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

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Editor's Comment

WITH all the doom and gloom in the national and international news it is sometimes difficult to remain positive.

Even here in Warrington it is not all good news and I am sure many people are worried about the future.

But as always here at **Warrington Worldwide** we try and remain positive - and as you flick through this month's issue, there is still plenty to be positive about in Warrington.

If you pop along to Warrington Museum & Art Gallery you can see all the fantastic work on display created by art students at Warrington & Vale Royal College and Priestley College which you can see for free!

Meanwhile, Warrington Cycle Hub is celebrating a "Stellar" first six months since opening, with the aim of encouraging more people to get on their bikes.

Having worked in partnership with the Cycle Hub, this is good to see.

More positive news can be found at Latchford based Novelis, where significant steps have been taken

towards carbon neutral production.

On the charity front the Stretton Young Farmers annual tractor ride event has raised over £6,000 for the Make a Wish Foundation.

On the academic front Warrington & Vale Royal College once again staged a very impressive Higher Education Awards ceremony at the stunning St Elphins Church, an event we were proud to support and sponsor (pictured below).

Meanwhile, another group we have supported in the past, Warrington Litter Networks continues to go from strength to strength, breaking more litter collection records as they prepare for the Great British Spring Clean.

We are also proud to support a new Awareness Card being launched by Healthwatch Warrington to help patients and people with additional needs.

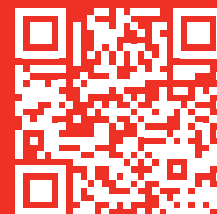
Finally Warrington's very own



Luke Littler continues to go from strength to strength making positive headlines around the world.

The 18-year-old, already a World Champion is surely hurtling towards becoming the number one darts player in the world!

So there you go - still plenty to be positive about here in Warrington - all good news we are proud to report on!

**Deadline for the
May issue is
April 8****Scan for all the
latest news****PRIESTLEY**
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WARRINGTON

More Choice

Not only does Priestley College offer the widest range of courses locally - including A-Levels, Vocational options and T-Levels - but also offers a variety of enrichment activities and specialisms.

These opportunities enrich the college experience and enhance a student's university application or CV.

These are just some of the options that are available:

High Achievers' Programme**Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary (MDV) Programme****Languages for Business****Elite Sport+ (TASS)****NHS Cadet Programme****Oxygen (Dance Rambert Grades)**

For more
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scan here



Bus company earns top safety certification



Warrington's Own Buses has achieved the International Standard – ISO 45001, a major recognition of its commitment to workplace health and safety.

This means the company meets the highest standards for protecting anyone affected by its operations including its employees and passengers.

The company made achieving this standard a priority, with the leadership team and staff working together to build a strong safety culture over recent years. "Safety is our top priority," says Lynda Cookson, Internal Auditor of Warrington's Own Buses. "This certification shows our dedication to providing a safe and healthy

environment for everyone."

ISO 45001 focuses on preventing injuries and illness, eliminating hazards, and constantly improving safety practices. The company uses a continuous improvement cycle of Plan, Do, Check, and Act (PDCA) for all safety measures. They are regularly audited by a certified body to ensure they maintain these high standards. This certification demonstrates Warrington's Own Buses' ongoing commitment to their safety strapline "Work Safe Always".

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Championing the talents of a new generation of artists

TWO exhibitions aimed at championing the talents and voice of a new generation of artists have opened at Warrington Museum and Art Gallery.

More than 60 talented art and design students from both Warrington and Vale Royal College (WVRC) and Priestley College are currently showcasing their work in a professional gallery setting in their hometown as part of their development.

WVRC directly collaborated with the Museum team on 'From The Collections' – producing new artworks in response to items they found within the historic building's vast collection of exhibits and archives.

The students learnt about the importance of research as the foundation of their arts practice and were inspired by a diverse range of artefacts, including an 1842 report on child labour in pin factories, a reticulated python skeleton and even a poster advertising 'Mr Usher's Cat Circus'.

Kelly Broughton, subject lead in Art for WVRC, said: "It's been a real confidence booster for students to see their work exhibited in a gallery, gaining valuable practical experience of working as an artist in the industry which is something we are passionate about at college."

"Huge thanks to the Museum's gallery and archives teams for their incredible support throughout."

Meanwhile, Priestley College's show saw second-year art and design students respond to the themes of resistance, change and activism to celebrate the voice, concerns and aspirations of a new generation for an exhibition called Protest.

The thought-provoking and challenging collection of work, created over 10 weeks, also features some figurative work created by first-year students.

Gary Jones, Art and Design course co-ordinator at Priestley College, said: "We are incredibly grateful to Warrington Museum for providing this wonderful opportunity for our students. This exhibition represents a significant milestone, giving them the invaluable experience of showcasing their work in a professional gallery setting."

