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UNDER NEW OWNERSHIP



World Premiere!

Page 4



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Editor's Opinion



DURING my travels around Warrington reporting on local issues or showcasing local offerings, it never ceases to amaze me how many negative people pop up on social media having a go at the town they live or work in.

They clearly fail to understand how being so negative can have such a devastating impact on a local business or someone's mental health – my own included.

I've reported on the news in Warrington for more than four decades, so I fully understand Warrington is far from perfect – and like many I constantly get frustrated by the road networks and red tape or poor communication.

But at the end of the day Warrington has a lot to offer and if you live or work here and are one of those who constantly tries to bring the place down, I would suggest you get off your backsides and try and make a difference in the community.

There are lots of hard-working people out there trying their best to not only improve their own lives but also the lives of others.

So instead of being a keyboard warrior, reach out to one of the many local charities or community groups who are out and about trying to make a difference.

The local Litter Networks is always on the lookout for volunteers. Check out the article on Page 16 featuring Jill Dance. She came to Warrington from Scotland, had her own personal issues but has now rolled up her sleeves to

make a big difference, she is truly inspiring – and congratulations to our mayor Mo Hussain, who is actively out and about embracing these community volunteers.

Don't criticise on social media, saying it's the council's job to pick up the litter – the council is strapped for cash, mainly due to the huge social care costs, looking after people who are unable to look after themselves.

It's not the council dropping the litter on our streets, it's either you, your neighbours, your children or family or friends. So instead of moaning about the problem, get out there and do something about it.

The council is fully supporting the volunteers, ensuring the rubbish they collect is disposed of properly – a great example of partnership working.

If you are feeling negative about your hometown, drop me a line and I will endeavour to help you find some of the many positive experiences out there.

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December issue
is November 11**



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MP shows support for deaf community



WARRINGTON North MP Charlotte Nichols showed her support for the local deaf community at a fundraising cheese and wine evening organised by the Warrington & District Society for Deaf People.

The event featured a performance by the Warrington BSL Signing Choir at the Warrington Deaf Hub on Wilson Patten Street.

Commenting on the event, Ms Nichols said: "A lovely evening at Warrington Deaf Hub with Cllr Lawrence Sheridan, who is currently working towards his BSL Level 2, at their Cheese and Wine Night tonight! After a difficult few days, it was a delight to have so many friendly conversations, pick up some new sign language vocabulary, and to see a fantastic performance by the Warrington BSL Signing Choir.

"The Hub is such an amazing asset in our community, both for our Deaf and hard of hearing residents, and for the wider community – including running BSL courses and

cafes to bridge between the two through facilitating learning the language and culture.

"I'm a member of the British Sign Language APPG, which is chaired by Jen Craft MP and the secretariat provided by the British Deaf Association – and our goal is to raise the profile of British Sign Language (BSL) in Parliament; to bring the voice of BSL signers into Westminster and to promote the aspirations of the signing community. It's a pleasure to spend time with the community locally and learn about things which we can help push for in Parliament to make our country and our community more accessible for our Deaf friends, and I look forward to my next visit."

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World Premiere for gangster movie featuring town as back drop

WITH scenes of Warrington providing much of the back drop, gangster movie "Fall to the top" featuring several local actors, recently had its world premiere at the spirit of independence festival in Sheffield.

The event hosted the world premiere to a fully sold out screening with great success and stars attended the film including director Pete Hirst, Paul Chuckle, Joe Egan and George Newton also in attendance along with Warrington's own Louie Angelo, Rachael Evans and Johnny Wilson, who all star in the film.

Rising star Pete Hirst is making waves in the film industry as he took the reins in writing, directing, and starring in his debut UK gangster film, "Fall To The Top" and chose Warrington for some of the scenes.

Locally based Johnny plays one of the lead characters Kenny and suggested Warrington as a picturesque, friendly location.

Pete said: "I am a huge fan of promoting the areas we film in to create local buzz and to get people into the area. Warrington provided a mix of friendly locals who were willing to jump in and star and it offers the beauty of scenery needed to show everyday community life in the film's setting."

Special thanks to Graham, Blue Bell pub, James at Hideaway, and Doherty's pub for the support."

Joining Pete in this exciting venture are a host of notable names, including Mason Antonio Fardowe from the hit Netflix series The Gentlemen, reality star Pete Bennett from Big Brother, and Joe Egan, a former professional fighter turned cinematic heavyweight. The film also features a surprising new side to Paul Chuckle, known for his comedic roots, who will take on a chilling role that audiences have never seen before. Additionally, George Newton from This Is England adds to the film's dynamic cast and Joe Rooney of Father Ted delivers a shocking new side of himself.

The film is about a frustrated manual labourer (Stephen Reilly)

who feels life owes him more. On a chance encounter in a club, he meets Kenny (Johnny Wilson) and becomes a low-level drug-peddling foot soldier who wants it all. He feels he deserves it all, his arrogance leads him to believe he's the top man and he should have it all. What's he willing to do to get to the top? The price is high, The cost more. Seriously evil men stand in his way. Does he have what it takes? Will he take London's underground and the spoils of war? Or will he end up dead?

Warrington also provided the backdrop for another gangster movie "Geezers" also featuring Johnny Wilson.



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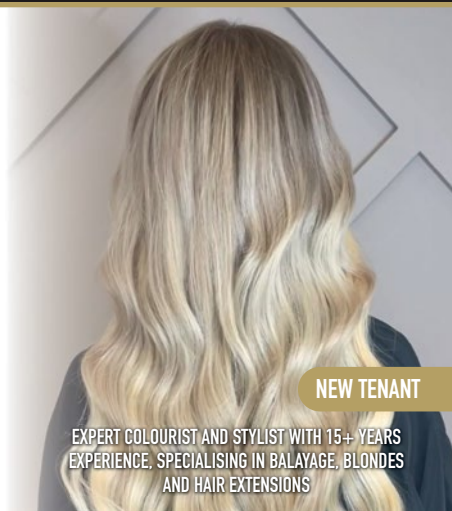


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As demand for solar panels and battery storage continues to rise across the UK, so does the need for electricians who can deliver reliable, compliant installations. To help meet this demand, Warrington & Vale Royal College is now offering a short, intensive course that delivers two City & Guilds qualifications in just five days

Designed specifically for practising electricians aged 18 plus, the course leads to City & Guilds Level 3 qualifications in Solar PV (2922-34) and Battery Storage (2923-34). It's delivered in the college's purpose-built Green Technology Hub and combines

classroom-based theory with practical, hands-on training.

