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# Warrington Worldwide

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**HOPEFULLY the festive season will provide a much needed boost for town centre traders - with some claiming they have been up to 90 per cent down on last year as a direct result of the improvement works taking place on Bridge Street.**

I have been assured the works are on schedule to be completed in time for Christmas after taking up the traders' complaints with the Borough Council.

### Guaranteed

Unfortunately they were not completed in time for the Christmas Lights Switch on - which is the one time in the year guaranteed to attract thousands of additional people into the heart of our town.

It does leave me wondering what kind of "joined up thinking" takes place in the corridors of power when major works impact on potentially the busiest day of the year in the town centre.

To be fair to "town centre champion" Mike Hannon, deputy leader of the council, once he was made aware of the traders'

complaints and fears, he responded immediately, taking the trouble to visit the site and flag up the issues with those over seeing the project.

With major works looming in the not too distant future likely to have a further impact on the town centre we can only hope that some serious joined up thinking takes place to ensure it has as little impact as possible on those who depend on

shoppers for their future livelihoods.

### Pleasing

Meanwhile it was pleasing to see that common sense prevailed in the recent bus strikes with management and unions reaching an amicable settlement.

A prolonged strike could have had a devastating impact on the town's bus company.

Finally can I take this opportunity to wish all our readers and advertisers a happy and prosperous Christmas and healthy New Year.

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# Teenagers provide early Christmas cheer for charity

**CHRISTMAS has come early for Claire House Children's Hospice thanks to teenagers who raised an incredible £15,000 for the charity.**

The money was raised from the Miss Teen Great Britain event organised by Warrington businesswoman Holly Ikin, and it saw teenagers from across the UK compete in the grand final in Blackpool.

Holly, herself a former Miss England finalist, said: "I launched the Miss Junior Teen Great Britain and Miss Teen Great Britain competitions in 2011 to celebrate the nation's

teenagers and their achievements. It is not a typical 'beauty pageant' in that it focuses on the girls and their personality.

"One section of the competition is charity fundraising. I selected Claire House Children's Hospice after supporting and visiting them whilst I was Miss Cheshire, as I had seen first-hand the amazing work that they had done."

The finalists of Junior and Miss Teen Great Britain, including Ella Ravenscroft - Miss Junior Teen Great Britain from Irlam, Caitlin Holmes - Miss Junior Teen Warrington and Olivia Davidson-Slack - Miss Junior Teen Cheshire East, all raised funds for the hospice and used their imaginations to think of innovative ways to raise as much as possible - from car boot sales to wearing the same dress every day for a month!

Since supporting Claire House last year, the competition has raised over £22,500 for the hospice.

Holly added: "I often think the press give teenagers a bit of stick but being part of this competition really has shown that there is so much more than the negative stereotypes of the youth of today. The girls were an amazing group and to raise such a phenomenal amount really proved this!"

One finalist who proved herself to be a star-fundraiser was Olivia Davidson-Slack, who raised over £3000 this year.

This was particularly significant, as Olivia was due to compete in the grand final last year but due to being involved in a serious road accident the week before, was unable to do so. However, she had been fundraising for the charity before the accident and had already raised over £2000.

In total, she has raised over £5000 for Claire House since being involved with Miss Teen Great Britain. Meanwhile Holly has certainly been keeping herself busy in recent months. As well as organising Miss

Teen Great Britain, she runs The Dress Studio in Culcheth. The boutique stocks dresses for all occasions and are prom specialists!

Holly added: "We have been overwhelmed by the success of the store and so, we are proud to announce that we have expanded the premises and so, we are now double the size and have nine changing rooms. We have had a great response from the local communities with everyone commenting on how much easier it is to find a dress when coming to just one store and knowing that there will be hundreds to choose from!"

The Dress Studio has over six hundred dresses in stock and are stockists of collections including Sherri Hill, Jovani and Forever Unique.

With Christmas coming up, it is also a must-visit to help you find the perfect dress for the party season!



Holly with Ella Ravenscroft - Miss Junior Teen Great Britain from Irlam, Caitlin Holmes - Miss Junior Teen Warrington and Olivia Davidson-Slack - Miss Junior Teen Cheshire East

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Hello and welcome to my monthly column . . .

# Hypnotes

by Michael Mahoney

## The passing of time

**As I write this the dark nights are closing in and the first Christmas adverts are being seen on TV, and heard on radio. Shopping in a local supermarket today we were reminded it was 45 days to Christmas day. Time passes so quickly, we try to make time, kill time, and it also flies, and yet it still passes relentlessly, we can't slow it down, though we try and save it.**

In my childhood days it seemed to pass so slowly, playing in the fields from morning to night, only coming home when we were hungry and tired. The fields have long gone. Friends have moved away, or passed away, and yet their impact on my life lives on, often with humour and always with gratefulness for their encouragement, support and protection as I was finding my way in life.

Since my early days, when I used to listen to and learn from the older people in my street, I have wanted to help others wherever I can. In those days the old were respected and listened to, and learned from.

In my mid 20's I made the decision to move away from regular, or what was seen as normal employment,

and trained to do what I do now. In those days hypnotherapy was largely not understood by the public, nor many in the medical profession. Nowadays the public are much more aware, and the medical profession are embracing hypnotherapy too as a healing option.

As my practice become more established, I began to research, and develop new hypnotherapy products to be used at home, and also in association with mainstream medicine. My work as a hypnotherapist, continues to teach me lots about human behaviour, about our frailties and our strengths, our special place in life and society.

I have also learned that time heals, or at least makes it easier to cope with some things in life.

So great is this understanding on my life, that many of my self-help audio programs are time structured, they incorporate the use of time to optimise the benefits of my programs. For example the IBS Audio Program 100 is used for 100 days, so if it were to be used on Christmas day, it would be completed on 4th April 2014. A fraction of the many years which many IBS sufferers live through.

Time also changes things,

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, based at Woolston Surgery, Neighbourhood Hub, Warrington WA1 4PN.



Tel: 01925-658322 email  
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www.michaelmahoneyhypnotherapist.com

it changes perceptions, ideas, morals and ethics, it changes us as individuals, and our relationships, time can help to strengthen us or weaken us individually, it depends if we are prepared to put in that extra ingredient into our understanding of the importance of time, and that is effort. With time and effort, we can usually achieve the things we want to achieve. One thing we do learn about time as we go through life, is that there is never enough of it, no matter how much we are given, whether we waste it or use each moment, there is never enough.

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Which only leaves me time to wish you dear reader, a peaceful Christmas, and a happy and prosperous New Year.

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# Tara scoops top honours



**FEMALE** rugby league referee Tara Jones scooped top honours at the joint Warrington & Widnes Rugby League Referee Society's annual presentation night.

Tara was named Warrington Rugby League Referee Society's Referee of the Year, after a successful season on the field which saw her named as part of the Champion Schools referee squad, and officiate at Wembley during the curtain raiser to the 2013 Challenge Cup final.

This season also saw her referee her first Scholarship match, and take her first steps on the RFL match official's pathway as a referee. Her award was presented by former Super League Grand Final and Challenge Cup final referee Karl Kirkpatrick (pictured above).

Society Development Officer and former first-grade match official John Blacklock said: "Tara's achievements throughout the 2013 season have been impressive.

"She has shown commitment and hard work to get into the position she is in now, and is an outstanding match official for her age. The fact she is female has no bearing on the rewards she is receiving and higher profile matches she is being appointed to."

The night turned into double success for the Jones family as newly elected vice-chairman Brian Jones, father to Tara, picked up the Joe Manley Cup for services to the

Warrington society away from the rugby field.

Junior official Connor Mitton-Jones picked up the Warrington RLRS Junior Referee of the Year award, while Jamie Butterfield was presented with the Warrington RLRS Most Improved Referee of the Year.

Special awards were presented to Warrington society members Phil Bentham and Matthew Thomason for refereeing the 2013 Challenge Cup final and 2013 Championship Grand Final respectively.

Meanwhile Widnes official Dylan Ward scooped two awards from his society's collection of annual awards.

Dylan received the Widnes RLRS Junior Match Official of the Year award and Widnes RLRS Society Member of the Year award.

Widnes RLRS Senior Match Official of the Year went to Andy Fazackerley, while Chris Campbell and Adam Gill were both presented with the Harold Worth Memorial Award.

Anybody interested in joining Warrington or Widnes Rugby League Referees Societies should visit either [www.warringtonrlrs.webs.com](http://www.warringtonrlrs.webs.com) or [www.extraordinaryrugby.com/officiate](http://www.extraordinaryrugby.com/officiate).

## Christmas Facebook competition!

*Forever Ink*

facebook

FOREVER Ink tattoo studio based at Callaghan's Hairdressing on Sankey Street is having a Christmas Facebook Competition to win a custom design tattoo! which will run from December 1 to Jan 31.

If you would like to enter you need to think of an idea for a custom design for which Danny Edwards of Forever Ink will donate 4 to 5 hours towards the completion of the tattoo

on the winner.

This is a fantastic opportunity to have a one off custom design tattoo!

All you have to do is go to the Forever Ink facebook page and Like & Share it, then leave your email address and design idea in the comment box.

All entrants must be 18 years of age or older. Good Luck!

