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TWENTY-FIVE years gone in the blink of an eye and yet huge changes in Warrington and the media world!

Warrington Worldwide magazine actually came AFTER the launch of our daily online newspaper, which was the first independent online newspaper in the country when it launched in April 1999.

The magazine followed to help promote the website – and businesses locally still finding their feet to advertise online.

Little did I know 25 years on the print edition would still be going strong despite the onset of the digital revolution with nearly everyone now getting their news fix from their mobile phones. We launched in a recession in 1999 during a downturn in our core business of selling news and pictures to other publications and have managed to survive various recessions, a pandemic and an ongoing cost-of living crisis, publishing every single month apart from a 12 week spell during lockdown.

We have survived in the main due to our passion for Warrington, our loyal readers and our very loyal advertisers in the local community who have stuck with us through thick and thin – especially those who continued to support us during the COVID pandemic.

It has been a remarkable journey for a family business and while we have no intentions of disappearing any time soon, it will be interesting to see the landscape in and other 25 years.

I'll have to put in the same working shift as my Freeman of Warrington father David if I'm still going to be at the helm!!

Meanwhile, we will continue banging the drum for Warrington and local community as best we can.

The world of media has changed considerably since I started on a Victorian typewriter in 1979, especially with the internet revolution and the onset of mobile phones.

But there is still something special about print – especially when its glossy and colourful – I hope you enjoy this special edition and if you are wondering what the cover represents – it harks back to our very first issue – and the young town crier, AJ Powell, is now adorning the front page like his grandad Peter did, when we first launched in 1999 –



keeping up a family tradition.

Once again thank you to everyone who has supported us over the years – we couldn't have done it without you!



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25 Years of Warrington Worldwide

“It doesn't seem 25 minutes let alone 25 years since Gary and I sat in Bank Park to discuss the demise of newsprint/newspapers and the proposal to establish what then seemed a 'space age' project, an internet based publication – Warrington Worldwide. Since then Warrington Worldwide has proved a valuable communication tool and has provided an excellent channel for communities, businesses, charities and individuals. Gary you have always been fair and have always put our great town first and you have made an immense contribution to our progress and development. Many thanks. On to the next 25 years”



Professor Steven Broomhead MBE, Chief Executive Warrington Borough Council

“I have been a councillor since Warrington Worldwide was first published so have seen it grow from strength to strength. I don't always see the printed version but I read the on-line version every day. Warrington Worldwide always gives us an up-to-date version of what is going on. I am impressed by Gary's determination to publish all points of view although I do enjoy his occasional editorials which are always grounded in common sense. Roll on the next 25 years.”



Cllr Ian Marks, Chair Warrington Liberal Democrats

“Congratulations from all of us at Warrington Conservative Federation, Warrington Worldwide has been an important source of news and a first class community resource for 25 years. Congratulations to Gary, David, Hannah and the team and here's to the next 25 years.”

Warrington Conservative Federation

“I'd like to congratulate Warrington Worldwide and Gary on reaching the quarter century milestone. For 25 years it has been essential reading for anyone who cares about our town and Gary has been an asset to our civic life. I wish it and him all the best for many years to come!”



Charlotte Nichols, MP Warrington North

“Congratulations to Gary and the Warrington Worldwide team for reaching their 25-year anniversary. It's a huge achievement and testament to their hard work. Local community news sources like Warrington Worldwide are incredibly important. And, when you consider the changing news landscape over the past 25 years sustaining their leading role for quarter of a century is no easy feat. Gary and the team have worked tirelessly to become an integral part of the fabric of our town, going from strength to strength as a trusted and valued source of news. This milestone is a superb achievement, long may their success continue.”



Sarah Hall, MP Warrington South

“Congratulations to Warrington Worldwide – 25 years and still going strong. We continue to value your fair and balanced coverage, and always appreciate the efforts of the Warrington Worldwide team in helping to shine a light on the important local talking points. 25 years of celebrating community events and initiatives, 25 years of putting local businesses on the map, 25 years of celebrating Warrington's culture and heritage – long may it continue.”



Cllr Hans Mundry, Leader of Warrington Borough Council

“Congratulations to Gary and the wider Warrington Worldwide team as you celebrate your 25th anniversary! For a quarter of a century, the publication has kept residents entertained and informed about their local community and has provided an effective promotional tool for local businesses. No one captures Warrington's great community spirit quite like Gary and his team. Congratulations on reaching such a significant milestone.”



Nicola Meredith, Director Marketing & Admissions Warrington & Vale Royal College



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Wood is good for carpenter Jensen

by Wendy Johnson

'MIGHTY oaks from little acorns grow' perfectly sums up a talented young carpenter from Warrington who has started a new business venture, specialising in his own wooden creations, during his summer work experience.

Wood is definitely good for 17-year-old Jensen Butterworth, from Whittle Hall in Great Sankey, who has used his college break to learn more about the craftwork and skill he loves so much. Jensen's new business comes after spending valuable time with Meraki Woodcraft, a Sankey Bridges company that specialises in unique sustainable bespoke furniture. The young entrepreneur hasn't let the grass grow under his feet and has just launched JB Wood Creations Warrington featuring his own wooden garden accessories and planters.

"I'm currently studying for an NVQ Level 2 in carpentry and joinery at Warrington and Vale Royal College. I wanted to get more hands-on experience throughout the summer months. With the help of Meraki, I have set up my own business." Jensen added: "Initially, I began with three sizes of planters, but now make them to any size. Recently, I've designed and built complementary items like trellises, bench seating and herb boxes to go with them. Under the tutorage of Meraki each of these items is made by me to a high standard".

Jensen is helping the planet by sticking to using sustainable materials. "This is really important,

only around 8% of all the wood used in the world comes from a responsible source so I ensure that everything is made using sustainable materials with FSC accreditation. If the material doesn't come from a sustainable source, then I won't buy it".

"Wood is a great natural resource which is both renewable and a material that is tactile to touch," said Jensen. "It's good to work with as no two pieces look the same. When I was younger, I liked to build things, my grandad also worked in the joinery business, so I guess my interest in wood stems from here."