You'll learn how to design, install, test, and maintain domestic solar PV and battery storage systems, with a strong focus on safety, compliance, and current industry standards including BS 7671 and

MCS guidelines. Whether you are a self-employed electrician, run your own business, or you work as part of a larger team, this course is a fast and cost-effective way to expand your services into a high demand area.

The full five-day training costs just £750 – half the value of the qualifications included – and courses start every Monday through to early December. Sessions run Monday to Friday, and spaces are limited to keep group sizes small

and hands-on.

If you're an electrician looking to secure your skillset, this course is a practical next step. With solar installations on the rise and government targets pushing for cleaner energy, qualified electricians with the right training are well-placed to pick up work in this growing sector.

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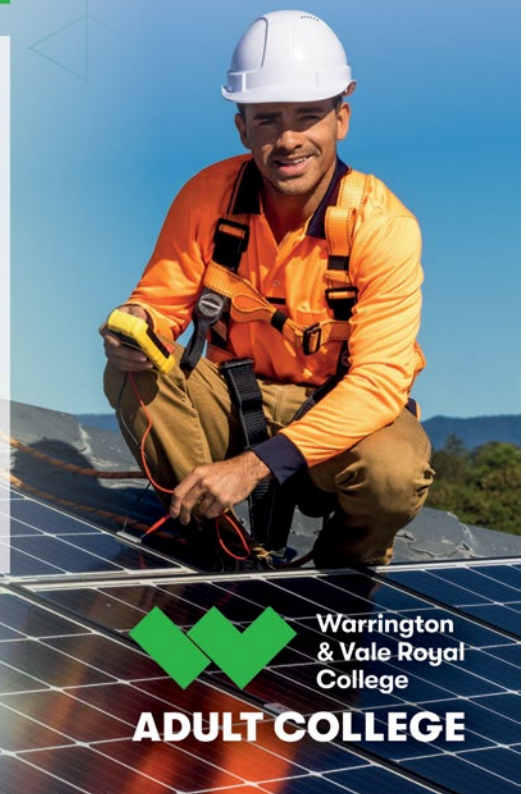
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Various start dates throughout November and December.

City & Guilds qualifications 2922-34 and 2923-34.

NICEIC no longer offers "grandfather rights." The Industry Accreditation (IA) route for CSCS cards ended on 31 Dec 2024. All workers must now hold a recognised qualification (e.g., NVQ) to obtain a CSCS card, as per CLC requirements for a fully qualified workforce.



**Warrington
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ADULT COLLEGE

Warrington's Own Buses celebrates double awards success

Warrington's Own Buses has celebrated a double success after receiving top honours at two major industry award ceremonies in London.

The company was named The Winner of the Best Fleet Electrification Initiative at the prestigious EVIE (Electric Vehicle Innovation & Excellence) Awards, recognising its bold and successful transition to an all-electric bus fleet. On the same evening, Warrington's Own Buses was also Highly Commended in the Exemplary Contribution to Net Zero category at the National Transport Awards.

These accolades highlight Warrington's Own Buses' commitment to delivering cleaner, greener and more sustainable transport for the town. The company completed the rollout of its all-electric fleets earlier this year, supported by investment from the Department of Transport's Zero Emission Bus Regional Areas (ZEBRA) scheme and Warrington Borough Council, making Warrington one of the first towns in the UK to electrify its bus network fully.

Ben Wakerley, Managing Director of Warrington's Own Buses, said: "We're incredibly proud to receive national

recognition for our work to decarbonise Warrington's bus network. Electrifying our fleet has been a major undertaking, made possible by the dedication of our team and our strong partnership with Warrington Borough Council. These awards are a testament to what can be achieved when a community comes together to deliver a cleaner, brighter future for local transport."

Councillor Hans Mundry, Leader of Warrington Borough Council, said: "Congratulations to Warrington's Own Buses for their fantastic double success. It's a great achievement, highlighting the company's successful commitment to a sustainable future for our town. "Warrington's transition to an all-electric bus fleet is bringing huge environmental benefits for our town, including a reduction in carbon emissions and an improvement in local air quality, along with quiet, smooth, and comfortable journeys for all our passengers."

"It's fantastic to see this transformation receiving national praise, further solidifying

Warrington's Own Buses' position as a national leader in green public transport."

The EVIE Awards celebrate excellence and innovation across

the UK's electric vehicle industry. The National Transport Awards honour outstanding achievements in UK transport and infrastructure.



Charlotte Nichols MP Warrington North

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Chambers Fletcher Solicitors

Divorce Column

By Peter Wilkinson
Divorce Lawyer at Chambers Fletcher Solicitors

Moving in together – things to think about

Taking the step to move in together is an exciting milestone for any couple. It often feels like the natural next step in a settled and stable relationship but behind the excitement there are some practical and legal considerations that should not be overlooked.

Perhaps one of the first conversations to be had before deciding to live together should be about expectations. Living together inevitably changes the relationship and the rhythm of daily life so it's important to talk about expectations – from household chores to the payment of bills, from respecting personal space to inviting friends and relatives. Open and frank communication early can prevent misunderstandings and minimise the potential for conflict later.

Finances are another essential topic. Discuss how you'll manage the rent or mortgage and other household bills and day-to-day living expenses. Money is one of the biggest sources of tension in relationships so talk openly about financial arrangements before moving in together so there's no misunderstandings or unhappy surprises afterwards.

Where things can become complicated is around property interests and legal rights. Contrary to popular belief there is no such thing as a 'common law marriage'. Unmarried partners do not automatically acquire rights over property or assets simply by living together. This means that if the relationship ends one partner may have little or no legal entitlement – even after years of cohabitation – and for this reason couples are increasingly choosing to have a cohabitation agreement drawn up. This is a legal document that sets out the rights and responsibilities of unmarried couples who live together. It can cover such things as property ownership, financial arrangements and what happens if the relationship ends. Having a cohabitation agreement in place provides clarity and therefore can reduce the potential for conflict later.