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Business

# Unemployment - the biggest worry for young people

**UNEMPLOYMENT and a lack of opportunities for work experience are the main issues worrying young people in Warrington, a survey has revealed.**

The survey was carried out by IMPACT, Warrington's youth council, and was revealed at the launch of the organisation's manifesto for 2013-15 at the Town Hall.

A total of 2,285 young people

voted in the survey – 11.65 per cent of Warrington's youth population

In the manifesto, the youth council set out a number of proposals for improving services for young people in Warrington.

The result of the survey showed

clearly that young people in the borough think better work experience opportunities should be offered and youth unemployment should be tackled better.

Representatives from schools across Warrington attended the launch and had the chance to ask questions of key figures at the borough council, including leader

Cllr Terry O'Neill and Cllr Colin Froggatt, lead member for children and young people's services.

Cllr Froggatt said: "It's brilliant to hear so many young people in Warrington are getting involved and having a say on real issues that affect them. They can make a difference and the whole point of the youth council is to ensure their voices are heard."

"This was an opportunity for young people to let decision makers aware of what issues they would like to see addressed and it was great to see so many ask questions and get involved."

## New Raj now open

THE Raj restaurant which has been serving the people of Culcheth since 1998 has moved to brand new premises in the heart of the village.

Following a major investment the

Raj has moved to new premises at 2a, Common Lane. The move was prompted by the fact that having been so successful over the past fifteen years it was decided

that the Raj had outgrown its original premises due to its popularity as a top eating venue in the village.

The new bespoke restaurant close to Warrington Road has been created from scratch and offers a new dining experience to the people of Culcheth.

With a unique and modern design the restaurant boasts eating on just one floor with free customer parking, full disabled access and seating for up to 400 diners at any one time.

Catering for many events the Raj can offer a great dining experience at an affordable price. Parties can be catered for and bookings are now being taken for Christmas and New Year.



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# MP helps boost employment opportunities

**WARRINGTON South MP David Mowat is once again organising a "Jobs Fair" in the town, to help people seeking employment opportunities.**

He has been running a jobs club since 2009 and now more than 200 people in Warrington have benefitted from the club, with more than two thirds of those attending subsequently finding a job, starting their own business or going back on a training course.

"Unemployment in Warrington is now lower than it was at the time of the last General Election and it remains below the national average. However, we cannot afford to be complacent and we must strain every sinew to create new jobs and to find people to fill them." Said David.

In 2013 David hosted a Jobs Fair to encourage job seekers to

consider alternative paths into employment and to give job seekers the opportunity to meet employers in the area.

"At my last jobs fair, over 200 people were offered follow-up conversations and some were even offered jobs on the spot. I've therefore decided to run it again in 2014 to help more people from Warrington get back into work."

Next year's Jobs Fair will be at The Parr Hall on Friday, February 7, 10 a.m. till 3 p.m. Free entry to all job seekers.

Any companies wishing to be a part of this opportunity, please contact: Terri Lock at [terri@eventsoffice.co.uk](mailto:terri@eventsoffice.co.uk)



**Warrington**  
**jobs fair**

I will be holding a Jobs Fair on **Friday 7th February 2014** at The Parr Hall.

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

David Mowat - MP for Warrington South

If you are a business that would like a stand at the Jobs Fair, please call **01424 441833** or email: [terri@eventsoffice.co.uk](mailto:terri@eventsoffice.co.uk)

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## Caitlin aims high



WARRINGTON'S Caitlin Holmes has her sights set on becoming Miss Teen Galaxy England 2014 following her success in this year's Miss Junior Teen Great Britain contest.

Teenagers from across the UK will compete to win the title at a grand final in Lancashire on 7, 8 and 9 March.

If successful, 15-year-old Caitlin will be entered into the international competition to vie for the Miss Teen Galaxy crown.

Caitlin, from Woolston, recently celebrated success at the Miss Junior Teen Great Britain awards, coming second and being commended on her interview skills.

She said: "I'm really excited to progress to the next level. Miss Junior Teen GB was my first contest so I was shocked to do so well. It's really helped to improve my confidence and public speaking skills."

# Warrington Youth Club set to launch Skills Bank

WARRINGTON Youth Club is set to provide further support for the young people across the town with the launch of a special "Skills Bank" On Saturday, December 7.

The aim of the venue based at the former Lloyds TSB Bank in Times Square, is to inspire and motivate young people and to develop their skills and support them into further training or employment.

The Skills Bank will include a state of the art gym; open for young people up to the age of 25 at a really low cost, along with regular fitness classes to develop fitness and motivation.

Warrington Youth Club will also be running a Job Club from the

venue three days a week which will include activities such as CV writing, interview techniques and young people will have access to computers directly linked to employment and enterprise websites so they can research a number of opportunities.

Alongside the job club will be regular enterprise projects running as a three week programme for young people to develop their own business plan including marketing, budgets and creative ideas. They will have the opportunity to demonstrate their entrepreneurial skills and show how they can become the next Alan Sugar with a range of challenges.

The Skills Bank also houses "The Salon" where young people who are

fully qualified hair stylists are able to rent a chair for up to a third of the price of a salon in the town centre to develop their skills and build up their client list. There are currently a further three chairs available to rent for more information please contact [info@warringtonyouthclub.co.uk](mailto:info@warringtonyouthclub.co.uk).

Other schemes which will be running from The Skills Bank include National Citizen Service, Power in Partnership and Youth Graffiti Solutions.

The launch day runs from 11am-6pm and will include all of the programmes along with live DJ's and bands, competitions and a job and apprenticeships fair.

## RSPCA cuts rescue service

WARRINGTON'S RSPCA animal rescue centre is no longer accepting animals from members of the public.

In future, the centre in Sluthers Lane, Bank Quay will only accept animals brought to them by RSPCA inspectors as being in need of rehabilitation. The decision has been made by the Warrington, Halton and St Helens branch of the RSPCA in agreement with the national society.

It is understood the reason for the decision is the growing number of animals - mainly cats and dogs - at the centre.

Main focus of the centre in future will be caring for animals brought in by RSPCA inspectors.

Many animals already at the centre will be assessed and passed to other branches for rehoming.

Branch chairman Cathy Mitchell said the branch trustees believed that animals coming via RSPCA inspectors had to

be given the highest priority as many had suffered abuse and lack of care.

She said: "Whilst this means that the centre will no longer be able to accept animals direct from the public, it is hoped that supporters will fully understand that priority has to be given to assisting those animals most at risk. We hope that donors will continue with their generosity to ensure animals receive the care they deserve."

The operational changes mean that a number of cats and dogs at Warrington are desperate to find new, loving homes.

Anyone who can offer a home to one should contact the branch as soon as possible on 01925 632944 or call at the centre between 12 noon and 4pm on any day other than Tuesday, when it is closed.



# Breakfast with Santa

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LiveWire



# Christmas Fayre

Sunday 24th November 11am-4pm  
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## The Elf

Who Forgot About Christmas

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A charming interactive musical theatre show for children, celebrating festive cheer. Each ticket includes Storytelling and Christmas Craft Workshops!

Grotto tickets  
£3.50 including gift  
\*ONE gift per ticket

Santas helpers have been very busy creating our Christmas grotto and we have lots of elves on hand to ensure your visit is an enjoyable one



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Bookworm  
Players



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email [events@livewirewarrington.org](mailto:events@livewirewarrington.org) or call 01925 624959

\*Accompanying adults have free admission.

Babies accompanying another paying child are free where a gift for them is not required.

[livewirewarrington.co.uk/christmas](http://livewirewarrington.co.uk/christmas)

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# Lecturer's book an internet sensation

by James Gordon

WHEN Warrington Collegiate lecturer Ian Stewart penned his book, *Burden of Proof*, he had no idea just how popular it would become.

The murder mystery, based in Manchester, became an internet phenomena, and demand grew so much that it is now available in print on Amazon.

Ian said: "I've always known I could write a book, but as a busy lecturer I had no time to get a publisher so I decided to make it available as a download. Soon, over 1,000 people had read it, and I was being contacted for a print version as well. One of the murders in the book is really chilling and people really seemed to enjoy a really good murder mystery.

"Most detective stories feature partnerships, based around one main character. In mine I've developed several lead characters, including a very strong female lead. The descriptions of the places are all real, which I think draws the reader into the story and there's a particularly chilling death that readers have commented about – it seems to make the book memorable.

The English lecturer says Manchester is his favourite city, and the building on the cover of the book is Sunlight House, situated next to Manchester Opera House.

Ian's readership was boosted

when Becky Want, DJ for Radio Manchester in the afternoon, mentioned *Burden of Proof* on her book slot.

Ian added: "I hadn't said anything about my books to my students, but when I was first asked about what I know about creative writing, I said, 'Well I've written a book.' Then it quickly became news in the college and the library is ordering copies for the students to read."

He is already writing his second book, which is due out in June 2014, and has six or seven more ideas planned.



## Home secretary visits Peace Centre



HOME Secretary Theresa May made a special visit to Warrington Peace centre to see first hand the pioneering work of The Tim Parry Johnathan Ball Foundation for Peace.

The Foundation presented its vital work to prevent violent conflict and support victims and those affected by terrorism during a working lunch.

The visit was organised by local MP David Mowat as part of his on-going support for the work carried out at the Peace Centre.

Founders, Colin and Wendy Parry greeted Mrs. May and toured the building before hosting a lunch at which the Foundation team presented their work and sought Government endorsement and support.

