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Issue No. 164 June 2013 FREE EVERY MONTH

Miss Teen at first attempt

See Page 3



**Warrington
Market
Festival
Guide
Pull-out
Inside**

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AMY WINEHOUSE
TRIBUTE ACT**

**8TH JUNE
8PM**

See page 9
for details

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WA4 1AT

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published monthly by
Orbit News Ltd.

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Printed by TwentyFourSeven

WARRINGTON Borough Council has taken a bold step in purchasing the former Boots store in Bridge Street.

The Grade II Listed building, forever etched in our town's history following the IRA bomb attack two decades ago - has been mothballed for far too long since the former occupiers moved up the road to the new Golden Square development.

Once the lifeblood of a busy town centre, Bridge Street has been in decline for far too long and now hopefully the council's brave decision will reap some rewards.

One thing is certain - the town centre needs an urgent kiss of life.

The Boots building is clearly in the council's regeneration plans for the town centre - but as yet they have not been forthcoming on their plans for the historic building.

Maybe one solution would be to use it as temporary accommodation for the town's market traders while the market undergoes re-development as part of the Time square proposals, which will hopefully see a cinema make a long over due return to the town centre. Although this would

only be a temporary solution to bring the building back into use - it would certainly ensure the market traders could keep a high profile in the town centre.

Once they can move back into the new market another possibility would be to use the Boots building as some kind of multi-purpose facility, enabling young up and coming start up businesses gain affordable accommodation, while at the same time encouraging more people back into the town centre. Food for thought!

Search for poetry champ

THE search is on for the poetry "laureate" of Warrington.

Budding poets can send up to three unpublished poems, with the winning entries published in the National Poetry Anthology. One overall winner also receives £1,000.

NPA editor Peter Quinn said: "The NPA is designed to encourage writers. It's now the biggest free-to-enter annual poetry contest in the UK."

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Caitlin is Miss Teen Warrington!

WARRINGTON teenager Caitlin Holmes is celebrating after winning through to the Grand Final of Miss Teen Great Britain 2012/13 - to represent her home town!

Caitlin, aged 14, from Woolston, has beaten off competition from across Great Britain to reach the Grand Final at The Globe in Blackpool on August 30, where she will be competing as Miss Teen Warrington.

A pupil at Sir Thomas Boteler Church and England High School, it is the first time Caitlin has entered a beauty pageant.

She is a member of Marsh House Lane Gym where she keeps fit through boxing and is also a member of the Knights American

Cheer cheerleading team.

She said: "I am delighted to have made it to the Grand Final, it is a great achievement! I want to make my school, parents, friends and my little sister proud and inspire others that anything is achievable if you work hard."

Teenagers from across Great Britain will be competing for the crown in a spectacular grand final.

The winner of Miss Teen Great Britain will walk away with some incredible prizes - including £1000, dresses worth £500 from

The Dress Studio, Beauty UK make-up, products from Fake Bake, natural cosmetics from Earthnicity, a modelling portfolio with FAB Photoshoots, goodies from I Love Cosmetics and much more!

The weekend of Miss Teen Great Britain is set to be full of fun, with the finalists enjoying a day at Blackpool Pleasure Beach, a pyjama diva party and much more!

Caitlin added: "Making the grand final is a dream come true - it is a great honour to be representing my home town."

Golden Square have agreed to sponsor Caitlin, who is also seeking a dress sponsor.



Lucky Warrington - the place to live!

WARRINGTON is one of the country's luckiest places to live when it comes to winning a major National Lottery prize.

New statistics, revealed by the National Lottery rank the Warrington (WA) postcode as the sixth luckiest place in the UK.

The research ranks the number of big National Lottery winners of £50,000 and above, won per head of population in every postcode area across the country.

Warrington ranks sixth since the National Lottery began in 1994. A total of 343 people in the borough

have won a major prize of at least £50,000 - including 34 new millionaires.

A National Lottery spokesperson said: "Congratulations to the people of Warrington - they live in one of the luckiest postcodes in the UK."

"Lottery luck can live anywhere and it could be you celebrating if you have a ticket for the next big National Lottery draw."

Jane Pidgeon, from Warrington, was part of the Sankey Forum syndicate who each won £210,000 in October 2012. The group of 10

scooped a EuroMillions jackpot of £4.2 million. The syndicate still plays the Lottery every week.

Jane said: "This amount of money is just unreal and has really changed all of our lives. Winning the lottery is something which you think can never happen to you - it is something which only ever happens to other people."

"But these figures show just how realistic it is to win a prize - particularly a big one. I would encourage everyone to buy a lottery ticket - you don't know what can happen unless you play."

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Hello and welcome to my monthly column . . .

Hypnotes

by Michael Mahoney

Steps

When we were children we took small steps, unsure and uncertain of our abilities to walk, often stumbling, and sometimes hurting ourselves when falling. But we got up and we persevered, and eventually we gained our confidence and walked without effort and thought.

