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UNDER NEW OWNERSHIP

Padgate girl centre stage at Mela

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Editor's Opinion

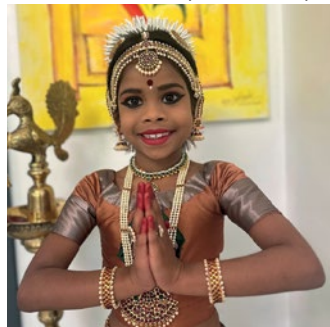
CONGRATULATIONS to everyone involved in this year's Warrington Mela which is fast becoming one of the highlights of the year in the town's calendar of events.

With current Mayor Cllr., Mo Hussain, the inspiration behind the event which first surfaced in 2012, it has gone from strength to strength, with this year's Mela described as the "biggest and best yet" by the person who helped launch it.

It was also pleasing to see eight-year-old Padgate girl and World Record holder Samiksha Diwakar take centre stage at the event, showcasing Indian culture in the town she lives and goes to school.

Video footage of her remarkable dancing attracted over 225,000 viewings on our Facebook page with hundreds of favourable comments, highlighting many positives for our town.

To those in the community who question why Warrington hosts a Mela, Sami is a prime example



of the importance of community engagement and bringing down barriers.

Broaden your horizons and views and embrace other cultures. Visit next year's event and see what is on offer. You will love it.

To those of you who always complain about Warrington celebrating other cultures, while not recognising more traditional events like St George's Day – put your

hand up and organise an event for the town.

St George's Day takes place on April 23rd which is also the birthday of a national treasure William Shakespeare – if there is anyone out there who would like to organise something let me know and hopefully it can become another great tradition for our town to celebrate.



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Roaring success as Lions host successful fundraiser for Sea Cadets



WARRINGTON Lions International recently hosted a Ladies Day Race Afternoon Tea, helping raise funds for local Sea Cadets.

In collaboration with Warrington Sea Cadets, the Lions provided afternoon tea for over 80 guests, all of whom were elegantly attired.

The event was held at the newly refurbished venue at Cinnamon Brow Farm Club, which provided a stunning backdrop for the occasion.

New Lion President Carol Kilgannon, along with Pam Queeney and Chris and Dave McDermott, expressed immense pride in the event's success, which raised £1700.

The funds will be allocated to Warrington Sea Cadets and to procure specialised equipment

for a local individual affected by Locked-In Syndrome.

President Carol said, "We extend our sincere gratitude to Jim and Lindsey, who managed the horse racing activities, and to all the businesses that sponsored the event.

"Numerous additional events are scheduled for the upcoming year.

"The more funds we generate, the greater our capacity to support local organisations within the Warrington area.

"We appreciate the ongoing support from all participants," added Carol.

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Padgate girl takes centre stage at Warrington Mela with Indian dancing

AN eight-year-old Padgate girl took centre stage at Warrington's annual mela as her Indian-based cultural dancing went viral on social media attracting more than 215,000 viewings.

World record holder Samiksha Diwakar captured hearts with her dancing which attracted a global audience via Warrington Worldwide's Facebook page.

Taught by her auntie, Guru Chithra Muralidaran, she has been dancing in public for two years and gained her world record for dancing non-stop for 25 minutes at an event in London.

She is now looking forward to making a return to the stage at next year's mela, the brainchild of current Mayor Mo Hussain.

Glorious sunshine helped ensure large crowds attended the "biggest

and best" Warrington Mela to date.

Launched by Cllr. Hussain, in 2012, Warrington town centre saw a wide variety of multi-cultural activities.

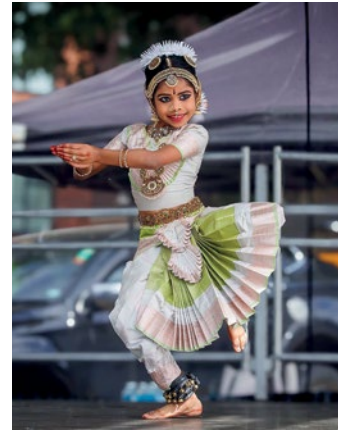
Commenting on the event Cllr. Hussain said: "This year's Warrington Mela has been the biggest and best to date, a fantastic day of celebrating our town's wonderful culture, diversity, and community spirit. With lots of new acts, amazing performances, and a wide variety of food stalls, there was something for everyone to enjoy. It was a joy to see so many people coming together, having fun, and

sharing in what makes Warrington such a vibrant and welcoming place.

"Events like the Mela are more important than ever, as they bring people together, break down barriers, and strengthen the bonds within our community. At a time when we need unity, understanding and positivity, continuing these celebrations of culture helps ensure Warrington remains a town where everyone feels included and proud to belong."

He was also amazed by Sami's dancing performance and is looking forward to welcoming her back next year.