His tutorage at Meraki has been invaluable. Tucked under the wings of its founder David Cross, Jensen has been shown how to design, build, cost and market his new work. "I still have a lot of things to learn, like the financial side of things and I'm sure this will come with time," he added. "Ideally, I'd like to continue with joinery and grow the JB Wood Creations business, I'm aware that as we move into Autumn and Winter that the requirement for garden items will become less frequent, but this will give me an opportunity to design new items such as bin stores and log sheds which will help to

expand my skills".

And what does the future hold for this enterprising young man? Jensen replied: "Having the opportunity to start my own business at such a young age means a lot. It's not just about new joinery skills, its about taking responsibility for my future and learning skills that could last

a lifetime. Ideally, I'd like to grow my business further with the view to it becoming a full-time enterprise when I finish college. I am certainly proud of what I am achieving and I'm sure it gives my dad and grandad something to be proud about too."



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Former Wolves player who built a multi-million pound business gives back to charity that helped him

A FORMER Warrington Wolves player who built a multi-million-pound business after receiving a loan from The Prince's Trust is now an official mentor for the youth charity.

Jamie Boyd borrowed £3,000 from The Prince's Trust to start a same-day courier business after a devastating injury ended his professional rugby career in 2005.

Almost two decades later, Today Team now operates nationwide out of Taylor Business Park in Risley – and is on track to turn over £3m this financial year.

"The Prince's Trust offered me a lifeline after the lowest moment in my career," said Jamie, 43, who grew up in Great Sankey and

attended St. Gregory's Catholic High School. "I was 24 years old with a busted knee and no money in the bank. I used the loan to lease a van and put in 60-hour weeks to build a business that now has top-tier clients all over the UK.

"I am delighted to have now deepened my commitment to The Prince's Trust by becoming an official mentor. Being able to give back to the charity and help young people, who are setting up their first enterprise, is a great 'full circle'

moment."

At The Prince's Trust, mentoring is defined as the provision of personal support, assistance, encouragement and inspiration to young people during and following the charity's programmes – usually at a time of transition and over a sustained period.

The charity has designed a Personal Development Plan to allow the mentee and mentor to set goals and measure progress during their regular check-ins.

"I started my playing career with Crosfields ARLFC – and Rugby League taught me an awful lot," said Jamie, who now sponsors the team. "Coming from a single-parent family, I benefited from having the coaches and other players' parents around me.

"Having been brought up in that supportive environment, I am a big believer in the learning that can come from someone who has more experience and is willing to share it. Over the years, I've built up a strong network that allows me to do just that whenever I hit a roadblock in business, and I'm finding it very fulfilling to now be that person for the young people I mentor."

The Prince's Trust approached Jamie about becoming a mentor

after he shared his inspiring story at an enterprise day, held at Beehive Mill in Ancoats, last year. His engaging talk, '10 Things I Wish I'd Known on Day One', became the catalyst for his official involvement.

"The charity knew I was interested in mentoring, they thankfully opened the door for me – and the rest is history," added Jamie. "I'm proud that I've gone from being a 'one man and his van' operator to a nationwide business, helping up to 70 delivery partners earn a living every day. With Today Team growing, I am happy and grateful to now be able to invest time in building mentorship relationships that help young people whose shoes I was once in."

Helen Galloway, youth development lead at The Prince's Trust, said: "It is wonderful to have Jamie on board as one of our volunteer business mentors. His business has gone from strength to strength since first being supported by The Trust almost 20 years ago. It's great that he is now using his experience and expertise to help the next generation of entrepreneurs."

To find out more about mentoring opportunities with The Prince's Trust, visit princes-trust.org.uk



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Back to reality!

by John Laverick - Warrington & Co

So many thanks to Stephen Fitzsimmons for covering last month, I believe you will be hearing from him in relation to the Chamber of Commerce and the good things they do elsewhere in this month's publication.

Last time I wrote to you, I think we were looking forward to a couple of significant events – the No Dragon, No Lion performance and the Circus Skills event in Time Square. Can't really think of anything else that has really happened over the past month or so – except the football and the Olympics. I am sure too much has been written about the football, but

I was quite pleased to see that the IOC took to heart the last time I wrote about the Olympics, in this very column, and have included some more, shall we say, minority sports.

I have heard a lot of people say that these are not really sports but the IOC has form in this area, so I see the introduction of surfing, skateboarding and BMX riding as

being only slightly less contentious than the truly bonkers (can I say that?) Live Pigeon Shooting, Pistol duelling or Horse High Jump during the last Century. And who says that breakdancing is any different to solo synchronised swimming? Anyway, I for one, enjoyed the whole Olympics immensely, particularly those events when nothing really seems to happen – 10,000m swim in the Seine springs to mind. Perhaps more of a dare than a sport?

So back to reality, and if you like your entertainment to evolve over a longer period than even the 10,000m swims, you'll be glad to know that following our promotion of Bank Quay Gateway at UKREiIF (see July's edition) the UK government has set up a new Manchester Liverpool Rail Board to oversee the implementation of the rail connection between, well Liverpool and Manchester. OK, so it wasn't just our promotion that prompted this, but it is quite the step in the right direction for a new government to make such a bold endorsement of the project. As with all things rail it will take time, but will have significant effect on our economy and so should be worth the wait.

Bit too fast? Well in that case you'll be glad to know that we still have a packed schedule of entertainment on at Time Square. On Thursday 22nd

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and Friday 23rd August we have Go Wild Warrington with our old friend Zelva the Giant Tortoise, the world's only walking animatronic character of this type accompanied by Sheldon Aristotle Chandler, the tortoise handler, who is also probably the world's only professional tortoise handler, together with various craft activities and on Thursday 29th August we have The Extreme Mountain Bike Show, where all sorts of cycle related activities will be taking place.

If you fancy planning ahead a bit this September will see Makers' Market on 8th, Mela on 15th and for the energetic 22nd will be the Warrington Running Festival and of course on 29th it will be the LCCC Commemorative cricket match on the Town Hall lawn.

Enjoy.

Warrington ranked second best place in UK for job opportunities

NEW research has revealed Warrington as the second best place in the UK for the best job opportunities.

