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Issue No. 115

May 2009

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Editor's Comment

ONE cannot argue with the aims of the borough council's new Corporate Plan. It will indeed be great if, by 2030, Warrington is recognised as one of the best places to live and work in the UK, where everyone enjoys an outstanding quality of life.

But what confidence can we have this will actually be the case?

Presumably other towns across the country, some of which already have a head start on us, have similar aims, so it will take more than fine words to make Warrington 'one of the best'.

Scepticism

Warrington is indeed a place to be proud of, with a strong successful economy. It also has excellent schools. But to say they are among the best performing in the country when another report, produced at the same time as the draft Corporate Plan, speaks of four secondary schools having 'very low' attainment levels, invites scepticism.

Similarly, to talk of crime being "relatively low" is not a description too many people will recognise.

No-go area

True, the council and the police have taken steps to make the town centre a safer place, but for most people over the age of 50, and many much younger, it is still a no-go area at night and is likely to remain so for a long time. Indeed, in the absence of national legislation to curb the activities of the more irresponsible sections of the community, it is

doubtful if it can ever change.

What chance does it stand when there are clubs boldly proclaiming opening hours of 'Midnight to 6am'?

So, yes, we can applaud the aims of a Corporate Plan which takes "One Warrington: One Future" as its starting point. We can take pride in the high esteem in which our four star council is apparently held by the Audit

Commission. We can welcome the pledges to narrow the gap between the affluent parts of the borough and the disadvantaged communities.

We can even hope for what seems an impossible dream in Warrington - an end to traffic congestion.

But we would have more confidence in a document that contained a touch more realism and rather less hyperbole.



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Lucie scoops £100,000 song contest

SHE did it! Warrington singing hopeful Lucie Evans (pictured) scooped top prize in a £100,000 online talent contest.

But after picking up a £20,000 cheque and a package of other benefits totalling £80,000 at the awards ceremony in London the 15-year-old Birchwood High School pupil had to dash straight back to Warrington to take her GCSE dance exam.

Both she and her proud Dad, Rob, expressed thanks for the help Warrington people have given her by voting for her song 'Crazy' in the online poll.

Organisers of the 1Click2Fame competition said Lucie's song was an instant hit on their website, having been viewed more than 35,000 times since it went online in February.

Lucie, a school pal of Britain's Got Talent winner George Sampson, has been singing since she was six. She beat off a challenge from hundreds of other pop hopefuls in the competition.

The package of benefits she wins



Honour for twin town chief

WARRINGTON is to award honorary citizenship to Gunter Scheib, Bürgermeister of German twin town Hilden.

Members of the borough council voted unanimously the honour which is given to people who are not citizens of Warrington but whose actions mark them out as having made a particular contribution to the town.

Gunter Scheib joined Hilden Council in 1978, became deputy Bürgermeister in 1989 and Bürgermeister (or Mayor) in 1994. He was re-elected in 1999.

This year he is standing down and the award of honorary citizenship is considered particularly timely.

Gunter Scheib has visited Warrington on numerous occasions. He speaks fluent English, having formerly been an English teacher, and has taken a keen interest in exchanges involving young people, such as the Warrington Youth

Orchestra.

His son, Mathias, came to work at Great Sankey High School for six weeks last year as part of his teacher training.

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Hello and welcome to my
monthly column ...

Hypnotes

by Michael Mahoney

Difficult times of recession

THESE are difficult times for most of us, and yet I detect a resolve of many people not to be beaten.

I hope I am right and this attitude builds momentum. Yes there is lots of bad news about, and we hear every day of the difficulties people are facing. Yet many people are seeing this as a time for a fresh start, more people looking at starting their own businesses, or changing their career in some way.

I see people in my practice who have decided they need to do more. They speak about taking the initiative, of improving themselves and preparing themselves for the economic recovery, which will come. To do this they need more skills. And these skills are not simply about learning how not to get nervous or tongue-tied when pitching a presentation, or how to network properly. They are also looking at how to be comfortable in themselves, how to be the person they want to be, letting go of fears and baggage of the past, looking for the many different ways of how they can help themselves to move on

and to be better placed to meet the challenges they expect to face as they move on through their life journey.

Most admit that they would not have thought about making changes had it not been for the recession. Many have been made unemployed and are taking the initiative of self improvement.

Others are feeling the pressures of increased workloads, while others are simply deciding they want to change and be better in their chosen fields of expertise. For some it has been a valuable wake up call. One person said to me recently that they had simply realised that "no-one owed me a living" and he was staggered by this thought. He is of course right, no-one does owe any of us a living, and I am sure this moment of self realisation for this young man will prove to serve him well for the rest of his life.

Why is it then that so many people seem to be awakening from a haze that has blinded them to the fact that they and only they are responsible for their own lives and

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

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what they make of it? I am unsure of the answer but I am pleased to see it.

The events of the recession were thrust upon us, no-one asked for it, but it has been a wake up call for many individuals and businesses that they have to change, and be different and make the very most of themselves and their talents, for new opportunities will continue to arise, and we all need to be in the best possible place we can be to meet the challenges and the opportunities the next few years will bring.

For those who are looking at, or considering adding to their skill set or making a change in career direction or have been made redundant remember, the better you feel in yourself, the more likely you are to be better balanced, capable of clear thinking and better judgment, which will allow you to embrace change more readily. I am here to help.

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Solvay show support



WARRINGTON based Solvay Interox Limited are supporting their local community by sponsoring Warrington Town's Under 7s.

Managing Director of Solvay Interox Limited, Len Sharpe, is pictured presenting new shirts to the Under 7's team featuring the Solvay logo.

Solvay were delighted to be able to help with sponsorship of the new kit and wish the team well during the new season.

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Spotlight on Business

Surf and shop at Golden Square



WARRINGTON'S Golden Square shopping centre has become the first major shopping centre in the UK to offer centre-wide public Wi-Fi.

High speed wireless internet is now available throughout Golden Square allowing users to access the web for business or leisure from any Wi-Fi enabled device.

From downloading and synchronizing email to uploading large presentations and films at lightening speed and even watching TV on iPlayer as fast as in the office at home, Golden Square shoppers can now work, plan and make VoIP calls using the network while on the move.

Shoppers keen to surf the web will receive complete Wi-Fi coverage in the centre, including the mall and the Old Market Square will no breaks in coverage, making it a first for any shopping centre in the country and offering the largest area of public access broadband in the area.

The new site is great news for the 4.6 million BT Total Broadband and BT Business Broadband customers, plus O2 iPhone customers who

receive inclusive minutes with their service. For both occasional and frequent users BT Openzone also offers a wide range of great value vouchers and subscriptions.

Ian Cox, marketing manager for Golden Square says: "Pioneering this cutting edge public access internet technology here at Golden Square is a great project to be involved with and we hope shoppers will experience the benefit from this immediately."

"This is another example of our investment into making the centre a destination of choice for all our customers from younger shoppers interested in online gaming and instant messaging to business users on lunch breaks."

So now while you are out shopping you can keep in touch with your local news and events on your favourite online newspaper www.warrington-worldwide.co.uk.

For more information about Golden Square visit www.goldensquare.co.uk

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Free seminar to beat the credit crunch

BIRCHWOOD based property company Southcourt Management is hosting a free breakfast seminar to help local businesses beat the credit crunch.

The two hour "Acorns" Business Seminar breakfast event has been developed with the specific aim of bringing to the attention of local businesses (especially start ups and SME's) the £-millions currently available in the form of grant funding for staff and training, the private subsidies available towards office rental, meeting rooms and admin support and to provide expert help and advice on how to raise crucial finance during these difficult

economic times.

The seminar will include highly informative talks from guest speakers specialising in European grant availability, office letting and subsidies, and a presentation from a leading High Street bank on obtaining business support and finance. The event will conclude with the chance to meet the speakers and network with other local business representatives over coffee and bacon sandwiches.

"It's surprising just how much financial help is available, even during these uncertain times" explains Craig Moreton, Operations Manager for Southcourt Management.

"Prospective and existing tenants, especially new or start up companies generally ask us if relocation subsidies are available on our serviced offices, or if we have a contact to help with employment grants and financial assistance for business development. We devised the 'Acorns' Seminar in order to put the experts in one room and give local businesses the

opportunity to access all the information they need in just one breakfast meeting".

The 'Acorns' breakfast seminar will take place at the Fountain Court Conference Centre, Birchwood Boulevard on Thursday May 7, starting at 7.15am.

Attendance is by booking only and places are strictly limited.

