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ISSUE 290 FEBRUARY 2024 FREE EVERY MONTH

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Only just the beginning for Luke 'The Nuke'

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Mind, Movement, Menopause

The programme consists of 8 sessions of practical exercises, a series of talks and a series of workshops. The programme is designed to help women understand the changes that happen during menopause and how to manage them. It also provides a safe space for women to share their experiences and support each other.

See advert P5

Regular news updates at www.warrington-worldwide.co.uk

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Editor's Comment

WITH our 25th anniversary year underway lots of work has been going on behind the scenes to ensure we can continue to provide the best free community news service going well into the future online and in print.

Thousands of pounds have been invested in ensuring our online news service and website is bang up to date, so we can continue to provide the only totally free independent daily news service for Warrington and the surrounding area.

With the vast majority of people gathering their news online now, it is more important than ever that we continue to provide a reliable, trustworthy news source.

We also continue to recognise the importance of print for those who don't have access to online or prefer to see their news in hard print, which has a much longer lasting impact.

Items posted on social media disappear in the blink of an eye and can also easily be taken out of context leading to misinformation and scaremongering.

Things have certainly changed a lot since we launched in April 1999 – in the last century as the first independent daily online newspaper in the UK!

Our initial website was built in raw HTML code by my father David, learning from a book! I'm delighted to say he is still involved with the business to this day after 70 years as a journalist!

We are proud to have been

the first independent daily online newspaper in the UK and look forward to the year ahead with renewed optimism.

It's certainly never been an easy ride working in the media, dealing with various recessions, the COVID pandemic and now the cost-of-living crisis.

Over the past 25 years we have met and sadly lost many great characters in the town.

We now look forward to the next 25 years with optimism and if I can manage to put in the same shift as my father, I might still be around to celebrate our Golden anniversary, although I dread to think what challenges lie ahead in



our troubled world.

So, let's stay positive and focus on what we can influence here in Warrington and as always, we love hearing your goods news stories as well as taking up issues and concerns on your behalf.

Thank you to everyone who has supported us in some way over the years - far too many to mention – but you know who you are!

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issue is February 13**

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Paddington Meadows – hard work produces an outstanding year

HARD work put into Paddington Meadows and the Woolston New Cut Canal by volunteers over the last 10 years produced some outstanding results during 2023.

The work by volunteers from the New Cut Ecology and Heritage Group particularly benefited nature.

Recent bird counts have seen record figures with as many as 46 different species on the meadows and surrounding river and canal environments in one day alone.

The New Cut volunteers have begun a policy of "dead hedging" whereby fallen branches and twigs are piled into a hedge to create a perfect habitat for insects and birds to feed, hide and nest in to further increase populations.

During the cold winter months, the group had several talks given by a variety of experts.

Alan Brown gave a talk on the history of Daresbury Laboratory and archaeology, Tony Parker a talk on Bumblebees and George Pilkington on the topic of encouraging wildlife in the local area.

During the summer Dave Higginson Tranter, Dave Winnard and Stuart Frazer, all expert naturalists, accompanied group members on walks along the New Cut Trail and Paddington Meadows pointing out butterflies, grasses, moss, wild plants, fungi, insects and trees.

The group have joined forces with the Women's Institute in

maintaining and improving a small wildlife garden alongside Woolston Lock. In the latter part of the year, members prepared the ground and WI members planted some spring bulbs. These will look stunning this Spring alongside the lock with the River Mersey in the background.

Nature doesn't stop as the sun goes down and as darkness encroaches bats take over the night sky searching for insects. Every year in August local bat enthusiasts Harold 'Batman' Green with his sidekick Michael lead New Cut volunteers and local residents on bat walks and undertake surveys on the Meadows.

Weekly working parties have continually improved pedestrian access by maintaining bridges, paths and wildflower meadows while a record 26 volunteers turned out for the annual 'Spring Clean' litter pick in March. The former towpath on the canal, now fully tarmacked for its entire length, is attracting ever increasing numbers of cyclists, walkers and joggers.