Through life, we often have to take small steps in our learning, relationships and planning for the future. Small steps help us learn new job roles and life responsibilities and literally everything in life which is new to us. Sometimes these steps have to be taken rapidly so that we can achieve our own goals and the expectations of others, this rush can often be successful, but it is also fraught with danger.

Sometimes there is a temptation to rush into situations when we are eager to move on, or when we are overly confident in our abilities, or when our assessment of a situation is flawed. And at those times, when we 'come a cropper' when our abilities do not match the requirements of a problem or situation, we stumble and fall, not as the child, but our confidence takes a pounding, our ego is dented, and failure is experienced, sometimes ridicule follows when others thought we should have known better.

There is much to be said about small steps, even Neil Armstrong, the first man to walk on the moon, mentioned "one small step" as he touched the lunar surface for the very first time. At times when we realise we need help we are hesitant to even acknowledge that need, when we do acknowledge it, we seek help, and when we are confident that the help found is just what we are looking for, we want to rush forward, confident in the support we receive. But as mentioned earlier, rushing in is not always as simple as it seems.

It is often wiser to be sure of the situation and certain in our abilities before we rush in to any situation. Sometimes I have to stop clients rushing ahead too quickly, because every journey needs small steps. If we leap ahead, some of those small developing progressive steps are missed, and that leads to familiarity being missed, uncertainty being felt in the future, and eventually the individual would have to re-trace their steps, find what they are missing and then take those steps which provide the necessary firm foundation of knowledge and familiarity for the future, they are in effect set-back by their initial decision to leap ahead. It can feel like the equivalent of the name

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 timelineservices@aol.com
www.michaelmahoneyhypnotherapist.com

on the tip-of-the tongue feeling, you know you should know it but just can't manage to remember it, where the experience leaper in fact didn't know or learn from the start!

Most clients however allow themselves to be guided and supported, they respond to the encouragement given, and take their small steps in a structured, progressive, organised and informed way, which provides the firm foundation for a confident, comfortable future.

There is no problem that cannot be resolved, or re-framed or changed in some positive way with structure, understanding and a safe environment to work in.

It is my view that being patient, allowing yourself to learn in a safe structured, supported way, is preferable to the alternative. So when you need a structured supportive service you know where I am, I'm here to help!

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Residents lose fight to save historic pub

NEIGHBOURS have failed in a battle to prevent demolition of a historic Warrington pub.

Borough planning bosses have given the go-ahead for a housing development that will mean demolition of the Locally Listed Hermit Inn, in Golborne Road, Hermitage Green, Winwick.

The pub is believed to date from around 1839, although it is thought to have been modified or extended at least seven times between 1849 and 2005.

It has been closed for some time and is in a deteriorating condition following attacks by vandals and a disastrous fire in March last year.

Members of the borough council's development management committee were told it is believed only the cellars remain intact from the original structure.

Neighbours argued that demolishing the pub and building 12 new houses on the site would damage the Green Belt, create traffic problems and contribute further to an oversupply of housing

in the Warrington area.

They claimed the proposed dwellings are too large and out of character with the area and would also have a damaging impact on bungalows in adjacent Gerosa Avenue.

Planning officers recommended the scheme be approved. They accepted that Hermitage Green lay within a historic landscape and there was evidence that a village was established there by at least the 18th century. But it was not thought the pub pre-dated the Victorian period.

They also accepted that residential development would normally be inappropriate within the Green Belt, but pointed out that it could be justified for limited infilling or redevelopment of previously developed sites.

The old pub was now considered to be unsafe and unsightly.

— Advertiser's announcement —

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Third firm signs up for Omega

A THIRD occupier has been signed up for the giant Omega development site at Warrington.

Builders' merchants Travis Perkins have agreed to take a 700,000 sq ft logistics centre on Omega North - subject to planning permission.

The announcement comes just over a week after Hermes was

announced as the second occupier for Omega North following the December announcement about Brakes as the first.

Andrew Sutherland, joint Managing Director of Miller

Developments, a partner of Omega Warrington Ltd (OWL) said: "The level of occupier success we have achieved at Omega North since Christmas is unprecedented throughout not only the North West but the whole of the UK."

"The fact that, subject to planning being granted, we have only two

small sites left on Omega North demonstrates that we have now created a major logistics hub in the North West."

The two sites left on Omega North are 2.9 acres close to junction 8 on the M62 motorway frontage, and 3.2 acres next to Brakes.

Both sites are capable of meeting requirements for 50,000 sq ft of logistics accommodation.

If planning consent is granted, OWL will be building Travis Perkins a freehold "turn-key" unit of 630,000 sq ft on the ground floor with 70,000sq ft at mezzanine level.

Work is expected to start around the middle of the year, with completion around the middle of next year.