To reserve your free place or for further information, email geoff@southcourtmanagement.com or call 01925 815066.

Annual Luncheon

CHAMBERS of Commerce Northwest recently held their Annual Luncheon at The Park Royal Hotel, Stretton.

The Principal Guest and speaker was Steven Broomhead, Chief Executive, NWDA.

All 17 Chambers of Commerce in the Northwest were represented at the event.



Left to right: Babs Murphy – Chambers of Commerce Northwest, Steven Broomhead – Chief Executive NWDA, Mick Mayor – Chairman, Chambers of Commerce Northwest and Colin Daniels – Chambers of Commerce Northwest

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Primary Arts Network exhibition

Saturday 16 May

Stiff Little Fingers

Sunday 17 May

The Orchestra

Tuesday 19 May

Eddi Reader

Wednesday 20 May

Warrington Rhythm & Blues Festival

Saturday 23 May

Seth Lakeman

Friday 29 May

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Music, Drama and Comedy at Its Finest!

Pyramid and Parr Hall are playing host to some of the finest in music, drama and comedy this season and we bet you'll find something you'll just have to come along and see over the next few weeks!

Friday 24 April - Beef

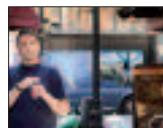


Hull Truck presents 'Beef' (Pyramid, 7.30 pm, £12.50/£10.50). From the pen of John Godber comes a bleak, funny and shocking tale. This is a story of male vanity and revenge gone wrong in a world that doesn't seem to make sense.

Saturday 25 April - The Maerlock and 4Square

(Pyramid, 8pm, £9) Two great bands, for just one price, in one evening. The Maerlock is at the forefront of contemporary traditional music. 4Square creates some of the most energetic and powerful music you will hear from the British folk music scene today.

Friday 1 May - Mark Thomas



(Parr Hall, 8pm, £15/£10). Comic, activist and occasionally changer of laws, is back. At time of going press Mark had no firm idea of what his new show would be about. But you know the score. He will go off and have some adventures, get into trouble, but live and come back to tell us the tale.

Saturday 2 May - Andy Abraham



(Parr Hall, 7.30 pm, £23/£20). The X Factor runner-up who stole the nation's heart brings a show, which covers inspirational legends such as Stevie Wonder, Smokey Robinson and The Temptations to his self-penned songs. His incredible vocal talents and endearing personality ensure that he'll be the singer we hear from in years to come – don't miss this opportunity to see him live.

Friday 15 May - Joe Longthorne



(Parr Hall, 7.30 pm, £22.50/£20). This talented artist began his career over three decades ago and remains a firm favourite in the hearts of music fans everywhere. Joe's repertoire of voices is endless and includes hundreds of the world's top singers – do not miss this legend.

Sunday 17 May - Stiff Little Fingers

(Parr Hall, 7pm, £16) An explosive band with fast, passionate lyrics, Stiff

Little Fingers burst on to the music scene in the late 70's with their amazing debut album, becoming Ireland's and one of the world's unsurpassed punk bands.

Tuesday 19 May - The Orchestra



(Parr Hall, 7.30pm, £27.50/£25). Hear all the hits played by original members of super group ELO & ELO II including; Livin' Thing, Last Train To London, Confusion, Diary Of Horace Whimp, Mr Blue Skies, Telephone line, Twilight and the rock classic...Don't Bring Me Down.

Wednesday 20 May - Eddi Reader

(Parr Hall, 7.30pm, £20) Since her whirlwind foray into the mainstream limelight with Fairground Attraction, Eddi has established herself as an exceptional artiste on the Folk scene. Don't miss your chance to see one of popular music's most thrilling and affecting performers here at Parr Hall.

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Discover the wonders
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The issues of redundancy

IN these difficult financial times it is important to know your employment rights. A common experience for employers and employees is the issue of redundancy.

In broad terms an employee is redundant if he becomes surplus to his employer's requirements. Redundancy is one of the fair reasons for dismissal, however an employer may incur liability for an unfair dismissal if there is no genuine redundancy situation or the dismissal is automatically unfair. For example if the reason for dismissal was in fact the employee's pregnancy or indeed if he fails to act fairly in all the circumstances.

The requirement to act fairly obliges the employer to implement fair selection procedure and to consult and consider alternatives to dismissal. In addition to individual consultation to ensure a fair dismissal process in cases of collective redundancies an employer is required to consult with the Trade Union or employee representatives and to notify the Department for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform. If an employee has been employed continuously for at least 2 years then he would be entitled to a statutory redundancy payment. This is calculated by reference to age and length of service based on a notional week's pay which is capped currently at £350.00/week. Certain employees under notice of dismissal for redundancy have statutory rights for reasonable time off to look for alternative employment. If you

believe that the reason for the dismissal is not a genuine redundancy situation or alternatively that the employer has failed to carry out the proper consultation, selection procedure or has acted unfairly then you may have not only an entitlement to redundancy payment but also a right to claim for unfair dismissal against the employer.

In order to make such a claim you must make a claim to the Employment Tribunal within 3 months of the effective date of termination. If you pass this date then unfortunately you will not be entitled to make any such claim.

An alternative to taking the case to the Employment Tribunal where an agreement has been reached between employer and employee is a compromise agreement where the terms of any settlement are set out in detail. The effect of a Compromise agreement is to prevent the employee from making any claim to the Employment Tribunal in consideration to a payment which should be over and above that to which the employee is ordinarily entitled. The employer is obliged to pay for the employee to have legal advice in relation to this agreement.

If you are in any doubt as to the way in which the redundancy situation is being handled or your



rights then you should seek legal advice as you may be entitled to compensation from an Employment Tribunal in relation to the redundancy

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Town to host first ever English Half Marathon'

WARRINGTON is set to host the first ever English half marathon which is being backed by sports shoe manufacturers New Balance, along with the North West Development Agency and the town's borough council.

The brand new ambitious event – The People's Challenge, takes place on Sunday October 4 at Centre Park, Warrington, alongside the New Balance European HQ – a first for England and a first for an international class brand with the stature of New Balance.

Joint organisers GB Event Management Ltd and Interlog Ltd plan to deliver an event that Warrington can be proud of. They've called it the People's Challenge because they want everyone involved, including runners of all abilities – first timers, charity runners, club and elite. Take up the challenge!

The names of the first 100 entrants to the inaugural English Half Marathon will go into a prize draw to win free running kit donated by the title sponsor.

The kit on offer will be won by 10 lucky winners who will be recipients of training shoes, shorts, vest and jacket.

The race is organised jointly by GB Event Management Ltd and Interlog Ltd who have between them over 25 years experience managing large running events throughout the United Kingdom.

Sponsor New Balance has a unique approach to running, offering runners shoes in both widths and half sizes, ensuring optimum fit. All New Balance shoes are designed with a

range of technologies ensuring runners find the right shoe for their foot type and performance requirements. All of this is done in the UK, where New Balance has been manufacturing since 1982.

They also provide an extensive range of apparel, designed to meet specific training and running needs, for both winter and summer climates.

This race would not be possible without the support of our Title sponsor, New Balance and Main Sponsors: Northwest Regional Development Agency and Warrington Borough Council.

To register for the event visit www.english-half.co.uk/

Film festival

FOUR schools picked up awards in the first-ever Warrington Schools' Film Festival.

The festival was organised by the borough council in partnership with the Odeon Cinema and Penketh High School, which has already won widespread acclaim for producing two full-length feature films.

The four winners were Park Road Primary, St Barnabas CE Primary, Green Lane School and Birchwood High.

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Dream set to come true for singer

A DREAM is set to come true for a Warrington singer who tasted fame as a finalist on TV's opera version of the X-factor.

Classical singer, Donna-Marie Povey, will be singing live in front of thousands of rugby fans at the Warrington Wolves v Wigan game on May 22.

It is a dream come true for Donna who is a big Wolves fan and she is hoping her performance may be picked up by the Sky TV cameras.

After being a finalist on Channel 4's hit T.V. programme 'Operatunity'; a kind of opera version of the X-Factor last year, Donna went on to perform

for the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire at their stately home; Chatsworth House, Derbyshire, coinciding with the release of her first album.

Donna-Marie, aged 32, works for Warrington council's 'Children's Services' with vulnerable pupils and pupils excluded from school.

Without sponsorship or management, Donna-Marie has produced an album of well loved classical songs, from Gershwin to



Puccini, which she presented to the Duchess.

