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Editor's Comment

CONGRATULATIONS to Luke "The Nuke" Littler on his recent Grand Slam of Darts success which saw him ranked 5th best darts player in the world – aged just 17.

I watched his semi-final and final performances and was impressed how someone so young can hold their nerve and produce such consistent darts time and time again.

A truly remarkable achievement which has seen the young man become a household name.

become a household name.

At the same time, he appears to have remained remarkably grounded for someone so young and is clearly popular with his fellow darts players, having helped raise the profile of the game.

His latest achievement certainly had been alread to the TV server.

had been glued to the TV screen and I am sure many others have become converts to the game thanks to Luke's phenomenal achievements.

I wish him well on his continuing journey and it is good to see him linking up with the other town's sporting brands at Warrington Wolves and Warrington Town.

Meanwhile, on the local political front, interesting times lie ahead at the town hall, with the formation of a new independent group, featuring long-term independent Geoff Fellows, who has been joined by his fellow Penketh & Cuerdley ward Clir. Eunice Peters and Winwick-based Stuart Mann.

At time of writing, we were still waiting to hear whether Cllr Neil

Johnson, who resigned from the Labour party over the controversial plans for a gypsy/traveller transit site on his ward at Croft, will join the new group.

Regular readers will know we are fiercely independent here at Warrington Worldwide, and while we welcome this additional group to the corridors of power, we will treat them, like all the other political parties as equals, reporting local

news as factually as we can.

With the controlling Labour Group having such a large majority it is unlikely to make any difference in voting patterns at the town hall, but it will give a fresh pair of eyes, with no political bias, on activities going on at the town hall.



I understand one of the key issues they will be keeping an eye on is the ongoing debt and budget overspend.

To be fair to Labour they have already been given seats at the table, so hopefully the independents can get a meaningful voice and see first-hand what is going on.

Here at Warrington Worldwide we will ensure their voices are heard in a balanced way.

> Deadline for the January issue is December 10



Geoff Fellows, Eunice Peters and Stuart Mann



Santa Claus is coming to Town!

Excitement is building as the final plans come together for Santa Claus to visit Warrington this December!

This year, Warrington Disability Partnership will be teaming up with F11 Photography and Warrington Borough Council for the launch of their annual accessible Santa's grotto at Walton Hall and Gardens this December.

Join us for a magical experience on selected dates until December 23rd, with weekday evening slots on December 18th, 19th, and 20th from 2pm - 7pm. For just £10 per child, your little ones can meet Santa, receive a present, and enjoy our fun reindeer puzzle trail! Capture the moment with photos available for purchase from £11 Photography, as well as lots of other festive activities, including crafts, to keep the whole family entertained! While adult tickets are free, please consider adding a small donation £1 per adult) to your booking to support our charity further.

There are also lots of other wonderful festive activities to take

There are also lots of other wonderful festive activities to take part in, including craft activities, entertainment and Christmas Markets stall to keep all the family entertained. There are multiple time slots available each day to choose from. Online bookings are now open: www.trybooking.com/uk/DSTX

For more information, contact Kate on 01925 240064 or k.picken@disabilitypartnership.ora.uk.

org.uk.

If you're interested in a Quiet
Hour session on December 1st,
15th, or 22nd, contact Ellen at

E.Houghton@disabilitypartnership. org.uk or 01925 240064. Advanced booking is required.

Time and Place

The Old Riding at Walton Gardens

Dates

Launch day – Saturday 30th November Sunday 1st December Sunday 8th December Saturday 14th December Sunday 15th December Wednesday 18th December Thursday 19th December Friday 20th December Saturday 21st December Sunday 22nd December Monday 23rd December

Santa Dash

The Annual 3k Santa Dash (walk / run / push) around Walton Gardens, Warrington will take place at 10am on Sunday 8th December. Supported by Birchwood Shopping Centre, The £10 entry fee includes a five piece Santa suit (Children's and Dog size suits available), as well as a certificate and medal on completion.