Education and outreach has seen significant development in 2023 with a new set of information boards positioned around the meadows explaining the flora and fauna of the area. Every year, two volunteers visit Woolston CE Primary School

to take part in lessons about the history of Woolston. The group are active at local community and open day events, taking their display stands to both inform and answer questions from the public on the wildlife and history of the area.

The group has had wonderful financial support from parish and borough councils, local businesses and funders to help support its work and the one thing that impresses

them is that the team of volunteers delivers great results.

But there is still a lot more that can be done to improve the ecology of this special piece of green space and more volunteers are always welcome.

To contact the group e-mail: info@newcuttrail.com, email: birding@newcuttrail.com or visit www.newcuttrail.com



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Fond farewell to Holy Trinity Lunch Club

A lunch club within Holy Trinity Church on Sankey Street in Warrington town centre has closed after supporting the local community for 30 years.

The lunch club, which was run by a team of dedicated volunteers, provided a nutritious lunch to over 30 people each week.

Volunteers provide a generous sandwich and cake lunch for those who come from tough situations or with health problems, mostly living alone and with no relatives nearby.

The Lunch Club was supported by a dedicated pastoral team who helped with spiritual and practical support.

To acknowledge and say thank you to the team of volunteers, the Mayor of Warrington invited the team along to the Town Hall so that they could enjoy lunch and receive a Mayor's Award.

Although the lunch club has now finished, the church still runs its popular Coffee Bar, which is open from 10 am – 12 pm on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays and is also welcome to all.

The Coffee Bar is a warm, inclusive, non-judgmental space where people can find community, make friends, receive pastoral care, be connected with other services or simply enjoy a hot drink and some food.

The church provides hot and cold refreshments, good conversation and a very popular crafts and activities table. You can find out

more about the Coffee Bar on the Holy Trinity website.

Mayor of Warrington, Cllr Steve Wright, said: "Congratulations to the team of volunteers and the church for supporting the local community for over 30 years. It is a fantastic achievement."

"The lunch club has supported so many people over the past three decades and was often the one time in the week that many of the diners could share a meal with others."

"I'm delighted to have presented them with the Mayor's Award, which recognises and celebrates volunteers for their longstanding commitment to volunteering and the community."



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Mind, Movement, Menopause



LiveWire Warrington has developed a 6 week support programme to help women who are experiencing the different stages of menopause. The programme includes both NHS guidance and other alternative approaches covering topics such as:

- What is menopause?
- Symptoms and lesser known symptoms
- Nutrition & Weight Management
- Exercise
- HRT
- Psychological impact
- Coping strategies

The programme consists of 45 minutes of exercise with a focus on a full workout for heart and bone health and a combination of core and muscle tone exercises followed by 45 minutes of education and support talks to share personal experiences.

Embedded in the programme are a number of guest speakers including a local Warrington GP and a Clinical Psychologist.

The programme provides a safe environment to enable you to talk about the challenges of menopause and provide you with the guidance in making better informed choices.

The programme is held at Orford Jubilee Neighbourhood Hub on Wednesday evenings, for more details please contact the Lifestyles Team on:

lifestyles@livewirewarrington.org

For more information see: <https://livewirewarrington.co.uk/news/menopause>

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Students deliver recipe for success for local bakery with live design brief

STUDENTS at Warrington & Vale Royal College helped deliver a new logo for a local baker following a live design brief.

As the town's 'Career College', Warrington & Vale Royal College prides itself on providing all students with meaningful industry encounters, to enhance their skills and knowledge as well as giving them valuable exposure to employers within their chosen sector.

As part of this commitment, Level 3 Graphic Design & Illustration students were challenged to create a new logo for local baker and cupcake specialist Jessica Kemp, owner of Mama Cupcake.

