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Mum hard at work in memorial garden

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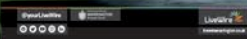


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Editor's Comment

APRIL sees us celebrate 25 years since the launch of Warrington Worldwide online - the first independent daily online newspaper in the UK.

Having covered local news as a family business since 1969, the launch of Warrington Worldwide in 1999 was a big step into the unknown during internet revolution and the dot.com bubble burst!

We have survived several recessions, the cost of living crisis and a pandemic, updating local news almost every day since our launch, all free at source for our many thousands of loyal readers.

Our aim has been to be politically independent, working with people from all political parties, doing our best to promote the positive things in our town while reporting all events in a non-sensational way, the good, the bad and sadly sometimes the ugly.

We have witnessed many businesses come and go but have established a strong local loyal following who have helped keep us going through the tough times, in particular during the pandemic when many carried on supporting us online.

Whether I will be here in another 25 years is out of my hands - but whatever, we hope to leave a legacy for our town well into the future.

I would particularly like to say a big thank you to my family, especially my parents, who were the backbone in the early

days, with my father David, still providing editorial support in his 70th year of working as journalist - the vast majority of his career in Warrington.

Certainly a great example of a strong work ethic, one which I have always tried to aspire.

I sometimes dread to think what the next 25 years is going to bring, as mankind doesn't seem to be learning lessons in tolerance and understanding and the onset of keyboard warriors is enough to impact anyone's mental health.

It's always easy to criticise from the comfort of your own home but a lot harder to make a meaningful difference.

Unusually we launched our



online edition BEFORE the print magazine which followed in the September of the same year - so another celebration looming later in the year! Meanwhile our sister print title Lymm Life, the first in our stable, also celebrates 25 years this April.

Thankyou to everyone for your ongoing support. Check out some of our congratulations messages on Page 14.

Deadline for the May issue is April 16

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Mum hard at work in memorial garden on 12th anniversary of soldier son's death

ON the 12th anniversary of the death of 20-year-old Warrington soldier Private Daniel Wade during active duty in Afghanistan, his mum Lisa Billing was holding back the tears, hard at work in the memorial garden in honour of her son.

It was also three years to the day that the rejuvenated Marshall Gardens was officially opened in memory of Private Daniel Wade following a joint project involving Lisa and Warrington Borough Council.

Just like they were three years ago, the daffodils were in full bloom, providing a perfect backdrop to the gardens which have been renovated to make a focal point for memory and reflection near the town's Cenotaph on Bridgefoot along the banks of the River Mersey.

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

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

Lisa has been instrumental in driving forward the revitalisation of the gardens, spending a number of years researching and developing

the project.

While busy working on the gardens Lisa issued a plea for paint and tools to help keep on top of the maintenance of the gardens.

Anyone who can help with donations or would like to volunteer time to work on the gardens should email Lisa at lisabilling4@gmail.com

"The garden is absolutely brilliant," said Lisa – Look at the daffodils, and the poppies are starting to come through.

"We don't fundraise but put out shoutouts for items – we need some hammerite black paint and rollers and roller trays. We would be very grateful of anything," said Lisa.

Marshall Gardens was named after Hon Alderman Edward Marshall M.B.E. an influential and respected member of the community, who died in 1983 at the age of 103.

Born in Lincolnshire, Marshall moved to Warrington at the age of 20 to work on the railways. He became well known for supporting poorer people and was awarded an M.B.E. for his role as Chair of

the Warrington & District Joint Food Control Committee from the start of World War II onwards.

Included among new trees planted in the gardens are six cherry blossom trees – one for each

of the Warrior Six – in honour of the sacrifice they made. Cherry blossoms were chosen as their short-lived blossom each year is a reminder that life is beautiful yet fleeting.



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LiveWire marks end of era as transition to Council partnership begins

LEISURE and library facilities provider, LiveWire, has announced its next chapter, a strategic partnership with Warrington Borough Council.

For nearly a decade and a half LiveWire has been the driving force behind community engagement and wellbeing in Warrington. Established in May 2012 as a Community Interest Company (CIC), LiveWire has evolved into the town's premier provider of leisure and library facilities, operating three neighbourhood hubs, two leisure centres, one community hub, and a network of thirteen libraries.