It would also be sensible to think about Wills and inheritance as many people don't realise that unmarried partners have no automatic right to inherit from each other.

If you are considering moving in with your partner and would like clear, friendly and practical advice to help you understand your options and make informed decisions we can help you.

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MP's campaign victory sees return of Sure Start-style services



WARRINGTON North MP Charlotte Nichols has celebrated a government announcement to bring family and community Sure Start-style services back to Warrington.

The Labour government has recently announced grants provided to local authorities to ensure every community has a Best Start Family Hub. A total of 1,000 Best Start Family Hubs are to be rolled out across the country by April 2026 to provide wide-ranging help for families, such as parenting and early development – including over £130,000 in Warrington.

Labour's Best Start Family Hubs will act as a one-stop shop for parents seeking a range of support, including on difficulty breastfeeding, housing issues or children's early development and language, reassuring families that they have convenient access to support in their local area or can be efficiently connected to specialist local services.

Having been elected on a manifesto to transform life chances by improving children's start in life, Charlotte called on the Labour government to 'rebuild' Sure Start-style services in Warrington – an area lacking in any provision of this type following cuts to services following the election of the Conservatives in 2010. That left thousands of parents cut off from vital community support networks and specialist services – left to navigate the challenges of parenthood alone – as well as a devastating impact on children's life chances, with early development, wellbeing and future attainment all in jeopardy.

Education Secretary, Bridget Phillipson, said: "It's the driving mission of this government to break the link between a child's background and what they go on to achieve – our new Best Start Family Hubs will put the first building blocks of better life chances in place for more children."

"I saw firsthand how initiatives

like Sure Start helped level the playing field, transforming the lives of children by putting in place family support in the earliest years of life, and as part of our Plan for Change, we're building on its legacy for the next generation of children.

"Making sure hard-working parents are able to benefit from more early help is a promise made, and promise kept – delivering a lifeline of consistent support across the nation, ensuring health, social care and education work in unison to ensure all children get the best start in life."

Ms Nichols said: "I'm so pleased that my campaign to bring back family services to Warrington has been a success, helping to give local children the best start in life."

"This is the difference a Labour MP working with a Labour government can do for children and families in our area."

"This £137,000 investment to open a local Best Start family hub will be transformative – alongside free breakfast clubs and government-funded childcare, we are delivering on our Plan for Change."

Warrington's new Best Start Family Hub will complement work the Labour government already has underway to make family life easier and alleviate the burden on parents, including by expanding government-funded childcare to 30-hours, increasing the reach of school-based nurseries, and rolling out free breakfast clubs in every primary school to support working parents.

September also saw the launch of the Labour government's digital service, www.beststartinlife.gov.uk, a new national digital hub linked NHS services to offer trusted advice and connect to support.

Treasured painting returns to town hall



A treasured painting, believed to be one of the most valuable in Warrington Museum & Art Gallery's collection, has returned to the town hall after undergoing restoration works.

The oil painting 'Mountain Farm' by Henry Clarence Whaite was donated to the town by WD Houghton, Managing Director of a local wire-making firm, in 1890.

While the monetary value is not known, it is believed to be one of the most valuable with "significant artistic value", says the council's deputy leader Cllr. Jean Flaherty, who also chairs the Friends of Warrington Town Hall group.

Clarence Whaite was well-known for paintings of Welsh landscapes and was a former President of the Manchester Academy of Art. His works often come to prominence

around St David's Day.

Based on a line from Idylls of the King by Tennyson – "to a meadow gemlike chased in brown wild and mowers mowing in it."

Mayor of Warrington Cllr Mo Hussain said: "I'm delighted to welcome back A Mountain Farm, Llanrhydwyn, near Trefriw by Henry Clarence Whaite to the Town Hall. This beautiful painting is part of our town's rich artistic heritage, and its return allows residents and visitors alike to enjoy a treasured piece of Warrington's cultural history."

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Couple donate special cot



A COUPLE have donated a special cot to the butterfly suite at Warrington Hospital's maternity department, helping to provide comfort and support to families grieving the loss of a baby.

Chloe and Liam Welsby, who live in Newton-le-Willows, donated the Abi cooling cot in memory of their little girl Maeve Rose Welsby, who they sadly lost at 37+5 weeks in September 2022. The cold cot, designed by Abigail's Footsteps, is a specially designed refrigerated cot that allows families to spend precious time with their newborn after they have died.

Thanks to the cooling cuddle cot already at the suite, the couple were able to spend four priceless days with Maeve, capturing special moments and saying goodbye in their own time.

Chloe said: "Those couple of days that we got to spend with Maeve were priceless. We got to sleep next to her, watch a film with her next to us, read books to her, have all her family come meet her and have cuddles, we got to take her hand and footprints, get a locket of her hair, get professional photographs taken and a blessing took place.

"But most importantly, we spent those couple of days soaking up every little detail. From her tiny toes to her long legs, cute little button nose and curly hair. All of this wouldn't have been possible without the amazing staff at the butterfly suite and the cuddle cot.

"After we returned home empty handed and buried our sweet baby Maeve we realised just how important and vital those memories that we made were going to be in our grief journey. The staff enabled us to take a piece of our daughter with us, we have pictures and handprints that we can show our rainbow baby one day," Chloe added.

After welcoming their rainbow baby, Esmae Hope, at the hospital in June 2023, Chloe and Liam wanted to find a way to give back to team who supported them.

The couple raised £3,000 in memory of Maeve to fund an Abi cot to help other grieving parents spend time with their baby.

Debbie Yates, bereavement midwife at the trust, said: "We are so grateful to Chloe and Liam for this generous donation. The Abi cooling cot is a welcome addition

to our Butterfly Suite as we will now be able to offer a choice of cooling devices to enable families to spend precious time with their babies and creating lasting memories."