Jessica collaborated with the subject leader for graphic design, Ellie Strowger, to create a brief for the students that would simulate a real client project with set requirements, while still allowing them to use their creativity to envision what would work for the Mama Cupcake brand.

Students on the college's graphic design courses have access to top-range equipment, working on cutting-edge Apple Macs with the latest industry-standard software to ensure their work is completed to a professional standard. Using Jessica's social media pages for inspiration, as well as each

having a consultation with the client, students set to work creating potential logos that would feature on Mama Cupcake's packaging and promotional materials.

The range and calibre of designs presented to Jessica went above and beyond her expectations, making the choice of a new logo a challenge. She said: "Any one of these logos could have been the one I chose because they were all of such high quality and I feel like they all responded to my requirements really well. In the end it came down to preference, and I feel like Alex's logo embodied both my brand and my personality. I am so pleased and can't wait to start using it."

Alex Lin, a former student of St Nicholas Catholic High School, created the winning logo, which features a classic three-tier wedding cake, luxurious rose gold accents and Mama Cupcake's slogan "baked with love." Alex hopes to become an illustrator in the future, with this project making an excellent addition to his professional portfolio, as well as having Jessica as his first client testimonial.

To show her gratitude for all of the student's hard work, Jessica came to the Warrington campus with bags of baked Christmas goodies, including delicious winter berry cupcakes and intricately decorated shortbread cookies. During the visit, all students were given constructive feedback on their work, while Jessica and Alex worked together on the final tweaks to the design to ensure it was ready to launch.

The college works with over 500 businesses at present, but is always on the lookout for businesses both locally and nationally that would like to get involved with giving students invaluable industry

opportunities. Jessica highly recommended her experience, saying: "This has been a fantastic project both for the students and for my business. The work I was presented with was beyond what I would have expected from any agency. I have already told friends who are also business owners not to pass up on the opportunity to work with the college."

If you are an employer looking for a way to inspire the next generation of skilled professionals, then please contact the college's Industry Placement Team by emailing industryplacements@wvr.ac.uk



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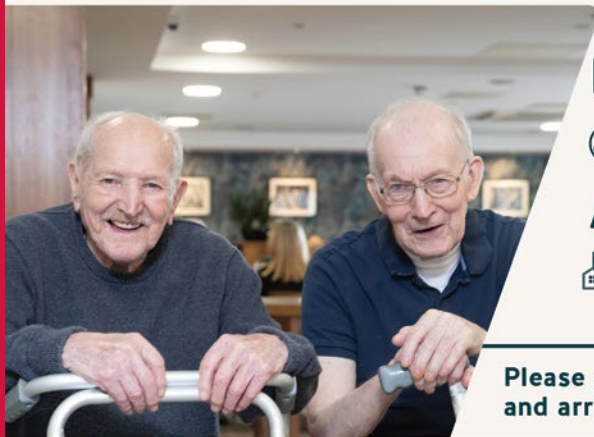
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Six of the best!

by John Laverick - Warrington & Co

I am not sure about you but as a child I was always given a diary at Christmas for the New Year. I really don't know why because not many 12 year olds really uses a diary to keep a record of their appointments, but rather like the 12 days of Christmas I thought I would give you 12 (well 6 actually) gifts of events that are happening in the Town over the next 6 months. Feel free to read them in a songlike manner if you wish.

January - Burns Night Supper hosted by the Mayor of Warrington, Cllr Steve Wright, at 7pm on Friday 26 January at the Town Hall. The Burns Night celebration, which will include a traditional haggis supper (with other food options available upon request), piper, poetry reading and a raffle in aid of the Mayor's Charity Appeal 2023/24, promises to be a fun-filled community celebration. The

event promises to be a wonderful celebration where our communities and their families can come together and enjoy the best that a traditional Burns Night supper has to offer. A Burns supper is a celebration of the life and poetry of the poet Robert Burns (25 January 1759 - 21 July 1796), the author of many Scots poems. Burns Night Supper has been celebrated for hundreds of years since the first

supper was held by acquaintances of Robert Burns to commemorate his death.

