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Issue No. 160

February 2013

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See Page 3

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8 Page
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IF you have any concerns about Warrington's bin collection service going fortnightly - you have until February 1 to raise your concerns with the borough council.

But it would appear whether you have any concerns or not - the fortnightly collections will become a reality sooner rather than later.

The council's executive board has already approved the fortnightly collections (subject to public consultation) and with savings of around £1 million a year at times of such austerity, the new collections will be upon us soon.

But I urge readers to still make their views known, as the outcome of the survey could make interesting reading. This can be done by visiting the consultation section of the council's website at www.warrington.gov.uk

Meanwhile I am pleased to report that the council has scrapped its controversial charging policy for replacements bins if you are unfortunate enough to have one stolen or vandalised.

It would appear the council were reluctant to promote this good news message even after coming under fire from Warrington North MP Helen Jones, who publicly condemned the charging policy - after it had already been scrapped.

Better communications within the labour party in Warrington may

prove helpful for our town.

As I have said before and I will say it again, our politicians should spend their time and energy working for the good of the town!

Meanwhile rumours that a Super Prison was once again being considered for the Omega site at Burtonwood have been ruled out.

An announcement by Justice Secretary Chris Grayling that sites were being looked at in the North West sparked widespread fear that the Warrington site was back on the agenda. But urgent talks between Warrington South MP David Mowat

and Mr Grayling cleared up the issue and thankfully put the rumour to bed.

It is good to see that the site, earmarked for economic regeneration, is now starting to bear fruit at long last after many years of inactivity, following the announcement that food distributors Brakes are opening a facility on Omega, which can only be good for the future of our town. The last thing we need is the idea of a prison putting people off relocating to Warrington!

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Melissa is model student

LAW student Melissa Thorley is shaping up for a career in modelling after helping launch a new fitness facility in the town.

Helping out her boyfriend Chris Gee, who works for Paul Mason at Cheshire Personal Training, Melissa did the modelling during a photo shoot of the new fitness suite at Mason's Fitness at the White Rooms in Lymm.

Campaign

Melissa aged, 21, from Stockton Heath, Warrington, has been the face of a marketing campaign to promote the new facility and is now keen to explore a career in modelling.

Going into her final year at Staffordshire University she feels modelling may be a better career path than the law - although she still hasn't made up her mind. "Having studied law for the past couple of years it may not be for me," she said.

Melissa has already achieved some success in the modelling world already, when she won the Miss Cheshire Galaxy Pageant title last year.

See main advert on Page 27.

Top honour for founder's wife

WARRINGTON Disability Partnership (WDP) gave a special award to Pam Thompson, wife of the charity's founder Dave Thompson, at its Annual Meeting.

Pam, of Westbrook, became Honorary Life President in a ceremony at the Town Hall. She received the award for her "devotion and unstinting loyalty" to her family and husband Dave.

Dave is a tetraplegic after breaking his neck in a freak accident playing American football 23 years ago. He says it is because of her physical and emotional support that he is able to continue working and being chairman of WDP.

Since its beginning as Warrington Information Service in 1990, Pam has been the lynchpin holding her family together dealing with many adversities and challenges along the way.

She is an integral part of the charity's fundraising team and also works on a voluntary basis at the Centre for Independent Living, Beaufort Street.

Pam is a constant at Disability Awareness Week and this summer will be her 23rd year of volunteering. She keeps the troops fed and watered and is affectionately known as "Mrs DAD."

Colleague Rachel Hanlon said: "We at Team WDP are proud to know Pam, she is an inspiration to us all and very worthy of her new title."

Pam Thompson is pictured receiving her award from the Mayor of Warrington Cllr Steve Wright.



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Hello and welcome to my monthly column . . .

Hypnotes

by Michael Mahoney

Relationships

Who is the most important person in your life? It is a simple straightforward question. When I ask this question to some of my clients, they answer, my wife, husband, mum, dad, boyfriend, girlfriend, sister, brother, aunt or uncle and others besides. Often, far to often there is an omission from the list of important people, and that is usually ourselves!

The most important person in your life is and should be you! Only by being fair to yourself and loving yourself, and nurturing yourself, can you make the very most out of loving relationships with those people who are important to you.

This requirement for self-love is not arrogance, or selfish, it is more like self-preservation. Self-love is about caring for yourself as well as those around you. It is about knowing yourself, it is about taking responsibility for you, responsibility for the things you chose to do or chose not to do.

Psychologist and social philosopher Eric Fromm wrote in 1956 that to truly love someone else, you have to love yourself first. Of course this may sound flowery and 60's type drivel to some

readers, but is it?

Are you in a loving and happy relationship at this moment or are you going through the motions, are you realistic about your own strengths and weaknesses, or do you turn a blind eye to them. Are you stuck in old patterns of behaviour, beliefs and thought which could sabotage what could be a wonderful relationship, or at worst even destroy it.

Many people believe it's easier to just put up with a situation, and keep quiet, rather than deal with their own issues. Many people would rather face a raging bull than admit they have issues to deal with! Old patterns can help us to avoid what needs to be addressed, it's easier to shout and walk away, rather than listen and simply consider new options of choice and considerations.

We are the sum of our knowledge, life-skills, experiences and relationships. If we want to move on, if we want to break out of past behaviours and routines, we have to be brave enough to look inside ourselves and ask, if we do love ourselves and that means respecting ourselves and our skills and life history.

If we allow ourselves to remain in

Michael Mahoney is a Clinical Hypnotherapist. He has research, and patient trials experience.



He is a member of the Hypnotherapy Association, an associate of the Primary Care Society for Gastroenterology, he is a non NHS service provider and Private Health Service Provider

Tel: 01925-658322 email timelineservices@aol.com
www.michaelmahoneyhypnotherapist.com

destructive thought patterns and behaviours, then those things in the past are still influencing us, still winning the internal battle. But we owe it to ourselves, and those we love, to break out of that self-maintained prison and to begin to see the real opportunities which lay ahead of us.

And of course it's okay to be unsure, scared, and vulnerable and all the other things we shy away from so readily when we know change is needed. So if you haven't made a New Year's resolution yet, consider making one that you will start to love yourself. And when you learn how to do that, you can really open up and enjoy the other important relationships in your life, enjoying the support, and love and caring which is given to you by the special people in your life, and learn how to return it too. If you don't know how, contact me, if you are unsure, contact me, and let me help you find the way.



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Helping hand for young entrepreneurs

HELP is on hand for entrepreneurial Warrington teenagers looking for town centre premises, business advice and training to make a success of their ventures.

Warrington Youth Village, a new business start-up hub for young people, has been established by Warrington Youth Club, supported by Warrington-based company CEL Procurement.

Located on Bank Street, the Youth Village aims to tackle local youth unemployment, grow the business skills of local youngsters and provide inspirational activities for teenagers.

Young people can take a unit in the former bank to sell their goods. Opportunities are also available to social entrepreneurs such as music teachers and fitness instructors offering services for young people.

Staff working for procurement services provider, CEL Procurement helped to renovate the old Lloyds TSB bank and the company will also provide business advice and training to teenagers.

Practical, free courses for young people on marketing, sales, finance, procurement and administration will be available.

The company is also working with schools in Warrington to develop a work experience programme for local children and young people.