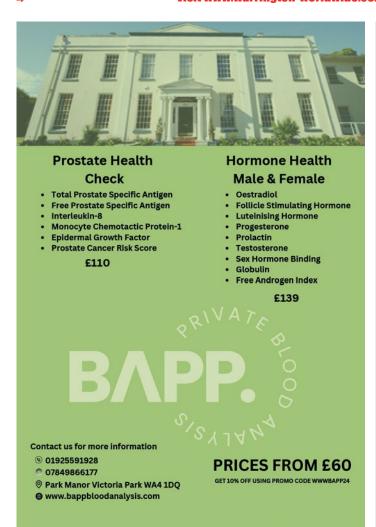
Bookings can be made online at: www.trybooking.com/uk/DUUU

or by contacting Ellie Thompson on 01925 240064 or by email ethompson@disabilitypartnership.









W1 members stage "clean rivers" demonstration



MEMBERS of Woolston and District Women's Institute staged a demonstration at Woolston Weir to support the Clean Rivers Campaign.

Carrying banners and placards, they were there to support a campaign that has been adopted by the WI National Federation for the last two years in a bid to get the message over that "something needs to be done."

by the WI National Federation for the last two years in a bid to get the message over that "something needs to be done."

Woolston WI president Ann Brennan said: "The fact that sewage is discharged into rivers on a daily basis is not an isolated problem. It affects urban city centre rivers and pristine chalk streams. Rivers are at a crisis point. Every single river in England is polluted not only affecting wild life but making them unfit to swim in.

"In 2022 alone raw sewage

"In 2022 alone raw sewage was discharged into waterways 300,000 times with 40 percent of river quality target failures

caused by agricultural and land management.

"Extreme climate change related weather condition are only serving to worsen the situation. All in all, this is an issue that urgently needs addressing."

addressing."

The event at Woolston was just one of many interesting, entertaining and relevant topics covered at WI monthly meetings which are an excellent way to meet up with old friends and make new ones. Woolston and District WI meets every 4th Thursday of the month at 7.30-9.30 pm in the Mission, Warren Lane in Woolston.

Anyone interested in joining

Anyone interested in joining should call Ann on 07784 723731.



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Warrington Business

Celebrating 20 years of Urban Building Projects

FAMILY, friends, colleagues and suppliers met up at the Hatton Arms pub to celebrate 20 years of Urban Building Projects Ltd.

Set up by Carl Palmer, Urban has completed more than 500 building projects and launched two

sister companies.

Special guests included former project manager Mike Hannon, who spent 10 years working for the company before retiring earlier this

"For the past 20 years at Urban Building Projects, it's been incredible to witness the evolution

of the building industry," said Carl. "It's a highly competitive field, but I'm proud to say we've built a strong team that consistently delivers top quality and stays on schedule.

"This success wouldn't be possible without the dedication of our amazing admin staff and skilled builders, many of whom have been with us from the start.

I'd like to thank Mike Hannon for

his 10 years loyal service and wish him a happy retirement."

"I'd also like to take this moment

to thank all of our clients, architects, and suppliers for their continued support," added Carl.

"Here's to another fantastic 20

Versa shead!"

Urban Building Projects Ltd caters for both residential and commercial customers in Warrington and across South Manchester and the wider Cheshire area.

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time.
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Warrington Business

Thankyou for making Warrington a better place

by John Laverick - Warrington & Co

A bit like Santa, I have a mixed bag of things to highlight as Christmas is coming and the vegan nut roast is getting more and more worried about the big day. It is customary at the end of the year to look back at the year and highlight some achievements and challenges but I am going to save that for the New Year. I know it will be difficult for you to wait that long, but that's just the way it is.

Instead, what I really want to do here is to say thank you to all those who strive to make Warrington a better place, there are many who say a lot and don't do much and

those who do much but don't say a lot. You know who you are so take a moment to give yourselves a pat

on the back.
One such person is our own Jackie Emson. I am sure many businesses in Warrington will know Jackie and the Business Exchange and been to the Business Exchange and been to some of the many events that Jackie has organised including 5 very successful Business Conferences. The Business Exchange is very much the front door for Warrington & Co and Jackie has delivered all of these overtexts. of these events with unmatchable personality and enthusiasm and will be sorely missed as she retires at the end of this year. I would like to say a personal thank you to Jackie for this, the Business Exchange has made a significant difference to those businesses that have engaged with it. The Business Exchange will continue but whoever takes over will have a formidable

and capable act to follow but I am sure this will continue in its new guise – just differently.