February - Warrington Chamber of Commerce are hosting an event on the 1st February at The Base in Dallam Lane, where Rhys Herbert, a Senior Economist for Lloyds Bank will lead a session to talk about the economic outlook. It is primarily for Lloyd's customers and members of the Chamber but surely it is worth joining either just for this. And if that wasn't enough there will be Lunar New Year Celebrations on Sunday 18th February. Liverpool's Yung Gar Kung Fu School will be performing a traditional Lion Dance to welcome the new year, followed by a Martial Arts demonstration before the performers head into Yum Cha and Warrington Market to entertain diners.

March - St Patrick's Celebration Saturday 16th March - From 1pm, join what I am sure will be a very lively affair in Time Square for Irish dancing and live music. Hot on the heels of this will be an Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday 30th March where you can join characters from Alice in Wonderland and search for the missing eggs.

April - Annual Property Review on 19th April, Warrington & Co's flagship event held every year for the last 26 years and has seen

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John Laverick
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www.warringtonandco.com

some truly seismic changes in Warrington and its property and regeneration activities. More to say on that in the coming months.

May - Warrington & Co and the Business Exchange Business Conference in Time Square. May is also Music Month Kicking off 3rd - 5th May in Warrington Market, a Soul weekend with Internationally renowned Soul Station with live music in venues throughout the month, culminating in Proms in the Square, Sunday 25th May.

June - Pride month in June - Warrington's Pride Festival on a date to be announced.

So, lots going on in just the first 6 months of the year for you all to look forward to and enjoy.



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.

0207 219 3000

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Divorce Column

By Peter Wilkinson
Divorce Lawyer at Chambers Fletcher Solicitors

Q. My husband is controlling and coercive. I've had enough and need to get away from him. I'm thinking of moving with the children to the South of England to be nearer my parents and other relatives. My husband says I can go whenever I like but not the children. Where do I stand on this?

A: You can go whenever you like. But if your husband doesn't agree to the children relocating with you then you will need the court's permission for them to move with you. For this you will need to apply for a specific issue order. But if your husband is concerned that you may just go with the children without either his consent or a court order then you may find that he applies for a prohibited steps order to prohibit you from doing so. This is quite a complex area which involves giving consideration to several factors so you should make sure that you engage a solicitor well versed in this type of scenario.

Q: Me and my girlfriend are thinking of buying a house together. I have quite a lot of money in savings which I can use to pay the deposit but by girlfriend doesn't have any money and I'm a bit concerned that if our relationship breaks down she might be entitled to half of what I put in. Is there anything I can do to protect my investment?

A: Yes, in short. You and your girlfriend can agree to hold the property in unequal shares. You can have a legal document drawn up by solicitors which recites your respective contributions towards the purchase of the property and which declares the proportions in which you shall each hold what's known as the beneficial interest, having regard to how the purchase is being funded. This is actually quite common with unmarried couples purchasing together.

Q: My husband and I are on the verge of having a divorce. We have reached an agreement between ourselves over the finances but how can I be sure he won't change his mind and go back on his word?

A: Any agreement reached needs to be embodied into a court order to make it legally binding. Where the terms are agreed the order would be a consent order. This is separate from the divorce itself but cannot be applied for until the divorce process has reached the conditional order stage (decree nisi).

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MP to host annual jobs and apprenticeships fair



WARRINGTON South MP Andy Carter has announced that he will again be hosting his annual jobs and apprenticeships fair taking place on Friday 19th April from 10 am to 2 pm at the Parr Hall.

The jobs and apprenticeships fair will welcome stallholders from a number of industries such as engineering, healthcare and logistics, and is open to people of all ages who are seeking more information about vacancies and potential employment opportunities.