Donna-Marie has trained for a number of years with the much respected Cheshire based singing teacher Caroline Crawshaw. She was a finalist from the Channel 4's hit T.V. programme 'Operatunity'; a kind of opera version of the X-Factor.

Meanwhile she hopes to secure sponsorship and a record deal so that future albums can be promoted nationally.

"It has been my dream to perform in front of the fans at the Halliwell Jones and now it looks set to come true," said Donna.

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High school to change name

A WARRINGTON high school is to change its name - and its uniform - to reflect its changed role and bigger catchment area.

Padgate High School - a specialist school for technology and the arts - will become Lysander High School.

The name provides a link with the former Padgate RAF camp, where thousands of servicemen did their basic training during and after World War 2, and with Shakespeare, whose play 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' may have first been performed locally.

The change will come into effect in September.

Head teacher Alison Sherman said:

"We have been planning and consulting on the name change since September."

"Part of the school is built on the site of the RAF camp so the name Lysander is appropriate because of the Lysander aircraft and also because the character in 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'.

"We think a change of name is appropriate because the school will be serving a wider than area than Padgate."

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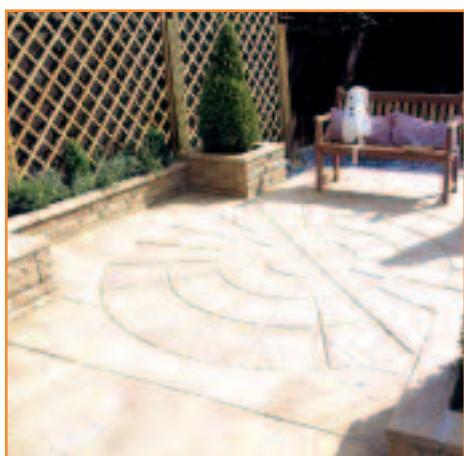
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peace **talks**

The Tim Parry Johnathan Ball Foundation for Peace

Newsletter Spring 2009



**Young
people's
group,
'Purple'**

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**Daffodils in memory of those affected by
the Bridge Street bombing**

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Welcome to the Spring edition of Peace Talks

'Notes taken from the Foundation annual AGM in January 2009'

2008 has been another successful year for the Foundation, in terms of team structure, Board membership, programme design, delivery, financial management and income.

We have welcomed new faces and said farewell to others, most notably to Mike Sanders, a Founder Trustee, great ally and a true friend who had served this organisation so loyally and well throughout the years since 1993 when he was Warrington Council's Chief Executive. We were delighted when Hilary, Mike's wife, accepted our invitation to become a Patron and thereby, maintain the strong link between the Foundation and the Sanders family. Fittingly, there is also a room in the Peace Centre named in honour of Mike.

I also want to thank all our Trustees for their ongoing support, given voluntarily when they all have very busy personal and professional lives to live.

Staff: We also welcomed 4 new members of staff in 08 – Rosie Aubrey and John Kabia as part of the Survivors for Peace project team working with Jo Dover, and Ellie Shrier and Jon Nicholas as Programme Tutors working with Kelly Simcock. I would also like to congratulate Kerry Hosken on becoming Mrs Kerry Gibson in 2008!!

Fundraising: Next I want to praise

Wendy and Clare for working so hard to keep our financial profile strong through a good range of successful events and bids and for ensuring our costs are controlled.



Centre Management: I would like to single out Karen McManus for continuing to manage this iconic building so well. Karen goes about her work quietly and without fuss and maintains all the services including catering, security, cleaning and building maintenance

Administration: We are also very fortunate to have such a good team in Lynn, Val and Chanel to manage and organise many aspects of our operations and like Karen, they don't often get the headlines or the plaudits they deserve. I also want to say that 2009 is Val's 10th year with us...she is the longest serving member of the staff team and so I would like to congratulate her on reaching this milestone year and also personally thank her for her fantastic loyalty and dedication to the Foundation. I have then greatest respect and fondness for Val...as you might expect.

Programme Team: Well they are all stars in their own right! Kelly, Kerry, Jon, Ellie, Jo, Rosie and John - they devise, adapt, deliver and refine the products

which mark us out as a unique charity. They are such a diverse range of characters and personalities, so rather than single them out individually, let me simply say that they have the essential qualities we need most - dedication, determination, intelligence and strength.

Summary

In looking back over the 16 years since losing Tim, I've assessed the milestones we have reached today and they are:

- We have built a brilliant and vibrant charity named after Tim and Johnathan
- We have built a unique Peace Centre that carries the boys' names
- We operate a charity that helps so many through a range of unique programmes
- We provide programmes across the UK and in partnership with like-minded organisations.

So what next?

I want the charity to make its mark internationally and to play a significant role in helping young people from many areas of conflict. Ideals and dreams are what drive organisations such as ours and with the energy and enterprise we have, I believe we will reach these goals in the near future and that will allow me to say to Tim and Johnathan...boys, you've made a real difference!!

Colin Parry
Chairman



Message from our Chief Executive

In reflecting on our progress during 2008, we see the Foundation continuing to expand delivery of our programmes across the country. A successful application to the Big Lottery meant that we were able to expand our work with victims and survivors to be able to offer opportunities to people living in England who have been affected by political violence from other parts of the world. As a result of this work the Foundation has been asked to join the DCMS Expert Working Group to draft Non Statutory

Strategic Humanitarian Assistance Guidance. We also recently contributed to European policy guidelines for The European Network for Traumatic Stress (TENTS), in the area of psychosocial response following major incidents.

Our Youth and Community programmes also expanded and we are now delivering programmes to young people aged 5-25 years in Cheshire, Yorkshire and Wiltshire. In recognition of our success the Foundation was shortlisted for two national awards and our work has been highlighted in two Government reports. The programme manager has also been asked to speak at a number of events including the 'Building Resilience and Community Cohesion' conference held in London last May.

As it is the first newsletter of 2009, I would like to take the opportunity to formally record my thanks to the team for

all their hard work during the year. The loyalty and dedication of the team cannot be underestimated and it is thanks to a team effort that we have achieved all we have. And we must not forget the hard work of our small but dedicated team of volunteers, our Patrons and our Trustees for their support.

Looking to 2009, it will be a difficult year not only for the Foundation but for many charities. However, I have confidence that the quality and effectiveness of our work will shine through and that we shall receive the support we need to enable us to continue to positively affect the lives of all our participants.

Clare White
Chief Executive

In remembrance of the Warrington Bombing . . .

Joe Tierney creates a Facebook page

March 20th marked the 16th anniversary of the IRA bombing of Warrington in which both Tim and Johnathan lost their lives and 56 other people were injured.

This year, the call for remembrance came from a local young man who, two weeks before the anniversary, set up a Facebook page to remember the event, and within a few days over 4,500 people had joined in the remembrance, with many posting their memories of the day.

Joe Tierney, from Sankey Bridges in Warrington, set up the page after searching for something on the bombing on Facebook. Joe says: "I was surprised when I found there was nothing about the bombing on Facebook and felt that there should be. I have been amazed by the response and the number of people who have joined the page. I contacted the Foundation to see if they could help me raise awareness of an event on Saturday, 21st March, as this will be the day before Mothering Sunday – the same day the bomb went off.

"Many of the people who posted called for an event which the community could get involved with at a time to suit them. Therefore although the actual anniversary is on the Friday, we agreed with the Council that people could lay daffodils at the site of the plaque on Bridge Street throughout Saturday. We ask everyone to remember all those who were affected on that day."

www.facebook.com/wall.php?id=129004985284&page=2&hash=30421fef7940097fd8d753d888057685



Picture: Courtesy Warrington Guardian.

Promotional DVD



Over the past three years, the Foundation, with the help of specialised companies, Patrons and supporters, have made a new DVD to promote and market its work. This is an excellent way of showcasing our programmes and allowing people to see first hand the impact they have on the young people. This years DVD was made with the generosity of Mick Wilson and his brothers from Stanley Road Film & Media in Preston, and Steve Parry (Sydney Olympic bronze swimming medallist) who acted as narrator. We would like to thank everyone for their help, support and professionalism over the past couple of months.

Thank you

Colin Parry delivers 'The Roscoe Lecture'



Over the last decade Liverpool's John Moores University has invited some of the country's leading personalities to speak at its most prestigious showcase event, 'The Roscoe Lecture'.

Invited by the Lecture's organising host, Lord [David] Alton, Colin delivered his lecture – 'Tyranny & Terrorism: How it Will be Defeated in Northern Ireland' on March 31.