Stobart deliver team building skills



WARRINGTON based haulage company Stobart helped deliver team building skills during a visit to a local primary school.

As part of their management training staff from Stobart gave pupils at Callands Primary School an insight into the business which operates 24 hours a day 365 days a year around the world via 3,000 lorries, 5,000 trailers, six trains, two airports and even a boat!

They explained the importance of working as a team which fitted perfectly with the school motto "Together we are one."

Warehouse Customer Services Manager Emma Bloor explained to pupils that by working together as a team it would improve their chances of success.

The event was part of Stobart's working with schools initiative.

Meanwhile Stobart has launched a new website for youngsters at www.steadyeddieworld.com which includes a number of interactive games.

Pupils were presented with a special goodie bag following the event

(L-R) Transport Planner Sue McLean, Warehouse Customer Services Manager Emma Bloor and Customer Services Manager Jason Burrell.

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High speed broadband for 96 per cent

NINETY six per cent of properties in Warrington, Halton and Cheshire will get access to high-speed fibre broadband over the next three years, in a £28.5m deal between four councils and BT.

Ashley wins gold

FORMER Warrington Collegiate student Ashley Terron won gold at the Global Skills Challenge in Australia.

Ashley, 20, is no stranger to these competitions, having first won the Skillbuild competition at the age of 16, and plans to challenge for gold at the Skills Olympics in Leipzig in July.

He said: "I'm over the moon. The competition was the fiercest I've ever faced so I'm delighted to win gold. I'll now be training hard to make sure I win gold at the WorldSkills International Competition in Leipzig.

Ashley combines his competition exploits by studying Construction and Property Management at the University of Salford, and working for family firm Peter Terron Brickwork Contracting Limited.

Paul Gould, Curriculum Manager for Construction and the Built Environment at Warrington Collegiate, said: "From the start I knew that Ashley would do well.

He was an exceptional student, talented and totally focused on being the best. I have high hopes of him achieving gold at Leipzig in the summer."

Ashley was chosen to represent the UK at the Skills Olympics after finishing second in an International Bricklaying Competition in Denmark in January.



The Connecting Cheshire Partnership - made up of Warrington, Halton, Cheshire East and Cheshire West and Chester councils, has secured funding to provide additional rural broadband infrastructure to more than 80,000 premises.

This will build on BT's on-going commercial investment in fibre across the county.

As a result, more than 400,000 premises should have access to broadband speeds of up to 80Mbps by the end of 2016.

Uplift

Those premises in the remaining four per cent that currently experience low speeds will also see an uplift, as the project aims to deliver a minimum of 2Mbps or more to almost all homes and businesses.

The project will transform broadband speeds across Cheshire, narrowing the gap between speeds in urban and rural areas.

According to Ofcom, the county's average downstream speed is currently around 11Mbps, while about 12 per cent of the population receive less than 2Mbps.

The investment will boost the local economy and help to create or protect local jobs.

A recent study for Cheshire,

Warrington and Halton estimated that full coverage of superfast broadband would generate a gross impact of £1.3 billion in gross value added over 15 years and create 11,500 jobs, with a further £330m of economic benefits to households.

BT was awarded the contract following a procurement exercise through the Government's Broadband Delivery UK framework.

The company is contributing £9m towards fibre deployment in "non-commercial" areas, while the Connecting Cheshire Partnership is contributing £1.85m, with a further £4m coming from the Government's BDUK funds and £13.6m from European Regional Development Funds.

Openreach, BT's local network division, will now start the work on the ground with engineers surveying locations around the county and analysing the best way to roll out the network.

This initial survey work will take about eight months, so Connecting Cheshire should be in a position to announce which communities will be included in the first stage of the roll-out by December.

WIN a £100 Food Hamper and FREE tickets to the Great British Food Festival



The Great British Food Festival is back!

AFTER the success of last year's festival, where 10,000 people enjoyed this celebration of Modern British food and drink, it's back, bigger and better at Walton Hall and Gardens on Bank Holiday weekend, Sunday May 26 and Monday May 27.

Along with wonderful food and drink there will be vintage and craft stalls, games and activities for the kids, a balloon race, bake-offs and excellent live music.

The Great British Food Festival will feature over 100 producers showcasing the best in local, seasonal and speciality food and drink. It will feature traditional British staples such as pulled pork, brisket and local sausages as well as some exotic specialities like Thai pies and Kangaroo burgers!

On top of the local and independent food stalls, selling everything from hand baked biscuits to fine wines, there will be lots of activities including artisan cheese talks, wine tasting and cooking demonstrations from some of the country's top chefs.

Bring a picnic blanket and sit out for the day enjoying great food

and drink, live music and beautiful surroundings. The perfect recipe for a fun, foodie day out for the whole family.