Meanwhile, her dancing activities can be followed on Instagram: @samiksha_hanvika



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College proud to announce 100 percent pass rate for all Access to Higher Education students

WARRINGTON & Vale Royal College is proud to announce a 100% pass rate across all Access to Higher Education (HE) pathways, a remarkable achievement that highlights the dedication of its students and staff.

Furthermore, every student who completed an Access to Higher Education (HE) course at the college this year has successfully progressed to university, securing places at prestigious organisations such as Edge Hill University, Liverpool John Moores University, University of Salford, York St John University, and the University of Chester.

Charlotte Marshall, Curriculum Manager for Access to HE, said: "I'm so proud of all of the students and their incredible achievements. They have demonstrated that with hard work and determination, taking the first step towards a new career is completely achievable."

An Access to HE Diploma is an intensive, one-year course designed for adults who want to go to university but don't have the traditional level 3 qualifications they need in order to apply. These pathways provide a stepping stone to a range of degrees, including nursing, midwifery, social work, and biomedical sciences – just to name a few. Students on these courses at Warrington & Vale Royal College are supported with their UCAS applications and receive clinical skills training to enhance

their skills and knowledge before going to university.

Access to HE is particularly ideal for individuals who want to change careers or return to education after some time away. Many of the college's Access to HE students go on to careers in vital sectors. Their achievements not only transform their own lives but also strengthen the local workforce, bringing essential skills and knowledge to the wider community. Warrington & Vale Royal College is proud to play such a key role in developing the future professionals who will make a real difference in people's lives across the region.

The Access to HE: Allied Health Professionals pathway is designed to give students the core knowledge and skills needed to progress into a career in one of the fourteen allied health professions, such as physiotherapy, radiography, and occupational therapy. Meanwhile, the Access to HE: Nursing & Midwifery pathway is tailored for those dreaming of a career as a fully qualified nurse or midwife. Both pathways are delivered by experienced tutors, some of whom have completed an Access to HE course themselves. This



means they can relate to students' journeys and offer valuable insight, encouragement, and support throughout the course.

One inspiring example of student success is Suzie, who started her learning journey with the college by completing the Level 2 Extended Diploma in Health & Social Care qualification while working towards her GCSE English and maths. With determination and the support of her tutors, Suzie then progressed to the Access to HE: Nursing & Midwifery course.

Balancing her studies alongside her responsibilities as a busy mum, Suzie embraced the challenge and praised her tutors for their flexibility and encouragement throughout the course. Now, she is preparing to begin her degree in Adult Nursing

at the University of Chester this September and is excited to take the next step toward her dream career as a fully qualified Scrub Nurse. Suzie's journey shows that with motivation, resilience, and the right support, anything is possible.

With a new academic year, the college is excited to welcome its next cohort of Level 2 Health & Social Care and Access to HE students who are ready to begin their own journey to higher education. If you would like to go to university but don't yet have the qualifications you need, contact Warrington & Vale Royal College today to find the perfect course, and future progression, for you.

Applications for September 2025 are STILL open. Visit: wvr.ac.uk/access for more information



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Aluminium industry first for Latchford site

Novelis Inc., a leading sustainable aluminium solutions provider and the world leader in aluminium rolling and recycling, has successfully completed the UK's first full-scale hydrogen fuel switching demonstration in the aluminium industry at its Latchford plant, marking a major step toward industrial decarbonisation.

The two-week trial, funded by the UK Department for Energy Security & Net Zero (DESNZ) under the Industrial Fuel Switching (IFS) Competition, involved converting a natural gas furnace to operate flexibly on hydrogen.

"This trial has been a major achievement for our team," said Allan Sweeny, Plant Manager at Novelis Latchford. "It demonstrated that we can adapt our existing infrastructure to run on hydrogen without compromising safety, quality, or performance. It's a practical step forward in reducing our site's carbon footprint and preparing for a low-carbon future."

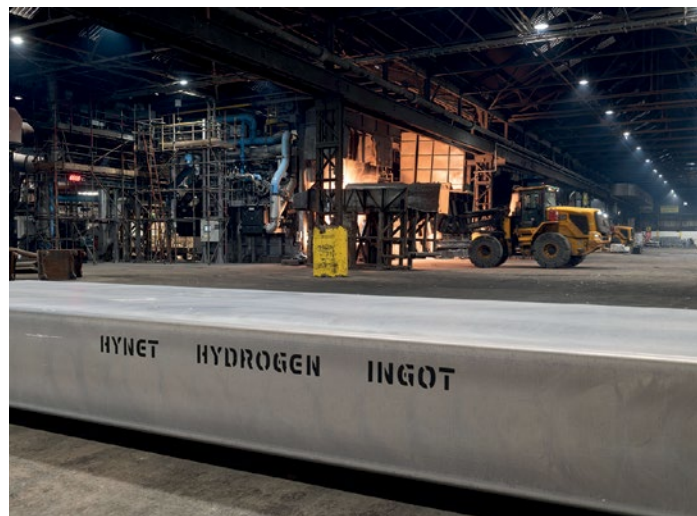
The demonstration confirmed that hydrogen can be safely delivered and combusted in aluminium recycling furnaces. Existing infrastructure was successfully adapted, product quality remained consistent, and dual-fuel burners allowed for operational flexibility. Novelis partnered with Progressive Energy to deliver the project over a two-year period.

