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Editor's Comment

OVER the past year I have written several stories which have identified Warrington as one of the best and safest places in the UK to have a night out.

It reflects a lot of the hard work undertaken in recent years to improve our town centre, which like many towns and cities up and down the land had suffered from a change in shopping habits.

It was tired and needed a huge facelift.

The catalyst for this was the Time Square development and the brand-new market, which has adapted to changing times and is now regularly picking up awards for being a "best" of its kind.

Alongside this we have a multiplex cinema, The popular Botanist brand and various other bars and restaurants spread across the town – most notably in the dynamic Cultural Quarter, which boasts several outstanding dining venues within the majestic Treasury building. All this next to the historic Parr Hall which provides an excellent intimate venue for a wide variety of shows from Panto to comedians and great rock nights. Pretty much something for everyone, all complimented by a fantastic boutique town centre hotel.

And yet every time I write a positive uplifting story about our town, the keyboard warriors come out in their droves, like Zombies in the Walking Dead, attacking our town and me for being positive.

Yes, I know Warrington is not perfect and like every other town and

city up and down the country has its blackspots and grot spots. But Rome wasn't built in a day and Warrington is still undergoing huge changes as it adapts to the new world, we live in.

Lots of people are working hard to make it even better – and lots of local business people are investing their own money into making Warrington even better. I will be the first to criticise if something isn't right, but I will also be the first to praise when it is right – and believe me after more than 50 years of visiting our town centre, things are starting to be done right.

Twenty years ago I wouldn't have gone near the town centre with my family and friends for a night out – now it is pretty much my first port of call because I know where the good places and people are and I know how to enjoy myself, knowing I am safe and secure.



Warrington is not a finished article yet but if you give it a chance you can have a great time. If you do feel things could be better – don't just sit at a keyboard slugging it off – look to see how you can make a difference.

Feel free to contact me for advice on any of the above. But most importantly be proud of your hometown and your place of work and try and be positive rather than negative. Positive thoughts generally bring positive outcomes, while negative ones will bring negative outcomes.

I truly love my hometown and I will defend it to the hilt – and when something isn't right, I will try and address it in a positive way, working with those who can help make a difference. Now get out there and support Warrington like you would your favourite football or rugby team!

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Ivy, 6, honoured with British Citizen Youth Award

A SIX-year-old girl from Warrington has been honoured with the British Citizen Youth Award at a ceremony at the Palace of Westminster.

Ivy Scott, from Woolston, was one of 24 young people honoured with the award for making a positive impact on their community and wider society through kindness and commitment to a multitude of causes.

Each of the inspirational young people was presented with the BCyA Medal of Honour.

Ivy's fundraising has positively impacted nearly 300 families of children staying in hospital, making a real difference during often frightening and uncertain times.

She herself was born with a heart condition and underwent three open-heart operations at Alder Hey Hospital in Liverpool. Despite everyday activities being exhausting and challenging for her, she took part in 3km walks twice, raising more than £8,000 for Alder Hey.

Ivy knows that Christmas is a very special time at Alder Hey and how staff work extra hard to make it so special for all their young patients. She wanted to show her gratitude,

so in her first year of fundraising she made more than 90 gift bags containing presents for children of all ages.

This was followed by collecting teddy bears to donate to the wards during the Christmas period, and during Covid, Ivy raised money through her fundraising platform to ensure the hospital could still support families during Christmas. She has also raised money for "Tiny Tickers" and "Little Hearts Matter", two very special charities for children with heart defects.

The BCyA Medal of Honour bears the words "For the Good of the Country" and is presented to only a small number of exceptional young individuals annually.

The British Citizen Youth Award, in partnership with Specsavers, is widely viewed as the nation's way of recognising extraordinary, everyday young people for exceptional endeavour and is truly representative of today's multicultural Britain.





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Fiddler's Ferry demolition date confirmed as December 3

THE much-anticipated start of demolition date for Fiddler's Ferry Power Station has been confirmed as Sunday, December 3.

Civil engineering and groundworks specialist, P.P. O'Connor, confirmed the demolition of the towers at Fiddler's Ferry, Cuerdley, during a local residents' meeting on Wednesday (4th October 2023), two months in advance to ensure plentiful notice.

Throughout the process, P.P. O'Connor has, and will, communicate with local residents and stakeholders in the community to ensure they are kept informed to ensure clarity and opportunity for discussion.