"It's rewarding to witness their creative journeys culminating in a collection that showcases such a broad range of ideas and processes. For our first-year students, this project has been about challenging perceptions and exploring the complexities of stereotypes."

"Our second-year students, given free rein on the theme of protest,

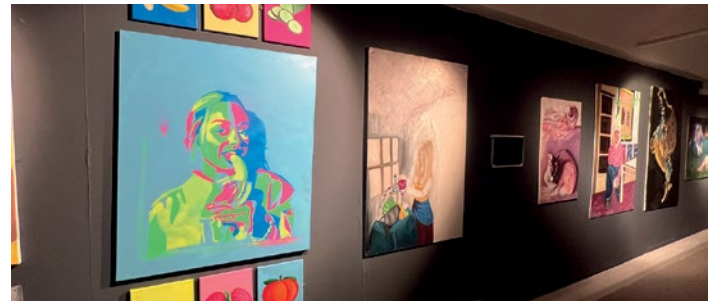
have created a diverse body of work reflecting their individual interests and concerns."

"Having more than 50 students contribute to this show, the product of 10 weeks of dedicated work, is a testament to their talent and hard work, and a true boost to their confidence as emerging artists."

Roger Jeffery, producer at

Warrington Museum, added: "Congratulations to all the artists – we're proud to support Warrington's young emerging artists with this opportunity and we're excited to share it with our visitors."

From the Collections is available to view until March 30 and Protest runs until April 27.



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Spotlight on Local Business

Cycle Hub celebrates stellar first six months

Warrington Cycle Hub – a one-stop shop for all things cycling in the heart of the town – is celebrating a hugely successful first six months.

Located on Crown Street in Warrington town centre, the hub officially opened its doors in Summer 2024. It has quickly become a vital resource for cycling enthusiasts of all levels, from seasoned riders to those just starting out.

The hub has already made a significant impact on the cycling community, with the skilled and dedicated team delivering a comprehensive range of services and activities. Since opening, they have:

- Welcomed almost 1,500 visitors.
- Delivered bike maintenance sessions to nearly 100 people, empowering cyclists to keep their bikes in top condition.
- Provided around 500 pieces of advice on everything from route planning to bike selection.
- Led more than 150 people on guided rides, enabling cyclists to explore the local area and build confidence.
- Carried out more than 650 repair and improvement services in the workshop, ensuring bikes are safe and roadworthy.
- Facilitated around 50 bike hires, making cycling accessible to those who may not own a bike.

On top of this, a range of wider activities have been delivered, from film nights and bike security marking, to talks about woman in cycling. The first-class service being offered by the team has earned the hub a 5-star rating on Google Reviews.

Warrington Borough Council Leader and Cabinet Member for transport, Cllr Hans Mundry, said: "We're absolutely delighted with the success of the Warrington Cycle Hub. It has quickly become a focal point for the cycling community, fostering a welcoming and inclusive environment for all."

"The impressive figures speak for themselves and show the real need for such a facility in our town, supporting the growing interest in cycling and providing easy-to-access support services."

"The hub is playing a crucial role in our wider plans to make cycling easier and more accessible for everyone, and I'm looking forward to it continuing to contribute to a healthier, more active and sustainable future for transport in Warrington."

Warrington Cycle Hub is run by Cheshire Cycles, who have more than 40 years' experience in the field, with funding for the hub provided by Warrington Borough Council through the Town Deal Fund.

Mike Carlin, owner of Cheshire

Cycles and Warrington Cycle Hub, said: "With a real push for reaching out to the community, we're helping empower people with the prospects of using a bike for active travel within the borough. In our first six months, we feel that we are seeing a positive increase in the use of a bicycles for both leisure and practical usage."

You can now take advantage of the latest promotion at the cycle hub, with a 50% discount on 6 weeks of e-bike hire. Supported by the council, this offer aims to encourage more people to embrace this form of sustainable transport. Pop into the hub to find out more.

Warrington Cycle Hub is a community-focused initiative, dedicated to making cycling accessible and enjoyable for everyone. Located in Warrington town centre, the hub offers a range

of services including:

- Bikes for hire
- Secure cycle storage and showers
- Cycle maintenance courses
- Bike servicing
- Guided bike rides
- Special cycling events
- Sales of bikes and accessories

The project forms part of Warrington's sustainable transport programme, which is delivering several projects aimed at transforming transport and active travel in the borough and making walking and cycling safer, easier and more accessible.