The study, conducted by HR software provider Ciphir, compared employment data for 100 of the UK's most populated towns and cities to determine which locations offer the best potential for job opportunities.

Warrington came in second place, behind Winchester and ahead of St Albans in third. Chelmsford, Sevenoaks, Preston, Cheltenham, Guildford, Aberdeen, and Reading also made the top 10.

Commenting on the findings Warrington Chamber of Commerce CEO Stephen Fitzsimons said: "Warrington appearing so highly in this study is of no surprise to anyone in the local business community. The town is home to a large number of international brands, each offering exciting career opportunities, both for residents and the daily influx of regional talent. From nuclear physicists to caring for the vulnerable – Warrington has a variety of vocations for all levels of aspiration and remuneration."

Towns and cities were rated (out of 100) across multiple factors, such as average full-time earnings, annual pay growth, the latest employment and unemployment figures, employment rate growth, the number of job listings on Indeed, LinkedIn and Glassdoor (combined) per

10,000 local workers, and business density – or the number of businesses in the area.

Housing costs, as well as life satisfaction and happiness scores, were also considered to reflect the town or city's affordability and its residents' general level of wellbeing.

Warrington scored well across multiple criteria – it has a below-average unemployment rate of 2.8% and an above-average employment rate of 80.2% (the UK averages, for the year to December 2023, were 3.7% and 75.7% respectively).

For those job hunting right now, analysis of data from Indeed, LinkedIn and Glassdoor, earlier this month, found that there were 472 job postings in Warrington per 10,000 working-age residents (the UK average is 243 per 10,000).

In 2023, the number of employers in Warrington, with 10 staff or more, increased by 4.8% (vs 2.2% nationally), taking its tally to 75.1 businesses per 10,000 working-age adults (that's above the UK average of 70.2 per 10,000).

The town is also relatively competitive in terms of housing affordability. Rental properties in Warrington averaged £695 a month in 2023 – just under a quarter (24%) of full-time pay. While, according to Rightmove, properties sold for an average of £262,694 in the last year – around 7.6 times the average full-time worker's earnings of £34,400.



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*Congratulations to Warrington Worldwide
on celebrating 25 years*

Chamber endures changes in business community over 25 years



By Stephen Fitzsimons, Chief Executive of Warrington & Vale Royal Chamber of Commerce

It's been an honour to work in Warrington for nearly as long as Warrington Worldwide and I'm part of the "born or drawn here" contingent. I still call junction 8 of the M62 the "new one", remember the Halliwell Jones stadium being shiny new and recall when Warrington Market had more meat stalls than anyone could possibly require!

The business community has changed significantly during this time, and although some might lament the demise of the town's industrial pioneers, you can still see their successors if you know where to look.

Greenall's might have moved gin production from Wilderspool to Birchwood, however they are still exporting around the world as part of Quintessential Brands. The Crosfield name has gone, but you can still find Ecoyast and PQ Silicas producing speciality chemicals at the same bend of the River Mersey. Wire production seems to live on only through Warrington Wolves, until you hear that companies such as Graepels of Burtonwood continue to produce mesh and cages, including for a James Bond villain!

It might be more difficult to see the Warrington economy in action (or smell - Tetley Walkers anyone?), however rest assured that it has evolved into one of the strongest in the North of England. Of course, logistics companies will always gravitate here because of the three motorways, West Coast Mainline and two international airports (which we have annexed for "Greater" Warrington). It's also worth highlighting that companies like Amazon have highly

sophisticated engineering jobs supporting automation and robotics so not always justified as low value. However, the real strength in the local economy is through the intellectual capital generated from the (nuclear) engineering companies at Birchwood Park - Sellafield, Jacobs, Rolls Royce, Nuvia and many others.

One organisation has of course endured throughout my time in Warrington and all the way back to its launch in 1876. The Chamber of Commerce has survived a Great Recession, two world wars and a global pandemic. It continues to provide the documentation for local manufacturers to send their products all over the world. It works with local and national politicians to ensure that their challenges and opportunities are incorporated into government policy. As you'll see again at the 11th October Warrington Business Conference, it brings businesses together to network, lobby and learn from each other. Many of us might be out to pasture in another 20 years, however the Chamber will still be here - financially secure and supporting local companies, together with the Business Exchange and Warrington & Co. If you want to access this community, drop us a line and let's have a chat!



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Lit Fest is a big hit!

WARRINGTON'S biannual festival of literature, 'Lit Fest', has been hailed a big success, with almost 1,000 people discovering the joys of reading during this year's month-long celebration.

Newly released figures from Lit Fest 2024, which took place throughout June, show that over 700 people attended the headline events, with a further 200 people dropping into community libraries to take part in festival-themed activities.

Launched in 2022, and organised by LiveWire, the festival runs at libraries and other community venues across the borough, showcasing a range of exciting literature-themed events and activities.

This year's Lit Fest featured a range of different events for the whole community, aimed at promoting reading for pleasure, and welcoming both regular and new visitors into Warrington's libraries.

With four separate themed weeks – children; culture and inclusivity; local authors; and crime reading – there was something for everyone, from storytelling and rhyme-times, to author talks, performance and workshops.

Highlights of the festival included:

'Firefighter Storytime' with Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service at Great Sankey Hub, which was attended by more than 100 people.

Tying in with Pride Month, the high-profile visit by national ballet company, Black British Ballet, who treated audiences to a Windrush-

themed performance.

A performance by the Signing Choir, story-times and activities by Mulan Culture and linking with the national Hi Vis initiative, which promotes accessible libraries and reading for people who are blind or have sight loss.

A visit to Padgate Library from well-known author Kate Ellis, along with a talk at Stockton Heath Library by reputed thriller, mystery and suspense writer, Alex Lake – who previously lived in the village but is now resides in the US.

An exhibition and author event at Penketh Library, hosted by internationally renowned writer Martin Edwards, from Lymm. Martin even handed out a signed copy of his book, 'The Puzzle of Blackstone Lodge', to one lucky (and clever!) quiz winner.