In previous years the MP's jobs fairs have attracted dozens of local and national businesses that offer some of the best and most recognised apprenticeship and graduate schemes, as well as companies with vacancies for both new and experienced candidates.

Mr Carter said: "Following the success of my previous jobs and apprenticeships fairs which have seen over 40 businesses and more than a thousand people in attendance, I'm very pleased to once again be holding the fair this year. This is an event for anyone looking for advice on starting a new career, wanting information about what's next after school or looking for a change in job.

"Apprenticeships are a fantastic way to learn and earn and are

an increasingly popular option for young people as they consider what to do when they've finished their exams. The event is taking place at the Parr Hall in Warrington Town Centre, it's totally free to enter and runs from 10 am to 2 pm.

"Once again local employers have stepped up and we've got a wide range of businesses coming from lots of different sectors, including logistics, healthcare, nuclear, engineering and the energy sector. This will be a great event for parents, young people and anyone wanting career advice."

The jobs and apprenticeships fair is open to all with no need to book. It will run between 10:00 and 14:00 on Friday the 19th of April at the Parr Hall, Palmyra Square South, Warrington, WA1 1BL.

Anyone wanting to find out more about the jobs and apprenticeships fair can contact the MP's office by emailing andy.carter.mp@parliament.uk





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New Chair at the helm

FORMER Director of Community Engagement and Corporate Affairs at Warrington and Halton Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust Pat McLaren has been appointed as the new Chair of Healthwatch Warrington, the independent patient champion for people who use health and social care.

Pat will take up the role to lead Healthwatch Warrington to ensure decision makers and the NHS hear the public voice and use their experiences to improve care for residents of Halton Borough.

Pat is an experienced healthcare communications professional working in the NHS hospitals sector for nearly 20 years. She has held board positions in her last three organisations and is responsible to the Board for communications, engagement, involvement and fundraising.

Pat began her NHS career as a biomedical scientist working in Manchester before moving abroad to the Middle East where she retrained in communications. Commenting on her appointment Pat said: "I feel very privileged to take on the role of Interim Chair of Healthwatch Warrington at this critical time for our health and care services, focusing on the big issues that concern the public and the communities that experience severe health inequalities."

Elizabeth Learoyd, Managing Director at ECS said: "We are delighted to welcome Pat McLaren as Chair to the Healthwatch Warrington Board. Engaging Communities has delivered Healthwatch Warrington for over 5 years. Having been led by Gary Skentelbery, our

outgoing Chair who has made an outstanding contribution, we are keen to ensure we continue the great work, engagement and maximise the impact we have locally. I want to thank Gary Skentelbery for his time, commitment and dedication as outgoing Chair and to welcome Pat who officially joined the board on 1 January 2024. I look forward to working closely with her and the wider Board to drive improvements across health and social care."

Lydia Hughes CEO for Healthwatch Warrington added: "Gary has been an excellent Chair for Healthwatch Warrington, and has increased our reach and profile with his communications expertise. We wish Gary well for the future and look forward to Pat McLaren starting in the new year 2024."



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wvr.ac.uk/adults

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Warrington & Vale Royal College
ADULT COLLEGE

Fairytale story of teenage darts sensation Luke Littler is only just the beginning

THE Story of Warrington-based teenage darts sensation Luke Littler is only just the beginning after a captivating final fairytale run in the World Darts Championship came to an end in a thrilling contest against Luke Humphries.

The 16-year-old sensation, who had captured the hearts of the nation with his remarkable journey, faced a formidable opponent in world number one Humphries, the new world champion.

It was evident that Littler's primary goal was to win at least one game and return after Christmas. However, his incredible journey exceeded all expectations, reaching the final and making it a truly unforgettable experience for the young player.

Reflecting on the tournament, Littler expressed his gratitude, stating, "It's been unbelievable. Like I've said, I just wanted to win one game, come back after Christmas, and that was it. That's the only goals I set. So, this is just a massive, massive bonus."