The central theme of Colin's lecture was that the return of Republican violence through the activities of the Real IRA and the Continuity IRA was not only unwelcome after so much political progress had been made in the province, but also that the violence was entirely futile because it would not turn the clock back to the dark days of the 60's, 70's, 80's and 90's when daily atrocities occurred.

Roscoe helped transform 19th century society by campaigning against the evils of slavery. More than 200 years after his death, as democratic life in the UK faces radical challenges, it's more vital than ever to give a platform to a plurality of voices and opinions.

Through the Roscoe Lectures, LJMU is able to give people from different walks of life the opportunity to exchange ideas, forge connections and hopefully gain greater understanding in a time of increasing diversity and change.

"In a way it helped define me as a person and the way I view others and myself"

Swindon programme

Between October and December of 2008, the Foundation delivered four Leadership Development residential programmes to a total of 91 young people from Swindon. Students from The Ridgeway School, Churchfields School, Swindon College and New College participated in the five day long programme focusing on how conflict between groups and individuals can be identified, expressed and more usefully managed.

On average twenty four young people attended each programme. The groups comprised of young people from the schools accompanied by four college students who acted as peer mentors during the process. The idea of having Peer Mentors from the colleges proved to be very useful for all concerned. There was clear development and progression of understanding on the part of the college students themselves with the school pupils commenting on how they found it to be helpful to have approachable young adults taking part who were not teachers.

Themes and issues tackled within the programme included



looking at stereotypes, prejudice and discrimination with a focus on how those things played out and affected people's lives in their own communities. These issues often led to challenging debates and discussions with diversity of opinion! On evaluation of the programme, one young person commented that

"The programme has given me confidence to confront people when I hear something racist being said. I challenge my family now if I don't like what they're saying-I am not afraid to voice my opinion."

The students were taken through a range of activities in small and large groups, some of these involved

physical challenges and some involved the re-creation of real life conflicts that would then be worked on. The interactive aspect of the work was inclusive at all times and the group was regularly consulted about the associations between the exercises and their everyday lives and experiences.

"I split up an argument between my sister and her friend. I get on with things easier than before. I don't just use the rejection button!"

By the use of creative and expressive techniques the

participants were able to contemplate some very relevant and challenging issues in a safe environment. Alternative strategies were explored and rehearsed so that common tensions could be dealt with in more productive ways in the future.

As a result of the Swindon programme we are beginning to get requests to deliver further programmes for groups of young people in the area.

The feedback from the school staff, pupils and college students has been very positive many of them found the experience stimulating, challenging and fun. Almost without exception those who took part would like to do something similar again and would recommend it



to their friends.

"I didn't like the idea of you pushing us outside of our comfort zone, but I'm glad you did. It has helped me a lot with my confidence."

"I hope there is a heaven so Tim & Johnathan can look down and see how great place this"

"I learnt how to handle things when I do something wrong, and not to try and put the blame on others. I'm more confident now"

"If you get involved and join in you understand things more."

"Before I went on the residential I was mugged and it was dropped from the crown court, now I look differently on it. I now have a lot more confidence, as when it first happened my confidence literally went."



The Northwich Project

During 2008, the Foundation was approached by Cheshire Police to develop and deliver a citizenship and conflict transformation project with young people from the Rudheath area of Northwich. The project addresses issues of anti social behaviour, conflict and community cohesion with the aim of enabling the young people to effectively manage conflict in their own community. The project brings together a number of agencies working in the Rudheath area including Cheshire Police, Youth Offending Team, Connexions and Rudheath High School.

Young people were invited to attend preliminary sessions with Foundation staff to identify and explore the issues facing the young people of Rudheath. The sessions also helped them to develop ideas and strategies for the development of the project. Seventeen young people then

participated in a three-day residential programme at the Peace Centre which explored and developed important skills and understanding in effective leadership, communication, problem solving and conflict management which will

help them to make Rudheath a safer and more peaceful community.

Throughout the residential programmes the young people faced many personal and group challenges although they worked hard to support and encourage each other and successfully overcame obstacles to complete the programme. The young people showed a great sense of pride in their achievements and we are working with them to provide further opportunities to build on their successes.

Full On and Presentation Evening

Since September, the Foundation has been delivering its Full On courses to eleven schools in Warrington, Stockport, and Wigan. These courses have examined issues ranging from self confidence to social diversity, with tremendous success. The students have worked hard to develop strategies for making positive choices and built the skills needed to effectively address conflict in their lives. Their hard work and commitment throughout their courses is evident with an enviable success rate of 88% of the students' achieving formal accreditation from the Open College Network (OCN).

The Foundation is now offering a new menu of units which enables students and their schools to achieve performance points. These points help to increase the student and the schools' overall performance rating and have therefore proved to be successful with many of our service users. Through the Step Up units we have been able to both address the underlying issues that may limit young people's aspirations for the future, and also provide them with the qualifications they need to achieve in school and make their goals a reality.

The Foundation recently celebrated the achievements of



There are plans for the young people to continue their involvement with the project and some follow up activities involving other community members, residents and agencies working within Rudheath will be organised. The project will culminate in an intergenerational community event to identify key issues and to develop plans for the future of the Rudheath area based upon encouraging awareness, tolerance and support for all groups within the community.

Excitingly, The Foundation recently secured funding to develop and deliver a 12-week project with Victoria Road Primary School in Northwich to address issues of community conflict and peer mediation. Thanks to M&S Money and MWH Uk Ltd, the project will specifically target young people who are facing difficulties within the school and community. The programme will aim to teach them the knowledge, skills and understanding necessary to peacefully and effectively manage conflict.

Through the combination of these two projects the Foundation aims to bring together various groups within the Rudheath area and to provide opportunities for them to take ownership for the future development of their community.

our students at a Presentation Evening held on the 26th March 2009. This bi-annual event recognises the young people's successful accreditation on their courses, as well as their effort and dedication in achieving this goal. We are very proud of their accomplishments and wish them all the best in the future.



Young people's group 'Purple'

The Foundation has recently rejuvenated its youth group to bring together young people who have previously been involved in our programmes with the aim of providing long term opportunities for them to re-engage with the Foundation. However, any young person can join – the only criteria for getting involved are to share the passion for peace-building and positive change!

The young people came up with the name 'Purple' for the group which stands for 'People Uniting to Realise their Potential and Lead by Example'. They felt that it was important to have a name which represents the aim and focus of the group's work and highlights the strong element of unity that exists within the group. (We also love these little acronyms at the Foundation!) They were also keen to identify the importance of their previous involvement with the Foundation.

The overall aim of the group is to continue to build upon the knowledge, skills and understanding gained from previous programmes and to have the opportunity to continue to learn and develop the confidence to apply those skills and share them with others.

The Foundation hopes that the young people involved in PURPLE will soon be taking the lead in delivering programmes to their peers and will be helping to raise awareness about how to make a positive difference in their communities.

If you are interested in becoming a member please ring the Foundation on 01925 581231.

Young Trustees

Written by: Gemma Benns and Lee Beswick

We first became involved with Foundation in 2007 when we were selected to represent Warrington on The Tim Parry Leadership Development programme. As we lived and learnt alongside our Irish counterparts, we quickly made new and lasting friendships. Those friendships exist to this day as legacies of what was a life changing experience for us both.

We were so inspired by our journeys on the programme that we continued to meet with the Foundation team and other young people on their programmes. These days, we are members of the PURPLE youth group and we meet regularly to discuss and work on issues of conflict in our communities. Our group will soon start on a Peace-Building programme designed to develop our skills in

facilitating conflict resolution style workshops with our peers.

We have represented the Foundation at different workshops and events including the design of a piece of graffiti artwork facilitated by legendary artist Mohammed Ali! In 2008, we were nominated to Liverpool JM University for a 'Young Citizens' award and received our award from Senator George Mitchell – someone who was an influential player in the Northern Ireland Peace process.

In November 2008 we became non-executive Trustees of the Foundation's Board and now get the opportunity to make sure that young people's views and ideas are heard.

Over the past 14 years the Foundation has run an annual programme involving young people from Warrington with young people from both the North and South of Ireland. Lasting friendships have been developed and we hope to continue making a difference to the lives of these young people on both sides of the Irish Sea.





'Survivors for Peace' programme

The 'Survivors for Peace' programme is designed to help people who have been bereaved and/or are survivors of political violence and conflicts in the UK and other parts of the world. This programme also includes former soldiers, families of soldiers killed in conflicts, and Emergency Services workers who attended incidents. It gives participants the opportunity to use their experiences to make a positive contribution to peace in their own communities and lives. In practice this means those people who are bereaved, injured and affected by conflict are offered the chance to meet with others to gain support, take part in educational programmes and develop leadership skills as well as the opportunity to advocate for themselves and others.