In recognition of this achievement, the project was awarded the IEA Hydrogen TCP

Award of Excellence 2025, presented in Busan, South Korea. The award highlights innovations in hydrogen technologies for hard-to-decarbonise sectors and sustainable fuels. Novelis was selected as the first winner among 13 global entries. The ceremony took place during the Clean Energy Ministerial (CEM) event, attended by energy leaders and government officials from over 24 countries including the US, UK, Germany, China, Brazil, South Africa, South Korea, and the European Commission.

The trial also underscored the need for robust infrastructure to support bulk hydrogen supply and distribution. Mechanisms like the UK's Low Carbon Hydrogen Agreement (LCHA) are a positive start, but widespread transport and storage networks will be essential for industrial decarbonization in the North-West.

The successful execution of this program gives Novelis the technical confidence to eliminate up to 45,000 tonnes of direct CO₂ emissions annually at the Latchford site, contingent on hydrogen



availability. Future deployment depends on connection to the HyNet hydrogen network, expected from 2031, or on-site electrolytic production.

In parallel, Novelis is investing approximately \$90 million to double the recycling capacity for used beverage cans (UBCs) at Latchford. This expansion will increase capacity by 85 kilotonnes per year and reduce Novelis Europe's CO₂ emissions by more than 350,000 tonnes annually.

As part of its Novelis 3x30 vision, the company has set ambitious sustainability targets to achieve by the end of 2030, including increasing recycled content to 75% from today's 63%, reducing carbon emissions to less than 3 tonnes CO₂e per tonne aluminium shipped, and continuing to lead the industry to circularity through first-mover investments. These are in addition to the company's goal to be carbon neutral by 2050 or sooner.

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Chambers Fletcher Solicitors Divorce Column

By Peter Wilkinson
Divorce Lawyer at Chambers Fletcher Solicitors

Divorce - Stepping into the Unknown

Divorce is often said to be one of the most significant and life-changing experiences a person can go through. Even when separation is the right choice it represents a step into the unknown, bringing with it uncertainty, emotional upheaval and practical challenges. For many the end of a marriage involves a turbulent surge of various feelings such as sadness, anger and anxiety making it difficult to think clearly or act rationally. It marks the close of a familiar chapter and the daunting beginning of a new, uncharted journey.

The impact of divorce should not be underestimated. The process can feel overwhelming, particularly when children and finances are involved as is most often the case. The shared habits, routines and identity established during marriage suddenly change, leaving individuals to have to adapt and redefine themselves and create a vision of how they want their future to look.

Practical considerations add further complexity. Decisions around property, financial settlements and co-parenting arrangements can be difficult to navigate, especially when emotions are running high. Legal advice and guidance is crucial in seeking to establish a fair and workable outcome and without such professional support it is easy to soon feel lost in the process.

At the same time divorce can present an opportunity for personal growth and renewal. It allows individuals to step away from relationships that are no longer healthy or fulfilling and to create space for new beginnings. It can be a chance to reconnect with and pursue personal goals, establish a more independent identity and foster self-discovery.

Ultimately, divorce is a step into the unknown. But it does not have to be a step into darkness. With the right support, advice and guidance there can be light at the end of the tunnel, representing the start of a new and brighter chapter where independence and self-worth take centre stage.

For expert advice and assistance regarding divorce and related matters please get in touch - we have a great deal of experience advising, guiding and supporting clients in all aspects of family law.

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New £899,000 pump station plan approved to tackle flooding



RESIDENTS living in the Great Sankey South area of Warrington are to benefit from new measures aimed at addressing long-standing flooding issues.

Warrington Borough Council's cabinet has approved plans for a new £899,000 drainage system and pump station at Liverpool Road, Sankey Bridges.

The council's highway engineering, bridges and flood risk team has been working closely with residents to resolve flooding issues in the area, and has carried out extensive, complex, drainage investigations. The team has completed the design and has appointed Tarmac PLC to deliver the project.

This project is a collaboration between Warrington Borough Council, United Utilities, and Environment Agency, demonstrating the commitment and determination of key partners to protect residents from flooding.

The project will reduce flood risks to 62 properties by installing a new drainage system along Liverpool Road and Hood Lane, with an outfall drainage system leading to a new pump station. Two pumps will discharge surface water into Sankey Canal, reducing pressure on the combined drainage system and cutting the risk of foul and surface water flooding.

Key funding contributions of £400,000 from United Utilities and £499,000 from the Environment Agency have supported the project.