Scheduled to take place between 8 am and 12 pm, in order to minimise the impact for residents and reduce traffic disruption in the area, the blowdown will take just seconds, but cause a dust cloud lasting approximately 10-15 minutes.

Associated resident evacuations and road closures will be in effect from 7am on the day.

Extensive work is being carried out to ensure the highest safety standards are upheld and hazardous materials have already been removed in preparation for blow-down.

P.P. O'Connor will check weather conditions and carry out full pre-checks and safety checks on the day. Following the blow-down a

series of safety checks will take place ensuring all the explosives are blown, the concrete piles will be inspected and the roads will be cleaned and confirmed safe.

Demolition debris will be processed and recycled on-site for future development.

Daniel Mackinlay, demolition manager at P.P. O'Connor, said: "As a business, communication is key when working on any project. With the planned blow-down at this site, we have ensured we have maintained regular communication across the community to allow them to air any questions or viewpoints in advance.

Our plan is to reduce any impact on the local community and maintain ongoing dialogue throughout the process."

Plans for the process were submitted by developers Peel NRE to Warrington Borough Council in September, outlining the process of how the site will be demolished. The information, including a demolition statement and plan for control of the site and safety in the local area, was approved.

P.P. O'Connor was appointed by Peel NRE after a competitive tender process. The selection was due to previous experience in complex demolitions such as

INEOS in Runcorn, Lyondellbasell in Carrington and Stanlow Refinery in Ellesmere Port.

The Cuerdley site has been earmarked for housing and industrial use following the cessation of operations when the power station closed in March

2020 after nearly 50 years.

The demolition of the famous landmarks has provided a boost for local charity Warrington Disability Partnership, who have been selling raffle tickets, with the winner of the draw pressing the big red button to demolish the towers.



Picture: Eddie Whitham



Light up a Life

Remember A Loved One at St. Rocco's

This year we are opening our doors to invite the whole family to come and join us on **Sunday 3rd December at 2pm** for our annual **Light up a Life Celebration.**

With the addition of our **Seasonal Christmas Fayre**, food and drinks vendors will be on site throughout the event along with our letters to loved one's post box and book of honour followed by the **switching on of our Christmas Tree Lights at 4pm!**

A church service will also take place at St. Elpin's Church on **Wednesday 6th December at 7pm.**

You can dedicate a light in memory of a loved one which will take place among the thousands shining on our Christmas Trees. Your dedication will be added to our book of honour and our beautifully lit hospice gardens will be available to view throughout December.

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Kat is highly commended in national apprenticeship awards

A YOUNG woman from Lymm has been highly commended in this year's North West final for the National Apprenticeship Awards.

Katrina Clark is working towards a Level 3 apprenticeship in project controls with Warrington-based United Utilities.

The 20-year-old was nominated as a regional finalist in the Level 3 advanced apprentice category, and collected the highly commended accolade at a ceremony in Manchester, with her parents, and line manager Alan Barker watching on.

Kat has already achieved a Level 3 certificate in project controls since joining United Utilities in September 2021 and says she has grown in confidence through the opportunities she has been given.

She said: "From leaving college, I was keen to continue developing myself in an academic sense, but wanted to begin my journey in the world of work."

"An apprenticeship seemed the best possible route to develop whilst putting my learning into practice."

Kat is part of a team that looks after programmes across the business, helping to ensure they are delivered on time and to budget.

"It's a really fulfilling role and I've developed many skills through it,"

she said. "It's also helped to drive my ambition and motivation, and now I'm always looking for new responsibilities to help support my development within United Utilities."

"I was so pleased to be shortlisted, and to come out with the highly commended award is just brilliant."

Alan Barker is Kat's line manager. He said: "Kat is a fantastic part of the team and we're all so proud of her."

"She's always willing to learn and is also supporting others as part of the North West Apprentice Ambassador Network and through reverse mentoring with colleagues here at United Utilities, which just shows the level of dedication and passion she brings."

"It's clear that Kat has a bright career ahead of her, and we're delighted to be able to support her at the start of her journey."

Kat is also a finalist in the UK Project Controls apprentice of the year awards in November.

To find out about careers at United Utilities visit: <https://www.unitedutilities.com/corporate/careers/>



Vandal wins Cheshire's Best Bar Award



WARRINGTON'S Vandal Bar & Kitchen has been honoured with the prestigious Cheshire's Best Bar Award at the Taste Cheshire Awards.