Re-dedication of a plaque to remember my brother

Written by: Mo Morton

On 4 February 1974 our family lost a very dear brother and son Terence – Bombardier Terence Griffin from the 8th Bty Arracan, Royal Artillery. Having spent the weekend at home Terence went off to catch a coach back to the barracks. At approximately 12.15pm a bomb which had been placed in the coach exploded, killing many ex-servicemen, civilians and two little boys. 12 people killed and 42 survivors, many of whom were maimed and injured.

A year after the bombing a plaque was erected on the outside wall of Hartshead Services on the M62 motorway as this was the service station where many of the injured and survivors were taken. Over the years, I visited the plaque to pay my respects and lay flowers but as the service station was extended, the surrounding area became noisier and I often complained about how the plaque was treated.

The final straw came in July when I went to put flowers down and there was no place even on the floor underneath the plaque for me to lay flowers. There was lots of merchandise underneath the plaque in large metal crates and with the loud music blaring I just stood there feeling so much grief and sadness.

When I returned home I wrote to Welcome Break and they called me to arrange a meeting. They said they would be willing to help with moving the plaque to a more suitable place and a lawned area by the flagpoles was chosen. I made contact with the other families and with the help of the British Legion and Life for a Life, started to make arrangements for the re-dedication service with the additional support from the Foundation.

As well as it being an emotional day, it was also a very uplifting day for many people. Old wounds were opened, but also many ghosts were laid to rest and in a way it was a very healing experience for me. Many people attended and this proved to be so very heart-warming and is an experience I will never, ever forget.

I feel being involved with the Foundation has helped me enormously in many ways. When I first made contact, I was in a different place in as much as I had unresolved grief issues surrounding how my brother lost his life. I also had lost my confidence due to stress and felt unsure about many things, but attending story telling workshops brought many things to the surface and whilst in some ways it was painful, it was also cathartic for me.

Being part of Survivors for Peace programme has shown me that it is much easier for me to work towards peace and reconciliation than to feel bitter about what happened. I know I have come a long way and have still some way to go, I still miss my brother and always will, but without the Foundation, I think I would not have come as far as I have.





Mohammed, a Trustee of the Foundation, took part in the South Leeds High School programme in 2008. The programme had such a positive effect on Mohammed that he decided to take part in our storytelling programme – Survivors for Peace. Written by Mo, this is his account of the residential weekend.

There are a range of projects offered by the Foundation, all of which are absolutely fascinating for me. Armed with the knowledge that I wasn't too awful at being a team leader for a group of high school students in a previous residential, I agreed with Jo Dover to take part in a "storytelling" residential. It was much gentler, much shorter and had a different focus to the previous residential. I was curious to see this other facet of our charity, and how it worked.

The residential was to be run from Friday to Sunday, so I did not need to take any time off from work, but it seemed to me that there would be a weeks worth of activities crammed into one short weekend! I met with Jo during the week to go over the agenda, paperwork and confidentiality forms and things, and so she could give me a chance to run away screaming if I thought it was all too much. If anything though, I became more interested and eager to find out more about this wonderful project.

To summarise, the "storytelling residential" is a chance for people from all walks of life, all communities, to come together for a weekend and tell their own story. Victims of politically motivated violence, their families and soldiers, in fact anyone who has been affected by conflict and lives in the UK is eligible. It wasn't a counselling session; it was more akin to a first step towards counselling, if you get what I mean.

I was curious to see who would be in the group I would be attached to, not to mention excited and nervous in equal measure. The groups were adults this time and I was the youngest member and the least interesting. I had my own story to tell, but compared to

what I heard, I was almost too embarrassed to share with a group comprising members who had suffered bombings, assassination attempts and other terrifying things.

I arrived on the Friday complete with "an item which is important to me" according to Jo's instructions. I chose something from my last residential. At the end of the week, the young people who had taken part all wrote messages on an outline of my hand and it symbolises a lot of things that are precious to me, the memories, the hope, how much I learnt and it was very fitting to be returning it to the Foundation for this new residential.

At around 7.30pm I met the whole group for the first time. We all clicked straight away, and within the first five minutes, were cracking jokes and having a good time. Every now and then I overheard snippets of conversations about things that they had experienced, which served to remind me that this friendly, funny bunch actually had some very harrowing stories to tell.

The first activity was an introductory one, where we all spoke about each other and ourselves, and showed what we had each brought. It was really interesting to see what each person had brought, and why they had chosen it. From toys that they had kept since childhood which reminded them of happier, simpler times, to parts taken from a periscope of a helicopter, right through to a goose egg and personal photos!

After the first introductory sessions,

where we discussed things like what expectations we had for the weekend and what we hoped to gain, we wrapped things up for the night. I challenged one of the participants to a game of pool, thinking I was a dab hand and pretty useful with a cue, this would be an easy win for me. The participant smiled slyly to himself and beat me hands down once, twice, three times . . . he made me look like a complete beginner! By the end I was almost in tears and he admitted that he was actually a specialist soldier, and his training had given him outstanding hand/ eye co ordination, one of the benefits being that he was absolutely unbeatable at games like pool and darts! It didn't stop me from trying to beat him all weekend though.

Saturday morning dawned and almost as soon as breakfast was over we began our activities for the day. I would be in the group led by John Kibia and Jo Best. My nerves about telling my story mounted with every minute. The format was that each person would talk, uninterrupted, for 45 minutes each, about their story. For many this would be a chance to talk about things that they hadn't been able to talk about ever in their lives. When you think about it, few of us ever get the chance to talk for so long knowing that we will not be interrupted, we would have an avid audience and whatever we said would be treated in the strictest of confidence.

One interesting task was "beads on a string" Describing it sounds ridiculous, but actually doing it, I found it to be helpful and it triggered a lot of forgotten memories. There is a table full of beads of different sizes, shapes and colours. Each person is given a piece of string and told to put the beads on their string to remind them of something, for example a bright round yellow bead reminded me of the sun, and a summer I spent as a kid, and so on. You use the beads to



Survivors for Peace

build up a coherent recollection of the story you are about to tell.

I sat on the far end of the sofa, the three sofas forming a U shape, and I decided that I would tell my story last. Most people who know me, know that I'm a very quiet, introverted person most of the time, and don't really contribute to group discussions unless its by way of sarcastic one liners, I fall apart when it comes to talking in a group at the best of times, but here I was about to speak about things I've never spoken about to anyone, in front of a room of strangers!

Everyone has a story to tell; mine is unusual for someone born and raised here in the UK who's never been part of the army. My story is a bit dark in places and a bit sad in others, but compared to the stories I heard, it pales into insignificance. I wish I could tell of the things I heard, the suffering that man can inflict upon his fellow man, and above all how we manage to come through even the worst tribulations and just get on with our lives as best we can. That seemed to me to be an underlying theme in all stories; no matter when or where someone was born, or what they went through, we all seemed to just epitomise the "stiff upper lip" and get on with things.

Another impressive thing was just how much support by way of counselling organisations and charities there are in Britain to help people who have been affected by a wide range of things. It really makes you appreciate how great this country is, and how humane it really is. It's easy to forget the good things and the good people in this little island of ours, when people always want us to focus on the negative.

Like a man waiting for his walk to the gallows the storytelling moved inexorably down the line, to land squarely on me. I began to speak, and within a few minutes I settled down and told my story. It felt like I was

extracting a poison from within myself, the more I spoke the more this tension was leaving me. My own story was trivial, but this storytelling had a massive effect on me. I can't begin to imagine what those who had kept their story secret for 20 or 30 years felt like. There was a lot of emotion in the room when we all were telling stories; it brought us all so close together.

By the end of the day everyone in the room had told their story. We were all



a bit shaken up and emotional, which was why the decision by Jo to go out for a nice meal was a masterstroke. It provided a change of scenery and allowed us all to come together again and let off some steam. Highlight of the meal: the best waffles for dessert I've ever had!

When we returned to the Centre, we all sat in the lounge watching England get absolutely annihilated in the rugby by Ireland, much to Jo Best's delight. We sat around chatting and one by one we all drifted off to bed.

Sunday was the final day of this particular residential. The activities of the day were focused on the next steps; storytelling isn't a counselling service, it's an initial step towards it. We were given advice, and we all spoke about our feelings and what we had learnt and gained over the weekend, and any final thoughts.