For more information on the hub, visit warringtoncyclehub.co.uk, or you can: Call: 01925 595 544 Email: info@warringtoncyclehub.co.uk Visit: Unit 5 Crown St, Warrington WA1 2AE



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Significant step toward carbon-neutral production

Novelis Inc., a sustainable aluminium solutions provider has successfully tested using hydrogen fuel to power a recycling furnace at its UK plant in Latchford, Warrington.

The tests were carried out as part of a UK government decarbonisation programme and in collaboration with Progressive Energy, an independent UK energy company, and required the installation of new burners, regenerators, and furnace lining material. Using hydrogen instead of the same amount of natural gas when operating a melting furnace can reduce CO₂e emissions by up to 90%.

"Exploring renewable energy sources, such as hydrogen,

making first mover investments, and reducing energy intensity are part of our 3x30 vision to advance aluminium as the material of choice with circular solutions", says Emilio Braghi, Executive Vice President, Novelis Inc., and President, Novelis Europe. "With the significant expansion of our local recycling capacity, we are transforming the Latchford site into a prototype for high-recycled content and decarbonised aluminium production."

With safety as the top priority of

the hydrogen pilot project, several series of tests were conducted by blending different percentages of hydrogen with natural gas (30%-100%) to evaluate the impact on existing infrastructure, and

equipment compatibility.

During the trial campaign, several hundred tonnes of 3000 series scrap aluminium alloy were remelted and cast into sheet ingots.



Sports bar rebrands after threat of legal action

A Warrington town centre sports bar originally named in honour of local darts supreme Luke Littler has rebranded after being hit with a trademark warning.

Originally set to be named Nukes Sports Bar at The Hive in Sankey Street, named after the nickname for Littler – Luke the Nuke, the venue aimed to pay homage to Littler and other darts players.

But after the threat of legal action from Littler's solicitors, the brand new sports bar, has renamed as McCoys replaced Religion Coffee

which is moving to a space inside The Hive, a boutique shopping centre. Both businesses are owned by Owen Williams, who also runs the The Tank Bar and Live Lounge.

McCoys has big screen tvs which can be seen at every angle.

Owen said: "We are also bringing affordable drinking to the town allowing people of all ages to socialise, play pool, darts and enjoy live sport without costing the earth."

"I also own tank bar, a live Music venue bringing the best atmosphere in late night venues."



Charlotte Nichols MP Warrington North

If you live in Warrington North and have an issue you need help with or would like to book a surgery appointment, please get in touch.

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Divorce Column

By Peter Wilkinson
Divorce Lawyer at Chambers Fletcher Solicitors

Quick fire questions

1. How long does a divorce take?

It will take at least 26 weeks from start to finish. There will be a 20 week holding period (sometimes referred to as a cooling off period) between the date of the divorce application and the making of a conditional order and there must be a period of at least 6 weeks from conditional order to applying for a final order.

2. Do I need consent to divorce?

No, consent is not required. We live in an era of no-fault divorce so all that's required is for you to state in your application that the marriage has irretrievably broken down and whether or not your spouse agrees with this or consents to a divorce is irrelevant.

3. Does it matter who starts the divorce?

No, in the sense that it will make no difference to the outcome of sorting out the finances ancillary to divorce or to resolving any dispute concerning child arrangements. But in sole applicant cases (as opposed to joint) the sole applicant will be in the driving seat and so have more control over the timing of some aspects of the divorce process and there may be a benefit in being in this position.

4. How much does a divorce cost?

It can and does vary. Many solicitors will deal with the divorce on a fixed fee basis. The fixed fee can of course vary from one firm to another but typically you should expect to have to pay a few hundred pounds plus the court fee. There will be vat on the solicitors' charges but there is no vat on the court fee. The costs of sorting out finances and child arrangements are separate from the costs of the divorce.

5. How long do I have to be married before I can divorce?

You must be married for at least 12 months before you can apply for a divorce. You can of course enter into negotiations over finances and child arrangements from the moment you separate even if you cannot straightaway apply for a divorce.

Family Law & Divorce Residential Property Commercial Property Wills, Trusts & Probate



Peter Wilkinson



Stephen Worrall

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Warrington and Halton Teaching Hospitals urge pregnant women to get lifesaving RSV vaccine



Expectant parents can now receive a new vaccine to protect their baby against respiratory syncytial virus (RSV).

The lifesaving vaccination offers newborn babies protection against RSV, a common virus that affects the airways and lungs. It can be spread all year round and causes coughs and colds, but in some cases can cause more serious illnesses such as pneumonia or bronchiolitis.

For babies, it can cause inflammation and blockage of the small air tubes in the lung, making breathing and feeding difficult, which may mean they need to be treated in hospital.

The NHS vaccination programme was rolled out in September 2024, and since then hundreds of babies across Warrington and Halton have been protected against RSV.

