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Dec 18 / Jan 19

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## The journal of the WARRINGTON CHAMBER of COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

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# Students celebrate success at College's HE Awards Ceremony

**W**ARRINGTON & Vale Royal College's Higher Education students celebrated outstanding success at an annual awards ceremony, set in the magnificent St Elphin's Church.

Friends, family, staff and fellow students gathered at the church to honour the determination and commitment of students who have completed HNCs, HNDs and Teacher Training, as well as higher level Apprenticeships and Professional qualifications.

As well as academic certificates, several students also received special awards for outstanding achievement, dedication and commitment in their subject area.

Natasha Wyatt, graduating in HND Performing Arts, was awarded the Future Leader Award, sponsored by Warrington's Own Buses.

The Outstanding Achievement Award, sponsored by Warrington and Halton NHS Trust, went to Richard Cusack, who successfully completed his Sport & Exercise Science HNC.

The Hilary Tucker Inspiring Learner Award, sponsored by warrington-worldwide, was presented to HND Fine Art graduate Erin Hague.

Jeremy Boardman, graduating in HND Computing & Systems Development, took home the Student of the Year Award, sponsored by Lane End.

The Higher Apprentice of the Year Award, sponsored by Morgan Branding, was presented to Melanie Hallett, who is currently employed as a PA in Warrington & Vale Royal College.

The event also witnessed celebrity chef Aiden Byrne, become a Fellow of the College.

Principal Nichola Newton reflected on Aiden's support of the college's work placement programme and his commitment to developing the employability skills of their students.

"Over the last few years Aiden has really supported the college with various initiatives," explained Nichola, "including the Hospitality & Catering Skills Contest, which takes place each year. This is when our students compete against one another – Aiden spent the whole day with us, judging students and offering them valuable advice. He also kindly donated a number of



his books.

"What's more, Aiden has provided our catering students with countless work placement opportunities, including within the prestigious Manchester House and 20 Stories. He's also appointed our talented students in paid employment roles within his restaurants."

The evening was concluded with a Student Vote of Thanks, delivered by the aforementioned Melanie Hallett.

Melanie said: "On behalf of all the students at Warrington & Vale Royal College I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate each and every one of you sat in front of me this evening."

"I would like to thank all of our tutors for their hard work, determination and endless patience in guiding and supporting us on our course."

"I would like to thank the family and friends of each of our graduates, for their unconditional help and support along the way and especially the students of Warrington & Vale Royal College – I would like to wish you lots of luck



and best wishes for the future.

"And remember the wise words of Santosh Kalwar: 'It does not matter where you go and what you study, what matters most is what you share with yourself and the

world.'"

To find out more about Warrington & Vale Royal College's Higher Education and Professional courses, visit [www.wvr.ac.uk](http://www.wvr.ac.uk)



# From the Chief Executive

Colin Daniels

## GDP growth to slow in final quarter

The services sector has lost momentum indicating that GDP will expand at a weaker rate in the final quarter.

Service companies which make up nearly 80pc of the UK economy grew by their slowest pace in seven months according to the PMI Index.

The PMI recorded a fall from 53.9 to 52.2 implying a cooling off in expansion.

Any score above 50 indicates growth.

## Narrowing trade deficit

The latest figures from the Office of National Statistics (ONS) show that the total trade balance deficit narrowed in the 12 months to September 2018 by £7.6bn to £15.8bn.

The narrowing in the total trade balance deficit is due mainly to a £6.4bn widening in the services surplus meanwhile exports of services rose by £12.9bn during the period (and imports increased by only £6.5bn).



## Season's Greetings

On behalf of the Chamber team I would like to take the opportunity of wishing all our members and readers a Happy Christmas and Prosperous New Year.

Insight will return with our February issue. Don't forget to send us your success stories!

# Council gains White Ribbon status

WARRINGTON Council has been awarded 'white ribbon' accreditation in recognition of the work of the borough's domestic abuse partnership in combatting domestic violence.