One by one, in our own time, we stood

up and retrieved the items we had brought with us. It seemed fitting that at the beginning of this residential, we had all brought symbols of ourselves from our various walks of life, and placed them on the same table, symbolising our coming together, and now we were retrieving them, symbolising our return to our lives. I doubt that as a group, we will all be together in the same way again. All of the people in my group I would love to stay in touch with, even if it is on an individual basis, rather than a group basis.

The time eventually came for us to part after lunch. We all sat around the same table, and there were a lot of unsaid things which passed between us; the appreciation for each others company, the relief to have got so many things off our chests, the sadness at our parting, and finally the hope that we would stay in touch. In a short time the very nature of the activities we had done had forged a bond between us, and given us all tools with how to deal with what we would have to face.

On my way back from the Centre, as I was walking to Warrington Central, I ran over the last few days in my mind. It's hard to summarise what I feel in a few words, but I think my final thoughts at the end of the activities kind of sum it up,

"We have all suffered, and had things done to us, and been through problems. We all come from different walks of life, born in different times and situations, but we all have something in common: we've kept this darkness inside us for so long, and we never knew that the help was out there, but it is. And this Centre, and others, are here to help us. They can't stop the past from happening, but they can try and stop it happening again to others. It gives us hope, and sometimes, maybe that's all you need"

Annual Golf Day

18th June 09



The Foundation would like to invite you and/or members of your company to take part in our charity golf tournament at Portal Golf & Country Club on Thursday 18th June 09.

The cost of entry per team of four is £360.00 and will include



the use of the 9-hole Arderne course and indoor Academy from 9.30am, together with brunch, dinner and entertainment, which will be provided by the talented and funny comedian, Vince Earl. Registration will take place at 11.30am followed by brunch before teams make their way to the fairway for a shotgun start at 1.30pm on Portal's fantastic Championship course.

The Foundation is a worthy cause and one, we hope, you would like to be associated with. If you wish to join us and show your support, please ring Wendy on 01925 581234 or email wendy.parry@foundation4peace.org for a booking form or further information.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Events during 2009

CHRIS DAFFY TRAINING DAY **15th May**
'How to Attract and Keep New Customers for Life'
At Birchwood Park Estates

BUPA MANCHESTER 10k RUN **Sunday 17th May**

WARRINGTON RHYTHM & BLUES FESTIVAL **Saturday 23rd May**
at the Pyramid Centre

ANNUAL CHARITY GOLF DAY **Thursday 18th June**
At Portal Golf & Country Club
in Tarporley, Cheshire

ONE WORLD PEACE DAY **Sunday 20th September**
At the Peace Centre

CHRISTMAS PARTY **Saturday 5th December**
At the Peace Centre

If you would like further information about the Foundation's events, please contact Wendy on 01925 581234.

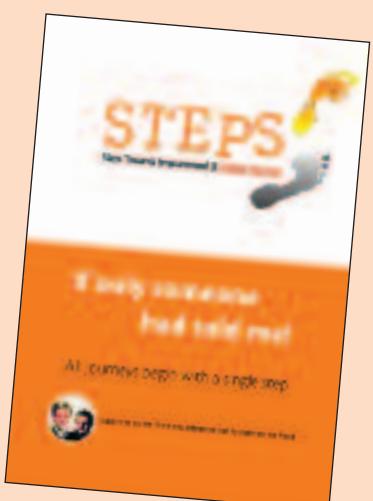
STEPS group receive funding from the DCMS

Written by: Evelyn Bitcon

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport's (DCMS), Humanitarian Assistance Unit has awarded a small grant to the STEPS (Towards Empowerment and Positive Survival) group to help review, update and reprint our self help booklet 'If only someone had told me'. STEPS was formed in 2006 by victims, survivors and veterans of the Northern Ireland 'Troubles' who are involved with the Foundation. Group membership is now open to those affected by other conflicts / acts of political violence. We aim to raise awareness of the needs of victims and survivors and empower people affected by trauma to live positive lives.

The booklet was written by the group in the hope that it will assist others affected by trauma, bereavement, physical and/or psychological injury, to take STEPS towards empowerment and positive survival and to realise there is life after trauma or conflict. We are extremely grateful to the DCMS for the funding and their endorsement of the booklet as being a valuable tool for individuals and others to support victims of traumatic incidents. This is a challenging but exciting time for the 'journey of STEPS' as the outcomes of this work will help empower victims, survivors and others.

Our members have also taken up the offer of training at the Peace Centre under the Survivors for Peace Programme. Courses



include Exploring the Causes of Conflict, Leadership Development and Advocacy Skills. These courses enable us to not only come together but help us in our learning and motivation, to be an effective and organised group.

New members joined us at our April residential and this is a positive achievement for STEPS. Our presentation at the V-Net conference, organised by the Foundation in September 2008 inspired many people to get involved with the group. We all want to make a difference to improve lives and welcome anyone who wishes to assist us achieve our aims. STEPS membership is open to all victims and survivors of conflicts and acts of political violence living in the UK. Each member decide their own involvement and commitment.

steps@foundation4peace.org

Members of the STEPS Group were brought together by the Foundation through its 'Legacy programme' which has now been re-named the 'Survivors for Peace'. The Foundation continues to support and train group to help them reach their goals.

The Ascot Charity Ball



Picture courtesy: Cheshire Life Magazine. See their May issue for a full photo feature of the event.

On Saturday 7th February, the Foundation hosted their annual Charity Ball at the Park Royal Hotel raising over £17,500 to continue their work with young people throughout the North West.

The event was sponsored by Birchwood based MWH UK Ltd, M&S Money, Hamworthy Combustion Engineering and Touchpoint Change Consulting.

250 guests attended the event and MC Paul Crone from Granada TV made sure that everyone had a great time. Lucie Evans aged 15 entertained guests during the meal and received a standing

ovation after her fantastic performance. Lucie has been singing from the tender age of six and over the past eleven years has taken part in many school productions and won many talent shows. In 2007, she won a national competition called Festival 4 Stars and from this she was invited to sing for Bee Gee Robin Gibb in London along with other music industry professionals. Since then Lucie has been to Norway to work with record producer Robin Jenson and his team at Design Music. To make sure the fun-packed evening continued, guests were able to bet on their favourite



Horses on a giant screen, chance their hand at lady luck on the Casino tables or dance the evening away with our first class DJ.

Next year's Annual Charity Ball will take place at The Park Royal Hotel on Saturday, 13th February.

One Day Training Course with Chris Daffy

'How to Attract and Keep New Customers for Life'

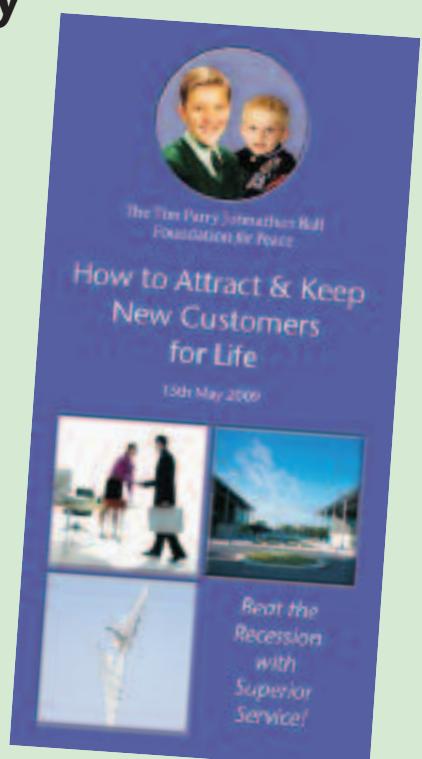
This one day course is an opportunity to get ahead of the competition in this tough business climate. Brought to you by the Tim Parry Johnathan Ball Foundation, and presented by the founder of The Academy of Service Excellence – Chris Daffy, 'How to Attract and Keep New Customers for Life' will help businesses large and small create competitive advantage.

Chris Daffy has a reputation for providing practical, easy to understand ideas and advice. His courses help to equip participants with an understanding of how to use service excellence and customer experience management techniques to attract and retain customers for life.

The course will take place at Birchwood Park Estates in their amphitheatre on Friday 15th May 2009. The cost of this event is heavily discounted from £300 to only £120 per person including lunch. If more than 5 people from a single company would like to take part we are happy to discuss/negotiate special rates. (NB: The event is free to the Foundation's 100 Club members – one member per Company).