reported in As reported in this very publication last month the entire town centre has been bustling due to events like Warrington Mela, Proms in the Square, Warrington Pride and Krazy Races. Time Square in particular has seen the benefits of and been responsible for a large proportion of this influence. for a large proportion of this influx recording some of its highest visitor numbers to date. To increase footfall by 190% within the Cookhouse is no mean feat. And, Cookhouse is no mean teat. And, of course there is a jammed packed programme of events planned across the town as we head into Christmas. We have Warrington's Weekend Wonderland on 23rd and 24th November, a highlight of the weekend will be a Drumming Spectacular on Saturday evening, which will bring Time Square and Queens Gardens to life. A spectacle of vibrant drummers. Kutumba will of vibrant drummers, Kutumba, will feature special effects by award winning Walk the Plank before Silk Street Jazz takes the reins, a band full of passion and flair!

The event will start at midday

Warrington

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John Laverick 01925 442 243 www.warringtonandco.com

with Batida Rio, Warrington's own Samba band, bringing their highenergy performances, joined by The Stray Horns, skating Christmas presents, moving Christmas trees a mirror reindeer and The Grinch.

On Sunday, a traditional funfair will provide something for the younger members of the family while Proms favourite, Twisted Tubes, will entertain the whole family. They will be joined by more Christmas characters.

Festive Sundays will take place

Christmas characters.
Festive Sundays will take place throughout December in Time Square, with music, entertainment, crafts, markets, funfairs and some of your favourite Christmas characters. Details can of course be found at; What's On - Time Square So with that, I will just wish both of my readers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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Divorce Column

By Peter Wilkinson Divorce Lawyer at Chambers Fletcher Solicitors

Some common questions

- 1. How do I get a divorce? As of April 2022 'no fault' divorce laws were introduced meaning that married couples no longer need to allege blame and establish fault (such as adultery or unreasonable behaviour) to get a divorce. Instead, one or both spouses need only state that the marriage has irretrievably broken down and apply for a divorce on this basis.
- **2. How long does it take?** It can vary but typically at least 6-7 months. There's a mandatory holding period of 20 weeks after the divorce application is issued which provides time for the parties to reflect on the marriage breakdown and to make a start on trying to resolve any issues concerning finances and child arrangements. After the holding period the applicant can apply for a conditional order and 6 weeks after the conditional order they can apply for the final order.
- **3. How are the finances resolved?** There is a concept of fairness, which does not necessarily mean equality. If an agreed settlement can be reached there will be no need to go to court but if an agreement can't be reached either party may apply to court for a financial order. The court would first look at meeting the needs of any dependent children and then the needs of the parties, especially housing and income. The court would consider several factors such as the length of the marriage, contributions, needs, earnings & earning capacity. Although an equal split is not uncommon the goal is to achieve fairness, and which may be different from equality.
- **4.What about child arrangements?** Decisions will need to be made regarding who the children will live with and how much time they'll spend with each parent. If arrangements can be agreed there will be no need to go to court but if agreement can't be reached either party may apply to court for a child arrangements order, for the court to decide the arrangements.

For advice and assistance regarding divorce and related matters please get in touch - we have a lot of experience advising, guiding and supporting clients in this area of law.

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Land of Lights is officially open!



THE Mayor of Warrington, Cllr Wendy Johnson, officially opened the spectacular Land of Lights festival which has returned to the town for the second year running.

Thousands of people have already snapped up tickets for the highly anticipated festival, taking place at Gulliver's World and featuring a brand-new theme and all new lanterns.

Mayor Johnson cut the ribbon on this year's extravaganza at a special launch event declaring Land of Lights officially open to the public from now and on selected dates until 4 January 2025

And on hand were children from the 5th Bebington Beaver Scout Colony from Bromborough on the Wirral who won a special prize draw run by Gulliver's Theme Park Resorts and the Scouts Association to attend the Land of Lights launch event in Warrington.

433 scout groups from far and wide entered the competition with 5th Bebington Beaver Scout Colony being selected at random. Sandra Wellings, group leader of the 5th Bebington Scout Group Beavers, said: "I entered the competition with the hope of giving our group of 27 Beaver Scouts a wonderful experience of the festive lights and something they can tell friends and family about. I couldn't believe we actually won the competition and was so excited to tell the children who were over the moon when they found out!

"We had a wonderful visit seeing all the brightly coloured lights and lanterns and I'll like to thank Gulliver's World for the warm welcome our group received.

welcome our group received."