Steve Malone, managing director of CEL Procurement said: "The employment market is really tough at the moment - particularly for young people. We wanted to help local teenagers stand out from other

applicants and give them real-life experience of running their own business.

"Hopefully our work at Warrington Youth Village will give young people the skills and confidence to test the market, develop a business plan and make their ideas a reality."

David McNicholl, senior manager

at Warrington Youth Club said: "Warrington has high numbers of NEET youngsters - Not in Education, Employment or Training. "We're working with local schools and colleges to tackle this by developing seven key focus points at Warrington Youth Village.

"Young people and social entrepreneurs who are interested in

citizenship, dance and drama, fashion and design, hair and beauty, sport and fitness, music and live performance and outreach work should get in touch."

Anyone interested in taking a unit at the Youth Village should contact Warrington Youth Club on 01925 581217 or email davem@warringtonyouthclub.co.uk

COMPETITION

Win a bottle of Greenall's gin!

WARRINGTON'S G&J Greenall are England's oldest continuous gin distillers - and *warrington-worldwide* readers have an opportunity to win a bottle of their famous 'Greenall's Original London Dry Gin' in an easy-to-enter competition.

The gin is now produced at a modern distillery in Birchwood after relocating following a disastrous fire at premises off Loushers Lane.

But originally it was produced in Bridge Street where the unique recipe was created by Thomas Dakin in 1761.

Originally called "Warrington Gin" it was an immediate success - partly because of the ease of transportation between Warrington and Manchester and Liverpool, but also because of the drink's distinctive flavour.

More than 100 years later, the drink was renamed Greenall's, but continued to be made - as it is today - according to Thomas Dakin's original recipe

To enter our competition, readers

should write to
Warrington Worldwide
New Media Centre
Old Road, Warrington
WA4 1AT
or email info@warrington-worldwide.co.uk

with the answer to the simple question:

What year was the recipe for Greenall's Original London Dry Gin created?

Readers should include their full, postal address and a day time contact number.

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Business

First birthday celebrations

SALES and letting agency Northwood are celebrating the first anniversary of their Warrington branch opening its doors for business.

Sadia Mian and her team attribute a highly successful first year to Northwood's innovative approach to the lettings market.

The Guaranteed Rental Income Scheme, pioneered by Northwood, was launched more than 15 years ago and offers sole or multiple landlords

guaranteed rental income, whether the property is occupied or vacant or even if the tenant doesn't pay the rent.

In addition, the company provides tenants with well managed accommodation.

Sadia said: "I knew the competition would be fierce, so had to offer something to my customers they couldn't get elsewhere."

The Northwood Guaranteed Rental Income scheme has proven to

be a no brainer to landlords, especially those with multiple properties who can't risk their properties sitting empty or wish to spread the risk and minimise their exposure, which in turn has enabled them to add more properties to their portfolio."

Anyone looking to rent property, or for somewhere to call home, should contact Northwood (Warrington) on 01925 634665.

Gemma steps up



WARRINGTON accountancy firm Mitchell Charlesworth has appointed Gemma Gower to head its VAT department.

She will oversee its VAT operation across its offices in Liverpool, Manchester, Chester, Warrington and Widnes.

Ms Gower has nine years VAT experience including roles at HM Revenue and Customs and accountancy firms PKF and Deloitte.

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Business

Law firm introduces Saturday opening hours

WARRINGTON residents can now make a will or organise property conveyancing alongside their weekly shop, thanks to new Saturday opening hours introduced by local QualitySolicitors Forshaws Davies Ridgway (FDR).

Their office at 21 Palmyra Square will be open every Saturday, 9.30am – 1pm for a wide range of legal services, including residential property transactions, leases, trusts, wills, disputes, personal injury claims, criminal defence and family issues such as pre-nuptial agreements, divorce and children's matters.

As a branch of the nationwide legal network QualitySolicitors, FDR is keen to improve its accessibility as

a provider of professional, high street legal services to local residents.

Partner Vicki Coulthurst explained: "This is an exciting new extension to the service we offer. People live increasingly busy lives, working longer hours, and they often don't have time to visit a solicitor during the working week."

"At QualitySolicitors Forshaws Davies Ridgway, we strive to deliver excellent customer care to all our clients and Saturday opening is just one more way to make consulting a solicitor more convenient."

For more information or to make an appointment, please ring 01925 230000 or consult the website www.qualitysolicitors.com/fdr. Follow us on Twitter: @QSFD



Pledge to tackle business crime

A PLEDGE to tackle crimes that affect businesses such as robbery, people not paying and staff stealing, has been made by Cheshire's Police and Crime Commissioner John Dwyer.

He says that although figures for business crime in Cheshire and Warrington are "very low" he wants to work with the community to reduce it further.

He met business people from across the county to hear about their concerns, discuss their priorities and ask for their views on the budget and council tax for policing.

Business organisations such as chambers of commerce, the Federation of Small Businesses and the Institute of Directors also talked about their concerns.

Mr Dwyer said: "A vitally important part of my role is to represent the views of the business community when holding the Chief Constable to account."

"I have made sure that my first police and crime plan reflects this area of policing and I intend to make it my business to ensure that the police work hard to further reduce crimes such as robbery from businesses, theft by employees, shoplifting and making off without payment."



He said business leaders raised issues such as how to prevent on-line credit card fraud, metal theft and how to assist the policing of hauliers. They also discussed the need for businesses to report crime to the police and not simply accept losses from crime as inevitable.

Mr Dwyer said: "The figures for business crime in Cheshire are very low. Last year just 91 business robberies were reported, a 14 per cent decrease on the previous year. Commercial burglary fell by 16 per cent."

"In this economic climate, the police and businesses need to work together to ensure that we are doing all we can. I have seen some great work being done by the police at ground level; for example, in helping to prevent people making off from fuel stations without paying."

IT firm expands

IT distributor VIP Computers has opened a new warehouse facility in Warrington.

The warehouse extension adds an extra 31,000 square feet, over 3,000 more pallet spaces, costing £1.6 million. This gives the company a total warehouse capacity of 100,000 square feet.

Company chairman Jatti Sahni said: "This expansion of the warehouse will help our company to grow further, allowing us to tap into the growth of the IT market."

"VIP recently bolstered its team with 60 new employees from the north-west region and will continue to invest in its future as a major employer in the area."

Presently, VIP Computers annually services in excess of 2,000 accounts and moves over 9,000 items per day, with a 99.7 per cent shipping accuracy rate. The extra capacity is expected to dramatically boost the number of items processed per day.

Warrington jobs fair

"During this difficult time for the economy, I am acutely aware of the problems faced by many of the people in Warrington who are in low income jobs or who are jobseekers. Since 2009, I have been running a Job Club and so far 150 people have been helped back into employment or education."

I will be holding a Job Fair on **Friday 8th February, 2013** at The Halliwell James Stadium.

"This is a fantastic opportunity for employers to meet talented local people looking for jobs."

David Mower - MP for Warrington South

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3 Whitefield Court

1,000 sq/ft warehouse



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Advertiser's announcement



Spotlight on the Callaghan & Moran Academy

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*Terms & Conditions: Offer expires 28 February. Cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer. Offer available for new clients only on their first visit.

Group Tickets

£5 Family Day Return



Great value for 2, 3 or 4 people travelling together when at least one person is under sixteen, these tickets can be bought on the bus and are valid for one return journey anytime on the day of issue, except before 09.00 on school days.