In addition to providing high quality leisure and recreation facilities, LiveWire has worked closely with local schools, primary care providers, sports clubs, charities, and Warrington Borough Council to give all sectors of the community access to health and wellbeing initiatives.

Much has been achieved by LiveWire since inception, and the leisure provider moves forward with a legacy to be proud of. The contribution to Warrington's population includes:

- 8,485 people have successfully quit smoking
- 45,630 individuals have achieved weight loss goals
- 366,998 school pupils have benefitted from swimming lessons
- 85,667 young people have participated in junior tennis lessons
- 8,938 children engaged with the Summer Reading Challenge

Talking about the transition, Cheryl Siddall, Interim Chief Operating Officer, said: "It's been an exciting journey across the years, seeing the teams achieve so much and the positivity of the teams in providing excellent support and service to the communities of Warrington. We are going into the transition in a good position, having surpassed pre-COVID figures in growth and achieved a multitude of things. We're looking forward to seeing the good work continue with the council."

LiveWire designed several innovative programmes, working with a number of local partners to reach as much of the population as possible. Through innovative activities like health walks, menopause and neuro fitness classes, LiveWire has championed inclusivity and accessibility, ensuring that everyone, regardless of age or ability, can participate in activities that promote physical and mental wellbeing.

Dedication to promoting physical activity extended to engagement with primary schools in Warrington. Through events, conferences, and educational sessions with teachers and children alike, LiveWire ensured children have had the opportunity to experience, enjoy, and excel in a range of exciting activities promoting both physical and mental health.



LiveWire has also worked in partnership with other charities and organisations, such as the Kit4All project, which aimed to remove barriers to participation by providing proper sports equipment to children in need.

More recently, LiveWire has worked closely with Warrington Borough Council to redevelop some of its Warrington sites, creating an enviable portfolio of facilities. The Birchwood Community Hub now features: a modern library, updated facilities, and an improved tennis complex and a state-of-the-art spinning studio. Moreover, enhanced library services, including a range of events and activities, alongside a vast collection of books, eBooks, and audio resources are now available to all of LiveWire's members within the community.

Additionally, the £4.3 million facility in Bewsey & Dallam Neighbourhood Hub provides residents with an array of community

and wellbeing services, including community spaces, a state-of-the-art gym, a multi-use studio, a pool, and library provision, further cementing LiveWire's role as a cornerstone of community development.

The improvement of libraries in Warrington has also been a focus for LiveWire, and the team have overseen refurbishments of local facilities thanks to the million-pound library modernisation investment by WBC. A Public Libraries Strategy was implemented, ensuring the provision of library services and adhering to the Libraries Connected Universal Offers programme.

The work of LiveWire over the years has not gone unnoticed, with local, regional and national accolades being achieved. This includes the Great Sankey Neighbourhood Hub being awarded the prestigious DSDC (Dementia Services Development Centre) Gold Award from the University of Stirling in 2020 – the first public building to achieve this.

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New era set to take to the road for electric bus travel

THE future of zero emissions bus travel in Warrington is almost here – with the town's new electric bus – in its bright new colours – officially unveiled.

The unveiling of the bus – at a special ZEBRA event – provided the first opportunity for people to see the new, yellow vehicle which will soon be brightening up the streets of Warrington, providing greener, cleaner transport for everyone.

It marks the final countdown for the arrival of Warrington's all electric bus fleet, with 105 new buses – replacing Warrington's Own Buses' entire fleet of diesel

buses – to begin arriving from this summer.

Warrington's deal with Volvo for 105 state-of-the-art BZL Electric vehicles, is one of the biggest orders of electric buses by any town or city in the UK to date.

The council has also signed a deal with EO Charging – a leading provider of electric vehicle (EV) charging solutions for fleets – to supply the chargers at Warrington's

new bus depot which will power the new electric vehicles. As part of the council's commitment to tackling the climate emergency, all the charging will be powered by 100% green energy.

The project is being supported through funding from the Department for Transport's Zero Emission Bus Regional Areas (ZEBRA) scheme, which aims to deliver up to 4,000 zero-emission buses across the country.

Warrington Borough Council Leader and Cabinet Member for highways and transport, Cllr Hans Mundry, said: "These are exciting times for Warrington, with the introduction of our all-electric fleet set to transform bus travel in our borough.