Raveen Tank is a mum of two who lives in Warrington and is expecting her third baby. Both of Raveen's children had bronchiolitis which resulted in them needing hospital care. Talking about her children's experiences, Raveen said: "Our eldest Daya was just 28 days old when he caught the virus. It started from a sniffle that my husband had, which for adults is easy to recover from but for a small baby can cause serious health complications. Sunil, our second baby, was also very young at just two months old when he became poorly. Seeing my children with all the equipment needed for treatment was really scary, but it's actually avoidable with the new vaccine."

Raveen recently attended an

antenatal appointment to receive her vaccine and has this advice for expectant parents: "I would absolutely take the vaccine. It avoids so much stress and worry – and your baby doesn't even need to have a jab. I took the vaccine as soon as I could, and I didn't feel unwell at all."

Tildy Ashcroft, Specialist Midwife for Antenatal and Newborn Screening at Warrington and Halton Teaching Hospitals, said: "The RSV vaccine is a fantastic way to protect babies at the most vulnerable time of their lives and can provide reassurance to parents."

"As a midwife I would encourage any expectant mum to speak to their midwife about the vaccinations that are available for you and your baby. We are always happy to answer any questions you have and are here to support you."

The RSV vaccine is offered alongside other maternal jabs to protect expectant parents and babies from preventable illnesses. This includes vaccinations for flu, pertussis which protects against whooping cough, and COVID-19.

Pregnant women are offered the RSV vaccine to protect their baby from week 28 of pregnancy and only one dose is needed to give your new baby the best protection.

For more information on the RSV vaccine please speak to your midwife, GP surgery, or visit the NHS website.

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Tractor Run raises over £6,200 for charity

WIND and showers failed to deter more than 100 vehicles from turning out for the annual Stretton YFC Tractor Run in aid of charity.

The event, which set off from the Antrobus arms, following a route through the roads of south Warrington, has already raised over £6,200 for the Make-A-Wish charity, which supports children with critical illnesses.

Critical illness brings a child's joy to an abrupt end but Make-A-Wish grants life-changing wishes that have the power to turn tears into cheers,

rescuing the magic of childhood even in their toughest times and providing a lifeline for families to spend precious time together.

When it comes to their dreams, they deserve to wish for more than a life defined by their illness.

A total of 110 tractors of all shapes sizes and ages attended the event organised annually by Stretton Young Farmers.

Pictures: John Hopkins



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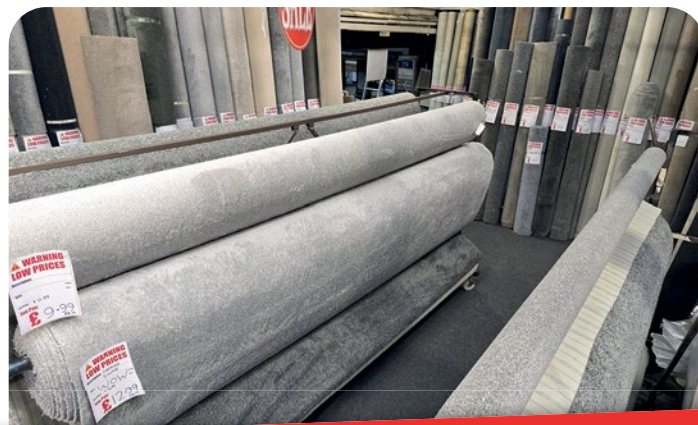
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Tony shares the excitement, "It's fantastic to work with Craig again. Love Carpets offers better prices, quicker turnaround—fitting within two days—and exceptional service. I'm amazed at what an independent business can offer."

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PRIESTLEY College has been awarded a national accreditation for the work it does to support the mental health of students and staff.

The college in Loushers Lane has received the FE Mental Health Award, Gold Accreditation, in respect of wide-ranging efforts to support its community.

"This is an award for every member of staff at Priestley and reflects the work we do every day for one another and the students," said Wellbeing Practitioner Caroline Atkinson.

The award is supported by the charity Minds Ahead and the Carnegie Centre of Excellence for Mental Health in Schools.

Priestley's achievement shows it is excelling in all eight competencies.

"We are delighted to receive the award, but it certainly doesn't mean the work comes to an end or that we stop trying to improve on what we do," said Caroline.

Priestley was judged as 'excelling' in all areas including 'Leadership and strategy', 'Organisational structure and culture' and its work with parents and carers.

Among the staff activities highlighted were Ceramics for Mindfulness workshops, charity walks and regular communications promoting wellbeing.

Coach Josie Whiteley, who completed the report for the Further Education Mental Health Award, noted how every student had a tutor who was responsible for making sure they had the right support in place for their academic development and wellbeing.