£8 Family Day Rover

Great value for 2, 3 or 4 people travelling together when at least one person is under sixteen, these tickets can be bought on the bus and are valid for unlimited travel anytime on the day of issue, except before 09.00 on school days.

£10 Adult Group Day Rover

Great value for 2, 3 or 4 people travelling together. These tickets can be bought on the bus and are valid for unlimited travel anytime on the day of issue.

Network Warrington will be changing the times of a number of its services from Monday 28 January 2013

A number of routes will see revised timetables, particularly during off-peak periods in order to improve reliability, some services will be changing their routes and some new links will be created.



13 **Service 13** will cease to serve Whittle Hall (which is served by 17/17A & 29) and will form a new link to Sainsburys at Chapelford.

29 **Service 29** will no longer serve Collins Green and Burtonwood, these areas will be served by a new **route 33** which will be provided by another operator funded by Warrington Borough Council.

48 **Service 48** to Dudlows Green is withdrawn, however, Longwood Road will continue to have a peak service to/from Warrington (**10A**) and the **7A** will provide the off peak link including a new link to Grappenhall Heys (**7C**)

10C **New off peak service 10C** will provide a link from Gainsborough Road to the shopping area at Latchford then on to Stockton Heath.

New leaflets for all services are available from our Travel Centre at Warrington Bus Interchange from **Monday 14 January**, they can also be accessed through our website, and we will also be delivering copies to outlets such as libraries and post offices across the Borough.

www.networkwarrington.co.uk



Charity turns old bikes into cash

A GARDEN centre charity has branched out to recycle old bikes making more than £10,000 during their first year in business.

The Long Lane Garden Centre, part of the Walton Lea project which supports adults with special needs, realised it had to diversify to provide more placement opportunities, while also work towards becoming more self sufficient.

Now the cycle project has become a fantastic success raising a grand total of £10,163.00.

Long Lane Garden Centre Project Co-ordinator Kath Jones explained: "The cycles are made available to the public at a very reduced rate. With petrol and obesity on the increase it can only be a good idea. Our lads and lasses who attend Long Lane Garden Centre were only too pleased to help out. They are supported by our dedicated staff and volunteers, who are repairing, swapping good for bad and making bikes available from as little as £10.

"We have now been granted some funding by Stronger Together to enable our mechanics to achieve

a qualification in cycle maintenance. Then we can pass our knowledge on to the general public by providing workshops."

Long Lane will also become a site where people can have their cycles etched and registered for security.

Kath added: "We would like to thank everyone for their kind donations and would like the good people of Warrington to help us achieve our goals with more donations and sales.

"Let's get Warrington 'on a bike' and healthy!" Anyone interested in volunteering at the project, or with a cycle to donate or a company that could help out like JK Ross, who supply overalls and donate hi vis jackets, with each bike sold can contact Kath on 01925 632847 or email longlanegc@btconnect.com or visit www.waltonlea.org

Kath is pictured with (L to R) support worker Kevin Brear and workers Mike Connors and Jamie Bennett.



Ex-marine visits school

A FORMER Royal Marine Commando told pupils at a Warrington school about his experiences in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Andy Grant, of Liverpool, visited Sir Thomas Boteler High School as part of an enrichment lesson for Year 11 pupils.

He is an Iraq and Afghanistan war veteran of six and a half years who, while serving in Helmand Province in Afghanistan, was critically injured when an improvised explosive device was triggered by one of his colleagues in front of him.

Andy suffered 27 separate injuries and was in a coma for two months. In 2010 he had his right leg amputated below the knee. After years of rehabilitation he gives motivational talks on behalf of BLESMA, a charity that supports war veterans who have lost limbs in conflict.

Mike Downes, a welfare officer for BLESMA, also attended to talk to the year 11's about the valuable work it does. Pupils are planning fundraising events to support the organisation.



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E: warringtonservicecentre@gmail.com www.warringtonservicecentre.co.uk

Warrington Market



Baby of the year 2013



In Conjunction
with
Warrington Market

**WIN £1,000
FREE to enter
FREE Photo Sitting**

**Monday 18 February until Saturday 2 March
Between 10am - 3pm**

Runner up prizes include:

- The Flower Centre – Bouquet of Flowers
- Alison Loves to Bake – Birthday or Christening Cake up to £60
- Customer Information Desk - £20 Voucher for Warrington Souvenirs
- Taylor's Farm shop - Fruit & Veg Hamper
- Fair 4 All - £10 voucher
- Sausage Shop - 3 lb Pack of Syn Free Sausages + Italian Meatballs
- Warrington DIY Stall – Children's Sledge
- Dreamshakes – 10 x Free Drinks
- Pick n Mix Corner – Chocolate Selection Pack
- Morans Shoe Repairs and Key Cutting - £25 Engraving Voucher

Free to enter photo competition: Terms and conditions apply

Visit
Warrington
Market
on facebook

facebook



WARRINGTON
Borough Council



warrington voluntary action NEWS

Supporting the development of a vibrant, thriving and sustainable third sector to meet the diverse and changing needs of local communities.



Get to know WVA

Read about our services and how we can help you

Get Connected

Find out about voluntary groups in your area

Access Support

Information and advice for training and funding

Get Involved

Volunteering opportunities to suit everyone

WVA Partners

A who's who of 3rd Sector support



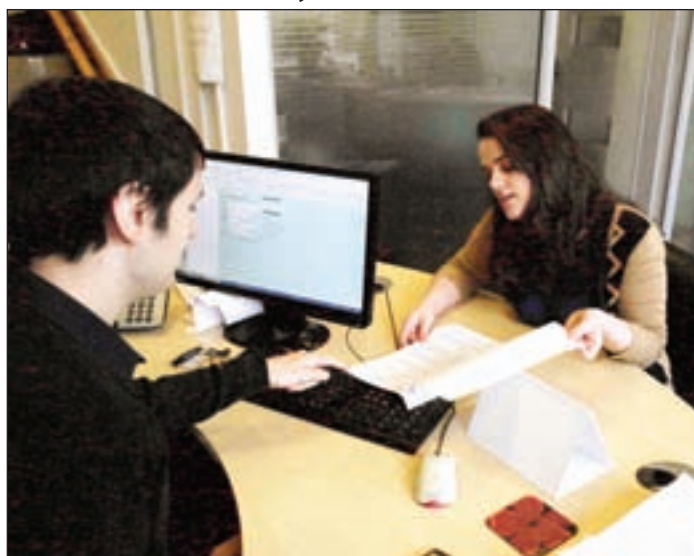
Get to know WVA

WVA is based in the town centre in the Gateway on Sankey Street. We deliver a wide range of services for local charities, community and voluntary groups as well as individuals wanting to volunteer, our key aims are to:

- Provide information, guidance and resources enabling local voluntary, community and faith organisations to deliver effective quality services.
- Promote, support and develop volunteering for individuals and local communities to make a positive difference.
- Develop and champion excellence in volunteer management
- Initiate and nurture the development of new groups, schemes, enterprises or activities to meet identified needs.
- Support local networks and forums to facilitate and encourage effective partnerships and strengthen cross sector working.
- Enable effective representation and involvement on key strategic partnership bodies to ensure third sector organisations have a strong voice.