Anyone wanting to check out the premises first-hand can benefit from a 15 per cent discount throughout October by writing "best bar awards" in the comments section when booking online.

Proud owner Jenny Carey, who started the business with husband Matt, said: "This recognition is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our incredible team. The judges' feedback was that 'Vandal is a brilliant, creatively designed venue with excellent service from a friendly team with a good range of drinks immaculately presented."

"The Taste Cheshire Awards celebrate the finest food and drink establishments and producers in the region, and we are incredibly proud to have been selected as the winner in the Cheshire's Best Bar category. There were some incredible bars nominated alongside us. This award is a reflection of our commitment to providing exceptional service, a vibrant atmosphere, and an extensive food and drinks menu. Whether it's bottomless brunch, lunch, dinner or drinks you are looking for our contemporary bar, elegant dining space and rooftop garden guarantee great food, great drinks and a great time."

"At Vandal, we strive to create an unforgettable experience for

our customers. Our bartenders craft delicious cocktails and Matthew, owner and head chef, creates the delicious and innovative small plates and steaks menu using top-notch, local where possible, ingredients. Combined with our warm and inviting ambience, we aim to provide a truly memorable experience for all who visit."

Jenny added: "We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to the judge from Taste Cheshire for taking the time to visit us and for recognising our efforts and to our loyal customers who have supported us throughout this journey. It's been a tough year for the industry but recognition like this makes it all worthwhile."

"As we celebrate this achievement, we remain committed to delivering the highest standards of excellence in the industry. We would like to encourage everyone to come and give us a try and are offering a celebratory 15% discount throughout October to anyone who books a table and pops 'best bar awards' in the booking comments."

Bookings can be made by visiting our website www.vandalwarrington.co.uk

Vandal Bar & Kitchen is based at the impressive Treasury building in Palmyra Square, which has become a popular destination.

It follows on from the couple's successful Bold Street House bar, also based in the Cultural Quarter, which opened shortly before the first lockdown.

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'In politics, there is no use in looking beyond the next fortnight'

by John Laverick - Warrington & Co

Harold Wilson is often quoted and I think mis-quoted as originating the phrase that 'a week is a long time in politics', but I prefer the quotation from Chamberlain that 'In politics, there is no use in looking beyond the next fortnight'. Either way that phrase seems to be particularly fitting for the last two weeks. Two weeks ago we had HS2 and today we don't.

Now some will cheer and some will cry at the news and some will just keep staring into the middle distance hoping that someone somewhere has got a plan, but whichever your view on that news you have to think that it is fairly major. This has the potential to have a major impact

on Warrington as the route for the Liverpool Manchester link noted in the Prime Ministers speech last week (as I write) is to come through Warrington at Bank Quay and that could have a generational impact on Warrington and its development and has the potential to include



Warrington in the levelling up agenda that has been promised for so long. I am less concerned about how the improvement is made and more interested in when and if it happens at all.

There I was last month dribbling on about the unfinished New Towns programme and how much criticism it received at the time only to find ourselves a week later looking at a proposal that easily has the potential to deal with those really difficult problems around re-use of former industrial land within the Town Centre and to enable the delivery of new homes both within the Town Centre itself and the area immediately beyond it. Warrington is already a good place for investment and housebuilding this would really make it fly.

I said last month that I thought the New Towns programme was a qualified success and that it had provided the start of what was needed to address chronic problems within cities and particularly housing within our cities. It seems that the problem continues the lack of housing across the country is still a major problem despite the statements of many that we need to do something about it



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and I hope that we are on the verge of seeing the qualified yes turned into an unqualified yes and use the fine words that have been spoken about investment in infrastructure and housing and levelling up turned into programmes and funding that we can get hold of and put to the use to which they are intended.

I don't think it is for me to judge whether the qualified yes becomes an unqualified yes, but I hope there is someone looking at this issue in a couple of decades time and they are able to say yes. But as the man said, maybe we shouldn't look beyond the next two weeks and perhaps in a couple of decades time those people will be grappling with new issues. Judging by history probably grappling with the same ones as well.

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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College launches eight exciting new T Levels for September 2024

TO mark National T Levels Celebration Week, Warrington & Vale Royal College announced the launch of eight new T Levels for September 2024.