She concluded her report by saying she had 'no hesitation' in recommending Priestley College received the award at gold level.



St Rocco's Hospice 40 Years Making Every Day Count

Run for #TeamRoccos in 2025

We are looking for runners of all abilities to join #TeamRoccos to help raise funds for patient care.

We are returning to the streets of Manchester for the **Great Manchester Run on Sunday 18th May 2025** and in celebration of our 40th anniversary we are once again the official **Charity Partner** for the **2025 Warrington Running Festival on Sunday 21st September**.

Through Run for Charity we have a number of **free places** available for both local and regional running events so there's something for everyone!

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College celebrates Higher Education awards and professional students' success



WARRINGTON & Vale Royal College welcomed its most recent cohort of graduating higher education and professional students to the remarkable St Elphin's Church to celebrate their achievements.

On arrival to the church, students were transformed into gleaming graduands ready to walk the stage and claim their academic achievements. The ceremony was attended by a host of VIPs and friends of the college, including the Mayor of Warrington, Cllr Wendy Johnson, and special guest speaker Travis Frain. The college was also honoured to appoint its newest fellow, Mervyn Ward (pictured above).

All in attendance were deeply moved by guest speaker Travis Frain OBE, who gave an impactful speech about his experience having survived the Westminster Bridge attack in March 2017. Travis has since dedicated his life and career to the prevention of violent extremism and countering radicalisation, and spoke about resilience, compassion, and strength.

The college was once again pleased to present a number of esteemed special awards to standout students in recognition of their hard work and dedication.

Congratulations to Donna Gordon, The Outstanding Achievement Award in Apprenticeships recipient, Karrina Morse, The Harry Cunningham Achievement Award recipient, John Gaskell, The Professional Student of the Year recipient, Vicki Cottrell, The Hilary Tucker Art Excellence Award recipient, and Emily Fitzsimons, The Craig Atherton Sporting Excellence Award recipient. All worthy winners!

A huge thank you to all who attended the event and to Warrington Worldwide, Local IQ, Firefly Agency, Cheshire's Mix 56, and Bluestorm Design for sponsoring the special awards. Congratulations to the higher education and professional students for all of their achievements – the college looks forward to seeing you progress in your successful careers.

Applications are open now for Higher Technical & Professional courses starting in September 2025! Visit: wvr.ac.uk to learn more and apply online.



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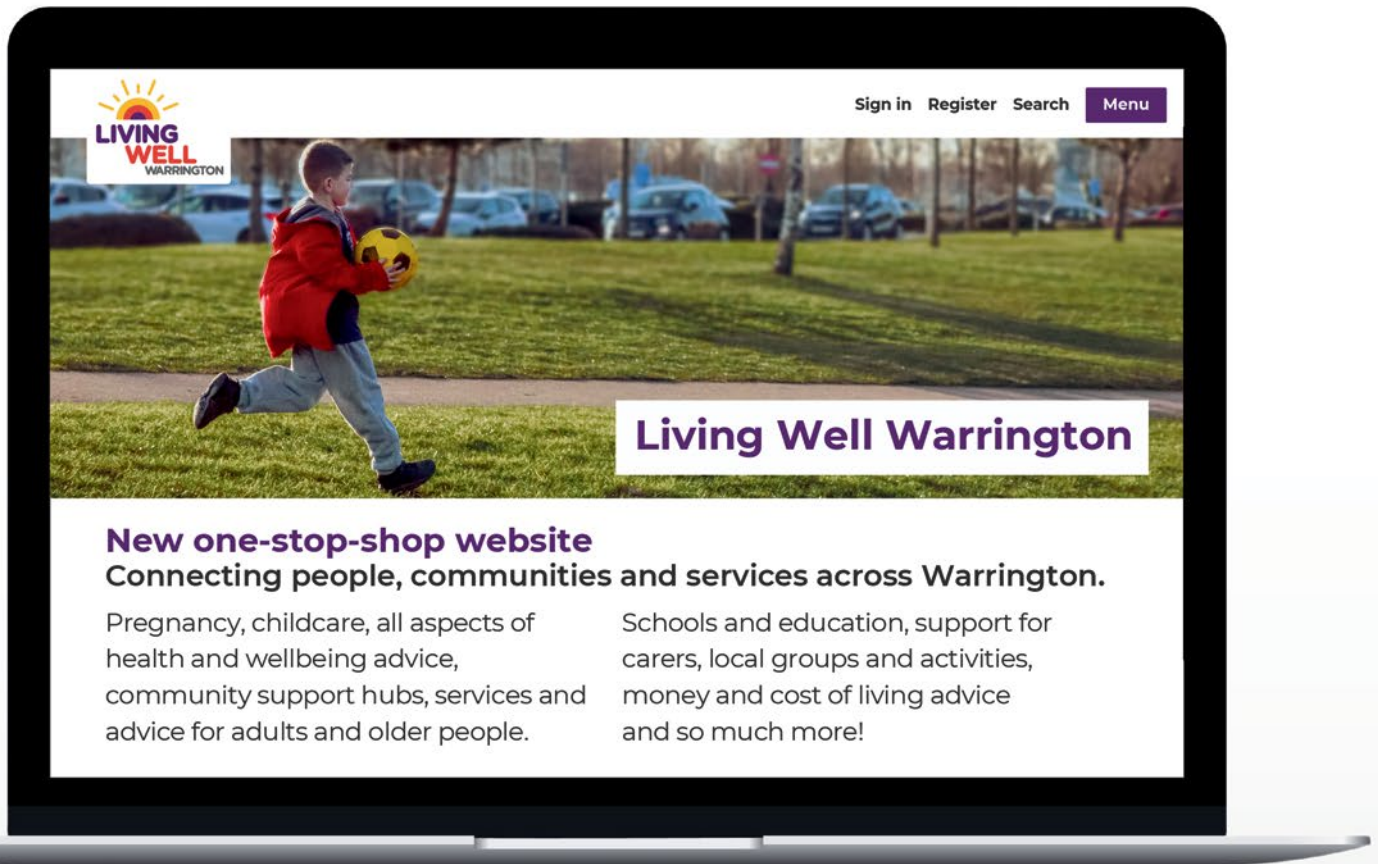
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**LAUNCHES
26 MARCH**