Works are scheduled to start in October/November 2025 and will last approximately 20 weeks. This initiative complements the upcoming Sankey Brook Flood Risk Management project, being developed by the Environment Agency.

Warrington Borough Council Leader, Cllr Hans Mundry, said: "We know how much distress the repeated flooding events in this area have caused to local residents for a number of years. This has been further impacted by climate change, which is leading to an increase in storms and flooding to roads and properties."

"We have made a commitment to do everything we can to minimise the risk of future flooding in the area. Funding for flood risk is extremely limited, so I'm delighted that, working in collaboration with United Utilities and Environment Agency, we've successfully secured £899,000 in partnership funding to deliver this important project. It's great news for local residents."

Old Poacher song given new lease of life

FORMER Poacher guitarist Sarge Pete Frampton has seen one of his old songs "Buttermarket" re-released in Nashville, Tennessee, by American duo Lost Hollow, with plans to have it aired live in Warrington later this year!

While Sarge lived on Buttermarket Street and his manager Dave Warwick had offices on the same street, he says the song isn't about the road - but is about a homecoming.

Originally from Guernsey, Sarge as he likes to be known, not to be confused with another Peter Frampton, carved his musical career in Warrington, with well-known folk band Poacher, while also more recently guesting with The Bog Trotters as well as his other band, The Escape Committee. He was also well-known locally as a guitar tutor.

Now a twist of fate has seen "Buttermarket" re-released after 45 years, with a country-style makeover thanks to his former

manager's daughter Rachel, who recorded a version of the song especially for her dad.

The song was heard by Lost Hollow, who have now recorded their own version to promote their forthcoming new album, with plans to showcase it live in Warrington, at the Masonic Hall on November 7th this year.

While many who hear the song will think it is about Buttermarket Street, Sarge says it was more do do with him just liking the name.





Youth Morris dancing troupe entertain care home residents

RESIDENTS at Summerville Care Home in Stockton Heath, Warrington were treated to a vibrant and energetic performance by a local youth Morris dancing troupe.

The visit, which filled the care home with the cheerful sounds of bells and lively music, was a huge success, creating a memorable day for both residents and staff.

The young dancers arrived in their traditional costumes and performed a series of intricate and lively dances on the lawn. Residents watched from the comfort of the lounge and garden area, clapping along to the rhythm and sharing stories of their own experiences with folk traditions. The performance not only showcased the talent of the local youth but also provided a wonderful opportunity for intergenerational connection, bridging the gap between past and present.

Sam Kelly, home manager said:

"Seeing the joy on our residents' faces was truly heartwarming. The performance was a fantastic blend of tradition and youthful energy. It brought back so many happy memories for our residents and created a beautiful, shared experience. We are incredibly grateful to the Morris dancers for sharing their time and talent with us and look forward to welcoming them back in the future."

The visit is part of Summerville's ongoing commitment to engaging residents with the local community and providing diverse and enriching activities.

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Painter and decorator launches own business to fund new surgical boot so he can carry on working!



AFTER a lifetime of battling disability, painter and decorator Brian Williams has launched his own business to avoid the benefits trap and to pay for a new surgical boot so he can carry on working for as long as possible.

Born without a fibula, one leg is eight inches shorter than the other, requiring the need for a surgical boot he hasn't been able to update for 30 years.

After losing his last job due to incapacity, he is now purchased a van and set up his own painting and decorating business.

Taking up his story, Brian from Orford, Warrington, said: "At birth, I was born without a fibula in my leg and was advised to have it amputated. I've soldiered on wearing a surgical boot with my leg being 8 inch shorter than the other.

"I've struggled through life, and I left school to be a painter and decorator, even with the struggles with my leg up and down ladders.

"After serving my apprenticeship, I got a job decorating at a company in Warrington in 1990, until last year, when I got diagnosed with COPD and a short time later diagnosed with lung cancer.

"I've never once asked for help, I've even got the same surgical boot from 30 years ago as Warrington hospital doesn't know how to get the shape right for my foot.

"Long story short, after my diagnosis with cancer, I had an operation to remove the top of my

lung and went back to work after eight weeks.

"I was advised by occupational health not to work externally in the cold as it made my COPD worse.

"I lost my job because I couldn't work externally in the winter after 35 years of being there, resulting in incapacity dismissal.

"I've never once claimed benefits, so I decided to buy a van in April and try to start my own business decorating. I'm not doing bad now but would like to get my name out there to get more custom and hopefully make money to go private for somebody to be able to make me a new surgical boot so I can continue working for as long as I possibly can!"

Brian can be contacted on 07473 199288 or via email at bwilliams.bw279@gmail.com



Christmas Party Nights

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Local designer makes long-awaited return to the art world

A Warrington-based graphic designer is returning to his first love of art after pouring his energy into his family and career.

Marco Frezza has teamed up with Warrington Museum and Art Gallery to host his first solo show as a practising visual artist.