"Our 105 buses will bring massive benefits for passengers, providing safe, quiet and comfortable journeys. These are buses which are truly fit for the future, with zero tailpipe emissions, which will improve air quality and support our work to tackle the climate emergency.

"We've made our ambitions clear, through our Local Transport Plan, to reduce emissions and congestion, increase the share of journeys made by bus and build sustainable transport into everyday life in Warrington. Our new electric buses will play a massive role in us achieving this.

"At the same time, we've been making enhancing our services across the board. This includes reduced fares – such as the newly announced £1 fare cap for all under 22s and free travel for all care leavers – enhanced timetables, all day concessionary pass use and new and improved

bus shelters. Supported by these major improvements, our new electric fleet is set to usher in a bright new era for bus travel in Warrington."

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 council has been working closely with local operators to build a better bus service to support the arrival of the new electric bus fleet, as part of the borough's Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP).

Ben Wakerley, Managing Director of Warrington's Own Buses, said: "Warrington Borough Council have been very forward thinking with their commitment to improving air quality and improving bus journey times in the town.

It is our pleasure to work in partnership with them, the UK government and all those involved in delivering this important project".



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



Plenty of reasons to be positive!

by John Laverick - Warrington & Co

Its always nice when someone else agrees with you. It doesn't happen as often as I'd like but I was heartened by an article in this very publication. Flexioffices who are completely unconnected to Warrington & Co published an article in January that set out Warrington as being the 4th best place for new business premises/offices to locate.

I did say last month that I would produce some highlights from the Annual Property Review but this can get a bit statistic-heavy so I thought that I would give you some Warrington headlines for you to discuss with your friends in the pub/club/café. As I know you like to do. Who knows they may end up in a quiz.

Warrington's primary asset is its location and whilst this is a result of it being the lowest reasonable crossing point of the Mersey, it means that if you want to travel across the North West your route is generally going to take you near Warrington. This means that road and rail also converges in Warrington and whilst in the past this has caused

problems, with a renewed interest in rail it is starting to become a real strength. Warrington is also fairly compact place, when compared to our neighbours in Cheshire and so travelling around, particularly by more sustainable methods such as new electric buses, is more viable.

Warrington is one of the top 5 locations for start-ups in UK – 88% of our businesses in Warrington are Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and we are in the top 10 places for schools according to Ofsted. Based on information for the Centre for Cities (2022 and 2023) and in addition to Warrington being the 4th best place for businesses to locate as assessed by Flexioffices it is also:

- Ranked 10th for maths and English GCSEs
- Ranked 9th for the number of private sector jobs
- Ranked 8th nationally for employment rates at 81%
- Ranked 5th best place for new economy firms, IT and similar, important as this drives innovation
- Ranked 4th for house price growth – a good indicator of economic health but we need more houses
- Ranked 3rd for ration of public to private jobs
- Ranked 1st for number of businesses per capita at 396 per 10,000

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I couldn't find anything that we were 2nd or 7th at, so we will have to try harder next year or perhaps you could suggest some – answers on a postcard to the usual address.

But so what about the city rankings and all the other data. Well it matters. It matters when people are deciding where to locate businesses. We are very often asked by businesses who are looking to relocate – why Warrington? The answer can be emotive and factual and that seems to hit home best.

And last but by no means least and in the vein of fixating on numbers, I would like to say a big congratulations to Gary and the team at Warrington Worldwide for 25 years of bringing us the news that matters to Warrington, oh and this column. Judging by the recent articles a finger very much on the pulse of Warrington.

Bank celebrates £500m savings milestone

A SPECIALIST business bank based in Warrington is celebrating a £500m milestone as it continues to support small businesses in achieving the best returns on their cash.

Redwood Bank, part owned by Warrington Borough Council, has passed the landmark figure in the customer deposits it holds, with a 13 per cent growth since December 2022.

Stuart Davidson, Director of Products and Strategy, said: "Businesses come to us because they know we will help them make their money work hard for them. "Redwood had another year of consistent growth in customer deposits, and we are anticipating further growth in 2024."

Redwood, which is hoping to win the Business Moneyfacts Best Business Variable Rate Deposit Account Provider for a sixth successive year, recognises that there is high customer demand for longer-term savings products. This became even more apparent with the base rate rises. Businesses are keen to make the most of their savings while the rates are favourable. We are strongly positioned to serve this market with our products. It is clear that customers appreciate a bank that is competitive and keeps things simple for them."