T Levels were launched across England in September 2020 as the new gold standard of technical education which offers a high-quality alternative to the "traditional" A Level route. These two-year, post-GCSE courses are practical and knowledge-based, with students spending 80% of their time in the classroom and 20% of their time gaining on-the-job experience with an employer, related to their T Level specialism. Their final qualification is equivalent to 3 A Levels and can hold up to 168 UCAS points, enabling students to go onto a huge range of impressive destinations, including higher education, apprenticeships, or straight into skilled employment. As a college with over forty years of experience in delivering technical training, it is no surprise that Warrington & Vale Royal College would quickly become one of the leading colleges in the region to support these industry-led qualifications.

Warrington & Vale Royal College currently offers T Levels in health, early years, and construction trades including brickwork, electrical, plumbing, and carpentry & joinery. This is set to expand for students enrolling in 2024 to include exciting new pathways in motor vehicle, engineering & manufacturing,

surveying & planning, digital, science, healthcare science, accounting, and business. Students who wish to progress from GCSE onto one of these highly coveted courses should aim for a minimum of 5 GCSEs at grade 4 or above including English, maths & science, although entry requirements can differ depending on which pathway they choose to pursue.

As part of the expansion of their T Level course offer, the college will also run six new T Level foundation years, which will bridge the gap between GCSEs and T Levels for those who do not quite achieve the minimum grades required to go straight onto a T Level after school. These engaging year-long courses provide the fundamental knowledge and practical skills to prepare students for success in both their future T Level and the workplace while helping them to develop English, maths, and digital skills within an industry-relevant context. T Levels are becoming an ever-more sought-after qualification by students and employers alike, making the introduction of the foundation year programmes essential to make T Levels as widely accessible as possible, further demonstrating the college's commitment to supporting all students to land their first-choice career.

Director of Curriculum & Quality Ben Brady looks forward to the launch of the new T Levels, saying: "Given how enthusiastically our students have taken to their T Level courses this year, as well as the college's dedication to staying at the cutting-edge of technical education, it is only natural that the college expands its T Level offer to encompass more of the UK's most in-demand sectors and give more young people access to the courses. We hope to see plenty more of the North West's talented students embarking on one of these valuable qualifications with Warrington & Vale Royal College in the next few years."

Recently, the college has seen major investment in four Centres of Technical Excellence, including an Advanced Creative & Digital Skills Academy, Advanced Manufacturing & Engineering Academy, Construction & Civil Engineering Academy, and Health & Social Care Academy at

its Warrington campus. Current T Level students at the college are thriving on their courses, benefitting from access to these multi-million-pound facilities that house state-of-the-art classrooms, workshops, and simulation work environments to enhance their T Level experience. These academies also collaborate with hundreds of national and local employers, giving students access to an impressively broad range of industry placement opportunities to complete their qualification, making Warrington & Vale Royal College a highly desirable T Level provider. Supporting access to local training for the students of Cheshire, in 2024, the college is also set to launch a brand-new Institute of Technology (IoT) at its Winsford campus which will offer specialist courses in the areas of health and science, and house industry-standard laboratories and medical training equipment.







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Radio Warrington now available on DAB at last!

AFTER a lengthy wait community radio station Radio Warrington is at last available on DAB in cars and on radios in the Warrington area.

Local radio fans are encouraged to scan the DAB band to tune in.

Station manager Steve Lewis said: "We have been providing a community radio service exclusively for Warrington online since 2007. We campaigned for an FM licence but were told there was no room on the FM band so we were awarded a frequency on 1332AM in 2014. Medium Wave is old and unpopular so we applied to broadcast on DAB.

"Digital Audio Broadcasting has been around for over 20 years but the advent of DAB+ has allowed a lot more stations on to the air."

Radio Warrington's studios are based upstairs in Warrington Market but during the pandemic their volunteer presenters were able to broadcast from home using clever software so that they were able to maintain an unbroken service of local news and information.

Over the past 16 years they have broadcast from many local events including Walking Days, Rugby games, DAD and many other festivals and fun days.

They broadcast a wide variety of specialist shows featuring Country,


Folk, Celtic, Northern Soul, 60's, 70's, 80's, Dance, Classical, Local music and Love songs. Not forgetting a fabulous rock show with Warrington Worldwide's Gary Skentelbery on Saturday nights and also a Culture show on Thursday Nights.

They have also been giving Warrington Wolves fans full match commentary of home games and some away games for over 16 years.

You can still listen to Radio Warrington through their website, phone app, smart speaker or on 1332AM but now you can listen in digital quality on DAB radio.