His exhibition, *Measuring Ghosts*, is now open and runs until 9 November.

Marco has been drawn to art since he was a youngster – always doodling and making things – and he graduated with a degree in graphic design in his early 20s.

He said: "I had started to do ok as a graphic artist and illustrator, having my first solo show at Rogue

Studios in Manchester in 2011, but then we had kids and my career took over.

"It was really when re-evaluating things during Covid and realising I'd built a stable enough career to take a few risks that I started to pursue my artistic practice as a painter. There's still aspects of graphic design all over my work today."

One of the things that inspired Marco was arts charity Culture Warrington's approach to nurturing and supporting homegrown talent

– and that led to the upcoming collaboration with Warrington Museum.

He added: "While I had some beginnings of success as a graphic artist, this is my first solo show as a practising visual artist so it feels incredibly special and the first big milestone in a whole new chapter."

"It feels like it's the first time I've ever really given my artistic practice the attention it's warranted but everyone at Culture Warrington has been so supportive and Warrington Museum's producer, Roger, in particular has been great to work with. It's really encouraging to see how they back local artists."

Influenced by the likes of Gerhard Richter, Ellsworth Kelly and Mary Corse, Marco's 10 paintings presented for Warrington Museum will explore the beauty of imperfection and the impossibility of completion. The show is guest curated by Pete Mercer, founder and editor of STAT Magazine.

"A painting for me is always in the middle of something," Marco said. "It's a record of gestures and decisions that never really resolve and that's where its energy comes from. I like to feel like the work is on the edge of falling apart."

Now Marco is looking forward to sharing the work and this milestone in his practice with his adopted home of Warrington.

He added: "I grew up in north

Manchester and have lived around the north west all my life, but didn't settle in Warrington until 2017.

"We originally moved here for my wife's work but we love the town and it would take a lot to make us leave. Our kids have grown up here, our friends are here and our work. I owe Warrington a lot."



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Hello!
Where did the summer go? To be honest, autumn and winter are my favourite months.

Christmas is, of course, the highlight, with the hundreds of presents I get (not!)

We always have our annual Christmas gathering here at Ameritz, which usually involves a 'Christmas Quiz' in the offices, at Wilderspool Park, and going into Stockton Heath. Then all staff get a couple of weeks off, well earned.

Before then, we have some key releases out. As I write George Gallagher is recording with the Mike Smith Band. George is a fantastic singer from Liverpool. Mike (and his band) are also amazing. Mike plays saxophone on 'Man with a Red Face' on our show Cream Classical.



George's album 'The House of Bamboo' will feature songs such as 'Desperado' originally by Eagles, 'Through the Barricades' originally released by Spandau Ballet in 1986. I remember it well!

George will also sing 'Have You Ever Seen the Rain?' by Creedance Clearwater Revival. Another stone cold classic!

We hope to release the album digitally, in October 2025 with a vinyl version released as well.

George Gallagher has been busy in the studio recording songs for his new album.

Mike Smith playing at Cream Classical.

As you may know, my business Ameritz started in Liverpool near the famous Penny Lane. Liverpool is well known for its fantastic music.

I started my musical journey surrounded by Liverpool's finest singers and entertainers. George is part of that tradition, of quality performers and singers. He joins an illustrious list of incredible singers from Billy Fury, John Lennon and Cilla Black to the modern era Holly Johnson and Rebecca Ferguson.

Let's hope we can add George Gallagher to that list.

Until next month, keep listening!
 Dave Green

Community turns out in force for Hope 100 Walk

MEMBERS of the Warrington community turned out in force for the Hope 100 Walk ahead of World Suicide Prevention Day which took place on September 10th.

Organisers were joined by Warrington North MP Charlotte Nichols and Cllr. Maureen McLaughlin, Warrington Borough Council's cabinet member for health and adult social care, for the event, which set off from Victoria Park.

The Warrington North MP said: "Thank you to Warrington Speak Up, The Warrington Wolves Foundation, MacIntyre Great Communities, Warrington for organising today's Hope 100 Warrington 5K and 10K walk ahead of World Suicide Prevention Day, and to all the amazing volunteers who made everything run so smoothly!"

"It was wonderful to take part in the 10K and to have so many conversations about mental health, wellbeing and how we can as

a community support each other when times are hard. It was moving to see so many community groups taking part, including Creating Adventures, as mental health is something that can impact anyone from any walk of life.

"Well done to everyone who took part, including all our four-legged friends who joined in! Let's keep these conversations going year-round to break the stigma and ensure we look out for one another. Talking really can save lives.

Lee Payton from Andy's Man Club said: "The walk isn't just about the miles it's about connection. It's a chance to have a chat, share experiences, support one another, or simply enjoy some quiet time to reflect, knowing someone is walking right beside you.

"Together, we walk with hope."

Pictures: John Hopkins





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This Winter At Gulliver's World, Warrington



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Classic car show helps raise funds for good causes

A classic car show at Gulliver's World, Warrington, helped raise funds for two local good causes.