Despite the defeat, Littler remained proud of his achievements, emphasising that losing on such a grand stage didn't make him angry at himself. He acknowledged the incredible support from the public, describing it as "crazy" and expressing appreciation for all the encouragement.

The pivotal moment in the final came when Littler had one dart double for a 5-2 lead. Reflecting on it, he admitted, "My mind went

blank, and I stopped my rhythm, and I didn't take it." It was a turning point that shifted the momentum in favour of Humphries.

In response to a question about future confidence, Littler mentioned winning about six televised PDC games and set his sights on winning more in the upcoming years. He acknowledged the valuable experience gained in the tournament and the belief it instilled in him for future competitions.

In an exclusive interview with SportsBoom.com delved into the impact Littler had on growing the sport, with him expressing hope that he had inspired young people to take up darts. He encouraged them to try the sport, emphasising its appeal once they get into it. Littler's impact on the global audience has been nothing short of extraordinary, transcending the boundaries of traditional darting enthusiasts. The 16-year-old prodigy has not only captured the attention of ardent darts followers but has also managed to draw in spectators from diverse backgrounds who may have never tuned in to watch the sport before.

On the other side of the spectrum, Luke Humphries, the world champion, praised

Littler's contribution to the sport, stating, "He's grown it bigger than anybody could ever have imagined." Humphries highlighted Littler's fantastic attitude and family support, foreseeing a massive future for the young talent.

Humphries, in a gracious acknowledgement of Luke Littler's relentless performance in the final, praised the young prodigy's unwavering determination and skill. Recognising the formidable challenge presented by Littler, Humphries commented on the difficulty he faced in contending with such a skilled opponent, especially in the intensity of a world championship final. Impressed by Littler's tenacity, Humphries went so far as to suggest that "relentless" could be a fitting nickname for the young player, a testament to his unyielding and persistent style of play.

As the darting world looks to the future, with Luke Littler joining the Premier League garners considerable attention. Despite the looming pressures associated with this prestigious league, Littler maintains a grounded perspective, expressing his commitment to staying true to himself and carrying forward the impressive form he showcased in recent weeks.

In addressing this pivotal decision, Humphries imparts valuable advice, underscoring the significance of Littler making his own choice amid the challenges of

a demanding schedule. Humphries acknowledges the substantial commitment that the Premier League entails but also points out the potential for Littler to relish World Series events, displaying confidence in the young player's adeptness at navigating the opportunities ahead.

The fairytale continued as Littler was selected to compete in the 2024 Premier League, one of only eight players chosen to contest the 16-week series and winning the recent Bahrain Darts Masters 8-5 against Michael van Gerwen on his World Series of Darts debut, producing a stunning nine-dart finish in the opening leg of the quarter-final and a 170 checkout in the semi-final along the way.



Picture: PDC Darts

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Warrington's only 501 darts league looking to expand



WARRINGTON 501, the town's only dedicated 501 darts league, born from the voices of local players, is looking to expand.

Formed in January 2023 with 6 teams interested in joining the league, they are now in their 3rd season with 180 registered members across 14 teams.

Chairman Marc Fearnley explained: "We are looking to expand to create Warrington's very first youth academy, and we're currently fundraising to help us achieve this."

"We have applied for various community funds and were running a gofundme fundraiser as well as an online football card aimed predominantly at businesses. These can be found on our Facebook page. We have also had a very generous donation from Helen Horne Funeral Directors, in Warrington."

"We are hoping to raise £3400 to cover the cost of buying equipment, JDC accreditation, first aid courses and electronic tablets to assist our young members with their scoring. We are also looking into sourcing some specialist equipment from Flexiboard, that will allow us to easily adjust the board height for disabled players."

The academy, which will be based at St Benedicts Social Club in Orford, will cater for young and disabled people in the community.