Nick Taylor, Chief Executive said: "We are very grateful to David Mowat for arranging this visit and for the Home Secretary taking time out of her schedule to visit us.

"Our work to prevent, resolve and respond to violent conflict is vital to creating the conditions for a secure, safe and peaceful society.

What we do is unique and challenging and needs continued support from Government.

"As an independent charity, we hold a distinctive ability to influence change by supporting victims, survivors and those affected by terrorism and in countering violent conflict."

Warrington South MP, David Mowat said: "I was delighted to be able to welcome the Home Secretary to Warrington to show her the positive contribution the town is making to tackle radicalisation.

"What Colin & Wendy Parry have done at the Foundation is superb and I always enjoy showcasing it to my ministerial colleagues."

The Foundation formed after the IRA Warrington bombing 20-years ago is undertaking a series of meetings with politicians to seek on-going support for its work.

Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Home Department, commonly known as the Home Secretary, holds one of the four great offices of state.

As well as being responsible for the internal affairs of England and Wales, the Home Secretary is accountable for matters of national security and the Security Service MI5.



## Young volunteers give community lifeline a fresh new look

YOUNGSTERS taking part in the Princes Trust community project run by Cheshire Fire Brigade in Warrington gave up their free time to help decorate and tidy up a local community centre.

The St Elphinstone Community Centre in College Close, Howley, provides a valuable lifeline for local residents who use it for social events, including bingo.

Mayor of Warrington Cllr Peter Carey was on hand to perform the official re-opening ceremony after the works were completed.

## Police drop-in facility at Sikh temple

A NEW police "drop-in" facility has been opened at Guru Nanak Gurdwara, in Warrington – Cheshire's only Sikh temple.

It was officially opened by Cheshire Police and Crime Commissioner, John Dwyer at the invitation of President H. Grewal during celebrations for the Hindu festival of Diwali.

It consists of a special, locked box where people can drop-in their telephone number so that police can contact them.

The initiative was the idea of PCSO Steve Parr who has been visiting the temple for some years as part of his beat patrols and who holds regular surgeries with the community.

He said: "I wanted to provide community members who might not speak English as their first language or who might wish to interact with the police in confidence, the opportunity to contact me privately.

"A special locked box has been provided for people to drop-in their telephone number so that I can contact them confidentially. I think this initiative will be positive as I work alongside Constable Herminder Hira who speaks Punjabi and can cross the language barrier and is able to connect more easily with the females in the congregation."

Mr Dwyer said: "I am pleased to open this facility which provides a crucial link between the Sikh Community and the police.

"It is important to me that all people have access to police services and I welcome the initiative undertaken by two local officers. I especially enjoyed the privilege of entering the inner temple and offering flowers as part of the ceremony. There is an amazing atmosphere of peace and community cohesion in the temple and they made me feel very welcome."

Warrington South MP David Mowat was also present.

He said: "Diwali is an important festival and I always enjoy celebrating it in Warrington with the local Sikh community. It was also great to welcome our Police Commissioner to the event this year."



Left to right: David Mowat, John Dwyer, President H. Grewal, PCSO Steve Parr and Detective Chief Inspector Giles Orton





the Tim Parry Johnathan Ball  
foundation for peace



# PeaceTALKS

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Merry Christmas and a Happy and Peaceful New Year



# Peace – is it just a word?

One of my favourite songs is by the Eurhythmics' and is called 'Peace is just a word'.

For all of us at the Foundation, peace is much more than a word – it is a way of life. And it is also a way of life that is a necessity for everyone if we want to ensure our families, communities and society remain safe and secure.

This year is the twentieth anniversary since the Warrington bombing that inspired the creation of the Foundation. Virtually every day we are reminded of the need for our work. As I write, the horror of what happened in a Kenyan shopping centre is unfolding, there are daily incidents by insurgents in Pakistan, two men face trial for a murder in Woolwich and a far right inspired group are planning to march through a British city. All part of our daily news!

What you probably don't know is that those international and national incidents that flash across our news channels are also having a profound impact on families and communities close to you. Every day a British family is affected and we remain the only charity in this country that works to prevent, resolve and respond to such violent conflict. We work to stop people using violence to further their aims and we work with over 500 people who have



been affected by terrorism and political violence.

This newsletter shows you what we do and asks you to support us. We need to tackle the causes and consequences of violent conflict. All our supporters are helping to do that through fund raising, attending events and volunteering their time.

Peace is far from just a word. I hope that you have been inspired to take action. Your support can help make a difference to someone's life.

**Nick Taylor**  
Chief Executive

# Who will you make peace with?

The Foundation's 20th anniversary Peace Lecture was delivered by Martin McGuinness, deputy First Minister of Northern Ireland. The lecture was delivered as part of a global event, Peace One Day, to promote global ceasefire and non-violence and to encourage people everywhere to take brave and courageous action to promote peace and in 2013 posed a question - who will you make peace with?

Colin and Wendy Parry extended the invitation to deliver the lecture in support of the core purpose of the Foundation to promote non violent conflict resolution amongst people at risk of violent extremism, whether as victims or perpetrators, and to encourage the reconciliation of those who have been victims and perpetrators of terrorism.

The Foundation successfully facilitates difficult conversations and specialist meetings between the likes of former British soldiers and former IRA volunteers. Such meetings demonstrate that reconciliation is both possible and beneficial in dealing with the pain of the past and creating peace.

Colin Parry said: "It is because Martin McGuinness has embraced mainstream, constitutional politics in order to pursue his goal of a united Ireland, that I invited him to deliver the lecture.

"I am fully aware of his past life as an active member and leader of the IRA, but he has, since the negotiations leading to the Good Friday Peace Agreement, fully committed himself to peaceful and constitutional methods of building the Northern Ireland peace process.

"Such activities are entirely consistent with the founding principles of the Foundation and with the ethos at the heart of the work we do in memory of my son and Johnathan Ball, because by doing so, we are doing something positive in their names in order to address the personal and community impact of extremism and terrorism."

The lecture gained a huge amount of international attention.

## Inspirational Awards 2013



The Warrington Guardian held their annual Inspirational Awards at the Halliwell Jones Stadium on October 3rd and the evening's special award went to Wendy and Colin Parry for their work over the past 20 years.

Colin Parry said: "Dominic and Abbi our two children, the Foundation and the Peace Centre have given us a reason to keep everything together. It was a lovely evening and thank you so much to Nick Fellows, Nicola Priest and all the staff at the Warrington Guardian for their support during 2013. They have not only raised awareness of our work, but highlighted the services delivered from the Peace Centre for the local community".

**You too can help to improve the lives of others by texting TPJB20 to 70070.**



# Former Warrington MPs issue joint statement



Mike Hall



Lord Doug Hoyle

Mike Hall, the former Warrington South MP, and Doug Hoyle, the former Warrington North MP and now Lord Hoyle, were both in the town centre on March 20, 1993 when the IRA detonated two bombs in Bridge Street, killing 12-year-old Tim Parry and three-year-old Johnathan Ball.

They were attending a meeting at the Parr Hall and saw at first hand the devastation the bomb caused.

In addition to the death of Tim and Johnathan the explosions also injured 54 other people and led to the death of Bronwen Vickers.

Although they accept Mr Parry made a "brave and controversial" decision, they believe he was right to invite the Northern Ireland deputy First Minister to Warrington.

The two ex-MPs, in a joint statement, say: "At the time of the two Warrington bombings we were unaware that Martin McGuinness, on behalf of the IRA, was in secret negotiations with the British Government to call a ceasefire, end the Northern Ireland conflict and start peace talks.

"Before the Bridge Street bombing we did not know Colin and Wendy Parry or Wilf Ball and Marie Comerford. But from that moment we worked closely with both families and to this day we remain good friends and strong supporters of Colin and Wendy.

"So should Colin have invited McGuinness to give this 20th anniversary peace lecture?

"The five cardinal issues involved here are peace, reconciliation, justice, contrition, and forgiveness but these are not mutually inclusive

Historically wherever armed conflict has existed it has either been resolved by the bloody subjugation of one side of the argument or by a negotiated cease to hostilities followed by peace and reconciliation.

"There are many examples throughout the history of the world but none as powerful as the creation of a democratic

South Africa. If Nelson Mandela and the African National Congress (ANC) had refused to talk to President FW de Klerk and the governing National Party we would still have apartheid, racial segregation and violent unrest in South Africa.

"There is no doubt in our minds that McGuinness as head of the IRA leadership at the time of the Warrington bombings shares the responsibility for the murders of Johnathan and Tim and the death of Bronwen.

"Likewise there is no doubt McGuinness as an IRA leader played a paramount part and shares responsibility for bringing to an end the Northern Ireland conflict and the creation of an enduring peace.

"John Major and Tony Blair were right to negotiate with McGuinness because the prospect of achieving a lasting peace in Northern Ireland would save the future lives of countless British citizens and mean bloody tragedies like the Bridge Street bombing and its needless loss of innocent lives would be a thing of the past.

"Colin was right to invite McGuinness to give the Warrington Peace lecture. It gave McGuinness the opportunity to come to our town and explain his part in the whole issue as a leader of the IRA and his reasons for giving up the bullet and the bomb to become a dedicated peacemaker. The event was an important milestone along the route of peace and reconciliation.