The maternity department is now raising funds to transform care even more for bereaved families. The Willow Tree Hub will provide a dedicated space, separate from the hospital, for families to receive specialist support when experiencing baby loss, recovering from a traumatic birth or navigating a pregnancy after loss.

Chloe said: "The trauma of losing a baby never goes away. That support and safe space is vital no matter how many years it's been since losing a baby or how many children you've had since then. It's something you grow around, but it never leaves you.

"Our midwife Jonathan, bereavement midwife Debbie and consultant Dr Arya were with us every step of the way through our pregnancy with our rainbow baby and nothing was ever too much for them. But as parents me and my husband still had to walk through those same hospital walls, go to the same scan rooms and relive all our trauma all over again.

"For us, a safe space such as the Willow Tree Hub, away from the hospital would have been beneficial. Due to our anxieties towards the end of our rainbow pregnancy, we were at the hospital twice a day. I believe having a separate space would have allowed us to feel calmer, more comfortable and less tense. There would be less anxiety about reliving past traumas and that then bringing up anxiety about losing the pregnancy in the same way."

The Warrington and Halton Teaching Hospitals Charity appeal aims to raise £200,000 to fund the special space for families to grieve, reflect and receive the help and guidance they need.

To support the appeal, visit the JustGiving page to make a donation. For more information or to get involved, contact the WHH Charity team on 01925 662666 or email whh.charity@nhs.net

MP visits Warrington Bipolar UK Support Group

WARRINGTON South MP Sarah Hall joined the October monthly meeting of the Warrington Bipolar UK Support Group (WBSG) to find out more about the chronic illness by joining in with group discussions about their lived experiences.

Facilitator and former Mayor of Warrington, Geoff Settle, said "Steve, one of our members, had met Sarah Hall MP a couple of weeks before when she knocked on his door whilst out canvassing.

"He discovered that she was very passionate about mental health."

Steve said: "Sarah was so passionate about mental health that I just had to invite her to one of our monthly meetings so that she could join in and learn how we work as a supportive group offering help and advice to each other. There isn't any other type of support readily available unless you are prepared and able to afford to pay."

Geoff added: "At the start of each meeting, I read out the Bipolar UK Code of Conduct. What is said in the room stays in the room. Keeping things within the group is one factor that makes it a safe place for people to talk openly and freely about their condition, something they find hard to do elsewhere. Having said this we do encourage family, friends and carers to attend, which is of great benefit to them as well."

"Once the Code of conduct has been read, then I ask everyone what value their mood is on the mood card. The values range from 0 to 10 with 0 being severely depressed and 10 manias. Balance mood scores are between 4 and 6, which is the

range that most people are in when they come to a meeting. I then invite people to talk about how things have been since the last meeting. I try and encourage everyone to keep a mood diary or enter their scores on the BipolarUK app on their phone, so they can discuss them with their medical professional.

"Sarah found this a very useful exercise and said that the process was very interesting and she could see some similarities between ADHD and bipolar. This is something that I need to investigate more because at least three of our members are also ADHD."

Steve describes bipolar as a lifelong illness for which there is no known cure. Each person is different, and getting the correct medication is a bit like trial-and-error by the clinical psychiatrist. They experiment with what medication(s) will level out mood swings and minimise the bipolar highs and lows. He recommends the excellent BipolarUK.org website Bipolar UK National UK Charity for a great amount of content and videos.

One area where Geoff hopes that Sarah can help is getting across the message and awareness of the condition to parliamentary committees and MPs such as those published in the BipolarUK Commission instigated by their CEO Simon Kitchen.



Steve, Sarah and Geoff.

The bipolar commission calls for a dedicated care pathway for specialist treatment and continuity of support will exist over a lifetime. Bipolar Commission

Some of the findings include an estimate that 1 million people suffer from the chronic illness, impacting on 5 million family members. It costs the British Economy something like £20 billion/yr. Someone with bipolar takes their life every day. People will die 10 – 15 years earlier than the general population, and it takes 9.5 years for a diagnosis.

Geoff said: "The stakes are high, and the resources are limited, we all can't afford to pay Priory prices for help and treatment. BipolarUK are working very hard to change things and we appreciate any help and influence that Sarah can bring to Westminster to raise awareness of the condition. The WBSG are playing our part in Warrington through the work of the group and

by accepting invitations to take part in research studies at Northwest universities

"Steve and I are just embarking on a new research project at Manchester University. It aims to evaluate the feasibility of a brief compassionate-focused intervention for older adults with bipolar disorder. The research will involve engaging in a 9-session intervention targeting negative thinking, feelings of guilt and shame, and cultivating compassion for self and others. We will be bringing back to the Warrington group how the research is going and hopefully when it concludes the benefits that accrue.

"Finally, I must thank the people of Warrington who contributed to my Mayoral Charities because they funded the setting up of the Warrington BipolarUK support group which is still going after 10 years and made a great contribution to so many people."



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Hospice runners raise over £14,000 as part of 40th anniversary celebrations

St. Rocco's Hospice celebrated their 40th anniversary at this year's Warrington Running Festival with a bed push and special appearance from mascot 'Rocco'.

Thousands of runners gathered at Warrington Town Hall to take part in the 2025 Warrington Running Festival, with St. Rocco's ongoing 40th anniversary celebrations, proud to be the headline Charity Partner.

To make this event extra special, long standing volunteer James took on the challenge of running a 10k dressed as Rocco their hospice mascot, whilst another team of amazing supporters took part in a bed push. The event was organised

by RunThrough who promote their goal as inspiring an active nation through the provision of inclusive and welcoming running events for everyone. This year's festival featured a 5k, 10k, half marathon, and 1.5k junior race.

St. Rocco's were thrilled to provide runners with a free place at the event in return for raising money for the hospice. Amongst these were teams from McDonalds, Clarity Procurement Solutions and Plumbase. Shirley, Fundraising

Manager at St. Rocco's, commented: "A huge thank you to everyone who took part in the Warrington Running Festival in support of St. Rocco's Hospice. We were delighted to have over 100 runners representing us, raising an incredible £14,000 so far to support patient care here at St. Rocco's. From our mascot and bed push supporters to every runner, and volunteer, you all made the day so special. The event was brilliantly organised, and the atmosphere was fantastic. We are truly grateful for your support in helping us continue to care for local people and their families when they

need us most."