Marc added: "We are also talking to a number of darts manufacturers alongside a couple of local businesses to discuss the possibility of sponsorship. If any local businesses would like to sponsor a board annually, we would love to hear from them."

Anyone interested in finding out more can contact Marc via warrington501darts@gmail.com

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Town chairman updates on race against time to get ground up to scratch

TIME is ticking on the ground development works required at Warrington Town FC following their promotion to National League North.

On the pitch, the Yellows have exceeded expectations and are settled in mid-table in English football's sixth tier.

But survival also requires work to be done off the pitch to their Cantilever Park ground to meet the ground grading standards of the National League, a so-called grade two.

Planning was approved for the work, which consists of a new stand construction and associated facilities, new turnstiles and other fan provision improvements, back in November but the club is forced to wait to begin the main parts of the work until it unlocks significant funding from the Premier League Stadium fund.

A delay to planning approval, as well as a complex issue uncovered relating to the sewerage connection with United Utilities, has hampered the club's efforts.

Club chairman Toby Macormac said: "There's not much to report at present, which is a little bit disappointing. It is slipping. I'll admit, it's becoming a bit of a precarious situation that we find ourselves in. The horizon is becoming bigger with the deadline (March 29th).

"We've got two really big challenges we need to overcome, which is a sewerage connection which of course goes to a government

statutory provider, which will take time. We need to have a design put on to the ground where it's going so we can break out and put concrete pads in, which we're also behind with.

"I have to remain positive to try and achieve it. It's just difficult that we seem to press on with a task, such as the sewerage connection, then sort of mid-task we encounter things we didn't expect. The erection of the new stand, we've found some issues with concrete pad design.

"We're encountering challenges as we go. Of course, people will say have you started it too late, but we didn't really get the green light from local authority until November 23rd which hasn't helped, so we started off on the backfoot."

The club has raised almost £20,000 through a crowdfunding campaign, though time rather than finance may be the biggest challenge.

Once the Premier League Stadium funding arrives, which will cover around 60% of the total bill, then work can begin on installing the concrete pads required to house the new away stand, which will comprise of 182-seats and a terrace.

When the sewerage connection issues are resolved, the groundwork can be done for the new toilet blocks



and refreshment kiosks to be dropped in, which will form the new away end, which must be self-sustaining for the requirement of segregated matches, such as the one against Chester on New Year's Day.

There is a deadline of March 29th to have the work completed, though the example of Peterborough Sports – who were granted an extension last season – may be used to help the Yellows.

Macormac added: "One of the guys at the FA I correspond with regularly sends a sheet for me to fill in every month and I've been quite detailed in some of the challenges that we faced early on. We're hoping that we enter a situation similar to Peterborough Sports, where they gained an extension last year and I'm not sure what theirs was for.

"With ours, some of the work is statutory provider and local authority driven so some of the delays are out of our hands. I think if we're in a position where we've done everything that we can off our list,

if it's something that's been delayed by outside forces maybe that's something that will go towards an extension."

Despite the pressure of the looming deadline, Macormac says the club is enjoying its time in National League North.

Crowds have averaged over 1,000 at Cantilever Park this season, with merchandise flying off the shelves at unprecedented rates, with planning already underway to improve the club's infrastructure ahead of the 2024/25 season.

He also praised the club's fans for their efforts in raising money for the cause.

He added: "There's been a phenomenal response there. We did the groundfunder that's touching £20,000 now, which is really positive, and we've had countless offers of volunteer days, and we need to be strategic with those. It's an interesting challenge. It's certainly a learning curve, which is great."



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By David Watkinson

The basics of the self assessment process and how to stop things going wrong

The deadline for submitting your 2023 Self Assessment tax return has now passed so, as we approach the start of the new tax year, we thought it appropriate to look at the basics of the self assessment process and how to stop things going wrong.