Litter Network volunteers wanted to support Great British Spring Clean

VOLUNTEERS are urgently wanted to join the Warrington Litter Networks to support the Great British Spring Clean.

Warrington has a large number of separate volunteer teams and in 2024 they collected around 8,000 sacks of litter working in close liaison with the senior team at Warrington Borough Council and a number of Borough Councillors, who have provided particularly strong support.

Keep Britain Tidy (KBT) is the overarching litter charity in the UK. Each year they set a Challenge for litter volunteers throughout the land as part of their Great British Spring Clean (GBSC).

Warrington teams have excellent connections with "KBT" with 13 locally based KBT Litter Ambassadors endorsed by the Charity; one of the largest concentrations of Ambassadors for a town of our size anywhere in the UK.

They are planning around 26 separate organised Litter Picks in Warrington in the GBSC period which stretches from 21 March to 6 April. Some of these will be "family friendly" in parks and similar settings.

The highlight date will be

Saturday 29 March when, during that morning, they will be running 10 separate picks of up to 4kms each running to and from the Town Hall.

These teams - comprising 10 to 12 volunteers in each team - will be led by an experienced Leader and their Deputy.

Volunteers are now being sought to join each of the 26 Litter Picks during the period 21 March to 6 April. Bookings should be made via a dedicated Warrington based Booking e-mail address ; gbsc2025@gmail.com

Accompanied children of 6 and above will be welcome on certain "family friendly" Picks - but only on the basis of 1 child per accompanying adult.

Equipment will be available to borrow on the day - litter pickers (including those for children), hi-vis vests, litter hoops and bags to collect litter in.

In December last year a 13 year old schoolboy from Tarporley, Thomas Morgan, wrote to Cllr Hans Mundry, Leader of the Council. Thomas asked whether Warrington

BC would take up his "One Tonne Challenge" to litter pick 1,000 kgs of litter.

This follows his success in getting the Royal Navy to litter pick two tonnes of litter from seas and watercourses across the world back in 2023. This followed him writing, when he was just 11, to the First Sea Lord, Sir Ben Key.

In the light of his request, Warrington BC agreed to work with Warrington Litter Volunteers in agreeing to attempt to meet Thomas's One Tonne Challenge during the timeframe of the GBSC during March and early April.

Litter picking can be an extremely enjoyable, healthy, open air experience with a range of

like-minded local people. It helps improve the look and feel of the town and often has the impact of leading to an improvement in ongoing littering, once an area has been tidied up. Litter picking can often remove plastics and other litter from entering local watercourses. Plastics take years and years to break down. Warrington sits on the banks of the River Mersey only a few miles from the Irish Sea; plastic debris falling into a stream or river in Warrington could easily find itself in months and years ahead causing major problems for water quality and marine life. This is why the Great British Spring Clean is so important.



Launch of new awareness card



HEALTHWATCH Warrington, in collaboration with the Patient Experience and Inclusion Team at Warrington & Halton Hospital NHS Trust, has announced the launch of a new Awareness Card.

The Awareness Card is designed to inform healthcare professionals that patients may have additional needs or require extra support to enhance their experience when attending the hospital.