Organised by the The Northwest Casual Classics Car Club the free classic car show took place at the Burtonwood Air Museum, located within Gulliver's World.

The event, which featured over

100 cars and raised funds for the museum and St Rocco's Hospice, also included performances by Warrington Brass.

Vehicles on show dated from 1926 to more modern classics.

Pictures: John Hopkins



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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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What's on at the Odeon Warrington

WITH autumn approaching and darker nights closing in the Odeon Warrington has some exciting new releases hitting the big screen in October.

The Smashing Machine, 3rd Oct. The unforgettable true story of a UFC legend. The story of legendary mixed martial arts and UFC fighter Mark Kerr (Dwayne Johnson).

Tron: Ares, 10th Oct. Staring Jared Leto, "TRON: Ares" follows a highly sophisticated Program, Ares, who is sent from the digital world into the real world on a dangerous

mission, marking humankind's first encounter with A.I. beings.

Gabby Dollhouse: The Movie, 16th Oct. Gabby (Laila Lockhart Kraner, reprising her role from the series) heads out on a road trip with her Grandma Gigi (four-time Grammy Award winner Gloria Estefan) to the urban wonderland of Cat Francisco. But when

Gabby's dollhouse, her most prized possession, ends up in the hands of an eccentric cat lady named Vera (Oscar® nominee Kristen Wiig), Gabby sets off on an adventure through the real world to get the Gabby Cats back together and save the dollhouse before it's too late, **Roofman**, 17th Oct. Based on an unbelievable true story, Roofman follows Jeffrey Manchester (Channing Tatum), a former Army Ranger and struggling father who turns to robbing McDonald's

restaurants by cutting holes in their roofs, earning him the nickname: Roofman. After escaping prison, he secretly lives inside a Toys "R" Us for six months, surviving undetected while planning his next move. But when he falls for Leigh (Kirsten Dunst), a divorced mom drawn to his undeniable charm, his double life begins to unravel, setting off a compelling and suspenseful game of cat and mouse as his past closes in.



Spotlight on The Lower Angel Band

AFTER meeting up in a pub last March Warrington-based The Lower Angel Band are already working on their debut 10-track debut album at the recording studios of locally based Ameritz Music.

Dave Green from Ameritz was so impressed by the band he is now

working with them on producing the album which is set to be released on vinyl, hopefully in the new year.

Warrington Worldwide caught up with the band while they were taking part in photoshoot for one of their songs at the Ferry Tavern.

The Lower Angel band members

have various tastes in music but describe themselves as a British folk-rock band formed in Warrington.

Blending folk, blues and rock with catchy, melodic songs with introspective lyrics, The Lower Angel Band blend folk rock and pop elements incorporating traditional instruments including

keyboard, with a strong folk and blues female vocal.

Their music is characterised by catchy melodies and lyrics that explore everyday themes of life and spiritual development through stories and songs.



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Free after-school Dance Academy returns



WARRINGTON & Vale Royal College is thrilled to announce the return of its free after-school Dance Academy this October.

This is an unmissable opportunity for Year 10 and 11 pupils to take part in a series of inspiring dance workshops at the college's state-of-the-art Advanced Creative & Digital Skills (ACDS) Academy.

The WVR Dance Academy will take place at the college's Warrington campus on Thursday evenings from 5.00 pm – 6.30 pm, across four exciting sessions on 2nd, 9th, 16th, and 23rd October 2025.

This year's academy will be led by Erin, a highly experienced and passionate dance tutor from Liverpool. Erin is excited to bring her energy and expertise to the workshops and can't wait to inspire the next generation of dancers, she said, "I'm so excited to meet the WVR Dance Academy candidates and help them develop their skills in a fun and creative environment. These workshops are the perfect chance to learn, grow, and maybe even discover a future in dance and performing arts!"

Under Erin's expert guidance, participants will explore a range of dance styles and techniques, from

contemporary to improvisation, while improving strength, flexibility, and performance confidence. These sessions are designed to challenge, motivate, and ignite a love for dance, regardless of prior experience.

Taking place in the college's cutting-edge ACDS Academy, students will enjoy access to a professional dance studio and theatre featuring sprung floors, mirrored walls, and advanced lighting and sound systems, creating the perfect setting to express creativity and refine skills.

The WVR Dance Academy offers an ideal introduction for those considering studying dance and performing arts after their GCSEs, providing valuable insight into the college's dynamic dance courses and vibrant creative community. Places for this exciting academy are completely free of charge but limited, so early registration is essential. Don't miss out on this fantastic opportunity!

Register your attendance now at wvr.ac.uk/danceacademy to secure your place.

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Spotlight on Local History with James Balme

On the Trail of the Norbertine Canons of Warburton

On a steep embankment shaded by archaic yew trees in the quiet backwater of Warburton Village close to nearby Lymm stands an ancient religious timber framed structure that has been associated with worship and prayer since as far back as the 11th century.