St. Rocco's would also like to thank their vest sponsor Clarity Procurement Solutions Ltd, Brian Tuohey for his photography on the day and McDonalds for supplying bottled water.

For a FREE place in next year's Warrington Running Festival in return for raising sponsorship for St. Rocco's, sign up here: <https://register.enthuze.com/ps/event/WarringtonRunningFestival2026>

If you would like to find out more about the care that St. Rocco's Hospice provides, please visit www.stroccos.org.uk or call them on 01925 575780.



Christmas Market and Light up a Life Service

ST ROCCO'S Hospice is hosting its annual Christmas Market and Light up a Life Service on Sunday, December 7 from 1pm.

Food and drink vendors will be on site throughout the event along with a Letters to Loved Ones post box and Book of Honour. The switching on of the children's Christmas Tree will take place at 4pm, and main service at 4.30pm.

A church service will also take place at St. Elphin's Church on

Wednesday 10th December at 7pm.

You can dedicate a light in memory of a loved one, which will take place among the thousands shining on the Christmas Tree.

Your dedication will be added to their Book Of Honour and the beautifully lit hospice gardens will be available to view throughout December.

To dedicate a light call 01925 575780.

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www.stroccos.org.uk

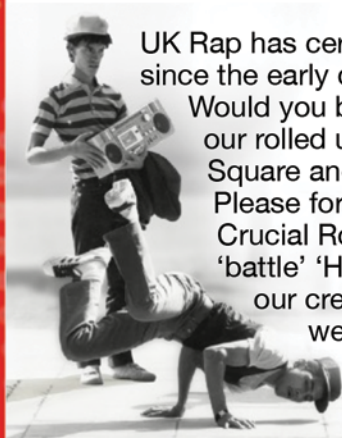
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Hello again,
With Christmas just around the corner
we are completing a number of album
projects and setting up events.

Ameritz has also started working on a new label focusing on underground UK Rap. The label is called '**Ttrademark Records**' and our first single by an artist from Birmingham 'Caecilius' called 'Lizdex'



UK Rap has certainly evolved massively since the early days of Hip Hop.

Would you believe, I used to take our rolled up vinyl into the Golden Square and Break Dance. I was 14! Please forgive me. Hot Wire v's The Crucial Rockers was always the 'battle' 'Hot Wire' were from town and our crew 'The Crucial Rockers' were from Orford and Padgate.

Reason I mention this, is because I know this genre very well. The UK has always excelled in Rap and Hip Hop.

Emerging from Manchester is '**Aitch**' (pictured), and Liverpool has a fantastic new rapper 'EsDeeKid' We will build our roster and have a live event planned in London soon, to launch the label. Stay tuned into our socials 'Ameritz' or 'Ttrademark' to stay updated.



Upcoming live music in Warrington

Nearer to home, our showcase event at Peggy McCools has SOLD OUT in record time. It is on November 7th, and features **Gondolas**, Freight and Container. I have mentioned 'Gondolas' before, they are fantastic. 'Freight' has very recently come onto my radar. This band is hilarious! I think comedy is important in music. It opens us up to be moved emotionally. They have been 'touring' local Warrington chippys.... I know... It is going to be a great night so congratulations if you managed to grab a ticket.



THE LOWER ANGEL BAND

Finally, our other group 'The Lower Angel Band' have finished recording their album 'All In' It is 10 tracks of fine folk/rock. Lots of great stories played beautifully by the band and string players.

The band will pop up around Warrington with a headline show at the 'Irish Club' on January 17th 2026. There are about 30% of the tickets left for that one, so grab them while you can by following the QR code on this page.

Until next month!

Dave



Are you an artist or in a band? Want to get in touch?
We'd love to hear from you.
Go to www.ameritzradar.co.uk

Spiderman Chris conquers fear of heights to raise funds for cancer care and research

WARRINGTON's very own Spiderman, Chris Upham, conquered his fear of heights by abseiling down the side of the Clatterbridge Centre, raising over £7,000 for cancer care and research.

The 78-year-old retired detective smashed his goal of raising £500, with funds still coming in.

Speaking after the event, which had previously been postponed due to high winds, the Great Sankey grandad said: "Well, job done. This morning I abseiled down the 11-story Clatterbridge Centre in Liverpool dressed as Spiderman."

"The words 'Thank You' don't seem enough to say to my lovely family and friends who have been so very generous in donating just over £7,000 in aid of cancer care

and research. Between us we will make a difference and maybe one day we will be able to prevent cancer or at least cure them all."

"So a huge, huge THANK YOU to all you lovely people. You smashed my target of £500 by a mile and I am proud of all of you."

He is took on the challenge to say thank you for the care members of his family have received from The Clatterbridge Cancer Charity.

Speaking before taking the plunge Chris said: "I have been scared of heights all my life but I don't know what the biggest challenge is, abseiling down 11 storeys of the hospital or dressing as Spiderman. But when you get to 78 and have spent most of your working life in the police, you get used to having the mickey taken out of you."

The dad of two and grandad of eight, decided earlier this year to take part in the abseil down the side of The Clatterbridge Cancer Centre - Liverpool.

He has been diagnosed with prostate cancer and had recently lost a family member to cancer. He had also seen his niece ring the end-of-treatment bell following cancer treatment and learned his brother-in-law was in remission

from the disease.

He added: "I wanted to do something tangible to show our gratitude to all the Clatterbridge locations, but especially The Clatterbridge Cancer Centre - Liverpool."

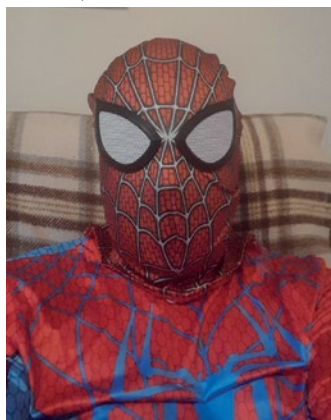
"This abseil is a huge challenge for me, but at 78 years of age you don't get many opportunities to test yourself."