Of the five cardinal issues peace and reconciliation have been achieved. Justice, in the form of capturing the Bridge Street bombers and bringing them to trial, remains to be done. Contrition is a personal issue which McGuinness has yet to offer. Likewise forgiveness is personal. Colin and Wendy have not forgiven those responsible for the untimely death of their son Tim.

Twenty years on we are proud to look back at the tireless work Colin and Wendy have put into peace and reconciliation and their continuing efforts to build a lasting legacy in the names of Tim and



Colin Parry and Martin McGuinness at the Peace Lecture

Johnathan.

"Inviting Martin McGuinness to Warrington in 2013 cements another pillar of support into the Northern Ireland peace process. We wish Colin and Wendy every success in the years to come and that they continue to be a force for good in the wider world."

## Comment from Warrington Worldwide website

### Out of Warrington

What a sensible approach to this issue. Most of us could not begin to imagine the pain the parents of these 2 young lads went through, but there was no screaming hysterics, just a great display of dignity.

### Bill Gates

Nothing more to be said.

### Tina

Surely Jaw Jaw beats War War every time and in all walks of life?

### Dom Parry

I'm very proud of my mum and dad, and everyone else to do with the charity. The dignity of my parents is surely something that should be seen in a good light. Meeting people such as Martin McGuinness is not taken lightly, and shows courage. I personally found it difficult being in the same room as him. But it's all been done in a positive way, and the Peace Centre is there for the good of peace and future relationships. May the hard work of the charity and everyone involved carry on for many years to come.

### Gary Skentelbery

Couldn't have put it any better Dom - well said - I am proud and honoured to be a Patron of the Foundation.



# Going from strength to strength — Young Ambassadors

## Young Victims in New York

In early June, Programme Manager Jo Dover and Foundation student placement Harriet Vickers travelled to New York to take part in Strength to Strength's Young Ambassadors Programme. Strength-to-Strength is a United States based charity which was established to support victims of terrorism around the world with long-term psychological needs.

Like the Foundation, Strength to Strength helps victims of terrorism to share experiences and empowers them to live life to their best potential. The Young Ambassadors Programme brings together young people aged 14-20 who lost a parent or immediate family member in a terrorist attack or were injured themselves.

Harriet's mum, Bronwen Vickers was injured in the Warrington bombing that took place twenty years ago. Harriet was only 13 days old and along with her sister Hannah, aged four at the time, and their dad Paul, escaped serious injury. Just over a year later Bronwen lost her brave battle for life through cancer.

Harriet, who is a second year student at

Lancaster University studying English Literature, worked with the Foundation over the summer and her experience in New York will be used to plan out how she helps develop our ground-breaking work with young victims and survivors of violent conflict.

This year's event took place in New York City and included participants from Ireland, Spain, England, Uganda, Algeria, Argentina, Israel and the United States. The programme included visits to the United Nations and the 9/11 Tribute Centre and 9/11 Memorial as well as the Intrepid Museum and chances to socialise together. The young people also participated in interactive programmes to assist them in building a global peer support group — knowing that they have friends all over the world that understand what they are going through and they can share with them going forward.

Harriet shares her experience of the visit with us:

"Having known about the Foundation, and the work they do in aid of helping people affected by political violence, I



jumped at the chance to participate in a programme that united young victims and survivors of terrorism from around the world.

I don't consider myself a victim of terrorism, because I was so very young when the Warrington bomb occurred, and I have absolutely no recollection of my mother or the bomb, but I have always had a very strong interest in terrorism and political violence.

I have, of course, been affected by the actions of those responsible for the bombing in Warrington, having lost my Mum at such a young age, and as I became more politically aware of the world we live in and the events that take place in it, I have always been motivated to be involved in work that seeks to prevent political violence from occurring; and I am certainly not of the opinion that you should fight fire with fire.

When I was asked to take part in the programme in New York, targeted at uniting young people that had been affected by terrorism, I jumped at the chance, as it not only gave me the chance to meet other young people that had been affected, but it also allowed me to look into the process behind supporting young people and using one's experiences to effect a positive change or outlook.

We spent some time "sightseeing" and





# Assadors Programme 2013

also had the chance to meet with the Israeli Ambassador to the United Nations, These experience were perhaps more fascinating and engaging for me being the oldest participant in the programme, but I also felt they were important for the whole group, as preventing and combatting terrorism, along with the ways different countries respond to acts of terrorism, were discussed.

There were some particularly challenging and emotional things during the week, for example a trip to the 9/11 tribute centre, and the memorial. Seeing the plunge pools inscribed with the name of every person who died, at the place where the two towers stood 12 years ago, and speaking to some of the victims families was particularly difficult. My biggest question has always been, and always will be, why.

The week taught me a great deal, and I was privileged to meet some amazing people. What I took away from the week was a much greater understanding and appreciation for people who had been affected by terrorism. The week was about uniting a group of young people, to inspire us to use our experience in a positive way, to effect positive change. I learnt a great deal during the week, but perhaps the most striking thing was



that no matter what race, or religious or ideological beliefs we have, we are firstly human, and we need to accept that regardless of religion or politics, that no one should suffer the pain that acts of terrorism cause. That is what the Foundation seeks to do, and the chance I was given to take part in something that seeks to promote this attitude was humbling and inspiring."

**Harriet Vickers**

*Top Left: Harriet holding her Star of Hope.*

*Bottom Left: Strength to Strength participants.*

*Above: Harriet with her mum Bronwen.*



*Jo and Harriet at the 9/11 Memorial in New York.  
All expenses for this trip were paid for by the Strength to Strength charity.*



**Lisa French from Newcastle who was injured in the 7/7 bombing in London**

## **Lisa's Blog**

Does society make it difficult for a survivor of political violence to stand up for Peace?

Earlier this year The Foundation held a number of events to mark not only 20 years since the tragic events which led to its creation, but also to celebrate the 20 years of working for Peace; and how we can look forward to building a more peaceful future. One of the events was a conference called 'The Cost of Peace' among the speakers was Jason McCure, and a quote from him has stuck in my head ever since.

'Next time a survivor stands up; we should stand up alongside them'

In the same week, were press reports which featured an interview with a senior anti-terrorism police officer. In them, he stated that each year since 7/7, an attack of the same size and scale had been prevented. Initially, I was terrified by this; though it wasn't a surprise to me. Seeing it online provoked many of my fears and brought back emotions from 8 years ago. I never want to see a day like that again.

Sadly since then, we have seen the awful attack at the Boston Marathon, and also the very sad event in Woolwich. Although smaller in scale than London, both of these events resulted in the tragic loss of life; and also witnessed quite literally, a change in the way political violence is reported – the combination of smart phones and real time 24 hour news footage.

The result of this isn't only the availability of video footage which can be used as propaganda to further the cause of the extremists responsible, but also a much more 'speculative' style of reporting by media channels in the immediate aftermath and confusion following these events. This speculation is often unhelpful, and promotes the fear and hatred the people responsible wish to create.

As a survivor of an act of political violence, one of the things I have struggled with the most, is society's expectation of hatred from me. I am a disappointment to the vengeful society we live in. I do not apologise for that.

Reading media reports and indeed live

news broadcasts following Woolwich and the death of Drummer Rigby I couldn't help but be worried, very worried about the impact Islamophobia is having on society. Fuelling hatred, fuelling racism and political violence; not only from the very tiny minority within the Muslim community holding extreme views, who feel further alienated by such poisonous rhetoric; but it also fuels hatred from other groups. Islamophobia is fuelling hatred, particularly from far Right Wing groups. This threat, just as volatile as the threat from alienated Muslim communities, is just as real, and just as potentially dangerous, and it's growing, and potentially deadly.

Extremist groups feed off each other. The events in Woolwich fuel the arguments of groups such as the EDL, and in turn the actions of the EDL fuel the arguments of Islamic Extremists; and so the cycle continues. Speculative and inflammatory press reporting of both of these groups furthers both of their arguments; and feeds into the recruitment of isolated individuals who are at risk of joining either extremist group.

The day Osama Bin Laden was killed, the first phone call I received was from a member of the press asking 'if I was happy at the news.' No I was not. To quote Martin Luther King 'I cannot take pleasure in the death of another man'

Frequently, I have been asked 'how do I feel about Muslims now?' I have been asked this question by people of all faiths and people of no faith; I have also been asked by Muslims. From my Muslim friends I've seen them brace themselves ready for a response of hatred, waiting for a hurtful or insulting remark. I've seen the look of relief and surprise when that's not my response. From those who don't follow the Islamic faith, I've been confronted by the expectation of hatred, then confusion, surprise, and even criticism for not feeling vengeful or hateful.

What purpose would it serve if I was? Would I have a healthy life if I was filled with hatred for people who share the



same religion as the person who hurt me? Who would benefit if I did live up to the expectation of hatred? Not me. Not you.

I am sure it would help marginalised groups at each end of the spectrum to feel vindicated in their cause. They may even believe it would give their cause a mandate. I am a disappointment; their violence or potential violence is not in my name. Their cause is not in my name.

I am a victim in the eyes of many, a survivor of political violence, and I am standing for peace. I stand against all violence, no matter what the cause, no matter who the perpetrator. I do not support violence from groups you would call terrorists, nor do I support State sponsored violence.

I may not have a degree in peace-building or international relations, but what I have learnt from my experience, is that if one group, or very small part of the group take to violent measures, then other groups opposed to the first group, are more likely to retaliate. Separating people into 'groups' and then alienating those groups, causes and fuels conflict – we focus on differences rather than the fact we are all human beings, living in the same place. This further fuels the desire for violence, and before you know it, you have a conflict which will take generations to resolve.