The White Ribbon campaign is the largest global initiative for challenging domestic violence and aims to engage with, and educate men in particular on key issues such as violence and abuse.

Cllr Pat Wright, executive board member for statutory health and adult social care said: "I'm delighted to see the Council and its partners being recognised for taking a stand against domestic abuse in Warrington. This accreditation shows that we are heading in the right direction locally, although we all recognise that there is much more to be done.

"One in four women will experience domestic abuse in their lifetime, and a similar number will suffer from sexual assault or stalking. The majority of these incidents are committed by men and it is therefore the responsibility of men to support us to work to prevent it. At the same time women also commit acts of domestic violence, as do partners

in same-sex relationships, and we need to make it an unacceptable feature in partnerships, families and communities.

"We need to bring the issue out into the open with our work colleagues, friends and families. Women's organisations in particular want men to take a stand, work to end violence, and the White Ribbon UK campaign provides a vehicle for men to do this."

In support of the accreditation, a number of male 'White Ribbon ambassadors' will encourage awareness of domestic violence through their own networks and beyond.

Steve Peddie, the council's executive director of families and wellbeing, who is one of the men who has taken on the role as an ambassador said: "To wear a white ribbon is to pledge never to commit, excuse or remain silent about domestic violence against women. It's vital for men to be involved because it is men's responsibility to act.

"I would urge my colleagues, family, friends and males across the borough to join the White Ribbon campaign and show that domestic violence will not be tolerated."

More than 70 local authorities across the UK have received White

Ribbon status, which is reassessed every two years.

The Council and its partners have committed to a wide-ranging action plan on tackling male violence against women, as well as all other types of domestic abuse, incorporating positive work already underway in addition to supporting

new

initiatives. This includes the development of a domestic and sexual violence policy for employees and council members and appointing volunteer ambassadors to carry the message out to more men.



Cllr Pat Wright (front and centre) with White Ribbon ambassadors (left to right) Steve Cullen - Chief Officer of Warrington District Citizens Advice Bureau, Steve Peddie and Colin Daniels - Chief Executive of Warrington Chamber of Commerce.

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Colin Daniels, Chief Executive



# Top tips for a winter wedding at The Park Royal

**G**lamorous colour schemes, twinkling fairy lights and crisp, festive weather; winter weddings are magical, romantic and most importantly, budget friendly!

There's no better time to plan your winter wedding so to get you started, we've rounded up our top 5 winter wedding ideas to help you nail your wedding theme!

## 1. One Day, One Venue



Having your ceremony and reception in one place will spare your guests more time in the cold and will mean there's one less journey to make if the bad weather hits. At The Park Royal, our Royal suite or Garden suite can be transformed from a glamorous ceremony room in to a beautiful reception for your wedding celebrations.

## 2. Add romance with candles and fairy lights



Embrace the limited daylight with a scattering of romantic candle light and fairy lights across your ceremony and reception space to add an intimate feel to your day.

## 3. Keep guests warm



A hot drink on arrival, like a warming glass of mulled wine, is a great way to keep your guests warm and cheery on arrival to your big day.

## 4. Wintery wedding favours



Choose winter wedding favours like blankets, sparklers, mulled wine, candy canes or little bottles of Baileys for the perfect winter wedding favours.

## 5. Winter accessories



Beat the cold without sacrificing your style! Why not opt for a sophisticated long sleeved wedding dress, or cover your shoulders with an on trend cape or a chic cardigan?



## Disability charity seeks nominations for people who have “gone the extra mile!”

**W**ARRINGTON Disability Partnership (WDP) is seeking nominations to find people who have “gone the extra mile” to help people with disabilities as part of this year’s International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD).

The IDPD has been annually observed on December 3 around the world since 1992 and the theme this year is “Empowering persons with disabilities and ensuring inclusiveness and equality”.