"I also know from personal experience that my fear of heights is nothing in comparison to the fear someone has when they are first told they have cancer and so I decided to give it a go."

Chris, who is married to his childhood sweetheart Margie, concluded: "It was an enjoyable experience, a bit scary and I won't

be doing it again anytime soon!"

The just giving page is still open for any late donations www.justgiving.com/page/chris-upham-2



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Bridgewater Players present Ladies' Day

WITH strong Lymm connections tickets are now available for the Bridgewater Players performance of "Ladies' Day" written by Amanda Whittington and directed by the society's chairperson, Kath Buckley.

The Bridgewater Players Drama Society has been performing plays since 1952, initially formed by six people in 1951 in Lymm. This play will be the Society's 199th performance and they will be celebrating their 200th Anniversary Show in February. The Players moved to Thelwall Parish Hall and have since gone from strength to strength. As theatre going has changed, the society is now bringing in many changes.

"Our heritage is comedies and some classic 'showstoppers' and we are staying with those, but we

are wanting a more interactive element with our audiences, so that they feel they are part of the performance the minute they come through our doors", explains Kath. "We are encouraging the audience to dress for Royal Ascot, non-obligatory of course, with a prize for the best dressed! We are also introducing alcohol for the first time, so the audience can enjoy a pre-show drink, with complimentary tea and coffee during the break. We are introducing collection boxes for our chosen charity, which for this performance is 'Gambling

Harms' supported by 'The Beacon Counselling Trust'. We thank all our existing audiences and welcome new people to come and have a fun night out!"

Ladies' Day is an exuberant comedy about four women from the local fish packing factory on a day trip to the races. Work, love and life are just one long, hard slog for the fish-filleting foursome Pearl, Jan, Shelley and Linda. But their fortunes are set to change when devout Toni Christie fan, Linda finds tickets to

Ladies' Day at Royal Ascot the year it relocated to York.

Show dates are Thursday 13th to Saturday 15th November. Tickets for the show are now available and can be purchased online at www.bwplayers.co.uk or using this QR code. Price is £9 plus booking fee online, and £10 on the door. Pre-booking is recommended. Performed at Thelwall Parish Hall, Bell Lane, WA4 2SX. Free parking is available.



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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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Mayor praises Lady Bug after 24-hour Litter Picking Challenge

THE Mayor of Warrington has praised the efforts of Jill Dance, over 70 dedicated volunteers, and hundreds of supporters who took part in an inspiring 24-hour litter picking challenge across Warrington.

The challenge has already raised more than £2,000 for the Mayor's four charities – Youth Zone, Warrington Disability Partnership, St. Rocco's Hospice, and Room at the Inn – with donations still coming in.

Speaking after the event, the Mayor, Cllr Mo Hussain, said: "As Mayor of Warrington, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to Jill Dance, to the seventy dedicated volunteers, and to the hundreds of supporters who took part in the remarkable 24-hour litter picking challenge.

"What you have achieved goes far beyond raising vital funds for my chosen charities. Yes, the generosity and commitment shown will help us to support young people, the homeless, the elderly, and the vulnerable in our community. But this challenge was also about something much bigger – raising awareness of the importance of keeping our environment clean and safe for everyone.

"By giving up your time, working side by side through day and night, you have sent a powerful message: that Warrington is a community

that cares – for its people, for its neighbourhoods, and for the world we live in.

"I am truly proud of what you have accomplished. You have shown that together, with energy, kindness, and determination, we can make a real difference.

"On behalf of Warrington, and from the bottom of my heart – thank you."

Event organiser Jill Dance also shared her gratitude, saying: "I absolutely loved the experience and I want to thank all the volunteers, the well-wishers, and everyone who donated to support this challenge. As someone from Scotland who has proudly adopted Warrington as my home, I truly love this town. I also want to thank the Mayor and the Town Hall for helping to make this happen – it really shows the spirit and heart of our community."

Volunteers worked in teams around the clock, collecting litter from streets, parks, and public spaces, demonstrating the power of community action and the pride Warrington has in its neighbourhoods.



Family secure robotic arm for 33-year-old battling MND

THE family of a 33-year-old Woolston man battling Motor Neurone Disease (MND) has secured funding for a special Neater Eater robotic arm to help with daily tasks, following an urgent appeal.

Richard Butler was diagnosed with Motor Neurone Disease (MND) in April this year and the condition has progressed rapidly, and he now needs help with most daily tasks.

He recently trialled a Neater Eater robotic arm, a device that enables people with limited mobility to feed themselves. Using it gave him back a small but vital piece of independence. However, the equipment costs £8,797 and is not available through the NHS.

The Motor Neurone Disease

Association (MNDA) pledged £2,000, leaving the family to raise the remaining amount.

A fundraiser was launched by his sister-in-law Sarah Butler from Warrington, together with her husband Paul, his brother, David, and their mum, Mandy, "to give him as much dignity and independence as we possibly can."

Donations have gone directly towards purchasing the device, enabling Richard to retain some control over his daily life while living with this cruel, incurable disease. The family also hope the fundraiser raises awareness about the importance of assistive technology and the need for greater NHS support in the future.

Now the funds have been secured following an online Go Fundme appeal.

Sarah said: "Thanks to your generosity, we've now raised over £5,400! We are completely blown away. Every donation, share, and message of support has made this possible, and we are so deeply grateful.

"But that's not all, we're thrilled that the Council has agreed to fund the remaining gap, which means... the Neater Eater has been ordered!

"Even better, because of your overwhelming support, we'll have a small amount left over from the fundraiser that we can use to help Richard in other ways.



Fundraiser launched for pet rescue kits in memory of couple and dogs killed in house blaze

A fundraiser has been launched for pet rescue kits in memory of a Warrington couple and their dogs, killed in a house blaze in Daresbury in 2022.

The Skyla Project has been launched by Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service Watch Manager Nic Brennan, with the mission of

giving firefighters across the UK the specialist equipment and training needed to safely rescue pets in emergencies. The goal is to supply as many fire stations as possible with "Skyla Small Animal Rescue Kits" over the next 12 months.