ANDY CARTER MP

Member of Parliament for Warrington South

I hold regular constituency advice surgeries at my Warrington South office and around the area.

To make an appointment call

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Chambers Fletcher Solicitors

Divorce Column

By Peter Wilkinson
Divorce Lawyer at Chambers Fletcher Solicitors

No fault divorce

Arguably the biggest reform of divorce law in England & Wales for 50 years came about 2 years ago yet to this day I meet such a lot of people who know nothing about it and are surprised when I make them aware of the change.

So called 'no-fault divorce' was officially introduced in England & Wales on 6th April 2022 under the Divorce, Dissolution and Separation Act 2020. That said, a previous version of no-fault divorce did in fact already exist under the Matrimonial Causes Act 1973 which set out 5 'Facts' for divorce – at least some of which most people are aware of – namely, adultery, unreasonable behaviour, desertion, 2 years separation and consent, and 5 years separation (with or without consent). Therefore, the two separation based Facts actually amounted to a no-fault divorce under what is now known as the old law.

But upon the DDSA 2020 coming into force the 5 Facts under the MCA 1973 were removed and so it came about that it is no longer necessary to establish any of the previous 5 Facts in order to apply for and obtain a divorce. The concept of fault has been completely removed and there is no longer any requirement to even allege, let alone prove, blame. All that is required now is for the divorce application to be accompanied by a statement made by the party applying (the applicant) that the marriage has broken down irretrievably and this will be taken by the court as conclusive evidence that the marriage has irretrievably broken down.

Further, there is little scope for the receiving party (the respondent) to defend the divorce because under the new law the only basis for disputing a divorce is (a) to dispute jurisdiction, (b) to dispute the validity of the marriage, or (c) to assert that the marriage has already been legally ended. In the absence of establishing one of these then the court must make a divorce order.

While the new law has simplified the actual divorce process, and there are equivalent provisions for dissolving a Civil Partnership, it is important to note that the new law has not in any way changed the way in which property, financial claims and child arrangements matters are dealt with and I will write further on these topics in future articles.

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New multi-million pound Living Well Hub opens



A pioneering multi-million pound Living Well Hub designed to help people with their health and wellbeing needs has opened in Warrington town centre.

A ribbon cutting ceremony performed by the town's Mayor Cllr. Steve Wright, marked the official opening of the new Living Well Hub, a welcoming and fully accessible 'one-stop shop' aimed at empowering residents to live as happily, healthily and independently as possible.

The Town Deal-funded Hub, on Horsemarket Street, is one of the first of its kind in the country and a true collaboration, with 25 organisations and more than 350 staff set to provide a wide range of NHS and non-clinical services under one roof.

Thousands of people are expected to use the former council Contact Centre three-storey building over the next 12 months, with spaces shared by teams from Warrington and Halton Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (WHH), Warrington Borough Council, Bridgewater Community Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust and Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust, and support from voluntary and charitable sector partners.

Simon Constable, Chief Executive of WHH, said: "It's fantastic to see so many organisations represented here today from across Warrington. The Living Well Hub has been a real team effort since its conception four years ago, and is proof that by working together we can achieve great things together, for the benefit of the town."

"Some of the services on offer here at the Hub would previously only have been delivered in a hospital setting, however it's really important that we're now able to deliver them in the town centre, providing better access for those who need the most support."

"By doing so we can tackle health inequalities, improve patient outcomes, and reduce the pressure on acute hospital services, while also helping to create jobs and support the regeneration of the town centre."

The ground floor of the Hub is an inviting community-led space with a café area where Warrington residents can drop in to discuss any issues that may be affecting their health and wellbeing. NHS and non-clinical services will be delivered on

the first floor, with several consultation and clinical rooms for use, while the second floor will predominantly be for staff use.

There will be a particular emphasis on providing women's health services and services for children, families and older people. Maternity (pre and post natal), dementia, mental health, weight management, cardiac rehab and health visitor clinics are among the services being provided, with support from third party partners including Macmillan, Warrington Disability Partnership, LiveWire, Home Start, and other voluntary organisations offering a mix of booked appointments and drop-in support during the week.

The Living Well Hub is specifically aimed at addressing health inequalities in Warrington, where there is a 10-year difference in life expectancy between the most and least deprived members of the community.