Our dedicated and skilled team provide support and advice on funding, governance, finance, managing volunteers and finding volunteers, as well bringing organisations together through networking and partnership opportunities.

Do you work for a charitable organisation? Perhaps you are an individual who wants to become involved in the local community?



Practical one to one support to help you achieve your goal.

What's new

WVA is the lead body of a partnership of eight local support organisations that has been awarded funding to transform infrastructure support in Warrington. The grant is from the Office of Civil Society's £30 million Transforming Local Infrastructure Fund.

The grant will fund the development of a central point of information in the form of an online portal, streamlining and improving access to a wide and varied range of quality information, support and resources. The portal will have a searchable database that will allow third sector and public sector to collaborate and consult more effectively and a bank of information, advice and guidance materials. It will also support online forums enabling trustees, volunteer coordinators, trainers etc. to exchange views and access peer support.

The eight local support organisations are working in a partnership which will mean an increased range of services to community groups, including an accessible and easy to understand calendar of training and learning opportunities taking place across Warrington, as well as employment vacancies in the Third Sector and easy to find volunteering opportunities.

Get in touch and stay tuned for the new website launch in April!

T: 01925 246 880

Warrington Voluntary Action, the Gateway, 89 Sankey Street, Warrington WA1 1SR

E: info@warringtonva.org.uk W: www.warringtonva.org.uk

Warrington Voluntary Action is Registered in England & Wales as a Registered Charity 1129343



With WVA's Brand New Directory! www.warringtonva.org.uk - coming April 2013

There are over 1200 charities, community and voluntary organisations, faith groups and social enterprises active across Warrington and around 22,000 dedicated volunteers!

If you work or volunteer for an organisation, or just want to become more involved in your local community, it's helpful to know who to connect with! Our new website will be host to a comprehensive community directory.

This community landscape is constantly growing and changing! Make sure your group is part of it; Visit www.warringtonva.org.uk to submit your group's details and be part of the brand new community directory!



Networking and Events with WVA

Community and voluntary organisations, faith groups, the public sector and businesses have a lot to offer to each other. WVA meetings and events play an important role in creating opportunities for working in partnership, encouraging the development and growth of Warrington's Third Sector.



We organise a range of events to keep people informed and involved.

Volunteer Co-ordinators Network:

“The network meetings are a great way to meet people in the same situation as you. I met a few volunteer managers and we started swapping marketing materials. We now work together on a regular basis.”

Third Sector Network Lunch:

“It's a good opportunity to meet up with people and catch up with what they are doing. There's always interesting speakers and relevant issues raised. Sometimes it's good to leave your office to get a sense of perspective!”

Volunteer Matchmaking:

“The matchmaking event was good fun, like speed dating for your organisation! I got the chance to meet loads of talented and interesting people; it's given me some great ideas on how I can work with local businesses to support our group!”

Access Support

At Warrington Voluntary Action, we have staff, trainers and volunteers with the skills and expertise to support the ever changing needs of local communities.

We are committed to giving organisations the tools and resources they need to deliver an effective and quality service to benefit local people.

Take a look at the WVA online impact report to find out more about how we have supported various organisations and the positive impact this has made.



Patricia Hartley is WVA's dedicated training officer.

Training with Warrington Voluntary Action

We offer a wide range of courses including marketing, funding, managing volunteers, using social media, setting up a social enterprise, planning events and governance! We also offer a bespoke service so if there is something your group really needs such as time management, team building or first aid we can help you out with this. Many courses are subsidised through various funding streams and we regularly offer free training to our members.

Bespoke training for St Rocco's Hospice

Volunteer Manager Julia Kindon approached the training team at WVA to create a unique opportunity for the Hospice staff to get together and discuss volunteering. The training day allowed a cross section of staff to reflect on the importance of involving volunteers, and to develop a uniformed approach.

“ I found the training really useful, not just from the point of view of working with volunteers, but working together generally. I think that there were a few light bulb moments for us all.

We all interact with volunteers, even if it's only seeing them in the corridor. Having all the team together enabled us to see things from a different perspective! A very useful insight. ”

“ WVA training courses are packed with practical and useful information! ”

Warrington Day Centre

“ The trainers were friendly and created a relaxed atmosphere; it was easy to contribute to the session. ”

Golden Gates Housing Trust

“ It's great to have such valuable courses and knowledgeable trainers in your local community! ”

Victim Support Centre

Learning Together Cheshire and Warrington: Working smarter together



LTCW is the Third Sector Learning Consortium for the Cheshire and Warrington sub-region and supports voluntary, community and faith sector organisations operating within Cheshire and Warrington.

The key aim is to enable organisations in the 3rd sector to play a full and equal part in the development and delivery of learning; including volunteers and staff, their members and/or their target communities. This in turn, will promote a strong and vibrant voluntary and community sector across Cheshire and Warrington. To find out more, visit www.learning-together.co.uk

Meet the Funders Event

In September we organised a free event for local voluntary and community groups to meet with funders. This was a unique opportunity for 80 representatives from local voluntary organisations to meet with major local and national funders and find out what makes a successful bid. The day proved to be a huge success there were presentations, workshops, information and advice from:

BIG Lottery Fund, who facilitated workshops on both their major funding streams – Awards for All and Reaching Communities.

Santander Foundation, avoid the bin presentation.

WEA Community Grants, Local Giving and Cheshire Community Foundation and Lloyds TSB all passed on trade secrets, hints and tips for submitting a successful application and avoiding the pitfalls. Local funding streams including representatives from **Warrington Charities Trust, Community Chest, Stronger Together and Impact**

Warrington.

Along with the workshops and formal presentations, a market place was held during the lunchtime period. This gave all attendees the opportunity to chat with funders on a one to one, along with the opportunity to share experiences and network with other local voluntary and community groups.

Throughout 2013 there will be more opportunities to meet funders local and national. Places for forthcoming events will be on a first to let us know basis, so ensure your organisation is on our mailing list.

Looking for funding can be a daunting and complex process. We aim to provide you with all you need to know to get started in applying for funding, or to help you identify new grant or contract funding sources. We have a dedicated Funding and Support Officer who can help you identify funding best suited to your work or activities, as well as guidance on how to apply.

“The event was excellent, regardless of the size of your organisation, there were funding streams available whether you were looking for £50 or thousands!”

“An excellent day, I learned so much and so worthwhile – Thank you.”

Health check your organisation

An organisation health check will give you and us an idea of what advice and assistance your organisation or group needs for its development; it will also enable us to identify key areas of work for development in the future.

The health check will ask you questions on the following areas:

- Organisational status
- Governance and management
- Staff and volunteers
- Policies and procedures
- Strategic and future direction
- Funding
- Monitoring and evaluation

All of these are important when thinking about your organisation and how to keep going in the long term.

Dedicated grant finder

Our online support service will give charities, community groups and voluntary organisations information about funding streams from a local perspective. There is guidance on how to choose pots of funding which would be relevant to your organisation or project, as well as asking the questions which reveal your group's readiness to apply.

Get Involved

Want to volunteer.....Volunteering is about giving your time to a good cause. You don't get paid, but you do get the chance to use your talents, develop new skills, and experience the pleasure that comes from making a real difference to other people's lives, as well as your own.