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LOCAL MUSIC SCENE

"Powered-up misfits" Crawlers triumphant with biggest shows to date

by Glen Sreeton

WARRINGTON'S Crawlers recently completed their biggest shows to date as our music correspondent caught up with the band in unchartered territory at a sell-out gig at The Invisible Wind Factory in Liverpool.

Stepping outside of my usual reporting area, editor Gary Skentelbery invited me to review the band 'Crawlers' at The Invisible Wind Factory in Liverpool on Saturday 23rd September.

If the reader has not been to this venue (as I hadn't) you can read about it here : <https://www.invisiblewindfactory.com/>

Suffice to say, this all-black, cavernous room with huge wind related art installations hanging from the ceiling, a huge stage at one end and a bar at the other was ideally suited for the Crawlers "homecoming gig", and although I wasn't too familiar with the band I had done my homework and consulted Spotify and You Tube for the playlist .

Furthermore, I found an article from the March 2022 edition of Music Magazine NME that reported 'Merseyside misfits making striking alt-rock with a powerful message', and referred to them as a 'Liverpool

Gang' . However us Northerner's always like to quantify such statements, especially when guitarist Amy Woodall and bassist Liv May are Warringtonians, and with Holly Minto on lead vocals and Harry Breen on drums I read the band had created a unique following for their 'genreless and genderless music' , although I believe 'misfits' is going a bit far. I just see a likeable group of ex-performing arts students who have encouraged a huge Tik Tok audience to join in on their musical journey and share their own personal feelings along the way. The difference being that through sheer hard work the band chose to personally engage with their devoted fans (affectionately known as Crawlers) at every opportunity-very refreshing.

Tonight was such an occasion and shortly after 9pm the band is on stage for the near capacity crowd of 1500 revellers and Holly greets them with "the biggest

headline act for us so far!" much to everybody's delight, before the drum and bass kick in. It is a deep and heavy sound and initially it is difficult to hear the melody and the early vocals are a bit muddy, but kudos to the sound engineers as it was quickly balanced by the second number and it wasn't long before Holly took command of the crowd with enormous confidence. When she said "I want everybody to jump" they jumped, and the audience were quickly pogoing around punk style in the friendliest mosh-pit I have seen. In this diverse and culture embracing crowd there is no shortage of coloured hair, piercings, top - hats and tutu's and for some reason blow up aliens seem to be the order of the evening!

But what about the music?? To be honest it's not all my type, although I do like the solo electro-acoustic numbers from Holly, she has a very clear voice with lyrics expressed in a sweet, high and low drawing style adding emotion to some (perhaps) difficult themes, there are also some clever effects from someone lurking at the back



of the stage which adds plenty of colour to the songs and continues throughout the performance. However, readers shouldn't let my own opinion detract from what is an excellent performance, after all what a boring world it would be if we all liked the same music, check them out yourself!

Meanwhile on the back of their successful tour CRAWLERS have announced details of their eagerly awaited debut album and new single. 'The Mess We Seem To Make' will be released on February 16th via Polydor Records.

Alongside the announcement, the Warrington/Liverpool four-piece also share the video for their electrifying new single 'Would You Come To My Funeral' which launched as Radio 1's Hottest Record. Directed by Callum Lloyd-James, the video features the quartet acting as pallbearers at a funeral which takes an unusual turn of events.



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Council dismayed at Warburton Toll Bridge decision

WARRINGTON Borough Council has expressed its dismay that plans to increase charges on the Warburton Toll Bridge have been upheld and is considering its next steps in light of the decision.

The council has strongly objected to plans to increase tolls to use the bridge since they were first outlined in 2021. The proposals were put forward by Peel Ports to the Secretary of State, under a Transport and Works Act Order.

In January 2022, a cross-party motion was approved which objected to the proposals by Peel Ports to increase the bridge toll from 12p per crossing to £1.

This eight-fold increase was also objected to by both of Warrington's MPs, Trafford Council and local residents.

However, the Secretary of State confirmed to uphold the proposals to modernise the toll bridge – including a judgement that this should be funded in full by people who use the bridge by significantly increasing the toll fee.

The decision report shows that Peel Ports have been granted an order under the Transport and Works Act 1992 which now permits them to:

Increase the toll from 12p for a one-way trip up to a maximum of £1 each way.