# Kelly represents the Foundation at The Radicalisation Awareness Network

The Foundation's Programme Manager, Kelly Simcock chairs the European Union's Radicalisation Awareness Network working group on preventing violent extremism.

The network is a leading international body of practitioners, policy makers and researchers seeking to share approaches, practices to influence policy and Government across the European Union.

Kelly leads the Foundation's work in violent conflict prevention and resolution, community cohesion and in challenging violent extremism. She has been working with individuals, groups and communities nationally and internationally for over a decade. Her work includes projects with communities divided by sectarianism and prejudice in Northern Ireland, dialogue and conflict resolution with Palestinians and Israelis; and work with a number of inner city schools in Britain with young people divided by faith and race.

The Foundation represents the United Kingdom on a number of European and International organisations and co-chairs this EU network group in association with the Political Capitol Institute in Hungary.



Kelly said: "The next meeting in Berlin will explore the challenges we face to 'win the hearts and minds' of those individuals who are being targeted to support and follow far right and Islam inspired extreme groups. We will be bringing together leading figures from across Europe asking what is leading to the sort of incidents we recently witnessed in Swindon and who is doing the best work across member states to help us all develop the tools and

approaches to tackling this serious issue.

"I feel privileged to chair this European group and help the Foundation to continue to develop our ground breaking and unique approach to the prevention and resolution of violent conflict. The Foundation has offered its expertise to the UK Government Task Force and is continuing to develop and deliver programmes that explore, challenge and change the underlying causes of violent conflict relating to prejudice, attitudes and behaviours".

Fighting terrorism and violent extremism is not only a question of security. Prevention begins with stopping people from getting involved in violent extremist or terrorist activities in the first place, or to convince them to turn away from such ideas and methods. In order to help the first-line local practitioners and to facilitate the exchange of experiences and best practices between them, the European Commission set up the EU-wide Radicalisation Awareness Network (RAN). RAN comes under the "PREVENT" strand of the EU Counter-Terrorism strategy and is guided by the EU Strategy for Combating Radicalisation and Recruitment to Terrorism.

## New children's book

Pupils from Barrowhall Lane Primary School have been learning about the Warrington bombing and Irish history thanks to a new children's book.

The book aimed at primary school aged children was written by author Richard Holland using simplified language to explain the background to the incident, the book also explains what has happened since to demonstrate how good can come from evil.

Deputy Head teacher Jane Dilorenzo at Barrow Hall Primary School, which is where Tim Parry and his brother and sister were pupils, said "She hopes the book will be included on the school's curriculum in the future. A lot of children know it happened but don't understand the background in terms of terrorism and conflict and it deals with it in a sensitive way that isn't threatening or frightening."

Wendy added: "There is a strong message about the positives which came out of the bombing. We have to thank the Golden Square team as we wouldn't have been able to do it without them and we hope more schools will get in contact with us and use the book in their lessons. I don't understand why the Government doesn't put peace study on the curriculum. After watching a number of tragic events during this year, children must have so many questions but who can they ask who is informed enough to answer them?"



Ian Cox, general manager, said Golden Square bosses were keen to help create a lasting legacy with the book in Warrington.

### WHAT year five pupils thought of the book:

Jack Reeves, aged 10, said: "I thought it was so good I read it twice.

Leo Kilpatrick, aged 10, said: "It was really interesting the way they described it. Before I read the book I only knew that Tim and Johnathan had been injured."

Eve Ramshaw, aged 10, said: "It didn't just tell me about what happened in Warrington but also about other (acts of) terrorism. It was really interesting."

Olivia Broughton Milby, aged nine, said:

"It told me about the Warrington bombing and how upset people were and how many people were injured. "It made me a bit teary."



THE TIM PARRY JOHNATHAN BALL FOUNDATION FOR PEACE PRESENTS



# Valentine's Ball

Saturday 15th February 2014



Welcome Drink • 4 Courses • Live Entertainment & Disco  
• Casino throughout the evening  
The Park Royal Hotel, Stretton • £550 Per Table of Ten

To book your table/s please ring Wendy on  
01925 581234 or Email: [wendy.parry@foundation4peace.org](mailto:wendy.parry@foundation4peace.org)

## Ex Great Sankey High students

The Foundation would like to hear from any ex - students from Great Sankey High who took part in the fun run back in 1993. This event was organised by the staff after the Warrington bombing to raise money for the victims appeal fund and to create a memorable garden in memory of Tim Parry who was a student at the school.

In March 2014, the School and the Foundation are organising a 3.5k fun run plus a 1k round the school field for younger children and they would be delighted if ex-students were able to take part.

Wendy Parry said: "The fun run in 1993 was a great event. It started to rain towards the end of the run and to complete the course they had to run a lap round the school field, needless to say, most of the students started to slide along the floor and were covered from head to toe in mud. The young people had a great time and Tim would have been so proud of all his friends. We are delighted that the school have decided to organise another event which will end the 20th anniversary year in March 2014".

If you would like to take part, meet up with old friends and raise funds for the Foundation, please contact Wendy on 01925 581234 or email [info@foundation4peace.org](mailto:info@foundation4peace.org)

# The Peace Centre Christmas Fayre



Did you know that Santa will be visiting the Peace Centre and he said he would be delighted to see you there?

## Saturday 30th November

10.00am to 5.00pm

Talk to Santa and his helpers in his fantastic grotto and receive a present, children's entertainment, face painting, children's choir, Christmas stands, hot food, drinks and cup cakes, tombolas and raffle ...

This is a great day you wont want to miss!  
Photograph with Santa plus gift £5.00.

**First 300 children to attend will receive a FREE LEGO education workshop kit**

**If you would like a stall please call Anna or Wendy on 01925 581229**



The co-operative membership community fund



# Annual Golf Day

The Foundation held its annual golf day at Warrington Golf Club and a fantastic day was had by all.

Wendy Parry who organised the event said: "We really enjoy the hospitality of the Golf Club, their staff are really friendly and they do everything they can possibly do to make the day a real success.

Despite the fact that we held this year's event in October, the weather and the course were perfect.

I would like to thank Brian Bennett, Jonathan McKenna RBS, Zak Whitebread, Lisa Power Handlebanken, Dan Richards, John Arber, Frazer Campbell and all the participants in this year's event for their support and helping to raise £4,000 toward our work".



1st Place: Brian Bennett (Team 1)



2nd Place: Charles Hewitt and his team from Rock Oil



3rd Place: Brian Bennett (Team 2)

## We are now recruiting volunteers

Our volunteers are invaluable to us and it's due to their support and dedication that our services are continually expanding, enabling us to reach more and more people who need our help.

We are currently recruiting volunteers, so if you would like to gain valuable work experiences, or get out and about in your local community then we can help. We have a number of key volunteering opportunities that may be of interest to you.

To find out more, please call

**01925 581231**

## Thank you

The Foundation would like to thank everyone who has supported us throughout 2013. Event guests and sponsors, volunteers and those who help us on a monthly bases through gift aid, Trusts and Foundations making it possible for us to change so many lives.

Emma Thompson  
 Carl Marsh- L'Oreal  
 Paul Gallon & staff - The Park Royal Hotel  
 The Rt Hon Sir John Major KG CH  
 Jonathan Ford  
 Brian Bennett  
 Zak Whittaker  
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 Mrs J Maclarnon  
 John Newton-Jones  
 Jonathan McKenna RBS  
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 Charkesworth  
 Peter & Pauline Gilbert and the Peace Walkers  
 Asda Westbrook and Cockhedge  
 Denis Murray  
 Steve & Cieran Farthing  
 Renee Thistlewood  
 Margaret Jackson  
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 Sir Thomas Boteler High School

We have lots of different volunteer roles to suit everyone so If you would like to become part of our growing volunteer team then please contact Anna Connelly our Volunteer Coordinator on 01925 581246 or at [anna.connelly@foundation4peace.org](mailto:anna.connelly@foundation4peace.org).



# Thank you

## Best foot forward for Peace Centre



Thank you to Peter Gilbert, his family and friends for taking part in a 20K Peace Walk which looped around the town in a shape similar to a dove and raised £1,200.

Peter, who runs his own business F8 Design Associates, added: "We hope it will be an event on Warrington's calendar every year and grow to something with thousands of people involved with walkers representing a number of charities as a mass community event."

## Asda



We would like to thank the staff and Management at Asda Westbrook for donating £1149 and for all their support during 2013.

Anna Connelly, Community Support said: "Asda have been very supportive throughout our anniversary year, not only raising funds for the Foundation but allowing staff to help at our events too. Asda Westbrook, Asda Distribution and Asda Cockhedge have been fantastic and we can't thank them enough".

## Margaret Jackson and Ella Healey



The Foundation would like to thank Margaret Jackson and Ella Healey for raising £211 by organising a tombola at Asda Cockhedge.

## Gladstone Brookes



Thank you to all the staff at Gladstone Brookes Warrington who raised a £1000 on behalf of the Foundation and The Warrington Youth Club.

## Warrington First Networking Club



Thank you to the Warrington First Networking Club for donating £1000 to the Foundation from their annual Quiz Night held at the Peace Centre.

Warrington First has been bringing local companies together for the past 4 years. During that time, they have supported the Foundation and raised thousands of pounds to keep the Peace Centre open for their local community.