Inspired by the Healthwatch Essex "Trauma Awareness Card," and lived experience feedback, this initiative has been adapted to support the specific needs of Warrington residents. The Awareness Card aims to make professionals aware of potential triggers, such as windowless rooms or questions that might provoke a fight or flight response, ensuring a more person-centred approach to care.

Warrington Worldwide has kindly sponsored the pilot of the new card.

"We are committed to promoting person-centred care and improving the overall patient experience," said Lydia Hughes, CEO at Healthwatch Warrington. "This

card will also help reduce missed appointments, as the patients' needs are being considered. This should also help patient frustration and reduce conflict with staff."

Healthwatch Warrington is seeking feedback from the community on the card's name. Whether you have experienced trauma or know someone who has, your input is invaluable in shaping this initiative. By participating in this month's survey, you can have your voice heard and be entered into a prize draw.

For more information and to participate in the survey, please visit <https://engagingcommunities.welcomesyourfeedback.net/8ka66h>

About Healthwatch Warrington
Healthwatch Warrington is dedicated to ensuring that patients' and the public's voices are heard in the development and delivery of health and social care services. By gathering feedback and working with local health and care providers, Healthwatch Warrington aims to improve the quality and accessibility of services for all residents.

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Spotlight on Local History with James Balme

St. Elphin's Church – The final resting place of the 13th Baron of Warrington Sir John Boteler (Knight)

Anyone visiting Warrington today cannot fail to see the towering spire of St. Elphin's church that is visible for many miles around and dominating the landscape.

Reaching an impressive two hundred and eighty-one feet the spire can claim to be the 5th highest parish church spire in the UK. St. Elphin's is believed to have been first built around

650 AD as a place of worship. A mention in the Domesday Book of 1066 states that a priest was present at Warrington.

Historical research reveals that the first priest 'Elphin' was present at the church until his death in 679 AD. The church has been associated with several well-known Warrington families throughout time including the Masseys, and the Pattens. But it was the Boteler family of Bewsey old hall who founded the Lady Chapel at the church in the year 1290 AD and it was endowed by Sir John Boteler. In 1354 the church was rebuilt once again by Sir William Boteler and the earliest remains from that time can still be seen today in the chancel and crypt.

It was at Bewsey old hall in 1429 AD that a baby was born to John Boteler and his wife Isabel and this

baby also called John would one day become the 13th Baron of Warrington.

The child was to grow strong and as part of the Boteler family he represented a family that had been in Warrington and the surrounding area for many hundreds of years. By the age of twenty young John was to become a Knight of the Shire a noble position and one that he would hold for many years to come. On the 18th August 1444 John was to wed Lady Margaret Gerard of Kingsley, daughter of Sir Peter Gerard. Between them they bore at least five children, John, Margaret, Elizabeth, William and Isabel however in the year 1452 Lady Margaret was to die young. Sometime before July 1448 John was Knighted and the ceremony was witnessed by his brother-in-Law Sir Thomas Gerard of Kingsley.

John was to marry Margaret in August 1444, he was just fifteen years old and Margaret just fourteen. Sadly, Margaret passed away in 1452 aged just twenty two years. John married again to

Elizabeth Dacre but this ended in divorce. John was to marry one more time and his third bride was Margaret Stanley but she survived John and it was at Bewsey Old Hall on the 24th February 1463 that Sir John died.

Upon his death Sir John was taken to St Elphin's church in Warrington where he was buried inside the church in a beautiful

Alabaster tomb chest. The tomb still remains today and is lavishly decorated and surmounted with the effigies of Sir John and his first wife Lady Gerard of Kingsley both holding hands for eternity.

To view James' video on the Search of the 13th Baron of Warrington, visit youtube.com/@Tvpresenter4history





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Financing Buy-to-Let Property Tax-Efficiently

For landlords and property investors, financing buy-to-let properties tax-efficiently is key to maximising returns. Whether using personal funds or external finance, understanding the tax treatment of interest and borrowing is essential.

Using Personal Capital

The simplest funding method is investing personal savings. With savings rates around 5%, after tax this drops to approximately 4% for basic rate taxpayers and 3% for higher-rate taxpayers. Buy-to-let investments can yield better returns, particularly when rental yields and capital growth are factored in.

However, using personal capital ties up funds for the long term, reducing flexibility. As a result, many landlords combine personal funds with mortgage borrowing to balance return and liquidity.

Remortgaging Existing Properties

HMRC treats property letting as a business. Its guidance (BIM45700) confirms that interest on loans used to fund property businesses is generally tax-deductible. Crucially, HMRC focuses on the purpose of the borrowing rather than the asset used as security.