Ensure that users of the bridge will pay in full for the improvements to the bridge. The council argued that the costs should be split between

Peel Ports as the owner of the bridge and users – this was rejected.

Use the increased toll to put in place the installation of an automatic toll collection system, which will allow Peel Ports to collect tolls from motorists and take enforcement action against anyone who doesn't pay. This would operate in a similar way as happens on other bridge crossings with the most prominent local example being the Mersey Gateway bridge.

Increase the toll in future by 1% below the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

Transfer the bridge into a separate company. This decision is despite the council raising concerns about what would happen if this company was to get into financial difficulties – with a particular concern that the company could have increased costs due to not having the financial backing of the wider Peel Ports company, which would then risk more costs being passed on to people using the bridge.

Apply a 50% discount to some postcode areas – but not all postcode areas that the council called for. The decision states that discounted tolls would apply to WA3 6, WA13 9 and M31 4 postcodes. However, the Inspector has rejected calls from

the council for WA13 0, WA3 4, WA3 5 and WA3 7 postcodes to also be included. Parts of WA3 5, which covers the Glazebrook area, are of particular concern given how reliant residents in this area are on the bridge.

Reflecting on the judgement, Cllr Hans Mundry, cabinet member for highways and transportation, said: "As a council, we are dismayed that the judgement has not been ruled in our favour.

"We believe we put forward a very strong and compelling case. Objection to the toll bridge price hike is a matter that has cross-party consensus and overwhelming support from our residents and businesses, too. This decision doesn't appear in line with the lengthy and detailed feedback the council, partners and residents put forward.

"In the order decision, the inspector acknowledged that increasing the toll would cause considerable financial pressure for people who are reliant on the bridge. It is a great shame that despite this the ultimate judgement is to proceed with plans to increase charges.

"We don't dispute the benefits of upgrading the bridge and its approach roads, and introducing an automated tolling system. What we do dispute however is who will ultimately be paying for these improvements.

"We will carefully consider our position and next steps in light of this



decision."

In response to the decision Peel Ports issued a statement saying: "The acceptance of our application by the Secretary of State means we can now begin to carry out much-needed improvement works to modernise and update the Rixton and Warburton Bridge.

"The works will tackle congestion and, most importantly, they will bring about improved conditions for all road users in the area.

"As previously signalled, the works will necessitate an increase in the toll charged to use the Bridge – a toll which has been in place for many years at a very low rate, at odds with other, similar bridge tolls.

"There will be no toll charges in place during the period of improvement works, and there will be a discount scheme in place for local residents once the works are complete.

"Our focus now is on continuing to work with the relevant local authorities, and the communities in Warrington and Trafford, to minimise the impact of the works on all road users.

"We look forward to carrying out the improvement works, which will ultimately provide a more seamless transition across the Manchester Ship Canal."

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Spectacular show coming to Gulliver's World

FAMILIES are invited to an evening to remember at Gulliver's World in Warrington.

The theme park resort will host a Fireworks Spectacular on Saturday, November 4, the day before Guy Fawkes Night.

Gulliver's World will be open from midday until 7.30pm for this very special event which will see guests enjoy hours of theme park rides, attractions and entertainment, complete with a spectacular fireworks display to finish the day in style.

There will be an opportunity to explore the themed areas across the park, including Safari Kingdom and The Lost World of the Living Dinosaurs ending with the fireworks display which will take place at approximately 7.30pm.

To add some extra magic and adventure, families can extend the fun with a Gulliver's Sleepover in unique accommodation. Choose from options including the Unicorn Suite, Lost World Cabins and Woodland Fairy Dens.

Craig Clews, resort director at Gulliver's World, said: "At Gulliver's we've been providing magical moments to children and families for 45 years and love nothing more than helping to create special experiences.

"We're thrilled to welcome guests to our Fireworks Spectacular at Gulliver's World for what is set to be a wonderful evening and hope

as many people as possible will join us."

For more information please visit: www.gulliversworldresort.co.uk/november-fireworks



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Cancer nurses named joint winners of prestigious national award

TWO cancer nurses from Warrington and Halton Hospitals NHS Trust have jointly won a prestigious national award.

Bowel Cancer UK have named Colorectal Clinical Nurse Specialists Louise Foley and Clara Dennis as winners of the Gary Logue Colorectal Nurse Cancer Awards.

The award is for nurses nominated by their colleagues and the judges were particularly impressed with their commitment to supporting those who have come to them as urgent suspected cancer referrals and are waiting for a diagnosis.