This theme focuses on the empowering persons with disabilities for the inclusive, equitable and sustainable development envisaged in the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

WDP is recognised as one of the UK’s leading user led disability charities, with 27 services aimed at promoting and supporting independent living for Warrington’s 34,000 disabled people,

and further afield with WDP’s reach also extending across to Liverpool and across the UK and many countries around the world. Take a look at WDP’s timeline on their website [www.disabilitypartnership.org.uk](http://www.disabilitypartnership.org.uk) to see the impact the charity has had since it was launched in 1991.

Co-founder and Chief Executive Dave Thompson MBE DL said: “At WDP we lead by example, with over 80% of our 50 staff and 230 volunteers are disabled people. We believe it’s what disabled people can do that really matters”.

Over 83% of the UK’s 13.9 million disabled people acquire their disability during their working life. For many it is life changing, affecting them physically, sensory, cognitively and mentally. Dave said “Information, advice and guidance are vital to enabling people to understand that they have choices about life and work. Many people fear for the future, not knowing where to turn to, often they simply need a listening ear, and someone to help them

to navigate their journey ahead”.

This year WDP will celebrate the International Day by launching their annual “Appreciation of Efforts Awards” which aim to recognise and reward organisations and individuals that have gone the extra mile to improve the lives of local disabled people.

Nominating an organisation or individual is easy, simply call WDP on 240064 to request an application form, or download one from WDP’s website or collect a nomination form one of WDP’s services: Shopmobility or Mobility and Independent Living Store in the Golden Square or Centre for Independent Living in Evelyn Street, off Liverpool Road.

Winners will be invited to a presentation ceremony as part of WDP’s Annual General Meeting that will be held on Tuesday 22nd January, where they will receive a framed certificate.

Nominations close on the 31st December.

## Creating firm foundations for local businesses

LOCAL SME businesses across Cheshire and Warrington looking to find ways of introducing innovation to their organisations are being invited to attend a two-day foundation workshop, run by the University of Chester’s I2C (Innovation to Commercialisation) project.

The workshop takes place on Tuesday December 4 and Wednesday December 5 at Thornton Science Park.

Part ERDF-funded and fully funded for I2C beneficiaries, the innovation workshop is designed to help any eligible SMEs, which are based or registered in this region, to develop what they need to enable them to bring a new project to market. The two day skills-based event will introduce attendees to concepts and state-of-the-art equipment like Computer Aided Design tools, advanced manufacturing and rapid prototyping concepts.

The aim of the workshop is to provide participating businesses with a set of organisational tools, skills and knowledge to enable them to introduce a systematic process for innovation development and process management. They can also benefit from further support through a series of fully-funded masterclasses, which are also run at Thornton Science Park.

Commenting on a foundation workshop he attended earlier this year, Joe Handsaker CEO and founder of Elements Technology Platforms Ltd, said: “Before the workshop there was a lack of clear focus or direction in the business. As a result of the workshop I was able to identify a clear roadmap, which in turn gave me the structure to bring on board a complementary

CTO (Chief Technology Officer) and to re-analyse the market, and therefore put forward a much stronger market and competitor analysis. Since the workshop, we have been able to develop a working demonstrator in house. This has allowed us to create large amounts of interest in the product and the company, and as a result we are currently in the late stages of securing investment.”

Paul Vernon, CEO at Thornton Science Park and sponsor of the I2C project, said: “The I2C project was set up to help local businesses create, develop and commercialise all kinds of innovation, from new products and processes to services. We have now successfully run several of these foundation workshops, which represent the first step for a business embarking on this exciting commercialisation journey.”

The December workshop is just the latest in a series of two-day workshops and masterclasses provided by the I2C project to promote design and innovation across the Cheshire and Warrington region. The workshops and masterclasses are open to all businesses registered to the fully funded I2C project.