Warrington Borough Council's Cabinet Member for communities, culture and leisure, Cllr Tony Higgins said: "Warrington Lit Fest continues to go from strength to strength and I'm thrilled that this year's celebrations have been such a big success. It's enabled us to introduce many more people – of all ages – to the joy of reading and the wonderful world of literature.

"Extending the festival from the one-week celebration we held in 2022 to a full month this year has proved to be a very successful move, with more people than ever

engaged in activities and events. The range of activities on offer, from children's storytelling and performance to creative writing workshops and author talks, has captured the imagination of people across our communities, which is great news.

"I'd like to thank our dedicated library staff, along with all of our partners, whose hard work and enthusiasm have been instrumental in engaging almost 1,000 local people in the celebrations. I can't wait to see what's in store for 2026!"



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Divorce Column

By Peter Wilkinson
Divorce Lawyer at Chambers Fletcher Solicitors

Pensions on Divorce

Pensions are often one of the largest assets in a marriage, sometimes exceeding the value of the family home. Understanding how pensions are treated in divorce proceedings, the legal options available and the factors influencing division is crucial for ensuring a fair settlement.

There are 3 possible methods of settlement available with respect to pensions, namely Pension Sharing, Offsetting and Attachment (Earmarking), or a combination of Sharing and Offsetting.

A Pension Sharing Order allows for a percentage share of one spouse's pension to be transferred to the other party as a pension. This is a clean break option, meaning once the order is implemented the parties' pension assets are entirely separate. The receiving party may be able to join the other party's pension scheme or the funds may need to be transferred out to a new scheme of their choice.

Pension offsetting involves setting off the value of the pension against the value of other marital assets. For instance, one spouse may keep the pension while the other receives a greater share of the family home or other assets. This approach avoids the complexities of splitting a pension but requires sufficient non-pension assets to ensure a fair settlement.

Pension Attachment Orders, also known as earmarking, direct that a percentage share of one spouse's pension benefits be paid to the other when the pension comes into payment. This can include lump sum payments, regular pension income, or both. However, this option doesn't provide a clean break and the receiving party has no access to the funds until the pension holder's benefits become payable. This is not a very common option.

The first step in dividing pensions is to obtain a cash equivalent valuation (CEV). A CEV can be fairly straightforward for some types of pensions but more difficult to determine with respect to others. Given the complexity of pension division, seeking professional advice in the context of your specific circumstances is essential.

For advice and assistance regarding divorce and related matters please get in touch - we have a lot of experience advising, guiding and supporting clients in this area of law.

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College art student achieves huge career milestone

A Level three art and design student at Warrington & Vale Royal College recently achieved a significant milestone in her artistic career after being selected to exhibit her work at Origins Creatives, held at the Mall Galleries in London.

Madie Baldacchino's submission, titled *Me & Mum: an invisible thread*, delves into the intricate mother-child relationship through the rich traditions of textile arts. Her work stood out among over 500 submissions and caught the discerning eye of UAL Awarding Body's curator, Charlie Levine.

Origins Creatives is a free exhibition that is organised by UAL Awarding Body. This event offers a unique opportunity for art enthusiasts, critics, and industry professionals in the creative sector to discover original talent and to celebrate the dedication and hard work of young creatives from across the UK and internationally. Origins Creatives provides a platform for emerging talent to be seen and celebrated, connecting them with potential collaborators, industry leaders, and a wider audience.

The exhibition highlights the exceptional work of students from centres across the UK, showcasing their talent across the UAL subject areas of Art and Design, Fashion, Business, and Retail, Creative Media, Music Performance and Production, Performing Arts, Entry Level 3 in Art and Design and Performing Arts, Professional Diplomas, and the

Extended Project Qualification.

This year, Origins Creatives was an in-person exhibition at the Mall Galleries in central London. The exhibition launched with an invite-only opening night on 16th July at 6pm and was open to the public from 17th - 20th July, alongside an online showcase.

Warrington & Vale Royal College is immensely proud of Madie and her outstanding achievement. Her selection for such a distinguished event is a testament to her talent, creativity, and perseverance. Madie's work, which not only reflects her personal journey and artistic vision but also connects with a universal theme, made a significant impact at the exhibition.



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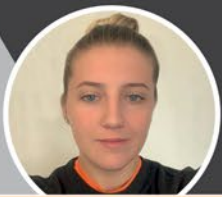
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WHAT'S ON AUTUMN 2024

- | | | | |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|
| Fri 6 Sep | - Sounds Familiar Music Quiz | Sun 3 Nov | - Night at the Darts |
| Sat 7 Sep | - Ben Elton - Authentic Stupidity | Thu 7 Nov | - Simon Reeve |
| Fri 13 Sep | - Whitney - Queen of the Night | Fri 8 Nov | - The Makings of a Murderer |
| Fri 20 Sep | - 80s Live | Sat 9 Nov | - The Night Sky Show |
| Sat 21 Sep | - Choriza May | Sun 10 Nov | - An Audience with Mark and Lard (SOLD OUT) |
| Sun 22 Sep | - Alexander O'Neal (NEW DATE) | Mon 11 Nov | - Foster and Allen |
| Thu 26 Sep | - Katherine Ryan - Battleaxe | Tue 12 Nov | - Think Floyd |
| Fri 27 Sep | - A Night at the Movies | Wed 13 Nov | - An Evening with Kevin Sinfield |
| Sat 5 Oct | - The Clone Roses | Thu 14 Nov | - Re-Take That |
| Sat 5 Oct | - Comedy Store | Fri 15 Nov | - Jimmy Carr |
| Thu 10 Oct | - Country Roads | Sun 17 Nov | - Dave Finnegan's Commitments |
| Fri 11 Oct | - Billy Joel - The Piano Man | Wed 20 Nov | - The Stylistics |
| Fri 11 Oct | - Tom Stade - Risky Business | Fri 22 Nov | - An Evening of Burlesque |
| Sat 12 Oct | - Luther | Sat 23 Nov | - Fleetwood Bac and A Foreigners Journey |
| Sun 13 Oct | - Luke Combs UK Tribute | Fri 6 Dec | - Sounds Familiar Music Quiz |
| Wed 16 Oct | - Scouting for Girls (SOLD OUT) | Sat 7 Dec | - Last Days of Disco |
| Thu 17 Oct | - Peter Hook and The Light | Sat 10 Dec | - Lightning Seeds |
| Fri 18 Oct | - Al Murray - Guv Island | Fri 13 Dec | - ABBA Reunion |
| Sat 19 Oct | - Magic of Motown | Sat 14 Dec | - Comedy Store |
| Fri 1 Nov | - Big Country + Mike Peters | Fri 20 Dec | - For Those About To Rock |
| Sat 2 Nov | - Antarctic Monkeys | Sat 21 Dec | - Warrington Male Voice Choir |
| Sat 2 Nov | - Comedy Store | Fri 3 Jan - Sun 12 Jan | - Panto 2025 - Cinderella |



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SCAN ME



Grey skies and showers fail to dampen spirits

GREY skies and showers failed to dampen spirits as an estimated 20,000 people visited the 33rd Disability Awareness Day at Walton Hall & Gardens.