The project was named in memory of Kieran Naylor and Rebecca Foster,

a Warrington couple who tragically died in a house fire in 2022 along with their beloved pets, Skye and Nyla. Before their deaths, Kieran and Rebecca had pledged to help support Nic's idea. Their families, determined to honour that promise, have now begun fundraising in their memory.

The couple died after sustaining serious injuries during a fire at their home on Delph Lane, Daresbury, in the early hours of Monday, 12 December 2022.

Already, the project has helped equip Cheshire firefighters with specialist pet oxygen masks designed to fit animals' snouts, alongside CPR mannequins and trauma kits to deliver realistic training. Crews can now perform vital pre-veterinary emergency care, such as CPR and oxygen delivery, for pets suffering from smoke inhalation or injuries.

As Nic explains: "This project is deeply personal to me, not just because I've always had pets, but because it carries forward a dream that Kieran and Rebecca helped begin. Their legacy will now help protect pets throughout our region."

So far, the fundraiser has raised over £2,100 of its £60,000 target.

Donations can be made via www.gofundme.com/f/specialist-equipment-training-for-small-animals-rescue



Private GP practice “mygp” celebrates expansion

myGP Clinic is proud to announce the opening of its brand-new private GP clinic in Antrobus, near Warrington, marking the next phase in the organisation's mission to make personal, accessible healthcare available to more people across Cheshire.

The new facility has been carefully designed around comfort, care, and privacy, featuring welcoming spaces and advanced consultation rooms to provide patients with a calm and modern environment.

This expansion, following on from the success of the practice at nearby Stretton, adds eight new consulting and treatment suites, significantly increasing capacity to meet the growing demand for high-quality, personalised primary care services.

“Our valued members are part of the reason this expansion has

been possible,” said Dr Stephen Coogan, founder and Medical Director of myGP Clinic. “Every detail of the Antrobus site reflects our belief in providing patients with time, attention, and a truly personal healthcare experience.”

In keeping with the clinic's tradition, each consultation room is named after influential figures in medicine – a gesture that celebrates learning from the past to shape the future of healthcare.

The Antrobus clinic features:

- The Anderson Suite – honouring Dr Elizabeth Garrett Anderson, the first woman to qualify in

medicine in England.

- The Hutchinson Suite – named for Mr Geoff Hutchinson, a distinguished Consultant General Surgeon at Spire Cheshire and mentor to Dr Coogan in private practice.

myGP Clinic is also pleased to announce the appointment of Dr Rebecca Russell as Clinical Director for Antrobus, where she will lead the team and continue the organisation's commitment to outstanding, evidence-based care.



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M6 Bed Warehouse wins prestigious award



Louis Mitchell, M6 Bed Warehouse, Vernon Kay BBC, Oliver Mitchell M6 Bed Warehouse, Joe Mitchell M6 Bed Warehouse and Tean Dallaway NBF President.

THE family-run M6 Bed Warehouse is proud to announce that it has been named the Small NBF Retail Champion 2025.

The award is prestigious recognition from the National Bed Federation (NBF) that celebrates retailers who go the extra mile to deliver outstanding customer experience, staff development, and excellence in a highly competitive marketplace.

This award is a huge milestone for the family-run business, which has grown steadily since opening its second store just two years ago. The accolade reflects the company's strong commitment combining quality products, expert knowledge, and first-class service to deliver genuine value for every customer.

For The M6 Bed Warehouse, the win is about more than recognition within the bedding industry—it's about reinforcing what matters most: supporting local communities, championing trusted NBF brands, and helping customers make confident choices when investing in a good night's sleep.

Louis Mitchell, Director at The M6 Bed Warehouse, said: "We are absolutely delighted to have been recognised as the Small NBF Retail Champion 2025. This award is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our team, and the loyalty of our customers. As a local family business, our values of

quality and service have always been at the heart of what we do, and this recognition reinforces our commitment to those principles. Congratulations also to all of this year's finalists and winners—it's fantastic to see excellence across our industry celebrated."

The award also shines a spotlight on the company's ongoing efforts to provide added value, such as free delivery, free mattress recycling, and expert aftercare advice. By combining trusted NBF-approved products with a personalised, service-driven approach, The M6 Bed Warehouse continues to set itself apart in a competitive market.

Customers can expect to see celebrations in-store and online, including special product launches and promotions developed in partnership with leading NBF suppliers. These initiatives will ensure that the recognition of this award translates directly into added value and choice for customers.

Winning the Small NBF Retail Champion Award not only cements The M6 Bed Warehouse's reputation as a trusted local retailer but also signals its continued growth, built on the same pillars that have defined its journey so far: quality, integrity, and exceptional service.

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Spotlight on Local History with James Balme

Historic Grappenhall and St. Wilfrid's Church

Today Grappenhall village is a leafy suburb of Warrington tucked away just off the A50 Knutsford Road. But Grappenhall has an ancient past with a firm foothold in the history of Warrington.

Indeed, evidence from the Bronze Age was revealed way back in the 1930s with the discovery of cremation urns of the period from an ancient burial mound in the village. Several prehistoric sites and features have been identified in the past in the Grappenhall area. If you visit Warrington museum you can see for yourself some of the cremation urns that were unearthed along with many bronze artefacts and implements.

However, it is in the old village where today we can still find evidence of Medieval life especially inside St. Wilfrid's church. The original church itself is believed

to have been constructed around 1120 AD as a small stone church. Inside the church today you will find a plaque listing a continuous record of church rectors starting with Robert of Gropenhale, who was witness of a charter in 1189.

The original church was Norman in origin and would have been a simple construction consisting of a nave and chancel. But it wasn't until the foundations of this early church were discovered during restoration work carried out in 1873 and 1874 that the early history of St. Wilfrid's church was revealed. In 1344 a chapel was added by the Boydell family. Around the year of

1529 the church was mostly rebuilt in local Cheshire sandstone. What was left of the old church was demolished but the new church now boasted a new nave, chancel as well as a new north aisle and tower. The church now remained in use as it was until the 19th century when the church was once again extended. In the late 19th century the church was to undergo another major restoration at the cost of some £4000. On the outside of the church just below the west window is a carving in the sandstone of a cat. Local legend describes this as the original Cheshire Cat. Also, outside the church you will find a set of stocks with the stone ends most probably dating from around the 17th century. I suspect many misbehaving locals of the 17th century found themselves regularly unwilling guests of the stocks for many days at a time.