Anyone interested in finding out more about I2C and how to apply, should visit the I2C web page at <https://www1.chester.ac.uk/innovation-commercialisation-i2c>

## Busy month for Blue Whale

THIS month has been quite busy for us at Blue Whale Media. With our usual amount of charity events throughout the month, we’ve not stopped moving! From exciting team building events like the St Helens Chamber of Commerce Business Fair to important charity fundraising appeals, we’ve not had a quiet moment – just how we like it!

At Blue Whale, charity events are an important aspect of our monthly routine. Once one event has finished, we’re on the hunt for a new challenge. This month has been no different, as we’ve been involved in a broad selection of varying fundraising appeals.

### Samaritan Boxes

Something we’ve gotten involved in a fair few times is the Samaritan Box appeal. All our members of staff got involved this year and put together 20 full boxes for children

this Christmas. This is an appeal that we’re incredibly passionate about and a cause we think very highly of, which is why it wasn’t even a question of if we were getting involved this year as the answer is always yes!

### Veg Pledge

Another way that our team got involved with charity fundraising is through our ‘Veg Pledge’ challenge. If you’re not quite sure what on earth this is, the basic premise is that you pledge to follow a Vegetarian lifestyle for the full month in order to raise money for your chosen charity. Our charity of choice is Cancer Research, as it’s a brilliant charity and is held very dear to a lot of our members of staff.

### November

With the beginning of November,

brings the start of the Movember challenge. All the boys in our office got involved this year and raised money for the Movember charity – a charity that supports and raises the awareness of men’s health issues and works towards the education of these issues that everyone struggles with, such as prostate and testicular cancer and severe anxiety, depression and suicide. Another charity that is close to the hearts of many within our office, so this event was an obvious choice for this month’s fundraisers.

### St Helens Business Fair

One of our bigger events of the month was the St Helens Chamber of Commerce business fair. A lot of intensive planning and hard work goes into our business fairs, as it’s our chance to showcase all our work that we do within the year

and what we can offer potential clients. We like to flaunt our talent and everything we achieve with our brilliant team! If you saw us at the St Helens business fair, had a nice chat or even won a prize at our stalls, then a big thank you to you!

### Keep an Eye Out for Our Blue Whale Team

See our team out an about in Warrington? Don’t be afraid to come and say hi. We love talking to new people, especially if it’s about our charity events or our work! You can also keep up with our regular charity events through our social media (@bluewhalemedia) and can even get involved with our regular competitions to win some fantastic prizes!



# College student was inspired by police officer's visit

IT STARTED with a visit to Warrington's Priestley College by a local policeman.

Now Wesley Jenkins will have his own beat after being so inspired by the constable's talk that he trained to become an officer himself.

"What the officer said to us that day just matched up with my ethos of wanting to care for other people," said the former Birchwood High School pupil.

Wesley, who grew up in Birchwood, was studying Public Services, Sport and Financial Studies at Priestley College on the day that helped determine his path in life.

He went on to complete a BSC (Hons) in Policing and Criminal Investigation at Staffordshire University before achieving a Masters.

Despite this it took three attempts before he successfully applied for police officer training. After completing a 25-page application, impressing in roleplay

scenarios he was able to begin his 17-week course.

Now qualified, his first goal is to complete his two-year probation period and then take gradual steps towards his goal of becoming a senior investigating officer.

"Being a policeman appeals to me because I will be dealing with the public, I will be helping people and solving problems," he said.

In October, PC Jenkins returned to Priestley College to speak to the current cohort of Public Service students.

Tutor Carol Harrison-Chan said: "Given how Wesley started on his path to becoming a policeman he could well be the one to inspire one of our current students to follow in his footsteps.

"More than that, though, he shows what can be achieved if you work hard and stick to your goals."



## That's a wrap for three of Warrington's Own Buses

IT'S a dream for designers to see their work on show and for students from Priestley College that dream has come true.

Four members of the BTEC Graphic Design course will see their designs pass by on a regular basis thanks to the college's partnership with Warrington's Own Buses.