It is part of the borough-wide Living Well programme, which aims to connect people, communities and services to enable residents to live healthy, fulfilling lives and take greater control over their own health, wellbeing and resilience.

Cllr Maureen McLaughlin, Cabinet Member for Public Health, said: "I am confident that the Living Well Hub is going to be a gamechanger for Warrington. Whoever you are, if there are any aspects of your health and wellbeing you want advice about, I encourage you to drop in and start a conversation with one of the hub's experts."

"By working together in partnership with other providers, a range of help and support is available to you and your family, and I encourage you to take a look at the Hub for yourself when it opens to the public."

The Hub will be open to members of the public from Wednesday, with initial opening hours of 9am to 5pm weekdays, and until 8pm on Mondays and Wednesdays.

For more information about the services on offer, visit warrington.gov.uk/living-well-hub



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The background of the entire image is a dense, repeating pattern of various tropical leaves. The leaves are in shades of dark green and forest green, with some showing prominent veins and others having natural holes or splits. The pattern is layered, creating a sense of depth.

The
Room
at The

Coming

The background of the entire image is a dense, repeating pattern of various tropical leaves. The leaves are in shades of dark green and forest green, with some lighter green highlights. The patterns include large, deeply lobed leaves (like Monstera), long, feathery fronds (like ferns), and broad, pointed leaves (like Philodendron).

ftop.

the Grand

g Soon

Five key things you need to know for May 2 elections in Warrington

RESIDENTS in Warrington will be able to vote at whole council, borough and parish elections and for the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for Cheshire on Thursday 2 May 2024.

Here's five things you need to know about voting in the elections this May, whether it is in person, by post or by proxy:

1. Register to vote
Remember to register by Tuesday 16 April at midnight.

To register you'll need to confirm your identity. The easiest and quickest way to do this is to provide your national insurance number and date of birth. If your details have recently changed (such as if you've moved house or changed your name) you also need to let us know. Visit <https://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote> – it only takes 5 minutes!

2. Voting in person? You now need a valid form of photo ID.

Valid forms of photo identification include:

- driver's licences
- passports
- concessionary travel passes
- PAA cards
- Ministry of Defence identity cards
- photocard parking permits issued as part of the Blue Badge scheme

More information about the voter identification policy, as well as a full list of accepted forms of photo ID can be found on GOV.UK.

If you don't have a valid form of photo ID, you will need to apply for

a voter ID to vote in person. You can register for a voter ID (called a 'Voter Authority Certificate') on GOV.UK by Wednesday 24 April at 5pm.

Polling stations will be open from 7am to 10pm on 2 May, and you can find your polling station at wheredoivote.co.uk.

3. You can apply to vote by post
If you'd prefer not to vote in person at the elections, you can apply for a postal vote. If you'd like to vote by post, make sure to apply by Wednesday 17 April at 5pm.

Postal votes are valid for a maximum of three years, then a full reapplication is needed. All applications now need to include your National Insurance number. You can apply online or download the postal vote form from the Electoral Commission website. Alternatively, you can contact the council's electoral services team on 01925 442184 or at elections@warrington.gov.uk and we'll help you.

4. You can apply to vote by proxy
You can ask for someone to vote on your behalf if you are unable to get to the polling station. If you want to vote by proxy, you will need to have a reason why you aren't able to get to the polling station yourself, such as employment or disability.

As long as your proxy is registered to vote and your application is

received and processed by 5pm Wednesday 24 April, they can cast your vote for you.

5. Voting is more accessible for voters with disabilities

The Elections Act has improved the accessibility of elections, with aids like braille ballot paper information, pencil grips, and magnifiers to help people with disabilities to vote.

Voters with disabilities can now also choose anyone who is over 18 to accompany them in the polling station to help them vote. Find out more about accessibility during the local elections on our making voting accessible webpage.

For more information about the Local Elections in Warrington, visit: warrington.gov.uk/elections-2024

Stockton Heath Festival Art Exhibition entries now open

CALLING all local artists, entry to the 2024 Stockton Heath Festival Art Exhibition – which runs from 4th-7th July – is now open!