## Thanks to Avios staff



Thank you to the staff from the Customer Service Department at Avios UK for their help in painting the residential lounge at the Peace Centre. Wendy Parry said: "We are extremely grateful to Avios for allowing their staff to help us in this way. They all seem to enjoy the day and they can paint too!"



## Warrington Guardian

The Foundation would like to thank Nick Fellows, Nicola Priest and all the staff at the Warrington Guardian for their donation of £1583 towards our work.

Their support has not only helped to raise funds and awareness of our work, but highlighted the services delivered from the Peace Centre for the local community.

## Running for peace



Gemma McElwaine runs the Warrington Marathon on behalf of the Foundation and raises £260.

Gemma, who has known Abbi (Tim's sister) since they were four, said: "Over the past few months it has been an emotional time for a lot of people in Warrington but more so for my oldest friend. Gemma said: "Anyone who knew Tim would agree he was a cheeky torment who never failed to make people laugh. I think his ear to ear grin was his pass to getting away with things and I'm sure if he was still with us he would have made as much of an impression on people's lives as his legacy does today. Last year was the first time I had set foot in the Peace Centre and I couldn't believe what a difference this place was making. I was disappointed in myself that I had not been around to do something to help in the past 13 years and Wendy told me it was about time I raised some cash!"



## London to Paris Ride



Catherine Nicholl signed up for the mammoth challenge of cycling from London to Paris on behalf of the Foundation. Cycling over 5 days, Catherine will cover nearly 500km from the centre of London to the Eiffel Tower.

Catherine said: "Anyone who knows me knows I love my bike and spend my holidays cycling as much as my wallet will allow! I've been to London and Paris but never the bits in-between"

The Foundation would like to thank Catherine for all her support and for raising £755

## St Barnabas C of E Primary School



Thank you to Emma Perkins and the children from St. Barnabas C of E Primary School Warrington who held a Peace of Cake event and raised a brilliant £330.95 for the Foundation!

## St Philips Ladybirds



Thank you to St Philips Ladybirds who raised just over a £1000 for the Foundation. Your help and support is appreciated by everyone here at the Peace Centre.

# 60 minute makeover

St Gregory's Catholic High School took part in a 60 minute makeover of all nine residential bedrooms to add a splash of fresh colour. Pupils and teachers worked together to come up with unique ideas, raise funds and undertake the makeover. The Foundation also joined forces during St Gregory's 'Peace week' to coincide with the 20th anniversary year of the Warrington bombing.

Rosemary Howard Rigby, new head teacher at the school from September 2013, said: "We have been exploring aspects of personal and social development including tolerance, respect and teamwork. Transforming the rooms at the Peace Centre supports the local community and we had many other activities during the week including guest speakers, cultivating our peace garden and sponsoring a child in another country. The school is also matching the pupils fundraising efforts with proceeds going towards supporting the Foundation.

Nick Taylor the Foundation CEO said: "The school came up with an innovative way of promoting social and emotional aspects of learning and raising money for our charity. We really appreciate their hard work and the newly decorated bedrooms are looking fantastic."



## Charity Wine Tasting

On Friday 27th September, the Foundation held its first Wine Tasting event which was sponsored by Royal Bank of Scotland, Mitchell Charlesworth Accountants & the Village Hotel.

The event took place in the Vibe Bar at the Village Hotel, Warrington. During the evening guests were able to discover new varieties from around the world and learn how to savour the essence and texture of different wines.

Wendy Parry said: We were delighted with the response to this event and it's something we will do again. I would like to thank the sponsors, Wine Buffs and everyone who attended for helping to raise £1600.







The Resolution Training Company offers a range of training courses hosted at the Peace Centre in Warrington, Cheshire, or within your place of work.



All our courses are underpinned by tried and tested theories and are delivered by experienced and knowledgeable facilitators. The training involves active learning through working in small groups, formal presentations, discussions and participating in a range of activities.

**Courses that we currently offer:**



- Working with Conflict
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Bespoke training packages can also be designed to meet your exact needs.

All our training courses are CPD accredited.

As a subsidiary of the Tim Parry Johnathan Ball Foundation for Peace, all the profit goes to fund the work of the charity.

For more detail about what we could do for you, please contact:  
Kate Goodrich at:



Email [kate.goodrich@resolution-training.org](mailto:kate.goodrich@resolution-training.org)  
Telephone 01925 581231





# Graduates give estates a rapid mini makeover

**THREE Golden Gates Housing Trust (GGHT) estates in Warrington got a rapid mini makeover thanks to an army of volunteers, including 50 top-flight graduates from water company United Utilities.**

Gardens in Bewsey and Dallam, communal areas in Latchford and a reclaimed garage area in Longford were singled out for the Ground Force treatment as part of a challenge to mark the start of the company's graduate celebration week.

As well as clearing weeds, trimming overgrown shrubs and planting up raised beds, the volunteers re-painted communal areas and prepared plots for residents to grow their own fruit and vegetables.

Neil Martin, Communications and Regeneration Manager for GGHT, said the transformation was tremendous.

"These are the sorts of projects that make a real difference to the look and feel of local areas but with other pressure on resources can be difficult to achieve. United Utilities' graduates did a sterling job and the help of residents, GGHT staff and other volunteers means that areas on three estates are now places local people can be proud of," he said.

Long Lane Garden Centre and

Walton Lea Garden Centre also provided plants and volunteer help, while GGHT supplier Jewson provided additional equipment and materials.

Katy Griffiths, aged 23, from Manchester, who joined United Utilities graduate training programme in 2012, said the day had been tough, but rewarding.

"We have worked hard but it has been good. We did everything the trust wanted us to do at Clough Avenue before lunch so we moved on to another part of the park. It's nice to see that we're making a difference. It's amazing what some weeding and a lick of paint can do. Some of the residents came down too so we got to meet some of the people the work will help."

Kate, a local resident of Clough Avenue, thanked the volunteers for their efforts during the day.

"They have made a really positive impact on the community gardens and it's great to see them looking spruced up," she said.

The challenge was also helped by Business for Warrington, a project by the business charity Business in the Community to get local firms making a positive impact.

Lynn Johnson, who was seconded from United Utilities to act as the organisation's Business Connector in Warrington, said the water company wanted to give

something back to the town where it is a major employer.

"Being community-minded is in our blood and it's something we want our graduates, who are the future of our business, involved in too. They worked hard and made a real difference. We're proud of them," she said.

Roy Smith, Chair of GGHT,

said: "We were delighted to have worked with the volunteers from United Utilities to carry out these improvements. We are passionate about investing in our homes and estates to improve the quality of life for local residents and it is good to work with a locally-based company that share our sense of community."



## Find a home with



### Properties Available Now!

Are you currently paying too much rent or looking for a new home in Warrington? GGHT currently have a number of 1 and 2 bedroom flats and 3 & 4 bedroom houses available to move into now. These high quality homes are available at low rents. Many of these will have already benefited from our high quality improvements to kitchens, bathrooms, doors, AA rated windows, central heating, renewable energy, security lights, fencing and more!

Find out more about what we have 'Available Now' at [www.gght.org.uk/available](http://www.gght.org.uk/available)

You can also view all our properties on [www.chooseahome.org.uk](http://www.chooseahome.org.uk) or on



View properties on your TV or Smartphone. Sky 539, Virgin 233 or download the App from the Android Market or iTunes Store.



### Advantages of being a GGHT tenant:

- More security than if you rent privately
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- Support into employment - [www.gght.org.uk/positivechange](http://www.gght.org.uk/positivechange)

A recent review has reduced our waiting list to less than 1,300 and we encourage applicants from all walks of life to apply including those applicants who may not have been successful in the past to consider updating their CHOOSEaHOME applications and getting in touch.

### Find out more:

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- [www.gght.org.uk](http://www.gght.org.uk)

Quality homes available now at low rents



# Maori head arrives back home

**THE Toi Moko - or Maori mummified head - kept in Warrington Museum and Art Gallery for 170 years, has arrived back in New Zealand following a repatriation ceremony last month.**

One of eight Maori heads in England, Ireland and Guernsey, it is now at Te Papa Tongarewa, the national museum of New Zealand.

Representatives from Warrington Borough Council, who owned the head, and Culture Warrington, who run Warrington Museum & Art Gallery, were joined by delegates from Te Papa at a traditional repatriation ceremony at Warrington Town Hall before the delegates travelled to the other side of the world with the head which was packaged in a special crate.

The signing of an official document by Cllr Terry O'Neill and delegates from Te Papa marked the handover of the Toi moko from Warrington Borough Council to the New Zealand authorities.

Once back in New Zealand, the Toi mokus were greeted with an outpouring of grief from Maori residents and were welcomed with a traditional Maori ceremony at Te Papa.

Maureen Banner, chairman of Culture Warrington said: "We have been prepared to repatriate the Toi Moko, which was held in Warrington Museum, for a long time and we recognise that the right thing to do is to return the Toi Moko to its home. We respect the

Maori culture and were delighted to be asked to be involved in the repatriation ceremony".

Cllr Kate Hannon, Executive Board Member for Leisure, Community and Culture at Warrington Borough Council said: "It was a pleasure to be asked to be involved in the repatriation ceremony and it has been a privilege to work closely with Te Papa. We have a good understanding of different cultures and know it was appropriate to repatriate Toi moko. This special item is now back where it belongs in its Maori homeland".