The spectacular event, the largest voluntary led event of its kind, was the culmination of a week long of activities raising awareness about disability, co-ordinated and led by founder Dave Thompson and a huge team of volunteers.

Headline sponsors were again Expanse Learning Group and the North West's water supplier United Utilities, who both pledged to continue supporting the event, which is already scheduled to take place again on Sunday July 13 next year.

The aim of this year's event

was to promote independent living through the theme "It's what disabled people can do that matters".

DAD 2024 exhibitors highlighted solutions supporting independent living and mobility, with equipment, products, transport, employment, education, training, health and social care, leisure activities, alongside over 100 charities/support groups.

Most of this year's Disability Awareness Day exhibitors were housed in a huge, tented village of marquees, supported by;

an extended Sports Zone, a Main Arena, a huge Performing Arts Marquee, two further Arts Marquees for art and crafts, a Silent Disco, a children's fun fair and play areas.

Visitors could "have a go" at sports activities including tennis,

American Football, Snooker, Rugby League, Martial Arts, Tai Chi, PowerChair Football, CrossFit and Scuba Diving in the on-site pool.

Disability Awareness Day 2024 was the finale of a week of complementary events.



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College celebrates outstanding 99% pass rate on results day

STUDENTS and staff at Warrington & Vale Royal College are celebrating yet another exceptional year of achievements for their hard-working Level 3 students.

In a memorable celebration morning at Warrington campus, students were invited to collect their results, where they were joined by their proud families, friends and tutors to revel in their well-deserved successes.

This year's results mark one of the brightest chapters in the college's history with an outstanding 99% pass rate for students in their final year at the college, with nearly half of those achieving a distinction grade or higher (equivalent to an A/A* A Level).

Since September 2023, Warrington & Vale Royal College has seen significant developments across both campuses. As well as the grand opening of the innovative Advanced Creative & Digital Skills (ACDS) Academy, which is celebrating an incredible 100% pass rate for all of its courses in its first year, other highlights include the announcement of a cutting-edge Institute of Technology (IoT) dedicated to health and life sciences at the Winsford campus, along with the upcoming launch of the Construction & Civil Engineering Academy (CCEA) at the Warrington campus. These initiatives are part of over £13 million in recent investments, transforming the college

into a vibrant hub of advanced technology and skills training.

In addition to these exciting developments, the college has been recognised as one of England's leading providers for apprenticeship success, ranking among the top 10 Further Education colleges in recent Qualification Achievement Rates (QAR) data. This recognition highlights the college's commitment to providing high-quality education and training opportunities, while firmly underscoring the college's position as Warrington's leading provider of technical education.

The remarkable results attained this year meant the energy was electric at the Vocational Results Day celebration. One student celebrating their impressive achievements includes Elliot Tapsfield, a former pupil of Culcheth High School, who has received a triple distinction* in Level 3 Graphic Design. This grade, which is equivalent to 3 A* A Levels, has allowed Elliot to progress to his first-choice university where he looks forward to continuing his graphic design studies.

Josh Clements, a talented final year health & social care student, has also exceeded his own expectations by achieving a remarkable A* grade while studying at the college's

specialist Health & Social Care Academy (HSCA). Josh, who has always felt passionate about helping young people, will be taking his

incredible qualification with him to Edge Hill University where he plans to study BSc Child & Adolescent Mental Health.





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The changing face of Warrington town centre over 25 years

by Gary Skentelbery

WHILE much has changed over the past 25 years since the launch of Warrington Worldwide - the transformation of the town centre certainly stands out - none more so than the Cultural Quarter.

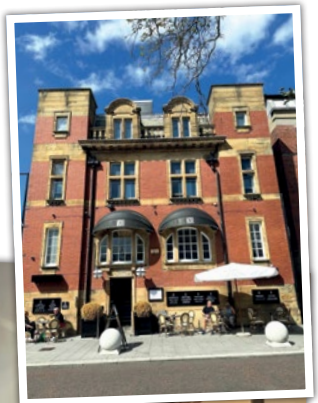
The jewel in the crown is most certainly the Treasury Building, formerly Warrington Technical School and former Warrington Borough Council Treasury and now a bustling venue for high quality bars and restaurants.

Located next door to the town's historic Parr Hall, it certainly provides the ideal setting for a great night out, with the Kuckoo Rock 'n' Roll Cocktail Bar making an exciting addition in recent times.

now living in the town centre, hopefully they can thrive and prosper for years to come.

While much still needs to be done, in particular at the lower end of Bridge Street, this is already a work in progress with the Grand Cocktail Bar leading the way and soon to expand with a new roof top garden!

It will certainly be interesting to see what the next 25 years bring.



Across the way is the popular Grill on the Square, which now adjoins a Boutique Hotel in the old Post Office building, with a number of smaller bars and restaurants in the immediate vicinity providing plenty of variety.

Around the corner the old Co-op building and in more recent times TJ Hughes store, has been transformed into The Hive, a blend of restaurants, bars, shopping arcade and offices, providing another exciting addition to the town centre.



All this has been achieved thanks to private investment with more still to come.

Meanwhile, across town, Time Square, including the new look Warrington Market and multi-screen cinema and popular Botanist Restaurant has also helped breathe new life into what had been an ailing town centre following the loss over the years of house hold names including Woolworths, Marks & Spencers and more recently Debenhams.