Their designs – featuring characters created by the college's in-house designer Carl Gleavey – now adorn the sides of buses that

travel directly to the college from Widnes, Irlam / Cadishead and Golborne.

"We like to wrap buses to give them an identity for the route they operate and to make it easier for customers to understand which bus to catch and where it goes," said Ben Wakerley, managing director at Warrington's Own Buses.

"The final design was picked as we felt that it would work well on the bus and we liked the modern imagery."

Students Emily Moxon, Jamie Smith, Nick Lin and Natalie Guest produced the final design after hours of discussion and creativity at college.

Emily, a former pupil at Great Sankey High School, said: "It's amazing to have our work on the side of the buses knowing that so many people will see it in Warrington."

Warrington's Own Buses run

a number of services direct to Priestley College and three of them have now been wrapped in the students' designs.

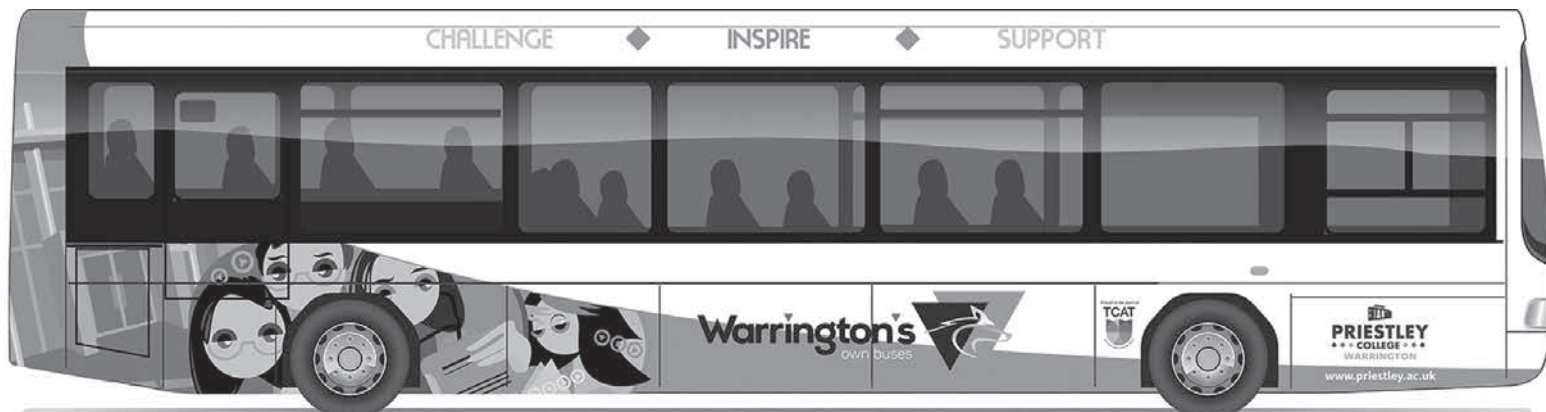
They include cartoon-like student characters and interpretations of some of the buildings found on the

college campus.

Tutor Paul McConnell said: "It's been great for the students to work with Warrington's Own Buses and treat them as a 'real life' client with standards and deadlines to meet."



Emily Moxon, Jamie Smith and Nick Lin on the bus that is now wrapped in their designs.





# Former business park boss helps bird sanctuary secure new home and zoo licence

**C**HAMBER Director and former business park boss Paul Taylor has helped the Wild Wings birds of prey wildlife sanctuary secure a new home and open to the public after securing a zoo licence.

The centre based at Taylor Business Park, thanks to the endeavours of former landlord Paul, opened its doors for a Family Fun Day to raise much needed funds.

Happy visitors flocked to the wildlife sanctuary for the event which not only had more than 80 magnificent birds to view but also had lots for families to enjoy including archery, facepainting, children's quizzes, tin can alley, lovely refreshments and more.