For more information visit www.greatbritishfoodfestival.com

The Great British & Cheshire Food Festival is sponsored by Onionring.co.uk

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ADELE & AMY WINEHOUSE TRIBUTE ACT

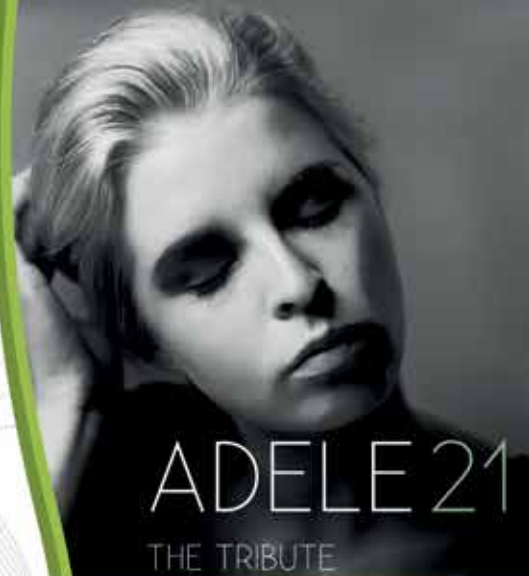
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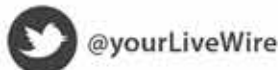
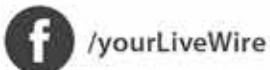


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Festival goes on Safari

THE annual "Lymmfest" goes indoors this year with simultaneous live music in four venues around the village on the evening of Saturday June 22.

Event organiser Dave Sawyer explained "With a huge outdoor event - Historic Transport Day - scheduled for the next day we decided it was would just be too much to go for another open-air session the day before.

"The more we started to think about the multi-venue approach the more we liked it".

Lymmfest goers will be able to buy an open ticket for the whole evening and either stay in one place or move around from venue

to venue to catch a variety of acts. The four venues - The Spreadingale, The Venue, The Bridgewater Club and The Narrowboat at The Golden Fleece will each have a theme.

As an example the Narrowboat is gearing up for a night of Jazz, Americana and Western Swing while other venues will feature, folk, singer songwriters plus some talented young local bands.

"It is a great opportunity to hear your favourite music but also

sample something new by moving from venue to venue," added Dave.

Tickets for this and all the other events including poet/ comedian John Hegley as well as Mark Radcliffe (pictured) and Foes are on sale now on-line at www.lymmfestival.org.uk or via the order form in the Lymm Festival programme - out mid-May.

There is also a special advance ticket deal for the Historic Transport Day (available only on the order form or via Box office) with a family ticket available for just £10 including a FREE souvenir programme.



Historic Transport show takes to road

MOTORISTS in Warrington may be forgiven for thinking they have slipped back in time on Sunday June 23 when hundreds of cars and motor bikes will be making their way to Lymm for the first ever Lymm Historic Transport Day.

One of the key supporters of the event is "North West Casual Classics" club who meet at Penketh Sports and Social Club every month. The club, originally formed in 1995 welcomes all makes and marques of car and is involved in many events during the year even providing cars for filming location shoots. "The event organiser - Alan Williams from Lymm Festival came over to one of our

meetings in January and we were impressed by their professional approach" said club spokesman Ian Trimble. "An event like this is a just what Warrington needs. We are especially excited to be part of a show that includes so many other forms of transport and Lymm with the canal seems like the ideal location".

Another local supporter will be Warrington Model Railway Club who will setting up five layouts in Lymm Village Hall. One of the highlights here will be a detailed reproduction of Glazebrook station as it would have looked in its heyday.

The Historic Transport Day will

feature everything from hundred year old working boats to Penny Farthings and Ferraris. "We are aiming to make it a fantastic great value day out for the family with plenty of rides and activities including vintage buses and boats" explained organiser Alan Williams. Find out more at www.lymmtransport.org.uk

The event is just part of the eleven day Lymm Festival which kicks off this year as always with the Foodfest at 6pm on Thursday 20th.

There are great opportunities for a day out too with Art in the Garden at Lane End Nursery from June 22-30, Open Gardens on June 30 and

The Scarecrow Trail all through the festival. The energetic could even sign up for the trail races on Sunday 30th.