A lot of this is down to a change in shopping habits, with much now done online.

But the new facilities have helped increase footfall and made Warrington town centre a visitor destination and with more people






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Priestley College student named Sixth Former of the Year

A STUDENT at Warrington's Priestley College has been named Sixth Former of the Year at the Student Social Mobility Awards.

Sophie Colledge, who is also a Priestley College ambassador, travelled to London for the awards ceremony held at Mansion House, which is the official residence of the Mayor of London.

"My favourite part of the evening was going up to collect the award as well as hearing about everyone else's successes," said Sophie, who is studying Early Years, Childcare and Education at Priestley.

The Student Social Mobility Awards are organised by upReach to showcase the incredible achievements of undergraduates from lower socio-economic backgrounds.

They recognise students who have excelled in their studies and beyond, and shown great potential to excel as they launch their careers.

Sophie, who is also studying Criminology, was recognised for being "an active member of her local community as well as volunteering at local events supporting young people from disadvantaged backgrounds."

The award also recognised how, for the past year, she has been a youth leader at Warrington Youth Zone, working with a range of young people with varied needs. Sophie

has also taken part in Warrington's Buddy Up programme, offering weekly support to a young girl with a number of mental health needs.

"I just really enjoy helping people," said Sophie. "When I found out that I won the award for what I do I was shocked as well as massively proud of myself and just excited."






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Good news for Warrington A Level students

THE recent publication of the 2024 A-level results has brought good news for Warrington students.

Four colleges in Warrington supported pupils with A-Levels, and initial results show that – despite an expected national fall in grades close to pre-pandemic levels – Warrington students have performed well.

The data for Warrington (which is preliminary and could be subject to change), shows that:

- The percentage of A-level entries achieving A*-A grades is 23%, an increase of 2.6% on 2023.
- The percentage of entries achieving A*-B grades is 48.2%, up 1.5%.
- The percentage of entries achieving A*-C grades is 73.9%, an increase of 0.9%.

While the overall pass rate (A* – E grades) has fallen by 0.2% to 97.9%, the percentage of students achieving A* – E grades remains higher than the England average.

Cllr Jean Flaherty, Deputy Leader of Warrington Borough Council and Cabinet Member for children, families and education, said: "I'd like to congratulate all our students for their fantastic achievements in their A-Levels this year. It's the result of two years of hard work and dedication.

"It's also important to thank staff in our schools and colleges who have worked so hard to make sure our students are well prepared for the exams and have supported and challenged them at every step to help them reach their full potential.

"These positive results show the resilience our students continue to show, despite the disruption they have faced during their education journey, and we wish all of this year's cohort the very best of luck in achieving their future career aspirations."



Priestley Collete's Sam Morrissey (left) and Antony Woods



Priestley students celebrate



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Community summer fair shines at Dementia care specialist

Dementia specialist Belong Warrington has hosted its annual summer fair, welcoming local people to join its residents and colleagues for the joyous community event.

This year's bonanza featured all the fun of the fair from family games and face painting, to live entertainment and the browsing of artisan gift stalls from independent traders.

The event formed part of the

village's vibrant programme of experiences for customers, with its not-for-profit status allowing it to focus on a number of varied activities, both in and outside of the village, and including welcoming people from the local area.



Heat pump works completed to make a greener Walton Hall

TWO old, end-of-life gas boilers heating Walton Hall, one of the top ten carbon emitters in the council's estate, have recently been replaced with greener, ground source heat pump technology.

As a result, replacing the heating system at Walton Hall is a significant step towards cutting the council's climate pollution.

The ground source heat pump is an electric powered heating system that uses a series of boreholes to capture renewable energy from the ground.

This energy is compressed into a higher temperature so that it can

heat Walton Hall to 21 degrees during cooler weather.

The works included decommissioning and removing the old gas boilers and stripping out the existing heating system and pipework, before installing the new heating technology.

Replacing the end-of-life boilers is part of the council's work to shift from conventional fossil fuel heating in buildings to greener methods. This low-carbon heating technology will result in an estimated annual carbon saving of 43,000 kgCO₂e, compared to gas heating.

Charlotte Nichols MP Warrington North

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Another reason to visit Lymm

Lymm has long been a popular destination for visitors and in Victorian times they came by charabanc, train or bicycle.

These days it's the car along with cyclists venturing along the Trans-Pennine trail and holiday boaters. They come for the walks and the scenery as well as some great food and drink venues and an interesting range of shops. And now there is another reason to visit: Lymm Heritage Centre. The Centre first opened its doors in 2017 and since then has welcomed tens of thousands of visitors. They come to discover a little more about Lymm's story from its very own pet dinosaur (there's a life size model of a

chirotherium!) right through to more modern times and some of Lymm's unusual and surprising industries.

Did you know that Lymm was once part of the Cheshire salt extraction industry or that Lymm's gold leaf was used on the gates of Buckingham Palace and the Hogwarts Express?

There's plenty for children too: children enjoy trying out the Victorian toys while dressed for the period. They can go on a mouse and rat hunt to get their book stamped as Lymm's Inspector of

Nuisances (there really was one) or control a miniature railway showing the building of the Manchester Ship Canal. It's worth checking out the website for temporary exhibitions too. Right now one part of the Centre is being used to tell the story of the old Barclays Bank which is in the process of being redeveloped for more retail use.

The Centre is open from 12 till 4pm Thursday to Sunday and is conveniently located right next to Henry St Car Park in the village centre at 1 Legh St. Don't miss it next time you're in Lymm! Discover more at the Centre's website www.lymmhc.co.uk





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Video diaries transform support for families on Neonatal Unit

A transformational video messaging service is helping parents at Warrington Hospital's Neonatal Unit to connect with their poorly babies.