For landlords with multiple properties, this means remortgaging an existing property to release capital for reinvestment typically allows continued interest relief. As long as the funds are used for the

property rental business, interest remains allowable (subject to the standard restrictions and caps).

Portfolio Lending

Landlords with two or more properties may benefit from portfolio lending, where multiple mortgages are consolidated into one account. The lender assesses the portfolio as a whole, averaging rental income and loan-to-value ratios.

This structure enables landlords to leverage equity across the entire portfolio to finance further acquisitions. For instance, if a portfolio worth £2 million has £1.7 million in borrowing, there is £300,000 of equity available to support new investment.

Portfolio lending is generally aimed at landlords with portfolios valued between £500,000 and £10 million. Lenders typically require rental income to cover at least 130% of loan repayments. Rates are often competitive compared to individual buy-to-let mortgages, offering greater flexibility and efficiency in expanding property businesses.

Releasing Equity from a Main Residence

Landlords can also release equity from their principal private residence to finance buy-to-let investments. Mortgages secured against a main residence usually offer lower interest rates and fees compared to buy-to-let products.

Even though the loan is secured on

the home, interest can still qualify for tax relief if the funds are used wholly and exclusively for the rental business. This approach may appeal to smaller investors seeking cost-effective finance, particularly when refinancing a residential mortgage.

Using a SIPP for Property Investment

Self-Invested Personal Pensions (SIPPs) offer another avenue for property investment. A SIPP can either purchase commercial property directly or provide capital (from age 55 onwards) to the investor.

While SIPPs cannot purchase residential property, buying a commercial property—such as business premises—within a SIPP can be highly tax-efficient. Rent paid into the SIPP is exempt from income tax, capital gains are tax-free on disposal, and the property value remains within the pension fund, potentially outside the scope of Inheritance Tax.

Interest Relief on Borrowing

Since April 2020, individual landlords receive a basic rate tax credit of 20% on mortgage interest, rather than a deduction from rental profits. Relief applies to loans used directly or indirectly to acquire rental property, up to the property's market value when first let.

Interest on loans funding deposits may also qualify if the borrowing is for the rental business. Typically, lenders will finance up to 60-75%



Thomas Coyne and Stuart Barr

of a buy-to-let property's value, with rental income expected to cover 125-145% of mortgage repayments.

Tax Credit Caps and Restrictions

The 20% tax credit is capped at the lower of:

- The interest paid in the tax year;
- The property business's taxable profits;
- Adjusted total income (after reliefs and losses, excluding savings and dividends) above the personal allowance.

If the tax credit exceeds the tax due, it is capped at the amount required to reduce the tax bill to nil. Any unused credit can be carried forward and applied in future tax years.

Where rental losses occur, interest relief cannot be claimed in that year, but the unused interest is carried forward for future offset when profits arise.

Practical Considerations

Borrowings must be used wholly and exclusively for the rental business to qualify for interest relief. Where loans are used for both personal and business purposes, interest deductibility can be complex and may be restricted.

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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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Teenage Darts World Champion on top of the world!



LOCAL teenage darts sensation Luke Littler must be feeling on top of the world after becoming the youngest-ever darts world champion, being made an Honorary Citizen of Warrington and having his beloved "Warrington Wolves" stadium named in his honour for the opening game of the season.

The decision to bestow the prestigious honour on Luke was approved by all councillors at an extraordinary meeting of the council following a proposal put forward by council leader, Cllr Hans Mundry, seconded by deputy leader, Cllr Jean Flaherty.

Aged just 17 years and 347 days, Luke won the 2025 PDC World Darts Championship in January, defeating three-time world champion Michael Van Gerwen 7-3 in the final at Alexandra Palace in London.

He has now won 13 senior PDC titles and is the current reigning Premier League, Grand Slam, and World Series Finals Champion.

Luke attended Padgate High and is a keen supporter of Warrington Wolves and was recently given the honour of having the Halliwell Jones Stadium named after him for the opening game of the season.

He first picked up a dart at 18 months old. Luke joined the St Helens Youth Darts Academy at the age of 8, and during this time

represented England's A team, at the WDF British Internationals, the MVG Masters, the 6 Nations, and the Youth Europe Cup.

At 16, Luke reached the 2024 World Championship final and earned a spot in the 2024 Premier League. Luke won his first major title at the Premier League on his debut, becoming the youngest player to win a major PDC Tournament.

In 2024, he went on to win the World Series of Darts and the Grand Slam of Darts titles on his debut at both events, before securing the World Darts Championship at the start of this year.

Luke was named 2024 BBC Young Sports Personality of the year, and his achievements at such a young age have been credited with creating a surge in interest in darts, with the term 'Littlermania' being coined to explain the phenomenon.

Currently ranked number two in the world, current form suggests he will soon be number one!

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