Who can do it?.....Anyone. Whatever your age, background or work experience, you will have a skill that someone needs. No matter how busy you are, there will be something that you can do. It can be trickier to find volunteer roles if you are under 16, but not impossible. Just ask us.

What can you do?.....Anything. (Almost.) There are over 600 different volunteer roles available in Warrington alone. You might be interested in working on the 'front line' or perhaps you'd be happier 'behind the scenes'; either way, there's something for everyone.

If you have professional skills that you would like to use to help local organisations in need, we have a wide range of opportunities you could help out with. If you would like a little extra help and support to help you get into volunteering, you might like to join our Introduction to Volunteering programme.

Impact Warrington: Linking businesses with charities to make a positive change

The aim of the project is to develop a co-ordinated approach to link sectors together to make a positive social impact in the local community.

We aim to help businesses meet their CSR aspirations by helping match employee skills with community groups and projects in Warrington.

This can be team challenges, where groups of employees from the same business help out at an organisation, usually working in areas quite different to their day job. These are great team building exercises, and provide invaluable support to the community.



Sharing skills: employees from Scottish Power lend some green fingers!

Do us a favour with Warrington Timebank

Become a member of the Warrington Timebank and meet local people who can do you a favour! There is no money involved; for every hour of time you give to another member, you receive one time credit. There are many Timebank members with many talents and abilities! You choose the skills and services to exchange with others, and then pay that favour back. All manner of skills are recognised from walking the dog for someone to baking a cake or delivering an art class.



Timebank members exchanging favours!



Warrington Timebank:
Contact Phil 01925 246 882
Philip@warringtonva.org.uk



Impact Warrington:
Contact Becky 01925 246 884
rebecca@warringtonva.org.uk

Volunteer Stories

It can be really rewarding to give something back to your community.

With over 600 volunteering opportunities across Warrington, there's something for everyone!

WVA supports local people who want to make a difference, whilst gaining some great experience along the way. Some of Warrington's volunteers told us what it means to them.



Chris Fisher, aged 21 from Padgate

Through a love of sport, Chris became a volunteer coach for youth groups in Warrington. The Participation in Sport Programme led to him volunteering for Warrington Youth Club. Through this wealth of experience, Chris obtained a place on the Sports Coaching programme for Camp America.

“Volunteering has been a valuable and rewarding experience. I am very proud of what I have achieved, and the positive impact on children's lives. Camp America was a fantastic experience, and I couldn't have done it without volunteering in Warrington.”

Kim Gandy, a single mum from Warrington

As Kim battled through mental illness, she realised the importance of having someone to talk to. Kim was able to use her experiences to offer help and support for those struggling in the community. She was involved with the Council's flagship Orford Park Project as a member of the initial steering group. She has founded support groups for self-injury, and most recently set up Steps Beyond for people suffering with mental health problems.

“I have great hopes for Steps Beyond; I know only too well how debilitating mental illness can be. If my voluntary work in the community can help just one person, then it's all worthwhile.”



Margaret Isherwood, aged 94 from Fairfield

Proving age is no obstacle, Margaret is a valuable volunteer in her community. She has volunteered for Age Concern for over twenty years, as well as running an elders' social group at St Margaret's Church. Her experiences led her to complete a diploma in Holistic Therapy; and she engages elder members of the community with her specialist therapies.

“Seeing people enjoy the holistic sessions is always positive. Get involved; there's something for everyone and it's a great way to meet new people and be part of the community!”

Feel inspired? Visit www.warringtonva.org.uk to browse the latest opportunities, and make an appointment with our volunteer matchmakers today!

“The seven local support organisations working in a partnership with WVA will mean an increased range of services to community groups, streamlining and improving access to a wide and varied range of quality information, support and resources.”

Alison Cullen
WVA Chief Officer



The Gateway

is home to and provides a central focus for a number of voluntary and statutory organisations and services to come and work together to help the people in the local community. It provides a focal point for the voluntary sector, providing access to advice, support, information and opportunities for lifelong learning. Find out more at www.thegateway.org.uk or call 01925 246 800.



CHAWREC

is a local charity that exists to fight discrimination and promote equality of opportunity and good relations between different groups. They offer a wide range of services around equality and diversity, with a specialist focus on race equality. They offer training, advice and practical 'hands on' help to groups around issues such as governance, funding, training and legal requirements. Visit www.chawrec.org.uk to find out more.



Youth Federation

aim to invest in young people so they are inspired to make positive choices and differences to their own futures and employability. They aim to reach and support numerous voluntary youth organisations who are also dedicated to this aim across Cheshire and Warrington. Visit www.youthfed.org.uk to find out more.

BHA

lead, facilitate and influence the development of an equitable health and social care for Black and Minority Ethnic, disadvantaged and other marginalised communities. Their staff are committed to the continual improvement in services and initiatives through partnership and collaboration. To find out more about their valuable work, visit www.thebha.org.uk

BHA for equality in health and social care



Band's House of Commons gig

WARRINGTON band Stoneway won a national competition to play a high-profile gig in the House of Commons.

The young musicians from Priestley College performed in the Speaker's Room in Westminster and played both original tracks and covers in front of press and industry experts.

Band member Danny Smith, 18, said: "Our 'Green Room' was where the Queen or Royalty stays when they are visiting."

"The week before we had been playing in a pub in Warrington and then we found ourselves in the House of Commons. Around the walls there were paintings that are almost life-size and the whole place was amazing."

Stoneway - Steve Fisher, Alex Roberts, Danny Smith and Merryn Dowson - won the opportunity to

perform in a national competition aimed at raising the importance of intellectual property rights and live music.

One of the songs they performed tells of broken promises within the music industry, so they were a bit nervous about performing in front of people from the business.

Steve said: "It felt like a posh living room that was packed out with press and people from the industry. It wasn't a small room, but everyone was seated right in front of us because it wasn't really made for gigs."

Stoneway can regularly be seen performing in pubs around Warrington. They sent their track to



Stoneway performing in the Speaker's Room in Westminster.

Weaver Vale MP Graham Evans who chose them to represent his constituency in the competition.

As a prize they received Yamaha equipment and a trip to Singapore in February, where they will also be asked to perform.

During the event they spoke to the

lead guitarist of Whitesnake who complimented their original songs.

Steve said: "What we took from it were a bunch of business cards including one from somebody at EMI. It was a great opportunity to do something like that and be put in front of those people so early in our career."

Campaigners want park protected



Cllr Bob Haskew-Jones with the head teacher and children from St Bridget's School presenting the petition and children's letters to council leader Cllr Terry O'Neill.

ANGRY campaigners are stepping up a campaign to improve Warrington's Peel Hall Park.

The Friends of Peel Hall Park are vigorously opposed to proposals to build houses in the area and want the land designated as a Queen Elizabeth II Field as part of the legacy for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee...

Campaigner Cllr Bob Haskew-Jones said: "We are presenting a petition to Warrington Council because we want the park protected so that our children and grandchildren will have access to all kinds of spaces including woodlands, play areas, bicycle trails and sports pitches."

"We are calling for the park to be designated as a 'Queen Elizabeth II Field' as getting this status would help us gain access to funding to improve the park."

Nearly 1,000 people have signed a petition and children at nearby St Bridget's School have been involved.

A number of them have also written letters of support. The children and the Friends' group have worked together on a number of activities like basket making using materials from the park and bulb planting.