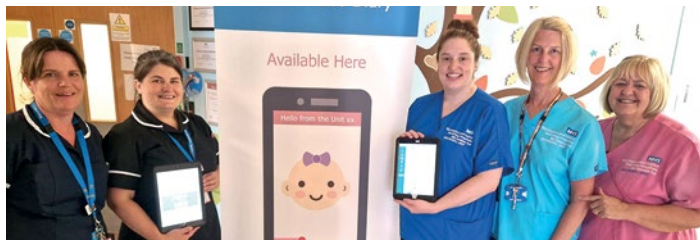
The vCreate app allows staff in the Neonatal Unit to send videos, photos and messages to parents who are not able to be with their baby on the unit.

Updates are sent via a secure and safe system, providing a way for parents to ask questions, check in on progress and feel closer to their baby during some of the most difficult times for a new family. vCreate allows nurses on the ward to capture precious first moments when a baby opens their eyes or tastes milk and can support the stimulation of oxytocin, fostering closer relationships and supporting new parents to produce milk.

Parents are also able to download videos and pictures from the app to share with wider family and friends who may not be able to meet the new

addition to the family. The system has been vital in helping families to reduce their anxiety, with many new families expressing their gratitude for the new app.

Erica Wiles, Neonatal Unit Ward Manager, said: "We strive to foster close and loving relationships between babies and their parents. A stay on the Neonatal Unit can be one of the most terrifying times for a family but with the vCreate app we can support parents to be more involved and feel connected to their baby's care. The app not only allows us to share photographs and updates with parents, but is vital to reducing separation anxiety, supporting new mums with breastmilk expression and creating those emotional bonds with their new baby."



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Understanding Business Splitting: VAT Registration Implications

The VAT registration threshold increased from £85,000 to £90,000 on 1 April 2024, following a six-year freeze. This means businesses must register for VAT if their taxable sales exceed £90,000 over any rolling twelve-month period or are expected to exceed this amount within the next 30 days. Registration would then be effective from the start of that thirty-day period.

Business splitting is a strategy some businesses use to avoid registering for VAT, especially when their sales are standard-rated, and customers cannot reclaim input tax. For example, a business that sells ice creams and rents deckchairs might consider operating the ice cream sales as a sole trader venture and the deckchair rentals as a limited company, keeping each entity under the threshold, even if their combined turnover exceeds £90,000.

HMRC's Powers and Legislation

HMRC has the authority to issue a written direction to treat two or more closely connected entities as a single taxable entity for VAT purposes. This is based on their assessment of the financial, organisational, and economic links between the entities. HMRC must prove the existence of all three types of links before they can issue a direction.

The relevant legislation is found in Schedule 1, paragraph 1A(1) of

the Value Added Tax Act 1994. Its purpose is to prevent the artificial separation of business activities that would otherwise result in VAT avoidance. HMRC's powers are designed to counter businesses deliberately splitting their operations to fall below the registration threshold.

A Case Study: Splitting in Practice

Consider a business owner who operates a garden maintenance service as a sole trader while running a limited company that provides fencing installation, paving, and irrigation services. While each business trades below the £90,000 threshold, their combined turnover exceeds this figure. The argument for separating the two entities is that one business maintains existing features while the other creates new installations.

HMRC can only issue a direction to combine businesses going forward and cannot enforce retrospective registration if the split is legitimate and well-structured. For the split to be properly executed, several factors must be in place:

1. Separate bank accounts, supplier accounts, and sales invoicing for each business.
2. Customers must clearly understand which business they are dealing with.
3. Separate marketing efforts, ideally with distinct websites and promotional materials.

4. Separate accounting records and systems for both businesses.
5. Different ownership structures, such as involving a spouse or other family member in one entity.
6. Clear distinction in activities, such as maintaining gardens versus installing new features.
7. Transactions between businesses must be conducted at arm's length, with appropriate recharges for shared costs.
8. Financial independence between the businesses, with no loans or asset transfers between them.

If there is a lack of clear separation, such as shared equipment or muddled accounting between the businesses, HMRC may determine that no genuine separation exists. This could result in retrospective registration, potentially going back up to 20 years, which could have severe financial consequences for the business.

Guidance and Best Practices

Although HMRC does not provide a detailed checklist for identifying financial, organisational, or economic links, their decisions are typically based on common business practices. HMRC's Statement of Practice 4, issued in 1983, outlines factors that could



Thomas Coyne and Stuart Barr

indicate a connection between entities. Despite the considerable case law that has emerged since, this guidance remains relevant.

Conclusion

In the case of the garden maintenance and fencing businesses, there may be a valid argument for business separation due to the distinct nature of the services offered, the customer bases, and the materials used. However, each case must be considered individually, and the separation must be genuine to avoid issues with HMRC. Business owners considering splitting should ensure they have the proper procedures in place to maintain clear separation between their entities, mitigating the risk of VAT complications.

If you have any queries about how VAT splitting may affect your current or future trading activities please contact us.

Warrington Worldwide 25th Anniversary

Finally, we would like to wish Warrington Worldwide a Happy 25th Anniversary. As early contributors to the magazine we are proud to support Warrington Worldwide and look forward to continuing to do so in to the future.

WatkinsonBlack have considerable experience in all areas of taxation and business services. This includes providing a very cost-effective **payroll bureau service**, as well as assisting to ensure compliance with the latest **Making Tax Digital** legislation, including the **Basis Period Changes**. If you are **employed or self-employed** either as a sole trader, partnership or limited company, **or are subject to self-assessment due to rental or other untaxed income**, and want to arrange a **no-obligation initial meeting on any taxation or accounting matter** then please contact us by telephone on **01925 413210** or by e-mail to **info@watkinsonblack.com**

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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Football in Warrington 25 years on



Warrington celebrating promotion to the National League North. Picture: Jonathan Moore

By Garry Clarke

AS the first edition of printed version of Warrington Worldwide hit the streets 25 years ago the town's football teams were in the first weeks of the 1999/2000 season, a season which saw, as now, Warrington Town as the town's leading club, but only just.

Plying their trade in the North West Counties League Division Two, 5 levels lower than their current home the National League North, which did not exist in 1999, Town had finished the 1998/99 season in 4th place 6 places above cross town rivals Tetley Walker who finished the 1999/00 season two places higher than Town, the last time a Warrington team has finished a season above Town and the first time it happened since Rylands finished the 1981/82 Mid-Cheshire League season higher.