Information on all the events at www.lymmfestival.org.uk



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Thu 20/6

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LymmFest

Sat 22/6

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Festival

of Markets

15 - 29 May

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worldwide
souvenir guide

Warrington
Food Festival



Green Market



Vintage Fair
Craft Fair



Teenage Market



Family Fun Day



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Wed 15 & Thurs 16 May

History Tours

Join TV presenter **Mark Olly** for a guided tour around the market. From 9.30am each day with each tour approx 40 mins

Sat 18 May

Warrington Food Festival

Get cooking tips from the Love food hate waste road-show. Sample the delights of over 60 food stalls in the town centre. Visit the "Created in W.A" Arts & Craft Fair with over 40 stalls. Step back in time at the **Vintage market** in the event hall and become Eco friendly at our **Green Market**

Mon 20 May

1920s Karaoke

Accompanied by a rare and genuine pianola made in 1925

Sat 25 May

Warrington Teenage Market

Lots of stalls in the town centre run by young entrepreneurs. Entertainment includes **The Zimmers** made famous on Britain's got Talent. **Dr Who** and his Daleks. Watch out for **Titan the Robot**

Warrington Food Festival
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 Visit Warrington Market on facebook



at your local Market



Sat 25 May

National Family Day

Inside the market with lots of fun and activities for young children including

- AJ & Sammy from Applejacks Adventure Park
- Wolfie & Gully Mouse
- Face painting
- Stuffed Puppets
- Ian Zippy Lees circus skills

Wed 29 May

Where's Wally

How many Wallys does it take to fill Time Square?

Join us as we help raise money for Warrington Youth Club
Purchase your Wally outfit from the market information desk then be in Time Square for 12.30pm.
Lot's of fun activities all day.

Further Information

If you would like to take part in any of these events, or want to know more about starting a new business, please contact the market information desk on tel: 01925 632571 or email spickering@warrington.gov.uk

1920's Karaoke

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Best Dressed Stall Competition



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Charlie Lee, an oyster seller on Warrington Market in the 1940's posted messages every day to customers on a blackboard. The Market place has always been a place to interact and meet other people. Just like facebook



Market History Exhibition

15 - 29 May



Where's Wally Charity Challenge

How many Wallys does it take to fill Time Square?

Wed 29 May at 12.30pm

Buy your costume from the market information desk to raise money for Warrington Youth Club



House of Commons Market Cake

See the cake that was displayed at the House of Commons
Made by Alison Loves to Bake

15 - 29 May

Market Cake Video

Watch your favourite market traders appear in this hilarious animated movie. Available on the market facebook page



World first as Dave goes the Extra Mile!

DISABILITY campaigner Dave Thompson has completed a world first during a one mile scuba dive challenge to raise funds for charity.

Dave, (below) who only has the use of one arm after breaking his neck playing American football, has completed a Scuba Challenge in aid of Warrington Disability Partnership using a special new rebreather system - and is believed to be the first disabled person in the world to use the new equipment.

He was able to complete the challenge at Sankey Leisure centre without the need to change his air tanks.

Dave, who is Chairman of the charity he was a founder member of, completed the challenge supported by Terry Wood and his team from Cheshire Scuba Academy who provided support and equipment.

Dave swam one mile underwater, despite being a full time wheelchair user since 1989, with limited use in his left arm, and none in his right arm and legs.

He was joined by friends and colleagues including fellow diver Dave Williams.

The new rebreather system which Dave successfully used, was previously reserved for deep diving enthusiasts and military divers. But now UK company 'Poseidon' has brought rebreathers to the recreational sports diving market. Originally designed for NASA space adventures the system provides safer diving with less risk of decompression sickness, no bubbles and it is quieter to allow one to experience the marine life up close.

To sponsor Dave following his successful scuba dive visit www.justgiving.com/scuba2013



Dave Thompson using a Poseidon Discovery Mark 6 Rebreather.



Dave Thompson with Dave Williams, left and Terry Wood of the Cheshire Scuba Academy.

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All set for Disability Awareness Day

VOLUNTEERS are busy preparing for the 22nd annual Disability Awareness Day at Walton Hall and Gardens which this year takes place on Sunday July 14 - with Your Housing Group once again agreeing to be principle sponsors.

Described by visitors as "Inspirational and motivating" Disability Awareness Day (DAD), has inspired organisations across the UK, Europe and Worldwide to emulate the event. Towns and cities across the UK, Gibraltar, Denmark, and Sweden have all run DAD events, and for the past two years the MESSAGE Institute based in the Punjab in India have organised their events to coincide with Warrington's big day.

Held in the grand settings of Walton Hall Gardens, located off the A56 in Warrington, DAD 2013 will be the climax of a week long of activities and will also include a family fun day from 10am till 5pm.

A huge tented village will house the exhibition involving over 250 exhibitors promoting independent living, supporting activities include a wide range of performing Arts, inclusive Sports, and children's and family entertainments. Over 25,000 visitors are expected to travel to Warrington from across the UK and beyond. DAD will be the finale of a week consisting of 12 complementary events that will attract thousands more visitors.

Inclusive Arts is just one of the highlights of the event with disabled performers and an exhibition of Artwork produced by disabled artists. This year's Sports Zone will include archery, rifle shooting, climbing wall, wheelchair basketball, golf, sailing and scuba diving, with the opportunity to do a taster dive in the onsite temporary swimming pool. Children and families won't be stuck for things to do with entertainers and a funfair.