Louise and Clara always make sure these patients are assessed as soon as possible and have opened additional clinics to accommodate the increasing number of referrals. Their commitment to supporting patients and their families through diagnosis, surgery and aftercare makes them the backbone of their team.

The awards were presented by the chief executive of Bowel Cancer UK,

Genevieve Edwards, at the National Colorectal Cancer Nurses Network (NCCNN) Annual Education Event.

As part of the award, Louise and Clara received a bursary towards their professional development.

Catherine Winsor, director of services at Bowel Cancer UK, said: "We're incredibly proud of our all our winners, finalists and nominees, who like thousands of colorectal cancer nurses up and down the country have shown exceptional care to their patients throughout their cancer journey."

"Their patients and families will never forget how nurses made them feel and the support they gave them during a very difficult time in their lives. And for that we thank

them wholeheartedly. A huge well done to Louise and Clara for their outstanding work in the last year."

Louise and Clara said, "To be in a nurse specialist role is a huge privilege. Supporting our suspected and diagnosed colorectal cancer patients and their families throughout their pathway can be challenging but is always so rewarding. It was a huge surprise and honour to win the award and one that we graciously accept on behalf of the whole team we are fortunate to work with."

The awards were set up in memory of Gary Logue, who worked as a nurse for Bowel Cancer UK and died in 2014, in honour of the tireless dedication he showed during his career.



Louise Foley, Genevieve Edwards, Clara Dennis

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Registered Charity No: 1113597, All proceeds go to Warrington Disability Partnership



Unbelievable achievement as 20-year-old Harrison wins ultimate Paras 10 challenge

TWENTY-year-old Harrison Sutton from Warrington has pulled off an "unbelievable achievement" by winning the ultimate "Paras 10" competing against a field of 800 runners - including 600 military personnel.

Harrison was taking part as a team of two dads and their two sons competing in the Paras 10 endurance challenge to raise

money for charity.

He took part in Paras 10 endurance event in the hills above Catterick barracks with his dad

Richard, uncle Karl and cousin Tony carrying a 35lb Bergen and boots raising money for the regiment and veterans groups.

The march must be completed in 1 hour and 50 minutes.

Proud dad Richy said: "It was an unbelievable achievement by Harrison. It was amazing to do it with Karl my brother and my son Harrison.

"If you've never done this event it is hard to imagine how deep you have to dig up and down the hills with 35lb on your back and boots on for 10 miles.

"When I came over the finish line absolutely shattered to find out Harrison was the winner I was

completely overwhelmed."

"He trains himself, very hard and is a Hybrid Athlete.

"He did the Paras event last year and finished 5th. That in itself was a massive achievement.

"He told me after last year's event he would win it next year. He's trained for it hard, and did exactly what he said he'd do!"

To keep fit Harrison has also been boxing for the past 18 months.

One of the first to congratulate him was a Gurkha.

The family have so far raised over £600 for veterans and donations can still be made online via www.justgiving.com/page/karl-sutton-1694033487744



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By David Watkinson

Where are we up to with the economy?

On November 22nd The Chancellor will deliver his Autumn Statement for the current year. We thought, therefore, that we should look at what is happening at present within the economy.

Inflation

Firstly, inflation seems to be slowing down. The published figure for August shows that The Consumer Prices Index unexpectedly fell from the July level of 6.8% per annum to 6.7% per annum. This fall was largely the result of slowing increases in food prices. It is thought that inflation will continue to fall for the rest of the year although the recent uplift in oil prices may cause the fall to be less than otherwise.

It is important to realise that what we are talking about here is not an actual fall in prices. Prices will still increase. However, the increase will be slower than earlier in the year. This has affected, and will affect people in the near future in a number of ways.

Pensions and Other Benefits

For a number of years, with the exception of last year, the annual increase in state pensions and benefits has

been calculated using the "Triple Lock". Last year, the government suspended it but committed to maintaining it for this year. That commitment has been repeated since, although rumours are circulating that they will try to recover some of it by restricting the Winter Fuel payments. We can only wait and see.

The Triple Lock means that pensions and other benefits increase by the greater of:

- the rate of inflation,
- the rate of increase in average wages, or
- 2.5%

We think that we can safely ignore the third option this year. Therefore, if the rate of inflation is greater than the increase in average wages then the recent drop in the rate of inflation will result in the increase in pensions and benefits being less than perhaps anticipated a few months ago.