The following season 2000/01 saw Town and Tetley's battling for the NWCFL Division Two title with Town coming out on top finishing two points ahead of Tetley's in second place.

Going in very different directions this is where the two teams parted company; Tetley Walker folded following the completion of the season due to ground issues with the Social Club, while Town began their rise up the non-league pyramid system.

After three seasons Town regained their place in the Northern Premier League, which had been lost in 1997. After 12 seasons in the NPL First Division they gained promotion to the Premier Division and last summer after seven seasons were promoted to the National League North where they enjoyed a good debut season finishing in a respectable 12th place.

A level to which Warrington Rylands will be aiming to follow them in time after a remarkable rise through the divisions which has seen them jump from the Cheshire League to the NPL Premier in four years.

In 1999 Warrington Rylands, or just Rylands as they were then

known, finished 8th in the Mid-Cheshire League Division One, a division which also included Warrington Borough (Town Reserves).

Three further Warrington based teams - Padgate St Oswalds, Rylands Reserves, Walkers Sports (Tetley Walker reserves) were competing in the Mid-Cheshire League Division Town, while today the only Warrington representatives in the Cheshire League (competition renamed in 2007) are Eagle Sports in the Premier Division and Moore United in League Two.

Back in 1999, Eagle Sports were one of the leading clubs in the Warrington & District Football League. The 3rd oldest league in the country having been formed in 1895 housed 60 teams playing in 4 divisions, with a number of teams entering reserve teams in reserve divisions.

In 2024 the Warrington & District League comprised 46 teams, including reserve teams, in 4 divisions and like in 1999 many of its teams come from outside the town boundaries as highlighted by the league champions, in 1999 Whiston Cross lifted the Premier Division title while St Helens based Sidac Sports took the 2024 title.

In 1999 there were another 60 teams, again many from outside Warrington, playing in the 6 divisions of the Warrington Sunday League; in 2024 there were just 15 teams in 2 divisions. Grange Valley were the 1999 Sunday champions and FC Sankey the 2024 champions.

Much has changed on the Warrington football scene in the 25 years of Warrington Worldwide; I wonder what changes the next 25 years will bring?

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PUBLIC NOTICES

LICENSING ACT 2003: NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR GRANT OF A PREMISES LICENCE.

Amy Woods has given to Warrington Borough Council an application for the grant of a Premises Licence for Orla Salon, 69A Sankey Street, Warrington, WA1 1SL.

The licensable activities which it is proposed will be carried on at the premises are:

- The Supply of Alcohol (On Premises):
- Monday: 11:00 – 20:00
- Tuesday: 11:00 – 20:00
- Wednesday: 11:00 – 20:00
- Thursday: 11:00 – 21:00
- Friday: 11:00 – 20:00
- Saturday: 11:00 – 20:00
- Sunday: 11:00 – 20:00

The Licensing Register of Warrington Borough Council is held at East Annexe, Town Hall, Sankey Street, Warrington, WA1 1UH and where applicable, at www.warrington.gov.uk. The record of the application may be inspected during normal office hours at the Council's above address and, where applicable, at any time on the above website.

Representations which shall be made in writing may be made by a responsible authority or any other person to Warrington Borough Council to be received at their above address by no later than 5th September 2024.

It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application; the maximum fine for which a person is liable on summary conviction being £5,000. (18/24)

LICENSING ACT 2003: NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR GRANT OF A PREMISES LICENCE.

White Lace Bakery Ltd has given to Warrington Borough Council an application for the Grant of a Premises Licence at 11 Old Market Place, Warrington, WA1 1QB on 16th August 2024.

Licensable activities presented to Warrington Borough Council:

- Supply of Alcohol (Off & On Sales)
- Sunday to Saturday 09.00 – 22.30
- Opening Hours
- Sunday to Saturday 09.00 – 23.00
- Recorded Music
- Sunday to Saturday 09.00 – 23.00

Representations which should be made in writing may be made by a responsible authority or any other person to Warrington Borough Council to be received at the address below by no later than 13th September 2024.

Licensing Section, Warrington Borough Council, Town Hall, East Annex, Sankey Street, Warrington, WA1 2UH

The record of the application may be inspected during normal office hours at the councils above address and or at any time on the council website.

It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application; the maximum fine for which a person is liable on summary conviction being £5,000. (18/24)

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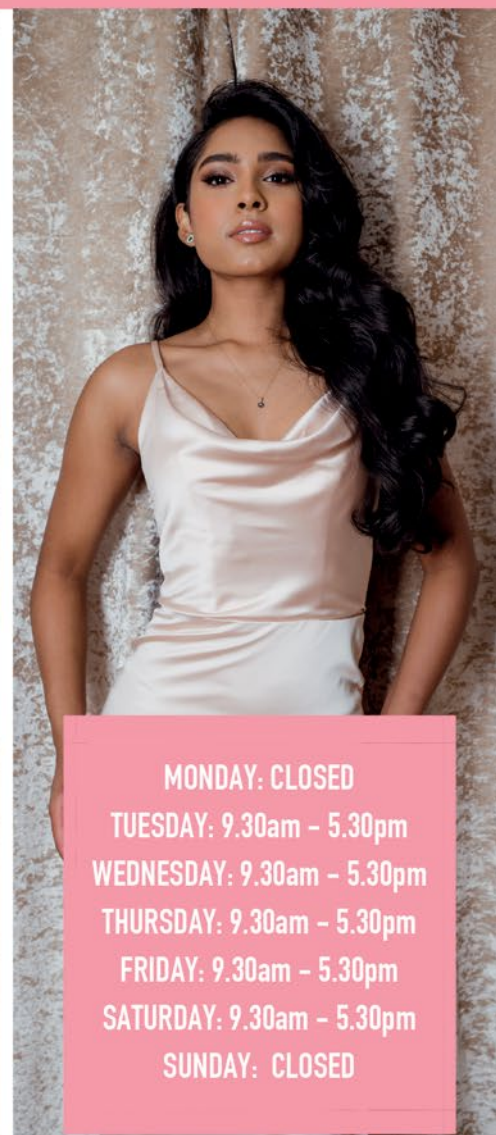
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