With a free accessible Park & Ride service from the Old Greenall Brewery site and free bus from Warrington Bus Interchange, British Sign Language Interpreters, a scooter and wheelchair loans

service, trained assistants, the event is built on promoting inclusion and independence.

The strap line for this year's event is "promoting independence throughout life and work".

Event founder Dave Thompson MBE DL said: Overall DAD focusses on what disabled people can do, not what we can't do."

Meanwhile organisers are also

looking for a "Dads Army" of volunteers to help at the event.

Head steward Terry Cook said: "Being part of this event is a very rewarding experience. It's hard work but it's also really good fun and the people you meet are amazing".

This year's event will include a scuba area, kiddies water boats, a sports for all zone, and many more attractions and fun family entertainment alongside a wide range of information and displays.

Anyone who would like to join in the fun and be part of this year's

DAD's Army should contact Donna Hubbard or Caroline Thompson on 01925 240064, email d.hubbard@disabilitypartnership.org.uk

Alternatively they can attend the DAD Stewards' information meeting at Alford Hall Sports and Social Club on Manchester Road on Wednesday, June 19 at 8pm.

All stewards must attend a health and safety briefing session during Disability Awareness Week. These will be held on Wednesday July 10 at 8pm or Saturday July 13 at 2pm.

New bus service launches



A NEW bus service has been launched to provide a link between residential areas and places of work and education in north Warrington.

Connect17 connects the town centre with Lingley Mere, Gemini, Orford Park, Warrington Collegiate, University of Chester and Birchwood Business Park, and will benefit from six brand new Optare Versa buses, all of which will feature audio-visual information systems.

Maureen Banner, Network Warrington chairman said: "This new service is designed to meet stakeholders' needs. We want to encourage people to use our buses, which they will find modern, clean, safe and dependable."

Network Warrington teamed up with Warrington Borough Council to provide the service after the council made a successful bid to the Department for Transport's Local Sustainable Transport Fund in 2012.

CLr Linda Dirir, executive board member for highways, transportation and climate change at the council, said: "This is the culmination of a lot of hard work, from making the Local Sustainable Transport Fund bid, to planning the service, and in making sure that it is fit for purpose. We are very pleased to be working in partnership with Network Warrington in ensuring that people have more options to travel by bus to key employment areas in the north of the town."

For more information visit connect17.co.uk, call 01925 634296 or pop in to the Travel Centre at Warrington Interchange.

Orford Park clean-up

TWO Orford youngsters have inspired the launch of a clean-up operation at the Orford Park pond.

Conner Forshaw and Christopher Hankey raised concerns to LiveWire and local councillors of the poor condition of the pond and the affects it was having on the wildlife and general public using the area.

Both boys were invited down to the pond by LiveWire and local ward Councillors Mike and Kate Hannon, to share their thoughts and discuss how the area can be improved. Alan Nugent Orford's new Park Keeper and Tom Mather the new park warden joined the group to help plan and organise the clean-up.

Ivan Baracska, LiveWire's Area Leisure Manager, said: "Both Connor and Christopher showed real concern about the condition of the pond area. I'm very impressed with how much they care about their environment, they are a credit to their community."

Following the visit, and having listened to Connor and Christopher, Livewire have committed to clean the pond, mend fencing and improving the area for all park users.

As a thank you for their hard work and dedication to their local environment, Connor, Christopher and their families were invited to a training session by the Warrington Wolves, where they got to meet all their sporting heroes.



The youngsters at the pond with local councillors Kate and Mike Hannon and Alan Nugent Orford's new Park Keeper and Tom Mather the new park warden.

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Craig, who has been selling carpets in the town since 1989, teamed up with his dad Kev when they opened the Orchard Street warehouse.

Since opening his first shop Craig's aim has been value and service. He said: "I can honestly say people will find it hard to beat our prices and service. We offer free fitting as well as large discounts across all carpets.

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An end to the high street solicitor?

by Jonathan Conder

In April the government published a consultation paper which makes proposals for sweeping changes in the provision of publicly funded criminal defence services.

The Ministry of Justice (MoJ) intends to introduce a tendering process which will involve the submission of bids to provide services at a fixed price for different types of work, for instance police station advice and attendance and magistrates court representation.

The winners of the bid process will be given an equal share of the publicly funded work in a particular criminal justice area. In Cheshire there will be 9 contracts awarded entitling the successful bidders to a 1/9th share of the work for a three year period initially. The consultation process is due to end on 4 June and the tender applications will begin in October with contracts to be awarded in September 2014.

This process will remove the majority of firms from the market because there will not be enough contracts to allow most of the existing providers to practice and it will be impossible for most firms to tender at a price which will allow their businesses to remain viable. Therefore practices which have been built up over decades will disappear and many jobs and a wealth of knowledge and experience will be lost.