In today's economic climate the Training budget is the first to be cut, but to build successful business relationships and attract new clients it should be the last.

I hope you will be able to join us



The Foundation would like to thank the following people for their generosity and support

Peter Taylor – Taylorshaw Ltd
Steve & Clare O'Connor
Mr Ian Nicklin
Mr & Mrs Phillip Langman
M&S Money
MWH UK Ltd
Staff & Management, Park Royal Hotel Stretton
Wendy Fenlon
Katie Rimmer
Louise Blinkhorn
Guests who attended the Ascot Ball
Guests who attended the Christmas Party
Staff & Students at Priestley College
Hallgrath Community Group
Janice Blood
Ladybird Ladies Group
Warrington Rotary Club
Eversheds
Clare Irons
Bolton School Pupils
Forshaw Davies Ridgway Solicitors
Brakes Catering Supplies
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Call Northwest
Touchpoint Change Consulting
Hamworthy Combustion Engineering – Surrey
Tim Pollitt Butchers
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Paul Crone
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Mick Wilson – Stanley Road Film & Media
Steve Parry
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Lucie Evans
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Felicity Hat Hire
MEPC Birchwood Park Management
The 100 Club Members
Jeanette Andrews
Neil & Dawn Robertson
Warrington Borough Council
Cheshire Police
Railex
Learning and Skills Council Cheshire & Warrington
Wigan Council
Chris Daffy
MEPC Birchwood
The family & friends of the late Jamie Hughes
Cheshire WI
Highcliffé Methodist Church
Usborne Foundation

Book sale in aid of the Foundation



Barbara Ferguson, Wendy Parry & Christine Ettingham

The Foundation would like to thank Barbara Ferguson and Christine Ettingham for organising a pre-Christmas Book Fare and nominating the Foundation to receive the proceeds from the event. The sale, which raised £128, took place at lunchtime allowing staff the chance to purchase those last minute stocking fillers before returning to work.

Thank you

The Foundation's first Christmas Party



On Saturday, December 6, the Foundation hosted its first Christmas Party at The Peace Centre and the evening proved to be a great success.

170 guests enjoyed a superb 4-course meal, entertainment by the Mersey Beatles and a Disco.

Clare White, the Foundation's Chief Executive said: "The Christmas party was an excellent way of starting off the festive season and a great opportunity for the Foundation to show guests the type of event that can be held at the Centre. We would like to thank Taylor Shaw Catering, Forshaw Davies Ridgway Solicitors, Brakes Catering Suppliers, Tim Pollitt Butchers, Set Produce and the students from Priestley College for their support of this event.

This year's Christmas party will take place at The Peace Centre on Saturday 5th December 09.

**THE TIM PARRY JOHNATHAN BALL FOUNDATION FOR PEACE
THE PEACE CENTRE, PEACE DRIVE,
WARRINGTON, CHESHIRE, WA5 1HQ**

TEL: 01925 581231

FAX: 01925 581233

WEBSITE: www.foundation4peace.org

REGISTERED CHARITY No: 1048990

New home for the 'kissing' signs

THEY put Warrington firmly on the map – and briefly made one of its railway stations the most famous in the world.

But then the 'no kissing' and 'kissing' signs at Bank Quay station, which had made headlines across Europe, Scandinavia and the US, suddenly disappeared.

Virgin Trains, fed up with accusations of taking the romance of rail travel, took them down and put them up for sale on auction website ebay in aid of Comic Relief.

Bids came in from far and wide – but when the signs were finally sold for £546 just seconds before the bidding deadline, the buyer chose to remain anonymous and everything went quiet.

But now the new owner has stepped forward – and revealed that the signs have moved less than a quarter-of-a-mile.

They are now at Shelly's Restaurant, in Bold Street,



Warrington.

Proprietor Shelly Butterworth said: "I decided the signs should stay in Warrington and put in a bid for £50. Then other people put in bids and I

thought 'it's in a good cause' and bid again. I thought I had got them for £300."

"But with only a minute to go someone put in a higher bid and I thought 'they're not having them' and put in a bid with only seconds to go."

"It was quite difficult because the restaurant was busy at the time but I was elated when I realised I had got them."

"I will be putting them on display in the restaurant. It's all a bit of fun because we don't have a problem with kissing, even though some couples can get quite affectionate when they come in to celebrate an engagement or a wedding anniversary."

Shelly got an extra reward when she collected the signs from Bank Quay station – a peck on the cheek from Virgin Trains' team leader Stephen Welsh.

Fair Trade Market

WARRINGTON Market will kick off a summer season of events and activity with the town centre's first Fair Trade Market.

In celebration of World Fair Trade day, the Market will be playing host to a Fair Trade Market on Saturday May 9.

Organised by volunteers from the Fair 4 All stall in the Market, the event will feature a wide selection of Fair Trade goods such as glass, clothes, bags, jewellery, cards and handicrafts from Rwanda, Uganda, Niger, Egypt, Gaza, Hebron, Nepal, India and the Philippines.

There will also be free musical entertainment, tasting sessions of Fair Trade foods and children's activities.

More details are available on 01925 415121.

NVQ stars

MORE than 40 of the people who help clean Warrington's streets and keep its parks blooming have passed work-related NVQs with flying colours.

The 43 high achievers from the borough council's environmental management service received NVQ level 2 certificates in horticulture, street cleansing and waste management.

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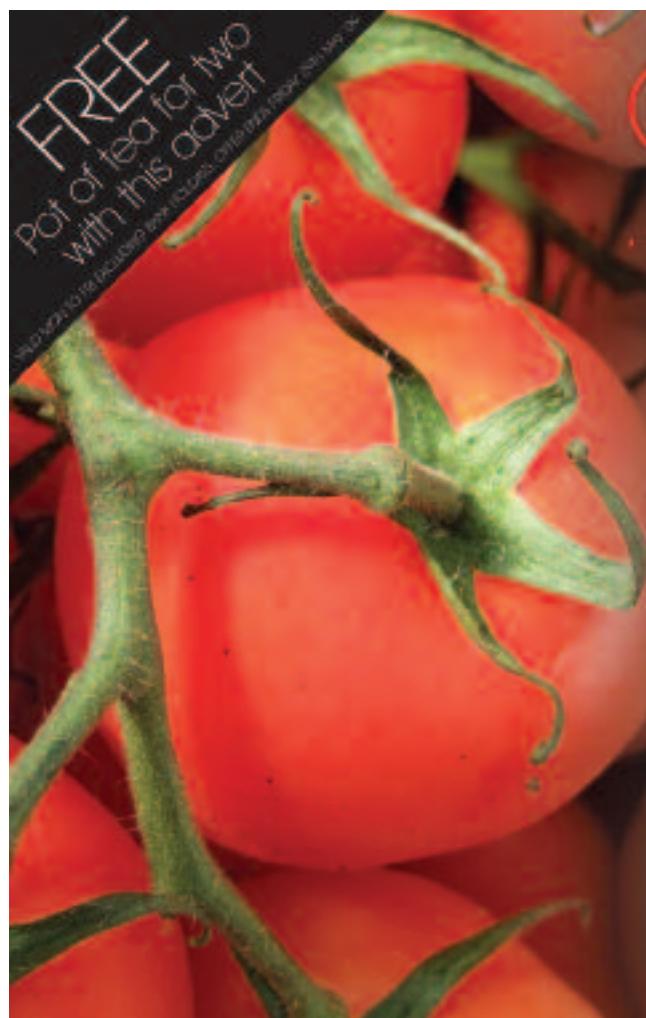
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'Help fight climate change'

TOWN Hall chiefs have joined forces with the Energy Saving Trust to offer Warrington residents free, impartial advice on how to cut CO2 emissions, fight climate change and reduce energy bills.

Supporting Independence throughout Life & Work

WDP offers the following services:

- General Information & Advice
- Centre for Independent Living
- Equipment Showrooms
- Wheelchair & Equipment Loans
- Employment & Training
- Shopmobility Scheme
- Discover IT Training Suite
- Direct Payments & Independent Living
- Access & Training Consultancy
- Accessible Holiday Home & 'Wizard' Narrow Boat
- Opportunities for Volunteering
- Disability Forum (come and join us)
- Leisure, Recreation & Sports
- Market Information Point
- Organisers of Disability Awareness Day
- 'OWCH' Pain Management

01925 240064

Visit us at:

- Shopmobility, Warrington Town Centre
- Disability Information Point, Warrington Retail Market
- Centre for Independent Living, Beaufort Street, (off Liverpool Road

www.disabilitypartnership.org.uk

Everyone at WDP would like to thank the Warrington residents for their continued support.