Interest Rates

Due primarily to the drop in the rate of inflation the Monetary Policy Committee of the Bank of England decided not to increase Base Rate of Interest

at 5.25%. This follows a period of 14 successive increases in base rates. This means that the interest rates charged by banks, etc on mortgages, loans and overdrafts should remain unchanged. Similarly, the interest paid by those same institutions to savers will remain at current levels. However, this sustained period over which the interest earned on savings has increased may have an unwelcome effect on an increasing number of people.

Tax on Savings Income Received

Each taxpayer has a "Personal Savings Allowance" which is an amount of interest that can be received in each tax year without paying tax. Currently, the allowance is:

- £1,000 for basic rate taxpayers
- £500 for higher rate taxpayers
- £Nil for additional rate taxpayers

This allowance has not increased since it was introduced many years ago, and similarly the government has frozen personal tax



Thomas Coyne and Stuart Barr

allowances and tax rate bands for this year and several years into the future. This means that more taxpayers may be drawn into tax on their savings income and, therefore, into the self assessment tax regime.

For example, in the bad old days when savings earned interest in the region of 0.25% per annum a basic rate taxpayer would need to have savings in excess of £400,000 before being drawn into tax. However, it is now not uncommon for savings to earn interest of 4.5%. At that rate, a basic rate taxpayer will have to pay tax on savings over about £20,000!

This makes tax planning more important than ever. For instance, people should ensure that they are taking full advantage of the amounts that can be invested in a Cash ISA, the interest from which, although possibly at a lower rate than that received from non-ISA accounts, is received free of all tax.

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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Three gymnasts crowned "British Champions"



THREE gymnasts from the Urban School of Gymnastics in Warrington have been crowned British Champions.

They collectively won 12 medals following a host of stellar performances at the Disability British Artistic Championships at Lilleshall National Sports Centre.

The event, which saw 60 junior and senior gymnasts from across the country take to the competition floor across the men's and women's artistic disciplines, was an incredible showcase of talent from British gymnasts.

The impressive medal haul is made up of eight gold medals and four silver medals.

Medal winners from the Urban School of Gymnastics were:

- Competition A Class I Women's Junior - Izzy Hannibal (Vault, Silver, Uneven Bars Gold, Beam, Gold, Floor, Silver and All-Around, Gold).

- Open Class I Women's Junior - Lily Heather Maskill (Beam, Gold, Uneven Bars, Gold, Floor, Gold, Vault, Gold and All-

- Around, Gold)
- Open Class I Women's Junior - Lacey Willington (Uneven Bars, Silver, and Floor, Silver)



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PUBLIC NOTICES

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

Mamars BCD C.I.C. has given to Warrington Borough Council an application for the grant of a Premises License for Mamars - Artisan Bakery & Licensed Delicatessen Unit A The Hive, 27-31 Sankey Street, Warrington, WA1 1XG.

The licensable activities which it is proposed will be carried on at the premises are the sale of Alcohol by Retail; Supply of Alcohol in Bakery Premises; Provision of Regulated Entertainment.

The Licensing Register of Warrington Borough Council is held at East Annexe, Town Hall, Sankey Street, Warrington, WA1 1UH and, where applicable, at www.warrington.gov.uk The record of the application may be inspected during normal office hours at the Council's above address and, where applicable, at any time on the above website.

Representations which shall be made in writing may be made by a responsible authority or any other person to Warrington Borough Council to be received at their above address no later than 27 October 2023.

It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application; the maximum fine for which a person is liable on summary conviction being £5000.

GOODS VEHICLE OPERATOR'S LICENSE

Adrians Couriers 24 LTD of 1A Langton Green, Woolston, Warrington, WA1 4BU is applying for a license to use 22 Kingsland Grange, Woolston, Warrington, WA1 4RW as an operating centre for 2 goods vehicles and 1 trailer.

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.

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 for the Grant of a New Premises Licence at Kung Fu, 4 Market Gate, Warrington, WA1 2LJ on 12th October 2023 to Warrington Borough Council for the following licensable activities: Provision of Late Night Refreshment (Indoors) Sunday - Saturday 23.00 - 05.00. Opening Hours Monday - Saturday 11.00 - 05.00, Sunday 11.45 - 05.00.

Representations to this application must be made in writing by the end of 9th November 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.

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