Just across the road from St. Wilfrid's church stands Grappenhall Rectory, sadly today the building is in an advanced state of decay having been neglected for many years. However, it seems that very recently changes in the fortune of the Rectory may be about to change that will allow the building to be saved. The rectory is a Grade II listed building being constructed around 1830. The building underwent structural changes in 1855. Hopefully now the building can be saved and restored back to its former original condition. This would no doubt prove to be a valuable asset to the village whilst at the same time complimenting the stunning church of St. Wilfrid that stand directly opposite the rectory.



There is no doubt in my mind that the restoration of the rectory would be the icing on the cake for the old village of Grappenhall.

For more great features and over 700 history videos covering Warrington and surrounds visit my youtube history channel today. [Youtube.com/@tvpresenter4history](https://www.youtube.com/@tvpresenter4history).



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When Principal Private Residence Relief isn't so private

For most homeowners, selling their main residence feels like one of the few occasions where tax doesn't come knocking. Principal Private Residence (PPR) Relief has long been viewed as a safety net, almost a guarantee that any gain on your main home will be tax-free. Yet as numerous tax cases have shown that comfort can be misplaced. When PPR claims go wrong, the outcome can be a substantial and unexpected Capital Gains Tax (CGT) bill.

To qualify for the relief, two conditions must be met. The property must not have been purchased purely for profit, and it must genuinely have been the individual's only or main residence throughout ownership. These sound straightforward, but the detail – especially around absences or multiple homes – can easily trip people up.

When HMRC Comes Knocking

Some property owners try to "rotate" PPR claims, nominating each property in turn as their main home before selling it. While this may initially succeed, HMRC's sophisticated 'Connect' system now cross-checks Land Registry data and flags patterns of short-term ownership. HMRC can then argue that the properties were never genuine homes but trading stock bought for resale.

If that view is upheld, the profits fall under income tax rules rather than CGT and also attract National

Insurance – a far more costly result. The same argument has been used against small-scale developers who live briefly in refurbished houses before selling them for profit.

What Counts as "Home"?

The courts have made clear that it's not the length of time lived in a property that matters but the quality and intention of the occupation. The key test is whether there was "some evidence of permanence, some degree of continuity or expectation of continuity."

A few months of residence can be enough if the move was genuine and properly evidenced. Conversely, even years of ownership may fail to qualify if the occupation appears superficial. HMRC looks for signs of genuine day-to-day living – bills, registrations, insurance and correspondence – all pointing to the address as the person's real home. The tax authority has even cited low winter fuel use to show that a "main residence" was actually unoccupied.

The Trouble with Absences

Absences often complicate PPR relief. Some absences can still count as periods of occupation: up to three years for any reason, up to four years when work requires living elsewhere, and any time spent working abroad.

However, these concessions only apply if the owner occupied the property both before and after the absence. If they never return

– perhaps because the property was sold or rented out – those periods may become taxable. Even short breaks in continuity can significantly affect the final gain.

There is, however, a small buffer. The first year and the final nine months of ownership are automatically treated as periods of occupation, regardless of actual residence. This helps where buying and selling overlap or sales take longer than expected.

"Flipping" and the Two-Year Rule

A less-understood planning option is the right to elect which property counts as your main residence when more than one is owned. This election can later be changed or "flipped" as circumstances evolve.

Timing is critical. The election must be made within two years of acquiring the second home, and it only applies to a property that has genuinely been lived in. Miss the two-year deadline and HMRC will make the decision for you – rarely to your advantage. Occasionally, events such as marriage, a change in ownership or a brief letting period can reset the clock, but relying on these is risky.

Used correctly, flipping can be a valuable way to preserve relief when moving between properties. Used carelessly, it can prompt an HMRC enquiry that unravels years of planning.



Thomas Coyne and Stuart Barr

The Rent-a-Room Complication

Letting out a room in your main home can be attractive for income tax purposes under the Rent-a-Room scheme, but it can complicate PPR relief. The portion of the property used by tenants doesn't qualify for relief during the let period unless lettings relief applies.

Lettings relief can shelter up to £40,000 of gain per owner, but since 2020 it only applies where the owner actually lives in the property at the same time as the tenant. Many landlords still assume the older, more generous rules remain in place and are caught out at sale.

Getting It Right

Principal Private Residence Relief remains one of the most valuable CGT exemptions available, but it requires care. The line between genuine residence and short-term property dealing is fine, and HMRC now has the technology and determination to test every claim.

The lesson is straightforward: treat your home like your home. Keep clear evidence of residence, avoid repeated quick flips, and seek professional advice before making or varying a main-residence election. For those who get it right, PPR relief is a cornerstone of sensible tax planning. For those who get it wrong, it can transform a supposedly tax-free sale into an expensive surprise.

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Celebrity charity match brings together fun and fundraising



Report and Pictures: John Hopkins

A Celebrity Charity Match at Warrington Rylands FC brought together famous faces from Gogglebox, EastEnders, Love Island, Married at First Sight, YouTube, and more.

Celebrities included Callum Best and Cal the Dragon — for an unforgettable evening of football, fun, and fundraising!

The event, organised by Sellebrity Soccer in partnership with The Matilda Foundation and Este Medical Group, raised vital funds for Warrington and Halton Hospitals, supporting the Willow Tree Suite — a special cause helping families through bereavement and the loss of babies.

A big shout-out to Warrington's very own Barrow Electrical Limited, proud sponsors of the winning team! Representing them on the

pitch was Tom Jowett of Warrington Youth Zone, who played the full 90 minutes — all in support of this incredible cause.

The atmosphere was electric, with plenty of goals, laughter, and even some memorable dancing from the linesmen every time the net bulged!

Celebrities took time for photos, autographs, and interviews, making it a truly community-driven event from start to finish.

A huge thank you to everyone who came along and supported such a meaningful cause.



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