This year's event promises to be a breathtaking spectacle, featuring an all-new collection of lanterns for 2024. This year's theme, WonderWild, reimagines nature's most majestic creatures and wonders, offering visitors a unique blend of animal-inspired artistry with a fantatical twist. with a fantastical twist.

And only last month, Land of Lights received national recognition walking away as winner of the gold award for best new event at the UK Theme Park Awards.

In addition, opening weekend saw a special Glow Walk event take place with 981 people dressing in their best 'glow' outfit

to walk the enchanting lantern trail, at their own pace, while exploring the many magical displays on show

the many magical displays on show – all while raising money for BBC Children in Need. In total more than £1,500 was raised.

Ross Partridge, Land of Lights festival manager, said: "We have enjoyed an incredible opening weekend! Firstly, thank you to the Mayor of Warrington for opening this wonderful event and to the this wonderful event and to the lucky winners of our competition, the 5th Bebington Scout Group Beavers for attending and being part of the excitement!

"The Glow Walk was also a fantastic event so a big thank you to all who came along and took part and helping to raise such a wonderful amount for a great cause in BBC Children in Need.

"The festival is a wonderful boost to the local economy over the

winter period and provides guests with an enjoyable, family friendly activity that is suitable for all. It is now open until 4 January so make sure you don't miss out."

Find out more about Land of Lights at: landoflights.co.uk



Army cadets remember one of their own



LOCAL army cadets held a moving memorial service in memory of one of their own, Private Daniel Wade, who tragically lost his life aged just 20 in Afghanistan in 2012.

Those in attendance at the special service at Peninsula Barracks, Warrington, included Daniel's mum Lisa Billing, who has been composigning for systems. been campaigning for veterans and keeping her son's memory memory alive at a special memorial garden she has helped create, alongside Warrington Borough Council at Marshall Gardens.

Proud mum Lisa said after the event: "It was a heart-warming memorial by Warrington Cadets, who unveiled a new plaque for one of their own. Daniel was at the

cadets for seven years and he then joined the army.

"The CSM, instructors all turned what could have been a sad moment into a special legacy for Dan, my Son will never be forgotten, so many wonderful things

were said. That is how Daniel was, a kind caring young man.

Refreshments were put on, I can't thank the battalion enough.

Daniel was just 20 when he was killed in action in Afghanistan in March, 2012.

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





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Shedding the light on Hospice Care

HOSPICE care is centred around the principles of holistic, compassionate support for patients and their loved ones, facing a life limiting illness.

However, hospice care can often be misunderstood. In this editorial we explore some of the misconceptions and shed light on what hospice care is truly like.

St. Rocco's has been a part of the Warrington community for 39 years caring for patients who have a diagnosis of any non-curable, life-limiting illness. Our care focuses on enhancing quality of life as opposed to curative treatments. By providing comfort, pain management, emotional and spiritual support, our teams strive to ensure patients live their remaining days with dignity and in the presence of loved ones with what matters most to them' being the focus of our care.

St. Rocco's is designed to be accessible to all patients, regardless of their financial situation, with care services being free of charge and entirely based on need. Although we have a dedicated facility, which houses our in-patient unit, outpatient clinics, therapy facilities and our wellbeing 'Vitality Centre' we also deliver care in peoples homes through our outreach services.

Our goal is to create supportive environment meets the individual's needs and preferences. Our team of specialist doctors, nurses and therapists work across our services, together with our professional partners, to achieve this.

As the focus of the newly elected government increasingly to delivering more care in the community, St. Rocco's remains committed to playing its part. However, to maintain our work and ensure that our care remains free to those who need it when they need it, we must continue

to raise over 4 million of the 5.2 million pounds it takes to run the hospice annually. This is a mission that we fully embrace in pursuit of our commitment to service our community.

As a result, we have strived to develop multiple fundraising avenues to include our shops, lottery, events, charity challenges and regular giving opportunities. Without the dedication of our supporters St Rocco's would not be able to continue its essential work and we would like to take this opportunity to say THANK YOU for your commitment. It is because of you that we can continue to care for those who need us when they need us most.