The well attended event raised £1,180 to help run the centre and also awareness of the wonderful visitor experience now being offered at the site.

Wild Wings Birds of Prey is a not-for-profit, rescue, conservation and education centre.

Co-owners Ian and Carole Middleton run the centre with the

help of a small group of dedicated volunteers and have now obtained a zoo licence.

Offering a 24/7 rescue service for birds of prey, both wild and captive bred, the centre provides a valuable service to the birds, working in partnership with the RSPB and police or concerned members of the public who come across birds of prey in distress or danger.

Captive bred birds are often lost by owners or sometimes deliberately released. If they can be traced, the owners and their birds are reunited. If the owner cannot be found or no longer wants the bird, Wild Wings house the bird or make suitable alternative arrangements. The bird's welfare is paramount.

They have more than 80 birds in their care at any one time and provide emergency medical treatment to give the birds the best chance of survival and regularly rehabilitate and release wild birds back into the wild where they belong. Recently five young Tawny owls were released by the centre which had been cared for and prepared for life fending for

themselves.

Co-owner, Ian Middleton explained: "We are going to be holding displays on a regular basis. We have been really busy building the centre and raising funds as well as caring for the birds but we have got there. It's a nice area. Paul Taylor has really helped us out and has been a massive inspiration for us."

The centre is open to the public every day except for Mondays and Tuesdays from 10 am until 4pm. More information regarding display times, school or group visits can be obtained from Ian or Carole on 07957 416883 or visit their Facebook page.

During a recent visit to the centre Paul Taylor was invited to unveil a plaque, naming a rehabilitation facility after him as a thank you for his efforts to secure the future of the sanctuary, which has had a nomadic existence in recent years.

He said: "They work tirelessly and put everything they have into looking after these birds and I'm incredibly proud to be associated with the Wild Wings Bird of Prey Sanctuary."

"I'm so happy they and the birds now have a home, even if it is just for another four or five years. They can plan for the future at their own pace now."





# Chemical Engineering student leads the way in hydrogen research

A UNIVERSITY of Chester Chemical Engineering student, who has just graduated with a first class honours degree, has already secured a ground-breaking energy research opportunity.

Reace Edwards, who is 22 and from Peterlee, in County Durham, is now studying for her PhD at Thornton Science Park in Cheshire, exploring how hydrogen can be used to decarbonise gas in the North West of England.

As well as a first-class engineering student, Reace is also an award-winning one – having attained a top regional prize (an SCI Liverpool and North West Group student award) for her excellent academic achievement.

Her doctoral studies are being funded by Costain, the smart infrastructure solutions company. It is part of a collaboration research project on decarbonising gas that has been signed between Costain and the University of Chester. The two organisations have joined together to tackle future energy challenges in a hydrogen energy project which will be based at Thornton Science Park. The University's Departments of Electronic and Electrical Engineering, Chemical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering and Natural Sciences are involved in the collaboration, through the Faculty of Science and Engineering and the Thornton Energy Research Institute, alongside Costain's teams in energy.

Reace's research project will include adopting an interdisciplinary framework to consider the infrastructure requirements for the region to realise the decarbonising gas agenda. More specifically, it will consider proposals for a Liverpool to Manchester Hydrogen Cluster and the development of carbon capture and storage infrastructure associated with the depleting Hamilton field in the East Irish Sea.

Reace explains more: "The aims of this project will be to assess the decarbonisation of gas in North West England through a hydrogen

network by critically evaluating and researching four major areas of concern: science, regulation, stakeholders and resources. One of the things that excites me most about this study, is the chance I have to explore the world of political sciences and how that interrelates with my field of engineering.

## Aspiration

"My biggest aspiration when starting my degree was, and still is, to become a Chartered Chemical Engineer. I believe this studentship will grant me the relevant skills and experience required to build a portfolio of such a standard to achieve this goal. I'm thrilled to be researching such a topical subject and I'm very excited to see the methods the United Kingdom adopts to meet its 2050 carbon emissions target. I am grateful for the opportunities provided by both the University and Costain and I look forward to seeing what the next three years brings."