Following on from the success of last year, where over 100 artists showed their work, the Stockton Heath Festival Art Exhibition returns to St Thomas' Church, Stockton Heath from 4th to the 7th July 2024. Artists of any level and experience are invited to submit up to 2 pieces of work for inclusion in the exhibition. Members of the public can view, purchase and vote for their favourite with the winner receiving the prestigious Tudor Pole People's Trophy.

Commenting on the plans for 2024, volunteer Clare Rawlinson – Art Exhibition Coordinator said, "The Art Exhibition is one of the most popular events at Stockton Heath Festival and following feedback, this year we have made some great new additions to the programme. We look forward to welcoming artists and art-loving audiences back for our 2024 exhibition."

Vicar Michael Ridley said "This year sees me being a model for our wonderful artists and I look forward to seeing the work they will produce!"

Fresh for the 2024 Art Exhibition are drawing workshops for kids, family workshops and a life drawing session with Vicar Michael, who will be resplendent in his vestments. Another new addition is the artist in residence where participating artists will be in the church creating pieces and discussing their practice, inspiration and techniques.

Entry is via an entry form (visit Stockton Heath Festival on social media for details) and the closing date is 3rd June 2024.

Warrington votes

Local elections

Thursday 2 May



Borough Council, Parish Council and Cheshire PCC elections are coming

Know how to vote



In person

(with voter ID)

Register by Midnight
on Tuesday 16 April



By proxy

Register by 5pm
on Wednesday
24 April



By post

Register by 5pm
on Wednesday
17 April

warrington.gov.uk/elections-2024



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Celebrating 25 years of free online community news

“Wow, 25years! Congratulations to Gary and his team at Warrington Worldwide. Thanks for being there to share our stories. Here's to the next 25!”

Dave Thompson and the team at Warrington Disability Partnership



“Wishing you a huge congratulations as you celebrate 25 years of Warrington Worldwide! You have created a wonderful magazine that connects the Warrington community, whilst keeping us up to date on all of the local news and happenings. We know how hard you work and thank you for all that you do! Happy Birthday Warrington Worldwide and here is to many more!”

Holly and The Dress Studio team

“Warrington Worldwide has shown its credentials time and time again as a community champion for our area, a fair minded and sometimes critical friend, that can hold decision makers to account in an even handed and informed way. Your news feeds capture the moments when we all come together as a community to celebrate memorable days and share what it means to be part of a very special town. We really are lucky to have a magazine and website dedicated to covering the news supported by local advertisers. Thank you to all the Warrington Worldwide team for your dedicated service, long may it continue and here's to another 25 years!”

Andy Carter MP Warrington South

“I am very pleased to be able to wish Warrington Worldwide online all the very best and recognise the work you have been doing over 25 years. I am looking forward to working with you to promote our very good town in the future I have always read with interest Warrington Worldwide and hope you continue to bring a balanced view.”

Cllr. Hans Mundry, Leader Warrington Borough Council

“Congratulations Gary and the team. Thank you for everything you've done for us. Best Wishes The Urban Team.”

Carl Palmer, Managing Director

“Congratulations to everyone at Warrington Worldwide on your 25 year anniversary, from all the team at BAS.”

Jo Novoa Bradley, BAS Vehicle Adaptions

“Many congratulations on your first 25 years of service as an excellent source of news in Warrington. As a local politician I see first hand how important local media are in supporting Warrington residents, holding us all to account and galvanizing Warrington Borough Council into action from time to time. Best wishes for your continued success as a great local business - keep up the good work.”

Cllr. Nigel Balding (Birchwood), Leader of the WBC Conservative Group

“Congratulations Warrington Worldwide on celebrating your 25th Anniversary.

As a fast mover in the digital media world, you have always acted as a fair and critical friend, celebrated what is great about our town, provided timely information and advice and provided criticism when needed in a constructive manner. Here's to the next 25 years of Warrington Worldwide.”

Professor Steven Broomhead MBE, Chief Executive Warrington Borough Council



“Congratulations to Warrington Worldwide for their significant anniversary. Healthwatch has benefited by a significant increase in reach into the Warrington community by using Warrington Worldwide services. I wish you all continued success, as the local media provider both with your local magazines and your online presence. Well done, something to celebrate. Keep up the great work.”

Lydia Hughes, CEO Healthwatch Warrington

“Best Wishes to everyone at Warrington Worldwide on your anniversary - it has been great to work with you.”