The Trust has written to a number of homes in the borough asking them to take part in an energy efficiency survey.

It's part of the drive to reduce carbon emissions by 80 per cent by 2050 to help combat climate change.

The survey aims to gather information about the way local residents use energy in their homes and takes 10 minutes to complete.

People who take part receive a free home energy report on their home, showing its current and potential energy rating. It also gives simple tips to cut energy bills by up to £300 each year.

People who have not received a letter inviting them to take part in the survey can still contact the Energy Saving Trust advice centre free on 0800 512 012 for advice on how to make their homes greener.

Steve Lang, Energy Saving Trust advice centre manager said: "Climate change affects us all. If we all made one small change, it would make a big difference. Our advisors are here to make it easy to make those simple changes."

The council has a climate change strategy to reduce emissions and help the community to do the same. Details are available from 01925 442590.

Advice can be obtained from the eco hut in Warrington Market or by calling 01925 657763.

Legend in town

SOCWER Legend Ian St John, the former Liverpool star, will be special guest at Warrington Town's end of season awards night.



He will be joined by top comic Sean Styles from the Radio Merseyside Breakfast Show and international singing artist Paula Martine at the special event on Friday May 8th, starting at 7.30pm.

Sponsored tables of 10 are available for just £250 which include food and free wine in a giant marquee which is being erected on the pitch.

There will be stand up bingo, a raffle and auction helping raise funds for the club which after two seasons of consolidation hope to make a determined bid for promotion next season.

For tickets or more details call club Chief Executive Gary Skentelbery on 01925 631592 or email garys@warrington-worldwide.co.uk

Provided by:
Third Marketing Ltd

Contact:
Marissa Hankinson

Tel:
01925
212904

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info@third
marketing.co.uk



Social media for small businesses

SOCIAL media is being talked about quite a lot in the media and the word 'social' can often put businesses off, but it can be a great connector, it can help raise the profile of your business without a huge outlay of cash which isn't in abundance these days. So, I have given you some great tools to get you started in the world of social media without it costing you a penny.

• Blogging – is a great way to share your ideas, tips and how-to knowledge or even give you an opportunity to give your point of view when it comes

to your area of expertise.

- Facebook – is absolutely huge, but don't be fooled in thinking it is for the younger generation. It is quite easy to set up a fan page either for you as an individual or even for your business and start making connection you never know where they may lead. Alternatively, you can join groups that are of interest to you.

- Twitter – a lot is being said about this application but it doesn't give you a lot to say, limited to a valuable 140 characters for each update – it forces you to get to the point. Provide tips, found a great website or article then share it and

watch your list grow. You can always follow me @Marissa_

- Linked-in – very similar to Facebook but it is targeted at professionals and relies on introductions from people who actually know you.

I know this list isn't extensive and there are more networking sites out there, but from personal experience, they seem to be the most effective and you have got to start somewhere, so start putting the power of social media to work for your business today!

Want to find out more, then visit our website to book your free marketing consultation.



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Warrington Town Centre



The best of British at
Warrington Market
Saturday 2nd May



Flavours of the continent
at **Golden Square**
30th April - 3rd May

Warrington
Borough Council

Rising starlet to coach Cats

A YOUNG up and coming coach who has been tipped to go all the way to the top of the Rugby League coaching ladder has been appointed by new Lymm based junior summer rugby team Cheshire Cats.

Warrington Wolves under 18 Academy team assistant coach Ben Povey has been appointed Director of Development and Performance at the go ahead club.

Ben aged 25 will also retain his roles as head coach of the Warrington Wolves under 13 scholarship and assistant coach to the Wolves under 18 Academy team.

Warrington Wolves Player

Performance Manager Ben Lazenby has a high regard for his namesake and is sure the Cheshire Cats have recruited wisely when pointing out:

"Ben Povey is a very promising young coach with lots of drive and enthusiasm. He has been involved in coaching with the Warrington Junior setup for the last few seasons and is showing improvement year on year. Ben has the potential to coach at a very

high standard. With his new role he will continue his development and also instill an air of professionalism into the Cheshire Cats coaching structure."

In addition to his duties as Head of Behaviour at Harrop Fold School in Worsley and Youth Leader at St John's Church in Stockton Heath Ben is eagerly looking forward to adding to his busy schedule as the Cats coaching supremo and is confident the area the Cats serve is ripe for major Rugby League development:

"I am relishing the challenge of taking forward the Cheshire Cats Rugby



League Club. I am passionate about the development of all players I coach and believe this project will further spread the word in terms of the benefit the sport of rugby league can offer young people. I believe South Warrington is an untapped hotbed of talent and is somewhat uncharted territory in terms of rugby league development."

Ben's main duties at the Cats will be to steer the club's initial age group – the under 12s – to a successful season in the Midlands division and to set in place a coaching philosophy and structure that is very much standards driven as the club seeks to add extra age groups in ensuing years.

Cheshire Cats Chair Neil Waters is delighted with the appointment: "We are very pleased to have secured someone of Ben's pedigree and passion. The key message is that all parents and teachers can rest assured that the Cats will seek to impose high standards in relation to conduct on and off the field of play in addition to top level rugby coaching."

For further information including the full Summer fixture list consult the website www.cheshirecatsrl.co.uk or contact Neil at neil.waters@cheshirecatsrl.co.uk or 07980 136869

Ladies lift league title

WARRINGTON Town Ladies FC are celebrating after being crowned champions following a thrilling end of season victory over fellow title contenders Chester.

Warrington, needing a win or a draw to clinch the title, came from two goals down to eventually triumph 2-4 at Chester's Upton Park Recreation Ground.

Goals from Lisa Kershaw, Emma Hickman, Clare Cassidy and Leah Ayrton sealed a famous victory ensuring Warrington were crowned Cheshire and Manchester Division One Champions.

They can now apply to join the North West Womens League and if



successful will be just two steps off playing in the national league against clubs like Arsenal and Liverpool!

The women lost just two of 21

games to win the title and with an average age of just 21 the team hope to be able to build on the success and move up the leagues.

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Financially yours

By David Watkinson

Personal taxation, corporation tax and benefits

WE are writing this column a couple of days into the new tax year and we would like to be able to give you definite details of your taxation obligations. Unfortunately, we still have two weeks to wait for the budget which has been delayed to wait for the outcome of the G20 summit. It has been suggested that this delay suggests that we are not in for any major surprises, and if this is not the case then we will look at it next month. Meanwhile, what do we know?

Personal Taxation

The personal allowance is now £6,475 (previously £6,035). This is the amount that you can earn before you start to pay tax. The enhanced allowances for people over 65 have increased pro-rata, as has the income above which these enhanced limits are progressively withdrawn.

Tax rates are unchanged. Basic rate remains at 20%, and higher rate is still 40%. The amount that can be earned before higher rate tax is payable has increased to £40,875 (including personal allowance). Nothing, however, has yet

been done to reduce the marginal rate of tax for those older citizens whose total income exceeds the relatively modest amount of £22,900. These continue to pay tax at jaw-dropping 70%!

Most other allowances and rates are unchanged. However, one other change worth mentioning is that payments on account will now only be required if tax payable under self-assessment is £1,000 or above (previously £500).

Corporation Tax

The small company rate of Corporation Tax was due to rise from 21% to 22%. This increase has been deferred, currently for one year. This means that there is no change this year in Corporation Tax.

Tax on Cars and Car Benefits

The maximum mileage rates payable if you use your own car on your employer's business remain unchanged at 40p for the first 10,000 miles and 25p per mile thereafter. The amount which can be paid before tax being applied in respect of



David Watkinson and Margaret Black

business mileage in a company car if you personally pay for fuel has been reduced. For instance, if you are provided with a car with a mid-sized petrol engine then the amount you can claim for fuel used on business journeys has been reduced by 3p per mile to 12p.

Penalties and Late Payments

There have been substantial changes to the way that penalties are calculated if you make a mistake in making your return, as well as penalties for late payment of tax. However, these are too complex to go into here and we may revisit these in a later article.

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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Saturday 9th May
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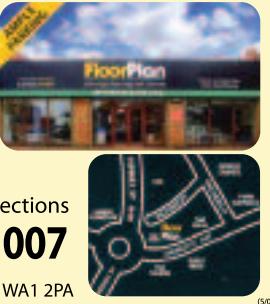
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