Said Cllr Haskew-Jones: "This is great because it means our young people have ownership of the park too."

The Friends Group has raised funds for play area totalling £112,000 which has been signed over to the borough council, as the park is its responsibility.

The Friends' next project is a memorial garden, and they have already raised £2,000 for this.

"We're now looking for volunteers with expertise to help with the design and costing of this project. Donations of materials would be extremely welcome. We are determined to improve the park for today's children and safeguard it for tomorrow's children," said Cllr Haskew-Jones.

Remembering the Bridge Street bombing

THE borough council and the Tim Parry Johnathan Ball Foundation are working together on a special commemorative event to mark this year's 20th anniversary of the IRA bombing of Warrington.

It will be held in Bridge Street on Saturday March 16 from 11.30 am and will be followed by a community reflection event at the Foundation's Peace Centre in the afternoon.

Deputy leader of the council Mike Hannon, said: "As part of the planning for this special event, the council and The Tim Parry Johnathan Ball Foundation for Peace are working together with people and organisations who were affected at the time in 1993 and who have played a part in helping Warrington to move forward during the past 20 years."

"There were 56 people injured on the day of the bombing and many more people affected. We would like to hear from them, including those who may have moved home or out of the area, so that we can invite them to the Bridge Street Commemoration

and to the community reflection event at the Peace Centre."

Council leader Terry O'Neill said: "It is important to us that everyone in the town has the opportunity to come together in commemoration on Bridge Street or at the Peace Centre."

"It means a lot to us to reach out to residents and those directly affected to invite them to join us. If you know family or friends who have moved away over the years, do let them know about the event. We will never forget what happened but we must also come together to celebrate how we as community have remained united and moved forward together."

The Foundation's chief executive, Nick Taylor said: "The Peace Centre is a living memorial to Tim and Johnathan and a positive legacy for Warrington following the bombing."

"We would like to invite people who were affected by the bombing to come together to reflect not only on the events of that day, but also how it has shaped our lives in the years following."

"The legacy of the bombing has



extended to reach out to help others, such as people affected by the London bombings in 2005 and people affected by other conflicts and wars, and this will also be an opportunity for the people of Warrington to find out about the remarkable work that happens at the Peace Centre and beyond."

If any of the 56 residents injured on the day would like to be invited to the events they should get in touch and send their contact details, including postal and email address, to communications@warrington.gov.uk or by post to Communications, 2013 Commemorative Event, Warrington Town Hall, Sankey Street, WA1 1UH.

More details about the event will be available in the coming weeks.

Rise of the Jedi !

THE number of people in Warrington calling themselves Christians has dropped by more than 10 per cent according to the latest census figures for the town - with more than 500 people listing being a Jedi Knight as their religion!

There has also been an increase in people following other religions such as spiritualists or wiccans, which draw on the traditions of witchcraft, with more than 20 per cent saying they have no religion, an increase of more than 10 per cent from the previous census. The new information comes as more detailed reports from the 2011 census are released showing changes to the town.

It shows an 11 per cent drop to 144,405 (71.4 per cent) of people saying they are Christians. The survey showed that 41,923 (20.4 per cent) of people said they have "no religion" which is an increase of 10 per cent on 2001. Warrington also has 180 pagans, 120 spiritualists, 545 (0.3 per cent) Jedi Knights, 52 "heavy metal" and 39 wiccans. Jedi Knights feature in the Star Wars movies - with the most famous being Yoda.

Food bank success is cause for concern

LABOUR councillors are fully backing Warrington's successful foodbank scheme - but are concerned that so many people are in desperate need.

They say its success is not a cause for celebration but of concern that it is needed at all in modern times.

Cllr Maureen McLaughlin (pictured right) said: "People turn to foodbanks at times of desperation, when their financial plight means that they have to choose between heating their homes and clothing their children."

She said that in these cases people are often left prey to unscrupulous lenders and illegal loan sharks.

"The setting up of a foodbank in our town is hardly a cause for celebration. It demonstrates the problem that many of our residents face day-to-day," she said.

She said volunteers have worked hard to establish a foodbank, and their efforts would help those facing hardship.

Cllr McLaughlin said: "We know that the worst of the Coalition Government's cuts are still yet to come. The welfare reform agenda will only add to the pressure on vulnerable residents, as support for low-earning working families is attacked and benefits are cut."

She said Labour was supporting the scheme, even though it should not become a permanent feature of the town. Her motion to back the project was recently passed unanimously at a full council meeting.

Cllr McLaughlin was also pleased to note the practical support that the council is now providing to the foodbank.

She said: "We asked the volunteers what the council could do to help. We have now agreed to provide much needed storage space for food in premises that are currently vacant, in order to help them with their work."



Housing Trust gets into movie-making

A SERIES of short films have been created by Golden Gates Housing Trust (GGHT) to tell tenants how they can benefit from home improvements.

The films, "Getting Ready for Your Home Improvements," were all shot on location in Warrington and been produced to help tenants understand more about its investment programme.

They include information on why the work is being carried out and the benefits it will provide, including upgrades to fixtures and fittings and creating warmer homes to reduce heating bills. Using a mixture of interviews with GGHT staff and tenants, the films set out what tenants can expect from the trust and what it expects from them in return.

The films also highlight the importance to tenants of letting the trust into their homes to carry out essential gas safety checks. Copies have been loaded onto the trust's YouTube site www.youtube.com/GGHTrust and a series of DVD's have been produced for loan to tenants.

Rising stars of the theatre - who turned down university

TWO young men who turned down the chance of going to university and set up their own theatre group instead believe they made the right decision.

Luke Gilfedder, 19, from Padgate and Angus McAlister, 18, from Wilmslow hit on the idea after meeting at school.

They teamed up with a group of other like-minded youngsters from the Warrington and Cheshire area to form Finn Youth Productions - and already, after little more than a year are looking back on a string of successes.

Luke - the nephew of former Warrington RL player Laurie Gilfedder - directs the group's productions and writes his own original material.

He met another leading member of the group, Greg O'Hara, 19, when they were both pupils at St Peter's RC Primary School, Woolston.

Later he met up with Angus when

they were both at Manchester Grammar School - and it was then that the idea for Finn Youth Productions was born.

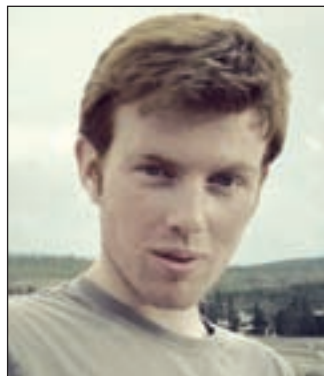
But Luke (pictured right) and Greg laid the foundations even earlier. While still at primary school they were making video productions around the Warrington area.

The group was created after Luke and Angus decided against offers of going to drama school and University College, London.

Their first show was "Billy Liar" at Wilmslow Parish Hall but since then they have secured a base at Pownall Hall Theatre, Wilmslow where their second play - Graham Greene's "The Living Room" was staged.

But perhaps their biggest success was to be invited to perform at Manchester's Royal Exchange Theatre, where they staged Luke's original script "That's Jam."

Words of encouragement and



advice have come from Sir Nicholas Hytner, director of the National Theatre and of acclaimed films such as "The Crucible" and "The Madness of King George" who Luke met in London.