Ben Wakerley, Managing Director Warrington's Own Buses

“Myself and the team at Belvoir Warrington have had a long & mutually successful relationship with Warrington Worldwide and long may it continue. Congratulations on your 25th On-line anniversary.”

Gary Pemberton, Belvoir Housing

“Many congratulations to Gary and the wider Warrington Worldwide team as you celebrate your 25th, SILVER work anniversary! Back in 1999, the idea of an online newspaper seemed so radical but Gary was adamant it was the way forward. As always, Gary had a good grasp of what was needed for the business to succeed and had a clear vision for success. The success of WW is testimony to Gary's adaptability, hard work and dedication to the product and brand - have you ever seen anyone so 'out and about', capturing Warrington's great community spirit, as Gary? Congratulations on reaching such a significant milestone.”

Nicola Meredith, Director Marketing & Admissions Warrington & Vale Royal College



“Huge congratulations to the Gary and the team. Twenty-five years of Warrington Worldwide online is a significant achievement, providing a reliable source of wide-ranging information for people in the borough and beyond. We look forward to continuing to contribute and work with the team to communicate healthcare information to a wide audience.”

Simon Constable, Chief Executive of Warrington and Halton Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

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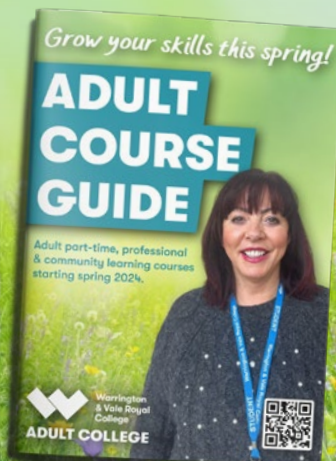
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*Terms & conditions apply.



Amanda Fryer

Level 4 Therapeutic Counselling

Amanda recently graduated and has already set up her own successful private practice. She says: "My journey was spectacular and the tutors were so supportive."

When asked to describe her Adult College experience in one word, Amanda chose 'life-changing'.



Warrington
& Vale Royal
College

ADULT COLLEGE

Statham Manor celebrates first birthday

Statham Manor, the beautiful care home on Statham Avenue in Lymm, recently celebrated its first birthday. Residents, their families and friends, and the care team marked the occasion with a great party including entertainment, a delicious buffet and birthday cake which was cut by longest staying resident Sylvia. Manager at Statham Manor, Farai Hanyane said: "This last year has passed so quickly and we now very much feel part of the fabulous community in Lymm. It was wonderful to celebrate with our residents, the care home team and wider family and friends."



New dementia community opens at Grappenhall Manor

Since opening last year, Grappenhall Manor continues to welcome new residents and is expanding with the launch of a dedicated new dementia community on the first floor.

Designed especially for residents with dementia, the area is warm and welcoming. Each resident benefits from their own private bedroom with en suite and there is a large communal area for resting, relaxing and socialising. Luxuriously styled with beautiful finishing touches, it also boasts a large outside terrace with feature planting and garden furniture which allows residents to enjoy being outdoors. Manager at Grappenhall Manor, Charlotte Sherlocks, added: "Our dementia community now has its own dedicated space allowing us to deliver care to perfectly suit their needs while also allowing each resident space to safely move around as they choose."

Staff and residents at both Statham Manor and Grappenhall Manor would like to congratulate the Warrington Worldwide and Lymm Life team on their 25th anniversary – a fantastic achievement!

For more information or to arrange a viewing at either home please call the numbers shown, or email us at enquiries@newcarehomes.com.



Statham Manor Care Centre
90 Statham Avenue, Lymm WA13 9AQ
Tel 01925 596000



Grappenhall Manor Care Centre
Stockport Road, Grappenhall WA4 2WA
Tel 01925 596828

newcarehomes.com

Male Voice Choir return home triumphant



WARRINGTON Male Voice Choir have returned home triumphant from the North Wales Choir Festival after winning the 'single voice' category, for a second time.

They last won the coveted trophy in November 2019 just a matter of weeks prior to the world going into lockdown due to the global pandemic.

Choir Secretary, Amanda Davies, said: "What a way to start our 126th year! We had such a fabulous year last year celebrating our 125th anniversary and to bring home a trophy from a Welsh Choir Festival, for the second time in a few years, is a credit to the hard work and dedication that our choristers have put in."