Do I need to submit a self assessment tax return? The answer is, typically, yes if you

- are self employed either as a sole trader or in partnership
- are a company director
- receive rental income in excess of £1,000
- receive income from savings, investments or dividends of £10,000 or more
- earn more than £50,000 and receive child benefit
- receive overseas income or other untaxed income that cannot be collected through PAYE

If you are uncertain about whether you need to register then there is an on-line tool to check, and this can be accessed

at Check if you need to send a Self Assessment tax return - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk).

If you need to submit a self assessment tax return and you have done so before then you will reactivate your existing account and submit using your existing Unique Taxpayers Reference. If you have not done so previously then you will need to register. Again, there is an on-line tool to help which is accessible at Check how to register for Self Assessment - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk). You will need a Government Gateway User ID and password to register. If you have not registered for a Government Gateway then you can create one when you sign in for the first time. You will need your National Insurance number, as well as name, address and date of birth.

You will need to register for self assessment by 31st October following the tax year during which the need arose. If you are late registering then you may incur penalties.

Alternatively, give us a call and

we will be pleased to help.

When should you submit your tax return? You should submit your tax as soon as possible within the tax year once you have collated all of the information necessary. There are deadlines by which you must submit your return without incurring penalties, and these are 31st October if you submit a paper tax return, and 31st January if you submit your return on-line.

What if I fail to submit my tax return by the deadline? You will incur penalties if you do not submit your return by the due date.

- If you are one day late then you will be charged £100
- After three months then you will start accumulating addition penalties of £10 for each day, up to a maximum of 90 days.
- At six months, you will incur a further penalty of £300, or 5% of the tax due, whichever is higher
- At twelve months late, you will incur a further penalty of £300, or 5% of the tax due



Thomas Coyne and Stuart Barr

Therefore, when your return is twelve months late then you will be liable for penalties of either £1,600, or £1,000 plus 10% of the tax payable, whichever is greater.

What if I have been required to complete a tax return but I think this is wrong? If you think that you do not need to complete a tax return, for instance because you have stopped being self employed, then you should ask HMRC to cancel the return. This can be done by:

- calling the HMRC helpline on 0300 200 3310, or
- using the "ask HMRC online" option on <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/hm-revenue-customs/contact/self-assessment>, or
- completing the on-line form on your Government Gateway account.

This can be done even if the submission deadline has passed and you have been issued with late submission penalties.

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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Rylands announces partnership with Food Network

RYLANDS in the Community, Warrington Rylands FC's community foundation, have announced a strategic partnership with Warrington Food Network, a network established in 2021 by Warrington Voluntary Action.

This collaboration aims to use the power of sport and appeal of Warrington Rylands FC to promote and support the delivery of The Warrington Food Network's efforts throughout the town. By combining resources, expertise, and outreach, Rylands In The Community and The Warrington Food Network strive to make a substantial impact to sustainable, short and long term solutions to alleviate food poverty within Warrington.

"We believe that by working together, we can create a better understanding of the food provisions available across Warrington and help promote a food support pathway," said Andy Martin, Director at Warrington Rylands FC.

The partnership will focus on collaboration and support for community groups, charities, faith groups and public sector representatives encompassed within The Warrington Food Network.

The Warrington Food Network was founded in 2021 and is a partnership of local organisations working to tackle food poverty in Warrington. They are made up of

local foodbanks, food pantries and clubs, social supermarkets as well as community groups, charities, faith organisations and public sector representatives. The Food Network work collectively to support local communities to be able to access nutritious, affordable food, tackle food waste, and promote the delivery of dignified, person-centred services to help people and families out of food poverty.

Warrington Food Network's Caitlin Bold stated "We would like to say a huge thank you to Warrington Rylands Football Club and the fans, for offering to support Warrington Food Network and its members over the coming months and to raise donations and awareness of the projects which provide help and support with food across Warrington."

More information, including a map of the local projects who are part of the Food Network and how you can access them can be found at www.warringtonva.org.uk/warrington-food-network

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