Luke has also had a landmark solo success with his original play "Trash" being performed at the Tristan Bates Theatre at Covent Garden shortly before Christmas - earning him a place among the youngest-ever playwrights to earn a production in the West End.

Currently Finn Youth Productions are rehearsing for a production of George Bernard Shaw's "Man of Destiny" at Manchester Grammar School in April - a play they have already presented once at Stockport's Garrick Theatre.

So far, the group's activities in Warrington have been confined to rehearsals at the Thames Board Mills club at Alford Hall.

Luke said: "We would love to put on a play in Warrington, but there are so few venues. But hopefully we will find somewhere suitable soon."

Picture shows Angus in a scene from "Billy Liar"

Former borough councillor promoted in Labour mini-reshuffle at Westminster

FORMER borough councillor Yvonne Fovargue - now the MP for Makerfield - has been promoted as part of a mini-reshuffle of Labour's frontbench team at Westminster.

Yvonne, 56, who represented the Fairfield and Howley ward from 2004-2010, stepping down after winning her Parliamentary seat at the last General Election, has been appointed Shadow Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport.

She originally joined the Shadow frontbench in October 2011 as an opposition whip.

She accepted her new post after receiving a personal telephone call from Labour leader Ed Miliband.

Her portfolio includes buses, taxis, light rail and trams, traffic management, regional and local transport, natural environment, sustainable travel, accessibility and equalities, alternatives to travel and SMEs and growth.

Prior to becoming an MP, she was chief executive of St Helens Citizens' Advice Bureau.

She said: "Making the right decisions on transport is a key issue not just in helping people get out and about, but also in promoting economic competitiveness. This holds true in towns and cities across the nation.

"My priority is and will always remain to put Makerfield first and I will give my all in the fight to secure prosperity for our area."



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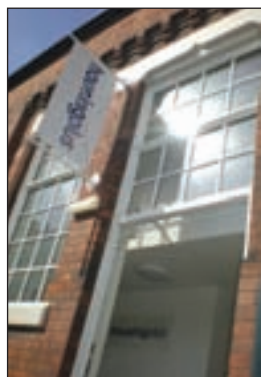


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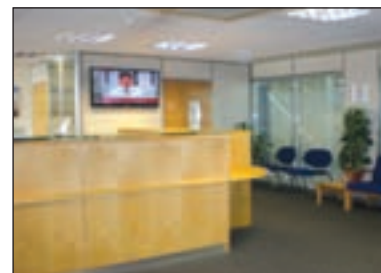
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The government has set aside money to assist home owners who are at risk of losing their home. The mortgage rescue scheme helps householders to stay in their own home.

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housingplus can also offer interest free loans up to £5000 to assist home owners to remain in their homes (conditions apply).

If you would like to apply or would just like some more information contact Michelle Russon, tel: 01925 246863 email: housingadvice@warrington.gov.uk

Help for First Time Buyers

Warrington Borough Council has helped over 84 first time buyers to purchase their own home in Warrington under the Local Authority Mortgage scheme in partnership with Lloyds TSB and Leeds Building Society. The scheme is for first time buyers who are looking to buy a property in Warrington. You must have a 5% deposit and pass the strict lending criteria from either Lloyds TSB or Leeds Building Society.

If you are interested and want more information please contact housingplus on 01925 246868. You can apply for the mortgage at

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Open to Warrington residents over 18 years, subject to conditions and a private landlord accepting you as a tenant and the Bond Guarantee Scheme.

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If you are in the scheme, you'll only pay tax on rental income you get over £4,250.

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For more information call David Barnfield 01925 246864

www.gov.uk/rent-room-in-your-home/the-rent-a-room-scheme

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Continuous insurance enforcement

by Jonathan Conder

Car usage in the UK has been falling for the last 15 years. This is unsurprising given concerns about the environment and increases in the cost of fuel, car insurance and road tax in recent years. Although many of us still rely on our cars to get to work and for other more pleasurable uses, it is clear that more and more people are turning to public transport and the bicycle as a means of getting from A to B.

If you decide you no longer wish to use your car you may well decide to sell it. However if its an older vehicle it may have a low resale value and it might be tempting to leave the car in the garage, on the driveway or on private land whilst you decide what to do with it. You won't have to renew

your costly insurance policy as long as you do not drive your vehicle on a public road or in a public place. However if you do decide to keep your vehicle off the road and uninsured you need to be aware of a change in the law introduced by the Road Safety Act 2006, which came into force in 2011. The law now expects registered owners to make a Statutory Off Road Notification (SORN) to the DVLA if the vehicle is uninsured. This is known as continuous insurance enforcement. Failure to observe this requirement is an offence and can result in a fixed penalty of £100 or a summons to attend court and a fine of up to £1000. Your vehicle might also be wheel-clamped, impounded or destroyed.

A letter will be sent to those suspected of keeping an

uninsured vehicle where no SORN is in place. If the letter is ignored or no remedial action is taken (ie the car is insured or a SORN is made) then prosecution will follow.

Remember also that a SORN has to be renewed annually.

Exemptions apply if you are a vehicle trader and the vehicle is registered as 'in trade' with the DVLA or where ownership is in the process of being transferred between private owners and in other very limited circumstances. Different rules apply in Northern Ireland.

Widdows Mason has a number of solicitors who will be able to advise you about this area of the law and about other motoring and criminal offences. Please contact the criminal law department on the telephone number listed below.



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Financially yours

By David Watkinson

End of the tax year is near

After the end of the 'tax return season' our minds are now turning towards the end of the tax year on 5th April and it is time, therefore, to remind ourselves of some of the 'tax avoidance schemes' that are available to us all.

1. If you have made a large Capital Gain during the year, and are sitting on a potential loss making asset, then you should consider realising that loss so that it can be used to reduce your taxable gain. You must, however, always consider any other costs involved.
2. Similarly, if you are sitting on gains on shares that are within the annual exemption then you could 'bed and spouse' or 'bed and ISA' that asset. This means that you sell the shares which are then bought by your spouse or an ISA, thus avoiding the 'Bed and Breakfasting' rules.
3. Which brings us to ISAs. This year each individual can invest up to £11,280 into an ISA. Of this, up to £5,640 can be invested in a 'Cash ISA', the balance of the investment being into a 'Stocks and Shares ISA'. Whilst there is no tax relief on the actual investment, unlike contributions

into a pension scheme, and income of capital gain made within the ISA is tax free.

4. Contributing into a Personal Pension attracts immediate tax relief. The amount that can attract tax relief is the higher of £3,600 or your total income subject to an annual limit of £50,000. Basic Rate taxpayers receive immediate tax relief at source, ie they will pay exactly the same amount of tax but instead will receive an investment of £100 at a cost of only £80 so the tax relief is, to an extent, 'hidden'. Higher Rate taxpayers will receive the additional tax relief by means of a reduction in their tax bill.
5. Partners within a marriage or civil partnership can transfer assets between themselves to ensure that income is split between them in the most tax advantageous manner. For instance, they could transfer savings accounts, shares and property between themselves to ensure that interest dividends and rental income is received by the partner paying tax at the lowest marginal rate. As always, however, you should always consider any additional costs involved.

