excellent services we provide and my role supporting and leading our wonderful teams to deliver our services to the people we support."

Fellow winner Pelagia said: "This award represents the validation and recognition for all the work that goes into our everyday operations, the positive impact that our support and advice has had on our colleagues and our dedication to the organisation's values and goals. We are absolutely thrilled and humbled to read all the amazing feedback from our colleagues and we are looking forward to delivering the same high standard people services for

yet another year!"

Daisy added: "I was honoured to even be considered for this award, winning is the icing on the cake. I am so grateful to everyone who recognises the hard work both myself and my colleague Pelagia do on a daily basis. I am proud to work for an organisation that celebrates its employee's achievements on such a high level."

The awards are held by the national adult health and social care charity to recognise and pay

tribute to individuals and teams who inspire others, go above and beyond expectations and make a real difference to the lives of the people supported by Making Space.

Kim, Pelagia and Daisy were among over 150 people who were nominated for the awards, which were sponsored by telecommunications provider Focus Group. The Behind the Scenes award was sponsored by McCormick Electricals.



Advertiser's announcement

Healthwatch offers outreach for local businesses and community groups

Healthwatch Warrington is dedicated to listening to the views of local residents' experiences of health and social care services and is reaching out to listen to the business community so that they can have their voices heard and have their say.

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experiences improve health and care for everyone – locally and nationally. We can also help you to get the information and advice you need to make the right decisions for you and to get the support you deserve.

It's really important that you share your experiences – whether good or bad, happy or sad. If you've had a negative experience, it's easy to think there's no point in complaining, and that 'nothing ever changes'. Or, if you've had a great experience, that you 'wish you could say thank you'. Remember, your feedback is helping to improve people's lives. So, if you need advice or are ready to tell your story, we're here to listen.

If you would like Healthwatch Warrington to come to your workplace or community group, you can contact us:

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By David Watkinson

Tax Legislation Day, High Income Child Benefit Charge and Tax Free Benefits

Tax Legislation Day this year came on 18th July. There was a substantial amount of detailed proposals, most of which would not be relevant to readers of this column. If you are interested in the merging of different R & D tax relief schemes, changes to the tax reliefs applicable to the creative industries, further clamping down on promoters of tax avoidance schemes, VAT on Terminal Markets, etc then please contact us. However, there is one welcome proposal that will affect many of you.

Couples with children and where one of them is earning over £50,000 per annum will have their entitlement to Child Benefit progressively reduced to Nil as income increases. This is called the **High Income Child Benefit Charge** ("HICBC"), and will result in the higher earning taxpayer receiving a tax bill to reclaim some or all of any Child Benefit received. In order to avoid this, a couple can claim the Child Benefit but then elect not to receive it. However, this charge has

resulted in many couples not registering for Child Benefit in the first place, and this can have dire consequences for a partner who is not working due to child responsibilities. Claiming Child Benefit, even if an election is made not to receive it, will result in the non-working partner receiving National Insurance credits towards their retirement pension. Not claiming it could very easily result in them receiving a reduced pension in old age.

The government is proposing that there should be administrative changes made to the HICBC both to avoid this occurring and also to avoid the need for the higher earner to register for self assessment simply because of their liability for HICBC.

Nobody would argue that these changes are not welcome. In fact, they are long overdue. However, many people would argue that these changes to HICBC do not go far enough. One major inequality that these changes do not eliminate

is that the only condition for HICBC to apply is that one of the partners earns above £50,000. Therefore, a couple where one partner earns £50,001 and the other is non-working will be subject to the charge. However, a couple can earn up to £99,999 in total without being subject to the charge if those earnings are split equally between them.

That is enough on that subject and we still have some space left. So, now a quick reminder that there are a number of **Non-Monetary Tax Benefits** that can be provided **Tax Free** by an employer to their employees. These are particularly valuable as these benefits are not only tax free but also **free of employee National Insurance**. These benefits include:

- The provision of a private mobile or smartphone;
- Cheap or interest-free loans by the employer to the employee up to £10,000;
- The provision of car parking at or near the workplace;



Margaret Black and David Watkinson

- Childcare facilities provided on the employer's premises;
- A gym and other sport or leisure facilities provided on the employer's premises (but not outside gym subscriptions); and
- Removal expenses up to £8,000 if required by the employment.

One final tax-free benefit that could be very valuable is the provision of accommodation that is "necessary for the proper performance" or "customary for the better performance" of the job. This typically applies to caretakers, boarding school teachers, pub managers, police officers and armed forces personal, prison officers, and agricultural workers. However, it does not apply to full time directors owning 5% or more of the share capital.

WatkinsonBlack have considerable experience in all areas of taxation and business services. This includes providing a very cost-effective payroll bureau service, as well as assisting to ensure compliance with the latest Making Tax Digital legislation. **If you are employed or self-employed either as a sole trader, partnership or limited company and want to arrange a no-obligation initial meeting on any taxation or accounting matter then please contact us by telephone on 01925 413210 or by e-mail to info@watkinsonblack.com.**

Please note that these ideas are intended to inform rather than advise and you should always obtain professional advice before taking any action.

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Budding young rugby players enjoy their first tour



BUDDING young rugby players from Warrington RUFC Under 10s enjoyed their first rugby tour experience.

The U10 team, which is sponsored by local property partner, X-Press Legal Services, enjoyed a two-night tour of north Wales, enjoying their sport alongside some outdoor pursuits.

Twenty two boys and more than 30 parents and siblings, took part in the weekend long tour which was organised by the team's coach Dave Evans to celebrate the end of their playing season.

Staying at Bangor University, the action-packed weekend included two rugby matches and a tournament against Welsh teams – Mold, Bethesda, Pwllheli and Llangefni. The Warrington U10s team played incredibly well throughout and were thrilled with their all-round performance against talented Welsh opponents.

Keen to expand the youngsters' wider skills-set, the team also travelled to Anglesey for an afternoon of coastering. This adrenaline fuelled activity was invented in Wales and involves traversing the coastline through swimming, cliff jumping and rock climbing. The boys had an incredible time trying out this

exciting new activity and all came away having learned new skills on the water.

Russ Welch, owner of X-Press Legal Services said: "Taking the team on their first rugby trip was a fantastic way to close out the playing season while also setting them in good stead to progress as rugby players by emulating the tour experience.

"As the team's sponsor it has been wonderful to witness how much the boys have improved over the past year. Their playing skills have significantly developed alongside their understanding of sportsmanship and general cohesion as a team.

"We are all incredibly proud of how the team represented their club and Warrington while away. The tour was a well-deserved end of season treat for everyone involved and an experience which I'm sure the boys will never forget!"

Warrington RUFC is based at Grappenhall Village Sports Club and welcomes young players from age 4 upwards. More information can be found at www.warringtonrufc.co.uk

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Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's office. (18/23)

PUBLIC NOTICES

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

Notice is hereby given that we, Stuart Lawton & Katherine Hibbert, of Toast Restaurants Ltd; have applied to Warrington Borough Council for the grant of a Premises Licence in respect of the premises known as Toast: of 1-3 Kingsway South; for the following Licensable Activities:

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The month of December Thurs – Sun 09:00 – 23:00
New Years' Eve 09:00 – 00:30

A full copy of the above application is kept by the Licensing Section, Warrington Borough Council, Town Hall, Sankey Street, Warrington, WA1 1UH. The application can be viewed Monday to Friday 9.00am to 4.00pm except bank holidays.

Any person wishing to make representation in respect of the application must do so in writing to the Licensing Section, Warrington Borough Council, Town Hall, Sankey Street, Warrington, WA1 1UH no later than 10th August 2023.

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