"We mustn't forget of course that none of this would be possible without our music team,

Accompanist, Elizabeth Paterson and Musical Director, Russell Paterson, who incidentally this year, is celebrating his 30th year as MD of the choir. His leadership and technical prowess is second to none! We are truly very lucky to have him at the helm of our choir."

The choir also wants to thank all their supporters, including choir members friends and family, for coming along and supporting the choir over the weekend.

The Male Voice Choir recently celebrated their 125th year with a special civic reception at Warrington town hall.



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Spring Budget announcements

NIC cuts for employees and self-employed

The government has announced a cut to the main rate of Class 1 employee NICs from 10% to 8% from 6 April 2024. Taxes for the self-employed will also be cut by a further 2 pence on top of the 1 pence cut to 8% announced at Autumn Statement. This means that from April 2024 the main rate of Class 4 NICs for the self-employed will now be reduced from 9% to 6%.

If you run your own payroll, we suggest that you take steps now to start work with your payroll software provider, and where applicable IT delivery partners, to get ready to implement the change to Class 1 employee NICs that comes into effect from 6 April 2024.

HMRC's Basic PAYE Tools product will be updated to reflect this latest change.

Of course, if we run your payroll, you will have nothing to worry about.

High Income Child Benefit Charge

Another measure the government announced was on the High Income Child Benefit Charge, and an increase to the threshold to £60,000 from 6 April 2024, with a taper up to £80,000.

The charge will be 1% of the Child Benefit for every £200 of income that exceeds £60,000 and will equal the payment for income that exceeds £80,000.

You may be interested in claiming Child Benefit or restarting Child Benefit payments if you have previously opted out. The charge is tapered, so if you, or your partner, earns between £60,000 and £80,000 it can still be worth your while financially to claim. Claims for Child Benefit can be made in the HMRC app or online and are automatically backdated for 3 months, or the date of birth of the child if later.

VAT – increase in registration threshold

It was also announced that the threshold at which small businesses need to pay Value Added Tax (VAT) will increase to £90,000 from the current £85,000. Businesses can still choose to register voluntarily if making taxable supplies regardless of their turnover.

Capital Gains Tax on Property Disposals

It was announced that the top rate of Capital Gains Tax paid when selling a property will be cut from 28% to 24% from 6th April 2024. This could be seen as a slight lessening the

blow of the reduced Capital Gains annual allowance, which has recently reduced from £12,300 in 2022-2023 to £6000 in 2023-2024 and dropping again for 2024-2025 to £3000.

The abolition of the furnished holiday lettings (FHL) regime will mean that individuals operating FHL businesses will lose a number of key tax benefits

Currently, interest incurred on loans for the purpose of a furnished holiday letting business are treated as a deduction from rental income in calculating taxable profits of the business.

From 6 April 2025, interest for businesses operated by individuals will cease to be a deduction and relief will instead be given as a 20% tax credit from the individual's tax liability.

For higher rate taxpayers, this will mean a reduction in tax relief for interest to the 20% rate. As trading assets, capital gains on the disposal of furnished holiday letting assets by individuals currently may qualify for business asset disposal relief: where they qualify, gains up to the lifetime limit of £1m would be taxed at a rate of 10%.

As investment assets, from 6



Thomas Coyne and Stuart Barr

April 2025 such gains will be subject to the Capital gains tax (CGT) tax rate of 18% for profits within the standard rate band or 24% for profits within the higher rate band.

Gains on the disposal of a furnished holiday let would currently qualify for CGT rollover relief, if a replacement qualifying asset is purchased, a claim can be made to deduct the capital gain from the tax base cost of the new asset, thereby deferring the tax point of the gain. Such relief is only available for investment properties in cases of compulsory purchase. Expenditure on qualifying assets for a furnished holiday letting business are currently eligible for capital allowances.

As a letting of residential investment property, such relief will be withdrawn from 6 April 2025 although it is likely that such businesses may instead be able to claim a deduction from profits for the cost of replacing domestic items.

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, including the **Basis Period Changes**. If you are **employed or self-employed** either as a sole trader, partnership or limited company, **or are subject to self-assessment due to rental or other untaxed income**, 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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PUBLIC NOTICES

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

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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 by no later than 11/04/2024.

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