Te Herekiele Herewini, repatriation manager at Te Papa Museum said: "It has been a privilege to work with the Warrington Borough Council and Warrington Museum to achieve the return of the Warrington Toi moko to his homeland. This generosity of spirit by the Warrington Borough Council and Culture Warrington reminds New Zealanders of our long standing relationship between our two peoples."

It is not known how the Toi moko came to be in Warrington



Toi mokus arriving in New Zealand



## Charity bonfire raises £7,500

LYMM and District Round Table's annual bonfire at Lymm Rugby Club ripped up the record books after raising an impressive £7,500 for charity.




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# WARRINGTON MARKET

Annual Town Centre

Christmas Market!

**Saturday 30th November**  
**10am - 4pm**



## Special Christmas Market

Outdoor market with over 50 stalls selling the finest food drink and unique gifts for Christmas.

## Created in WA Craft and Handmade Fair

Over 30 stalls packed with quality unique handmade items you won't find anywhere else. Perfect gifts for that special person.

## St Andrew's Day Celebrations

Lots of fun for all the family throughout the market and town centre.

## Visit Warrington Markets Christmas Grotto

Meet Santa and his little helpers at the grotto inside the events hall of the market. In conjunction with Warrington Disability Partnership.

Visit Warrington Market on Facebook  & Twitter  @warringtomarket





# Dining Out with **Warrington - worldwide**

If you are looking for somewhere to dine out over the festive period you won't go far wrong with the Spice Lounge in Culcheth.

Specialising in Indian Cuisine the Spice Lounge is the ideal party venue to celebrate a special occasion, whether it be a birthday, anniversary, or Christmas party.

Whatever the occasion you can be assured of a warm welcome by the friendly staff with customer service is second to none.

From the moment you step through the front door until the moment you leave you are greeted with hospitality of the highest level from a friendly team, who ensure your stay is an enjoyable one.

The purpose built restaurant has a modern decor and an exciting and extensive menu. Judging by the numbers dining on a Friday evening The Spice Lounge is a popular dining out venue.

While the restaurant was busy it did not detract from the high level of customer care or speed of service.

The purpose built restaurant has a modern decor and an exciting and extensive menu with a menu which includes everything you could wish for, including a section dedicated to those who are not a particular fan of hot and spicy curries.

There are even some popular English dishes to choose from if someone in your party is not a lover of Indian food.

Our party was a mixture of those

who enjoy a hot curry and those who prefer the milder options and all left happy. A particular favourite is the Chicken Tikka Shashlick which comes on a sizzling hot platter - with your favourite curry sauce - but make sure you have a hearty appetite!

For those who did not fancy a hot and spicy dish the Chicken Tikka Massalla was a most enjoyable dish, involving tender pieces of kebabs in a blend of tomatoes, butter, cream, ground almonds cooked in a mild flavoured sauce with fresh herbs and spices. There are many different dishes to choose from, your main problem will be deciding what to have - but if you need any help deciding, one of the friendly staff is always close on hand to offer expert advice. With the venue being extremely popular it is always advisable to book.



## Searching for lost sheep

A FLOCK of sheep have been "lost" in Latchford, Warrington - and local youngsters are being invited to try and find them.

The knitted sheep will be in a selection of local shops and children who spot them can go into the shop, pick up a form on which they can record the sheep's names.

Then on Sunday, December 22 at Latchford Methodist Church at 10.45am there will be a big celebration for the sheep who have been "found" and children can take their completed forms - and hopefully their families too - and all who have taken part will receive a gift.

It's all part of the "Messy Nativity" initiative taking place in Latchford throughout December.

More information at 01925 268425.

## Festive fun for the whole family!

Sat 30 Nov

St Andrew's Day and Warrington's Christmas Market Weekend

10am-4pm, Time Square & Town Centre

Sun 1 Dec

Christmas Cabins

10am-4pm, Market Gate

Thu 12 Dec

Lantern Parade with Laser Show

6pm-9pm, Queens Gardens & Town Centre

Christmas in the Culture Quarter

Thu 12 & Fri 13 Dec, 5pm-9pm, Queens Gardens

Sat 21 Dec

Warrington Market Christmas Carol Service

11am, Warrington Market

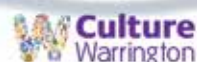
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Plus much more! Check out [www.itsallgoingoninwarrington.co.uk](http://www.itsallgoingoninwarrington.co.uk)





# Businesses show support for football club's ambition

**TWO local businesses have come to the aid of Warrington Town FC in their hour of need, providing significant funds for vital works to be carried out at their HG Driver Recruitment Stadium.**

The club, which recently unveiled its 2020 vision to reach the Football league in seven years, needed ground improvements as part of an FA grading process which they were in danger of losing if they did not have works carried out in time.

Local businessman Alan Roskell a Director at Dante Group who have offices in Paddington heard about the club's requirement and came to the rescue.

Dante sourced and funded two new toilet blocks and have also made improvements to the dug outs and erected new hoardings around the entrance to the ground.

Mr Roskell said: "A few months ago when I heard about the club's vision and plans for the future I was blown away by the enthusiasm and commitment of those involved. We decided as a company we would support our local club and we will continue to do that going forward. I have always believed that a town the size of Warrington should have a Football League team and hopefully we can help them achieve that."

Mr Roskell is now urging other local businesses to help the club going forward.

He added "There's a growing group of local businesses that are coming on board to help but more is needed and at this level,

any contribution be that a direct sponsorship, or an in kind offer through help with a specific project, can make a real difference."

Another Warrington company Urban Building Projects recently provided the funds for a full refurbishment of the Vice Presidents sponsors lounge, transforming the space that can now be used for functions and education as well as match day entertainment.

Carl Palmer of Urban projects said: "I was approached by the club regarding a sponsorship deal and I asked if I could see where I could bring guests.

"I decided to go the extra mile and agreed to the whole refurbishment of the Lounge. We are happy to help the club and we love the match day experience.

"This is real Football and theres a great buzz about the place too."

Dante and Urban are now in discussions with the club regarding other projects to improve the matchday experience.

Warrington Town's Operations Director Toby Macormac said: "We are indebted to these businesses and individuals. They have given vital support to the club in its hour of need."



## MP Helen Jones to fight next General Election

LABOUR has re-selected Warrington North MP Helen Jones to contest the Parliamentary seat at the next General Election in 2015.

The announcement came just two weeks after the national party imposed tough restrictions on Labour in Warrington North, including appointing a senior national officer to act as a single point of contact for all constitutional matters arising in the town.

Eric Wilson, Labour's senior constitutional officer was also appointed to oversee all matters relating to the selection of candidates for elections and the Warrington North party was instructed to cease to be a delegated structure and to hold only all-member meetings. The national Labour Party also ordered the closure of the Warrington Labour

website and its replacement with separate websites for Warrington North and Warrington South constituencies.

Helen Jones (pictured) has been MP for Warrington North since 1997. At the last General Election she had a majority of 6,771 over the Conservatives.



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## The perils of a criminal record

by Jonathan Conder

People who are arrested and appear before the criminal courts often ask how their employment prospects might be affected. This year the government has introduced new rules governing this area of the law. A new body, the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) replaces the Criminal Records Bureau and the Independent Safeguarding Authority who were previously responsible for administering criminal record information.

For most occupations, convictions and cautions need not be declared once they become spent, as defined by the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974. The rehabilitations periods are related to the type of sentence or disposal and have been relaxed by new legislation which is about to come into force. However different rules apply to 'excepted positions' which entitle prospective employers

to apply to the DBS for a certificate detailing an applicant's criminal record information. There are 2 types of DBS check: a standard check for professional careers, occupations that require a licence and those who have regular contact with children or vulnerable adults; and an enhanced check for positions involving sole care, training or supervision of children or vulnerable adults.

In a standard check and most enhanced checks the information will be filtered so that the certificate will not contain the following: for those aged 18 or over at the time of the offence, if it did not result in a custodial sentence and is not on a list of serious offences relevant to safeguarding, it will not be included if 11 years have passed since the date of conviction (there must be only one offence) or 6 years since the date of a caution; for those aged under 18 the

same rules apply, except the relevant time periods are 5.5 years for convictions and 2 years for cautions, reprimands or warnings.

An enhanced check can also reveal non conviction, non caution and filtered information if the police believe it to be relevant to the position applied for. This might include police intelligence or information related to investigations which resulted in no further action. An individual can make a Subject Access Request to the relevant police force to check on information held which might be disclosable. A decision to disclose such information can be challenged by making representations to the police initially or by requesting a review by the Independent Monitor.

If you would like advice on this area of the law please contact us on the number listed below.



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### Wills and Probate

Making a Will, Lasting Powers of Attorney  
Dealing with an Estate  
Contact Michael Stockton

### Property Law

Buying and selling, Remortgage, Equity Release  
Contact Jenny Conroy

### Criminal Law

Police Station Advice, Representation in Court  
Motoring Offences  
Contact Jonathan Conder  
or John Barnes

### Commercial Law

Employment Advice, Commercial Litigation  
Landlord and Tenant  
Contact Keith Freer



# Super new athletics arena is open

**WARRINGTON'S super new Victoria Park athletics arena has been officially opened – and 50 potential Olympians of the future just couldn't wait to be first on the track.**

The Mayor, Cllr Peter Carey, hardly had chance to cut the ribbon before the youngsters sprinted across to among the first to put the new, blue, running track to the test.