This wonderful archaic piece of history known as St Werburgh's old church was once home to an order of Norbertine Canons having established a priory here around 1187AD and it was also used as a hospital by the monks to help local people living close to the church. The time had come once again for me to set off on another of my history walks into the past and with my camera in hand where better than to explore this wonderful ancient religious site for myself and to see the history that still remains to this day.

After passing the medieval village cross complete with wooden stocks I arrived at the church and I was greeted by what can only be described as a living time capsule, a place of exquisite beauty and a historical atmosphere that would fire the imagination of anyone who has a passion for our ancient past. To think that this church and the graveyard had stood here for almost a thousand years and borne witness to endless baptisms, marriages and of course burials certainly brings history to life in an almost visual way.

A wander around the graveyard

soon begun to tell a story of generations past.

There is no doubt that the village of Warburton has its roots firmly entrenched in the early Medieval period of English history. A further clue to the ancient past of St Werburgh's church comes with a field close by named Abbey Croft and in the 19th century three medieval stone coffins most likely from the priory were found ten metres from the church. Inside the church itself you can still find one of these medieval coffins on display as well as the archaic stone font inscribed with the name 'William Drinkwater' and the date of 1603. The chancel has a wonderful hexagonal pulpit dated to around 1600AD and carrying conventional designs of the Elizabethan period.

St Werburgh's is just one of twelve ancient timber framed churches to survive in Cheshire and Southern Lancashire. The old church holds few services although it remains consecrated. The church is cared for by the Churches Conservation Trust and public access to view the church is usually possible via a keyholder who lives nearby. A visit to this ancient place of worship is a

must for any history lover although the beauty of the church and surrounding landscape is in itself worth seeing by everyone.

Things to look out for on your visit:

- The medieval stone cross and wooden stocks
- The medieval stone coffin
- The carved stone font dated 1603
- The hexagonal carved pulpit dated 1600

My film, The Church of St Werburgh, shot at Warburton takes you inside the church and can be viewed for free by visiting my channel, [youtube.com/@Tvpresenter4history](https://www.youtube.com/@Tvpresenter4history).



Town centre food and drink venues set to host first-ever Warrington Restaurant Week

TOWN centre venues are set to take part in the first-ever Warrington Restaurant Week, from Monday, October 6th to Sunday, October 12th, with a host of food and drink offers.

The new event has been developed by Warrington Business Improvement District (BID) to promote the town's growing food and drink offer and encourage more people to explore local places to eat and drink.

It follows the success of Warrington Food and Drink Festival back in May, which brought thousands of visitors into the town centre and demonstrated the potential for food-led events to drive footfall and business.

Restaurants, cafés, pubs and bars will be invited to create exclusive offers, fixed-price menus and themed dishes, which will be promoted through a coordinated campaign led by the BID team.

Andrea Morley, BID Project Manager, said: "Warrington has seen a real shift in its food and drink offer over the past few years. The town centre is now home to a mix of independent and well-known names, and there's much more variety than people sometimes realise.

"Warrington Restaurant Week is something we've been working towards for a while. It's designed

to bring businesses together, create a reason for people to visit, and shine a light on the quality and choice available here. The timing feels right, particularly off the back of the Food and Drink Festival, which clearly showed there's strong interest in this kind of activity."

Warrington BID is a business-led initiative that delivers projects across marketing, events, public realm improvements, safety and business support. Its aim is to create a stronger town centre, support local businesses and improve the experience for everyone who lives, works or visits.

Andrea added: "We want Warrington Restaurant Week to become a regular fixture in the town's calendar – something both businesses and customers look forward to each year. This is a real opportunity to create a flagship event that grows year on year, champions our hospitality sector and helps put Warrington firmly on the map as a place people choose to visit, eat and spend time in."

Town centre businesses can still get involved. If you're a restaurant, café, pub or bar in Warrington town centre, this is your chance to be part of the first-ever Warrington Restaurant Week. You could create an exclusive offer, fixed-price menu, themed dish, event, workshop or demo, and your venue will be

promoted as part of a coordinated campaign led by the Warrington BID team. To register your interest and take part, email Andrea. Morley@groundwork.org.uk

The full list of participating venues and offers will be released in the upcoming weeks via www.warrewarringtonbid.co.uk/restaurant-week-2025/



Adele Costello, Operations Manager at Costello's Bar, Mike Butler, Co-Owner of Vandal Bar and Kitchen and Andrea Morely, BID Project Manager.

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How Lifetime Gifts affect your taxes

A gift may seem simple: you give something to someone else without expecting anything in return. While that seems straightforward, gifts can carry complex tax consequences. In the UK, giving away an asset during your lifetime can trigger both Capital Gains Tax (CGT) and Inheritance Tax (IHT). Understanding how these apply can help you plan effectively and avoid unexpected tax bills.