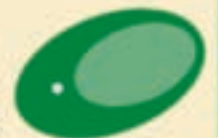


David Watkinson and Margaret Black

This sort of tax planning can reap more benefits of late. If your income is derived wholly from salary then there is not a lot that can be done. However, if you have other sources of income and you are, for instance, marginally above the limit for child benefit purposes then careful planning could save you a significant advantage.

WatkinsonBlack are pleased to advise on these and other matters. They have considerable experience in these and other matters, including providing a very cost-effective payroll bureau service. If you want to arrange a no-obligation initial meeting on any taxation or accounting matter then please contact us. Please note that these ideas are intended to inform rather than advise and you should always obtain professional advice before taking any action.

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Soccer club helps kids get fit



James Standing (centre) supported by his friends Gully Mouse from Gulliver's World (left) and Warrington Disability Partnership's Ollie The Owl (right).

MORE than 3,000 local schoolchildren have been encouraged to get fit thanks to a community programme run by Warrington Town Football Club.

Funding from water giant United Utilities enabled full time community development officer James Standing, 25, to work in 14 local primary schools.

He has also worked with local junior football teams, the Warrington Junior League and Gulliver's World to give children the chance to get fit and active. He aimed to meet the community club's motto to "Improve Lifestyles Through Sport."

James said: "The help and support I have had from United Utilities as our community partners, Warrington Borough Council, the directors of the football club along with the head teachers and PE staff in schools has been magnificent. To reach over 3,000 kids in 12 months is a big step forward for any club."

James is the club's only full time employee and was previously in a part-time role as first team coach. His playing career ended while playing in the Football Conference for the now defunct Leigh RMI before progressing into PE teaching in Wigan.

He said: "Once the chance to become full time in football came up, I had to apply for the role. It helps I have played the game and have a background in physical education in a number of sports, not just football, so we cover a wide variety as a community scheme."

The club has set up a range of community activities including a Saturday soccer club for children aged four to 12. Other events have included children's birthday parties, half term multi-sport camp, and the Victoria Park Experience (VPX).

Warrington Town has 26 active junior teams from the age of under 7's to under 17's. Along with a competitive under 18's youth team and the first team, who are currently managed by Shaun Reid, brother of ex England and Everton star Peter.

In July Gulliver's World agreed to sponsor the young junior players while the Cheshire FA currently run football sessions during the week on the 3G pitches. All that combined with the passion and drive that the Evo-Stik NPL First Division North club have, can only grow stronger.

Return of soccer schools

WARRINGTON Town FC's Saturday Soccer Sessions are now back in action after the festive break with more fun, games and action, than ever before.

The soccer sessions will look at developing youngsters to play for the club's junior section while also allowing children to have fun and learning about football in a safe environment.

Community development officer James Standing will be taking the coaching drills which start at 9:00am every Saturday through out the year.

It is open to children aged 4 to 12 years old who are all welcome to join in. It will last for an hour and a half with participants taking part in fun games, skills sessions and a match before heading home to enjoy the rest of the day with family.

The cost is just £3 per session and anyone wanting more information should contact James on 07714571452 or email james@warringtontownfc.co.uk

The Saturday Soccer Session will take place on the club's 3G training pitches and parents are advised to bring plenty of drink for the children and ensure the appropriate clothing is worn. AstroTurf boots or trainers should be worn along with shin pads.

Starting in February there will be the popular multi-sport and soccer half term camp for children aged 6-12 years. Prices are set at just £9 per day or £30 for the full 4 days with a wide range of sports covered. Boys and girls are all welcome as the days begin at 9.30am and will end at 3.30pm.

The camp will take place on the 3G pitches at Warrington Town's Abacus Solicitors Community Stadium on Monday 18, Tuesday 19, Thursday 21 and Friday February 22.

Contact James for full information or to book your place.

Motoring

Car of the year!



AUDI'S A3 Sportback has been named the What Car? magazine "car of the year" after undergoing what the car maker describes as a "considered yet complete transformation."

The all-new five-door premium compact hatchback took the top honour, along with the Best Small Family Car award.

According to the magazine's road test team, there has been a ground-up redesign under the subtly but comprehensively remodelled skin of the new A3 Sportback. The end result as "an incredible package" that sets "the new benchmark", they say.

Referring to the specific version that impressed them most - the 1.4 TFSI 122PS SE - they commend the "smooth and punchy" engine, the "top drawer" refinement and the suspension, which they say "strikes an exceptional balance between fun and comfort."

Chas Hallett, editor-in-chief at What Car? said: "The Audi A3 Sportback, our 2013 Car of the Year, brings new levels of brilliance in a host of areas. It mixes excellent refinement and an accomplished driving experience with easily the finest cabin quality ever seen in a small family hatchback; you'd have to look at full-size executive saloons to find anything that can match it."

UK deliveries of the car will begin in March with a choice of three advanced turbo charged and directly injected engines - two petrol and one diesel initially. Further engines, will be available later in the year.

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Gold dealer is a gem

A STOCKTON Heath jeweller has emerged as a fair and honest trader in an investigation into unscrupulous gold dealers.

Undercover reporters from a national newspaper were investigating online gold merchants alleged to be ripping off hard-up families who were selling treasured jewellery out of desperation.

They offered jewellery which they already knew was worth £220 to a number of online dealers and pawnbrokers - and were offered as little as £31.

But when they took the jewellery to John Gregson's Cheshire Gold Exchange in Stockton Heath he offered £220.50.

Mr Gregson said: "I didn't know I was dealing with an undercover reporter - I simply offered what I knew to be a fair and reasonable price for the jewellery."

"It just goes to show that you can't be too careful. It pays to deal with someone local who you can speak to face-to-face."



Marketing award for college team



Laura Dowell receives the award from Sir Geoff Hall, chairman of The Information Authority.

AN award for excellence in marketing was presented to a team from Warrington Collegiate.

Staff won gold at the FE First Awards for their Apprenticeship Marketing campaign earlier this year. It recognised their team work, efficient use of resources and campaign skills.

The award was presented at the College Marketing Network's gala dinner at Warwick.

Collegiate marketing manager Laura Dowell said: "We were delighted to receive the award and the staff deserved the recognition for all their hard work."

The campaign included both internal marketing, coverage in the local press and extensive use of online communications and social media networks.

Denise Williamson, assistant principal for organisational development, said: "Recommendation by students is one of the most effective ways of spreading the word."



Death of Wire legend

WARRINGTON Rugby League legend Dave Chisnall has died aged 64 after a long battle with cancer.

The popular prop forward, who had a reputation as one of the games likeable tough guys, had two spells with Warrington, from 1971-75 before leaving after a fall out with boss Alex Murphy to join Swinton.

But the fans' favourite returned to Wilderspool in 1981/82 where he completed 210 games scoring 29 tries one of the most notable being the one pictured against Bradford.

One of four sporting brothers, he was a member of the all conquering team from 72-75 during the club's best ever trophy success, lifting the Captain Morgan Trophy, the Player's No6 Trophy, the Challenge Cup and the Club Championship during 1973/74, following the League Leaders' rose bowl in 1972/73.

He skippered the team in Challenge Cup Final defeat to Widnes in 1975 before moving to Swinton later that year.

A member of Wolves' hall of fame, he gained international honours with Great Britain, England and Lancashire. He also played for his home town club St Helens, Leigh and Barrow.

Picture: Eddie Whitham



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