To find out more about anything aspect of this editorial along with ways you can support St. Rocco's hospice and continue to make every day count visit: www.stroccos.org. uk or call 01925 575780



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Community-minded Steve gets a reward



WHEN community-minded Steve Jones decided to clean-up the footpaths near his home, he didn't realise he was being closely

But as he worked, over several weeks, along Stockport Road, Thelwall he was spotted by nearby resident Janet Taylor, who felt he deserved a reward.

deserved a reward.

She took it on herself to approach a number of local businesses – and they agreed with her.

As a result, Grappenhall and Thelwall Parish Council chairman Mark Browne and parish wardens Martin Stuart and Bradley Lowe met Steve in Stockport Road for a presentation presentation.

Businesses who made donations to say "thank you" were: The Big Blue (a fish and chip supper), the Barber on Barley Road (a free haircut), the Pickering arms (a meal for two)), The Little Manor (a meal and drink), Inches, Barley Road, (a gift voucher) and the Royal British Legion (membership and free drinks) drinks).

Steve, needless to say, is still keeping busy cleaning the footpaths, alongside the parish footpaths, wardens!

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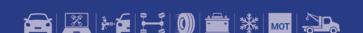
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Pink Floyd fans teleported back in time by Think Floyd



by Gary Skentelbery

PINK Floyd fans were given a treat at Warrington's Parr Hall as the highly regarded Think Floyd tribute band performed a near faultless set.

Older fans in the near sell-out audience could close their eyes and easily be teleported back in time to a Pink Floyd concert from the 1970s, with the Parr Hall providing the perffect intimate venue.

Regarded as the UK's number one Pink Floyd tribute, Think Floyd are renowned for their stunning celebration of one of the world's greatest musical icons.

Pink Floyd's Nick Mason has even described the band as "Brilliant! – The band's line up has slowly

 Ine band's line up has slowly evolved over the years and the line up today features Lewis Hall on Bass, Richard Morse on Guitar, Steven Farmer on Drums and Kirk McLeod on Keyboards

on Keyboards.
For over 25 years, the talented musicians who make up the Think Floyd show manage to faithfully recreate all the atmosphere, visual

magnitude and musical excellence of Pink Floyd live on stage and they didn't disappoint at the Parr Hall.

Think Floyd's production features the whole range of classics from the Dark Side of the Moon, Wish You Were Here and The Wall and while these three albums feature in my record collection, I was never their biggest fan.

But after witnessing this gig I am

But after witnessing this gig I am a convert and will be asking Alexa to play a lot more Pink Floyd moving

forward.

Complete with am impressive laser light show and a dedicated team of sound and lighting engineers, the band was clearly impressed by the entuhusiatic Warrington audience and hinted a possible return next year when they will be doing the 50th anniversray tour for Wish You Were Here – let's hope they do return!



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Linancially yours

Autumn Budget 2024 highlights

The UK chancellor announced her 2024 budget on 30th October 2024 and here are the highlights that affect most individuals and businesses:

Employers Face Higher National Insurance Costs

As anticipated, the Chancellor has unveiled significant changes to employers' national insurance contributions (NIC), marking one of the most impactful measures in the latest fiscal update. Effective from April 2025:

- The rate of employers' NIC will increase from 13.8% to 15%.
- The secondary threshold, the point above which employers must pay NIC, will decrease from £9,100 to £5,000 per year, potentially subjecting an additional £4,100 to the higher rate of NIC.

Combined with the recent rise in National Minimum Wage (NMW) rates, these changes represent a double blow to employment costs for businesses.

However, there is some relief for smaller employers, as the employment allowance will rise from £5,000 to £10,500 in April 2025, shielding many from these increased costs.

Capital Gains Tax Changes on the Horizon

The widely expected capital gains tax (CGT) overhaul will see:

- The lower CGT rate rise from 10% to 18% and the higher rate increase from 20% to 24%, effective 30 October 2024.
- Business Asset Disposal Relief (BADR) gains continue to enjoy the £1 million lifetime allowance, but CGT rates on such gains will rise to 14% in April 2025 and 18% in April 2026.

Inheritance Tax Reforms: Targeting Reliefs

While the inheritance tax (IHT) nil-rate band (£325,000) and residence nil-rate band (£175,000) remain frozen until 2030, sweeping changes have been announced for business and agricultural property relief (BPR/APR).

From April 2026:

- The first £1 million of BPR/ APR claims will remain exempt from IHT.
- Claims above this threshold will attract 50% relief, effectively reducing the IHT rate to 20%.
- Alternative Investment Market (AIM) shares will also benefit from a 50% IHT reduction.