There are two particularly controversial aspects to the tendering scheme. Firstly the right to choose a solicitor, which is currently enshrined in the government's own recent legislation (the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012, s27(4)), will be removed. Secondly organisations which have no previous experience of providing criminal defence services will be invited to join in the process. Stobart Group,

most famous for the Eddie Stobart haulage brand and 'a national leader in multimodal logistics' according to its website, has expressed an interest in bidding for contracts. It is likely that the MoJ will welcome such interest. These proposals along with the changes to family legal aid and personal injury work pose a real threat to the future of high street solicitors.

Criminal defence practitioners do not spend all of their time representing hardened criminals. Many law abiding citizens have teenage children who end up in a police station and will need proper advice given that the consequences could profoundly affect their future. If you agree that high street firms and the right to choose a solicitor should be protected please help by contacting your MP and by signing the e-petition at epetitions.direct.gov.uk/petitions/48628.



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Financially yours

By David Watkinson

Returns deadline has passed

By the time you read this then the deadline of 19th May (17th May this year as the tax office do not believe in working weekends) for submitting End of Year P14s and P35s will have passed.

These returns are required if you have any employees. Hopefully, if this applies to you then you will have met the deadline. If not then the bad news is you will now be facing a penalty of at least £100. Penalties are calculated at £100 per month or part of month for up to 50 employees, with larger penalties for larger employers.

However, this is not the end of the penalty season for employers. It is necessary for all employers to make a return of expenses and benefits provided to employees. This is done in one of three ways:

- Completing a form P11d and P11d(1) if you actually pay any expenses or provide benefits to employees
- Making a Nil return by stating on the form P35 that a return is not due
- Making a separate Nil return

This must be done by 6th July. There is a period of grace, but if the return is not received by 19th July then penalties will be payable. These penalties are similarly £100 per month or part of month for up to 50 employees. Again, increased penalties apply for larger employers.

These penalties are automatic and will be applied in all cases where returns are due but not received by the due date. In their guidance the tax office state that they will send reminders out to all employers to remind them of these requirements. However, if you do not receive a reminder, even if this is due to a failure by the tax office to act on information given to them such as a change of address, then this will not be accepted as an excuse.

Our advice is to contact the tax office immediately if you have any reason to suspect that they may be expecting a return. This could apply, for instance, if you have operated a PAYE scheme at some point in the past and cannot remember receiving written confirmation from the tax office that it has been closed. Penalty



notices will be issued in all cases where the tax office consider that returns are due. Even if the penalties are later cancelled receiving a letter demanding payment of £900 or even more can be traumatic.

WatkinsonBlack are pleased to advise on these and other matters. They have considerable experience in all areas of taxation and business services, 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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Flying the flag for Alex on the frontline



WARRINGTON Wolves' Foundation Patron Kim Storey is helping fly the flag for a young soldier serving on the front line in Afghanistan.

Kim, who is store manager at the Warrington Wickes store, organised for a Wolves' flag to be signed by members of the first team squad, to be sent out to 21-year-old Alex Ross who used to work as a part-time assistant at the store.

The flag was kindly donated by the Wolves and has been sent out to Alex who is serving with the Duke of Lancaster 2nd Regiment and is currently on a six month tour

of duty.

Kim, who is pictured with Claire Gamble from the Wolves, said: "Alex is a huge Wolves' fan and misses his rugby so we decided to send him out a flag, signed by the players, so he can support the club from a far."

"I would like to thank the club for supplying the flag and the players for signing it and showing their support to our troops."

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PCSO's scoop second sports award

THE organisers of the annual Victoria Park eXperience have followed up their success at the Warrington Sports awards with a win at the Cheshire equivalent.

Latchford P.C.S.O's Tom Reid and Tony Spruce (pictured below) won the special recognition category at the awards night, held at the Halliwell Jones Stadium.

They fought off competition from Jon Kelly, a former international handball player who co-founded the Deva handball club, and Myrtle Larman, who has run a ju-jitsu club at a local primary school for the past 35 years.

For the past five years Tom and Tony have been the driving force behind the annual V.P.X which is a free weekly summer holiday activity that sees thousands of young people and families engage in sports and other activities at the park on Knutsford Road. The numbers of participants raise every year and the event involves a number of partner agencies.

The challenge of the organising the event include the need to raise the funding to stage the event and recruiting volunteers to assist. V.P.X was originally set up to tackle anti-social behaviour and has worked to great effect for this but also it works well to signpost people to sport as attendees have the opportunity to try out a variety of sporting activities.

V.P.X returns to Victoria Park each Tuesday in August between 11 - 4 with over 20 activities to take part in. The event is open to people of all ages and abilities and is totally free. For more information please contact Tom Reid or Tony Spruce at Stockton Heath police station on 01606 362630.



Young Wire's double delight!