Gerard Shore, Oil and Gas Sector Director for Costain, said: "We are delighted to be working with Reace on this important research into the decarbonising of gas through a hydrogen network. The enthusiasm Reace has demonstrated for driving forward the hydrogen agenda in the North West of England is fantastic. We believe the collaboration between Costain and the University of Chester will result in leading edge thinking regarding the technical and regulatory actions required to establish the hydrogen economy in the region."

Professor Joe Howe, Executive Director of the Thornton Energy Research Institute UK said: "My colleague Dr Carolina Font Palma and I are very happy about securing this project and, along with Costain, we are extremely pleased to appoint Reace, and to be her PhD supervisors. We believe that this project is a great opportunity, leading the way in finding cleaner, greener sources of energy and allowing us to bring together academic and industrial knowledge and experience. I am looking



forward to seeing Reace's research come to fruition, and to see what we can achieve in partnership with Costain, for the benefit of future energy systems, over the next five years."

## Rich history

The University of Chester's Thornton Science Park is formerly the Shell Technology Centre, with a rich 75-year history in global research and development and a particular focus on energy. The University of Chester is developing Thornton Science Park as a major research and innovation hub. The 28-hectare site offers over 90,000 square metres of industrial laboratories, workshops and office space for new and existing companies. As an emerging world-class centre of excellence for the energy, engineering and advanced manufacturing industries, Thornton Science Park is contributing to the UK Government's vision to form a Northern Powerhouse and is a key component in the Cheshire Science Corridor Enterprise Zone.

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Companies wishing to find out more about the research project can contact:

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- Tel: 01244 567 500
- Twitter: @EnergyThornton

## Children lift a light for St. Rocco's Hospice

YOUNGSTERS from all over Warrington gathered at Orford Jubilee Hub to put their best foot forward raising funds to support patients being cared for by St. Rocco's Hospice.

It was a magical evening of lights and excitement as the children, all holding brightly coloured lanterns, made their way along one mile course accompanied by the Manchester Samba Band and lots of grownups who had come to encourage the children along the way.

Disney princesses, Bat girl and of course Rocco, the hospice mascot, were also there to cheer the children on and pose for photos before the walk.

It wasn't only the children and the samba band who were bedecked in lights. Over a hundred volunteers turned out to welcome the children, distribute the lanterns, marshal the route and hand out medals and goody bags at the end. This year many of them had gone the extra mile, by wearing fairy lights themselves.

"This is always a lovely event," said Rachel Ingham, Fundraising Manager for St. Rocco's, "These are our youngest supporters and it is great to see them wanting to help us look after our patients and families. They always bring lots of grownups with them and we think they enjoy it just as much as the children!"

"We're extremely grateful to all the volunteers, organisations, businesses and individuals who helped us to make this year's Lantern Walk a success. Without the sponsorship raised at these kinds of events, we simply wouldn't be able to continue with our care."

If you missed the Lantern Walk, then there is another opportunity to shine a light for those we love through St. Rocco's Light Up a Life appeal which invites members of the public to dedicate a light on the St. Rocco's Christmas tree in return for a donation towards patient care. Find out more at <http://www.stroccos.org.uk/events/light-up-a-life/> or call the Fundraising team on 01925 575780.





# Bus company scoops a silver award

MUNICIPALLY-owned Warrington's Own Buses has scooped a silver award in this year's UK Bus Awards for its new Cheshire Cat and Pops bus routes.

The company was in competition with bus companies from across the country and there was a strict judging process.

Managing director Ben Wakerley said: "Our bus company is locally-owned and contributes significantly to Warrington's local economy, not only from a comprehensive network, connecting people and destinations, but also as one of the biggest employers, buying local goods and services, easing congestion and improving local air

quality.