Additionally, from 2027, pension funds left upon death will become part of the IHT estate, ending their current exemption.

Abolition of Non-Dom Tax Regime

From April 2025, the non-dom tax regime will be abolished. Individuals who have been UK tax residents for more than four years will face UK tax on worldwide income and gains.

However, new UK residents will benefit from a four-year exemption on foreign income and gains, provided they meet specific conditions. Excluded property trusts (EPTs) created before October 2024 will retain their IHT-exempt status for foreign assets, though periodic IHT charges will now apply.

Updates in Business Taxation

The corporate tax road map offers clarity for businesses, confirming that the 25% corporation tax rate will remain for this Parliament. Other notable measures include:

- A permanent full expensing policy with consultations to extend it to leased assets.
- Simplifications in land remediation relief.
- Continuation of current R&D relief rates and further consultation on administrative enhancements.

VAT and Other Indirect Taxes

The VAT landscape saw limited updates. The headline announcement was the imposition of VAT on private school fees from January 2025.



Thomas Coyne and Stuart Barr

Other adjustments include:

- Increases in air passenger duty for short-haul flights and private jets.
- Higher excise duties on tobacco.

More positively, the 5p cut in fuel duty will be extended for another year, and there's a further reduction in draught beer duty.

This fiscal update delivers a mix of relief and challenges, with measures such as increased employment allowance offering a buffer for some while others face rising costs across the board. Businesses and individuals alike must prepare for the road ahead as these changes come into play.

Merry Christmas from WatkinsonBlack!

As the festive season approaches, we'd like to thank our readers and clients for their continued support over the past year. We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a successful start to 2025. Here's to a year of growth, opportunity, and achievements—enjoy the holiday season and all the best for the year ahead!

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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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Humbling and heart-warming

by Helen Bennicke

WATCHING Kevin Sinfield talk about his life in rugby and raising millions of pounds for his best friend, Rob Burrow was a humbling experience.

And it was an experience clearly felt by the 1,000 people in the audience at The Parr Hall in Warrington as he was applauded

volaringion as ne was applicated and given standing ovations. Sinfield was interviewed by ex-rugby league player turned broadcaster Barrie McDermott and

compere Pete Emmett.

His rugby career saw him win multiple championships and Challenge Cups, as well as individual awards, including the Lance Todd Trophy, the Harry Sunderland Trophy and the Golden Root.

Kevin Sinfield is a true hero. He's raised awareness and millions of pounds for research into Motor Neurone Disease after his fellow player's diagnosis back in 2019. Sadly, Rob died in June this year.

He was just 41 years old.
His friend spoke movingly about having to complete a charity bike ride for BBC Children in Need just hours after learning of the diagnosis.

"Luckily the Blue Peter presenter never stopped talking," he joked;

to laughter

But he did it as he attempted to process the news about Burrow, who at the time of his diagnosis, was in his 30s and a father of three young children.

He spoke about Burrow with great pride - about his talent as a player, as a coach and as a friend.

He spoke movingly of realising Burrow was slurring his speech at an awards event and quizzing him about alcohol and painkillers and

urging him to see a doctor.

The evening flew by as he talked of his early life and career – the happiest of childhoods in Oldham as the youngest of three children.

While he was talking about such an emotional and fascinating life and career, there was a lot of humour cared warreth too.

humour and warmth, too.

There were short video clips summarising his rugby career from his childhood and his epic fundraising on the first seven marathons in seven days.

A modest man, he described himself as someone who "just did a

bit of running for my mate."

But it was a lot more than that. He has raised millions of pounds and continues to do so as he

embarks on a fifth challenge.

Back in 2020, he completed seven marathons (in decent times) on consecutive days, raising £2.8m for MND research. He smashed the £777,777 target he'd set himself in honour of Rob's number seven shirt. It's a feat he repeated twice with a fourth 101-mile run in 24 hours.

Construction work is underway for the Rob Burrow Centre for Motor Neurone Disease in Leeds, where patients will learn of their diagnosis in a peaceful and tranquil environment.

Kevin Sinfield should be knighted for his charitable work and what he has done for families like mine who've lost a loved one through this brutal disease.

The event was organised by Warrington-based HC Promotions.

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