The team celebrating with the Mayor Cllr Steve Wright - Picture by John Hopkins

WARRINGTON Town's Youth team are celebrating a league and cup double in only their second competitive season.



The goal scorers.

They were crowned league champions following a 3-1 victory over Curzon Ashton at Cantilever Park, to bring down the curtain on a superb double winning season.

Following on from retaining the Neil Thomason Cup by defeating Morecambe 3-1, Town were crowned Champions of the Northern Alliance after a convincing 3-1 victory over Curzon Ashton.

Mayor of Warrington Cllr Steve Wright, a Warrington Town season ticket holder, was on hand to help celebrate the occasion.

It has been an outstanding season for the young Wire with eight of the squad gaining valuable first team experience, boding well for the future of the club.

Delighted Youth team Manager Chris Wells said: "The lads have been superb all season and deserve their rewards."



Chris Bibby and Mayor Cllr Steve Wright with the league trophy.



The team celebrate retaining the Neil Thomason Cup.

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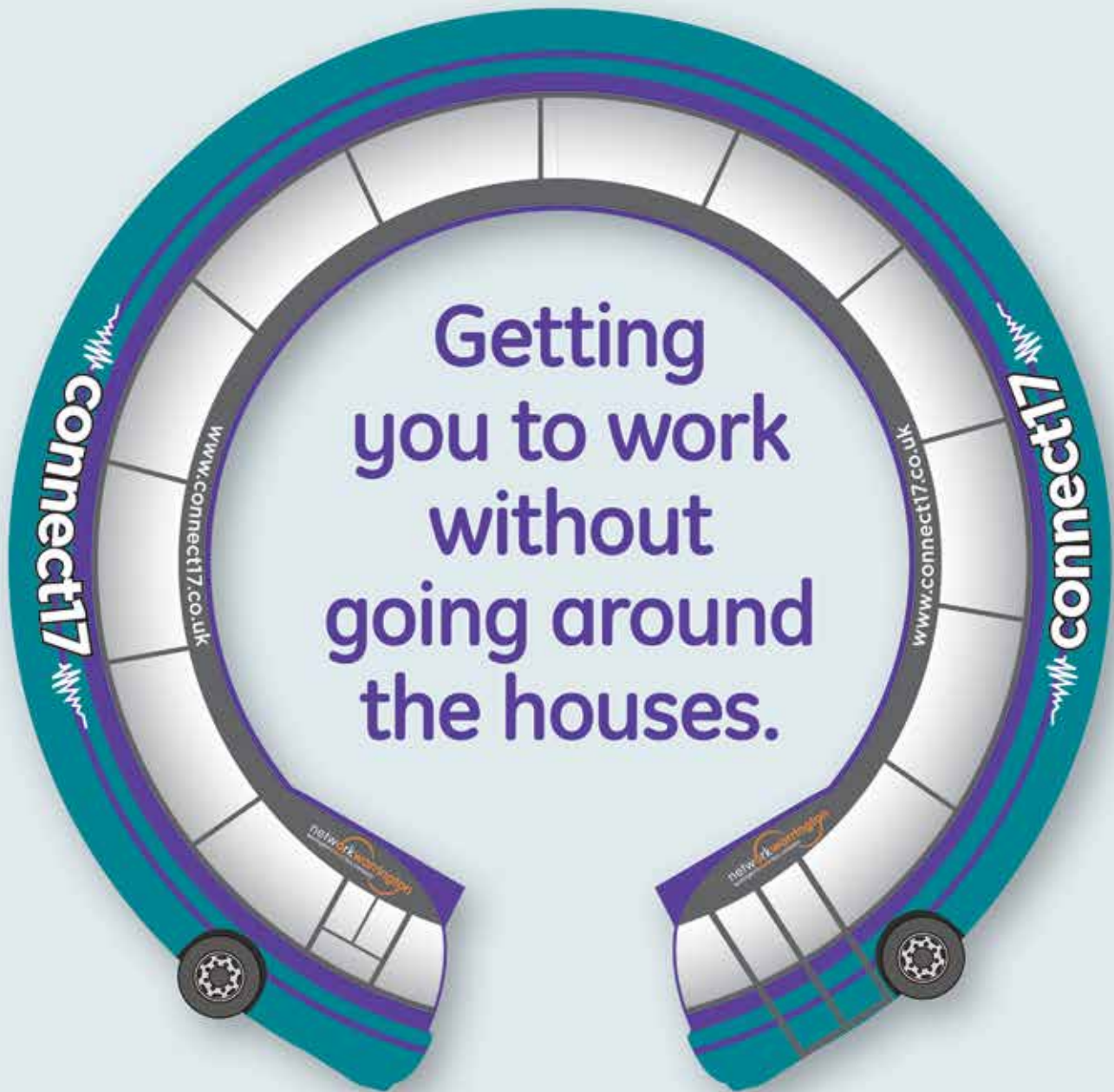
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