It rained and rained – but this didn't dampen any spirits as races and medal presentations carried on regardless.

Celebrity guests included Jenny Meadows, current European Indoor Champion at 800 metres, John Nicolls, Masters shot putt athlete and Warrington Sports Personality of the Year 2007 and representatives from the borough council.

Members of Warrington Athletics Club were there – and there was a special surprise for one of them, Neville Jones, when a plaque was unveiled to celebrate his 50 years voluntary service with the club.

Two club members who are now internationals - Alex Wort, 19 who is a multi eventer and sprinter James Gladman, 20 - made a special trip back from university to be part of the celebrations.

Warrington Athletics Club will use the track as their home venue and stage North West regional open track and field athletics meetings during the open season.

As the first multi sport facility of its kind in the town, the arena can accommodate competitions from junior to senior elite level, and is fully accessible for disabled users.

The new, eight lane, 400 metre, blue athletics track has state of the art sports pitch drainage, specialist materials and has been installed to UK Athletics national quality

standard.

There is a new open age rugby league/football pitch in the centre of the track while field events such as javelin and pole vault have been relocated to the outside of the track lanes.

The opening of the track came just two months ahead of Warrington Athletics Club celebrating its 130th anniversary.

Club chairman Joanie Smythe said: "I am sure that I can speak on behalf of all the athletes, coaches, parents and committee to express a huge 'Thank You' to Warrington Borough Council, specifically the managers and groundsmen, for all their valued support that they provide to the club which without we would struggle to provide the outstanding open meeting, training sessions etc.

"In addition, the club have seen great success with its athletes gaining international honours at both junior and senior level over the last 40 years, but the club is most proud of its achievement and tradition of developing local young athletes to compete to the best of their abilities, to develop them as young adults and to establish friendships that last into our senior years."

Cllr Kate Hannon, the council's lead member for leisure, community and culture, said: "This was a superb event. There was a real buzz about the place and we have been inspired by the enthusiasm of all the athletes. This is a fantastic multi sporting facility that will be a great asset to the town.

"The enthusiasm of the club towards this project shows how much this facility means to them and will attract regional events, which is good for the sport and the

town."

The project is part of the council's ongoing investment into the park and there is more investment and improvements still to come during the next few years.



Neville Jones



The Mayor with Jenny Meadows at the opening.

## Purrfect gift for cats

ABANDONED and neglected cats are set to benefit from a Warrington business owner who has volunteered to collect donations of food, blankets and toys.

Paul Clark, owner of Ovenu Warrington, has started to collect donations that will benefit felines being fostered out by Cats Protection volunteers.

Paul, 50, who has been running his business in the Warrington area for the past six years amassing more than 5,000 oven cleans in this time, is collecting a variety of donations from customers on his daily oven valeting appointments.

Cats Protection is a national organisation dedicated to the rescue, short-term fostering and permanent re-homing of the animals.

Paul, who previously worked as a social worker, said: "I am delighted to be doing my bit to help cats in the Warrington area. Cats Protection do such a fantastic job rescuing, re-homing and rehabilitating many abandoned cats locally and I am more than happy to help out in this way.

"I wanted to help on a wider scale than by simply donating money, and I think that donating food, blankets and things that are

of more immediate help does more good.

"This is an excellent opportunity for me to help this local charity which provides such a vital service. They are a self-funded organisation that relies on donations to survive, so I am pleased to support them in any way I can."

Rik Hellewell, national Founder of Ovenu, said: "I am delighted that Paul has chosen to make a real difference to animal welfare in the Warrington area. The work he is doing to collect donations is already making a difference locally. Donations are collected on his rounds as he visits customers who are aware that he has started this initiative locally."

The Ovenu valeting process involves dismantling key components of an oven such as the door, interior panels, fan and shelves and placing them into design-registered tank equipment, which uses safe, non-caustic products to clean the oven parts. The whole process takes around three to four hours and leaves the oven, hob and exterior in immaculate condition.

For more information about Ovenu, or to make a booking with Paul, or to donate to his initiative for Cats Protection, call: 01925 453 377, email [ovenuwarrington@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:ovenuwarrington@hotmail.co.uk) or visit [www.ovenuwarrington.net](http://www.ovenuwarrington.net) for more information



Adam Penniston, Ovenu National Training manager, with Nikki Butcher and Bluebelle the cat.

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# Lee Briers forced to retire with immediate effect



**WARRINGTON Wolves' talisman Lee Briers has been forced to retire from his playing career with immediate effect due to a neck injury.**

Briers announced his retirement on twitter saying: "Yes it is true I have had to retire with immediate effect.

"Although I was devastated to find out that I will never be able to play the game that I love and the game that has given me everything again, I feel blessed to have had an opportunity to play all these years!

"A massive thank you to the Warrington club for believing in me and especially the Wolves fans for all their support over the years.

"To my family for the support you have given me through the good and bad - thank you!

"Hopefully the next chapter of my life can be as enjoyable as the last 17 years! I can't wait for that to start." Briers agreed a new one year deal prior to the end of last season, despite suffering a serious neck injury earlier in the season.

Wolves' head of coaching and rugby Tony Smith said: "On behalf of the Warrington club, its supporters and Rugby League fans I'd like to thank Lee for his contributions to the game. He has brought enormous enjoyment and pleasure to those who have witnessed his skills. I have personally enjoyed watching Lee develop both as a player and a person and look forward to working with him in the next chapter of his career."

The halfback made 425

appearances for the Wolves including a club record achievement by becoming the leading points scorer in Warrington's history with 2586 points.

His debut back in 1997 earned him heritage number 955 and a place in the club's history books. He's been a constant through the highs and lows; one of the few remaining players to have experienced the move from Wilderspool to The Halliwell Jones Stadium.

During his career at Warrington Briers has won three Challenge Cup winners medals and appeared in two Grand Finals. He also won the league leader's shield in 2011. Briers was capped by Great Britain v France in their 42-12 win on October 26 2001. Having made his Wales debut in 1998, he went on to make 23 appearances for his country and featured in the 2000 Rugby League World Cup.

Following the team's failure to qualify for the 2008 Rugby League World Cup, he announced his international retirement. He later came out of retirement to represent Wales in the 2010 European Cup, and captained the side to victory in the tournament. He went on to captain Wales in the 2011 Four Nations, before once again retiring from international rugby league.

Briers has just released his autobiography "off the cuff."

## School to forge links with India

WARRINGTON'S Sir Thomas Boteler CE High School has been chosen to develop international links with Kaushayla World School in India as part of a major new school twinning project to boost global education.

Connecting Classrooms is a UK government and British Council education initiative and Boteler has been selected in recognition of its commitment to teaching pupils about global issues.

Teachers and pupils are working with Kaushayla World School in Greater Noida, India, to learn how to become responsible global citizens and to develop skills to work in a global economy. Schools across the UK can benefit from a range of support offered by the scheme.

Assistant head teacher Liam Horrigan said: "The school is committed to the Connecting Classrooms programme as part of our drive to prepare students fully for their role in the Global workforce that they will join upon completing their education. We have identified curriculum areas through which we hope to develop links with Kaushayla World School, so that youngsters in both communities can benefit."

The programme will enable Mr Horrigan to take part in an exchange visit with Kaushayla World School and work on classroom-based projects together, with the aim of giving young people a unique and hands-on international learning experience. An initial link has already been forged linked to architecture, and there is scope to develop further partnership work through geography, Citizenship, RE and Art.

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# Financially yours

By David Watkinson

## Major policies in next year's budget

The Chancellor has announced that the Autumn Statement, which gives notice of the major policies to be announced in next year's budget, will take place on 5 December. However, we already know of two changes that are coming to effect over the next couple of years.

Firstly, the new Employment Allowance, which is worth up to £2,000 to all employers has been confirmed by the Government, having been first announced in the 2013 Budget.

The Employment Allowance will reduce a business's or charity's national insurance contributions (NICs) bill by £2,000 over the course of the year's PAYE payments. Employers will need to confirm their eligibility through their regular payroll process.

The Prime Minister said: 'Small business and entrepreneurs are the lifeblood of our economy and this Government is firmly on their side', and according to Government estimates, more than 90% of the benefit of the allowance will go to small businesses with fewer than 50 employees.

John Allan, National Chairman of the Federation of Small Businesses

commented that: 'Our members have said they'll spend the savings on their business, either through investing in the business, increasing wages or taking on staff.'

Secondly, more than four million married couples and civil partners will be entitled to a new transferable tax allowance from April 2015, the Government has confirmed.

Under the scheme, eligible spouses and civil partners will be able to transfer £1,000 of their personal income tax allowance to their partner, where one is a basic rate taxpayer and the other earns less than the income tax personal allowance, resulting in a potential saving of up to £200 a year.

Couples will be eligible to claim the new allowance from the year of marriage, which brings back memories of Spring marriage bulge when people married just before the end of the tax year to get the full year's "Married Man's Allowance"! The allowance will not be given automatically, and claims for the allowance will need to be made online.

The confirmation of a married couples' tax allowance is one of a series of recent Government measures,



including the announcement by Chancellor George Osborne of his intention to freeze fuel duty until after 2015, subject to sufficient savings being made elsewhere.

WatkinsonBlack are pleased to advise on these as well as 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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