What Counts as a Gift for Tax Purposes

A gift is not an arm's-length sale or an investment. It is a unilateral transfer: the donor gives an asset without receiving anything in return. For CGT, a gift is treated as a disposal, just as if it had been sold. For IHT, only gifts are relevant, not sales, so gifting can be used to reduce the size of your taxable estate on death.

For a gift to be complete, both legal ownership and beneficial ownership must pass to the recipient. Legal ownership refers to whose name the asset is in, while beneficial ownership is who enjoys the benefit of it. For land, beneficial ownership is presumed to follow legal ownership under section 60(3) of the Law of Property Act 1925. For other assets, the presumption is that beneficial ownership stays with the donor unless there is evidence a gift

was intended. Without this, the law may treat the transfer as a "resulting trust" with the asset still belonging to the donor.

To avoid this, it is sensible to keep a short-written note confirming that a transfer was intended as a gift. This is especially important for valuable assets such as shares or investments.

Gifting to Individuals vs Trusts

Gifts can be made to another person directly or placed into a trust (known legally as a settlement). If a trust is not properly set up, the assets may still be treated as belonging to the donor because of the resulting trust principle. If the transfer is valid, different tax rules apply depending on whether the gift is to an individual or into a trust.

Capital Gains Tax (CGT) on Gifts

For CGT, a gift is treated as if sold for its market value, even though no money is received. This can create a "dry" tax charge, where CGT is due despite receiving no sale proceeds. Some assets are exempt from CGT, such as cash, personal possessions worth less than £6,000, machinery used in a business, and an individual's main residence.

Where a gift would trigger CGT, holdover relief may

be available. This defers the gain by transferring the donor's original base cost to the recipient, meaning tax is only due when the recipient later disposes of the asset. Holdover relief can apply to assets used in the donor's trade, and to gifts that are immediately chargeable to IHT (such as most gifts into or out of trust).

Inheritance Tax (IHT) on Gifts

IHT looks at the reduction in the donor's estate when a gift is made. That reduction only becomes permanent if the donor survives for seven years. Gifts to individuals are Potentially Exempt Transfers (PETs): they become tax-free after seven years, but if the donor dies sooner, they are added back into the estate. Gifts into most trusts are Chargeable Lifetime Transfers (CLTs). These can trigger an immediate IHT charge if over the nil-rate band, but no further charge arises after seven years.

If a PET fails, taper relief can reduce the IHT payable if the donor dies between three and seven years after making the gift. There are also useful reliefs: an annual £3,000 exemption (with one year's carry forward), a £250 small gifts allowance to any number of people, and special wedding gift exemptions. Agricultural



Thomas Coyne and Stuart Barr

Property Relief (APR) and Business Property Relief (BPR) can also reduce the taxable value of qualifying assets to nil. These reliefs are currently unlimited, but from April 2026 they are expected to be capped at £1 million per person. Under draft Finance Bill rules, gifts made before 30 October 2024 will still qualify for unlimited relief if they fail, while those made after will only do so if the donor dies before April 2026.

Key Takeaways

Lifetime gifting can be an effective estate planning tool, but it carries tax risks. Always document gifts to show beneficial ownership has passed and be aware that CGT can arise even if you receive no proceeds. Consider holdover relief for qualifying business or trust gifts. For IHT, plan around the seven-year rule and use the available exemptions and reliefs — especially ahead of the proposed cap on APR and BPR from 2026.

With careful planning, you can ensure your generosity benefits your loved ones rather than the taxman.

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Mayor helps Wolves Foundation celebrate 20th anniversary



WARRINGTON Wolves Charitable Foundation was welcomed to Warrington Town Hall by the Mayor of Warrington, Cllr Mo Hussain, to mark a special milestone – the Foundation's 20th anniversary.

The event was held to celebrate and recognise the Foundation's outstanding contribution to the community over the past two decades.

Chief Executive Neil Kelly delivered a presentation highlighting the breadth of the Foundation's work, with a particular focus on their inspirational achievements in Disability Rugby and grassroots programmes that have changed lives across Warrington.

On behalf of the Council and the people of Warrington, the Mayor presented the Foundation with a framed certificate in recognition of their service, dedication, and positive impact on the town.

The celebration was also attended by the Leader of Warrington Borough Council, Cllr Hans Mundry, and the Council's

Chief Executive, Steve Park. Both expressed their sincere thanks to the Foundation, praising its continued commitment to grassroots development, inclusion, and charitable work across the borough.

Speaking after the event, the Mayor of Warrington, Cllr Mo Hussain, said: "The Warrington Wolves Charitable Foundation has been at the heart of our community for 20 years, inspiring people, breaking down barriers, and showing the true power of sport. Their work in disability rugby, grassroots development, and community outreach is something Warrington can be very proud of. It was an honour to welcome them to the Town Hall and recognise their incredible achievements."

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