"We continue to make every effort to improve our offer and in the past year, we've reduced several fares, increased frequencies and simplified information.

"We work in partnership with design gurus Best Impressions to improve all aspects of our product. This award recognises our efforts and means a great deal to the whole team"

Pictured: Warrington's Own Buses' top team (l to r) Duane Henderson (operations director); Gareth Mead (head of commercial); Cllr Cathy Mitchell (chairman); David Woods (finance director); Steve Stringer (head of engineering); Ben Wakerley (managing director)



## Going the Extra Mile Scuba Challenge raises over £2,000

THE annual 'Going The Extra Mile Scuba Challenge' has been deemed a great success after managing to raise over £2,000 towards funds for Warrington Disability Partnership.

The challenge was founded 7 years ago to help raise funds for WDP and provide opportunities for disabled people to try the sport of Scuba Diving.

Dave Thompson MBE DL, joint founder and Chief Executive, is a full-time wheelchair user after sustaining a spinal cord injury whilst playing American Football in 1989. He has tetraplegia, with limited use in his left arm and none in his right arm and both legs. Dave started scuba diving in 2009, he is PADI Advanced Open Water accredited, with 200 dives.

Dave was joined by over 30 able bodied and disabled divers including his dive buddy, Dave Williams, Dave Kelsall who is living with stage 4 cancer of the oesophagus,

John Munslow who has had spinal surgery, Mark Purslow who has Becker's Muscular Dystrophy and also a full-time wheelchair user and two families, led by Dave Sloan and Dave Thompson who both had three generations taking part. The youngest being 8 years old Heather-May Sloan, who completed the mile, 64 lengths and Dave Thompson's 9-year-old granddaughter, Chloe, who completed 22 lengths. All the scuba divers involved said the two youngsters were inspirational.

Dave Thompson CEO of WDP said: "The event was only made possible because of the team at Livewire for providing the pool, facilities and their staff, Derek Howden and his team at Cheshire Scuba Academy for providing the kit, instructors, underwater and poolside support, plus admin and counters from Birchwood and Warrington Lions and WDP staff and volunteers."

"A huge thank you to all of the scuba divers, qualified and those taking part in the try dives, everyone behind the scenes and everyone who has made a donation."

It's not too late to make a donation online via Just Giving [www.justgiving.com/fundraising/wdpscuba2018](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/wdpscuba2018) or call in to any of WDP's services to make a donation.

WDP have already started planning next year's annual Scuba Challenge, the "The Three Deeps Challenge" which will involve

diving in three countries in one day. An early morning 18 metre dive in Loch Long in Scotland, a mid-day 18m dive in Capernwray in England and an early evening 18m dive in Vivian Quarry in North Wales.

If you are interested in supporting next year's challenge, as a diver, an assistant or sponsor, please contact Dave Thompson via [davethompson@disabilitypartnership.org.uk](mailto:davethompson@disabilitypartnership.org.uk) or telephone 01925 240064.



## Warrington named in list of top ten best places to start a new business

Warrington has been named in a list of the top 10 locations to start a small business in the UK.

The research carried out by Informi studied a range of factors from the 63 largest towns and cities in the UK to determine which created the most friendly environment for small and medium-sized businesses to succeed.

The website focused on categories including amount of highly-skilled workers, affordability of housing and current business stock in the area.

Warrington came tenth overall, with the town having a high business stock of 375 businesses for every 10,000 people. It also performed well in the category of highly qualified workforce, with 37.7% of the working age population holding a qualification at NVQ Level 4 or above.

Brighton came top of the list, due to having high business stock, or total number of businesses,

per 10,000 population, strong broadband figures and having a skilled workforce. Edinburgh was second due in part to also having a well-educated population of working age, while third-placed Northampton had a strong number of recent business start-ups.

Other towns and cities to make up the top 20 this year include Bristol, Crawley and Preston. London took fourth spot, but was held back by overall levels of digital connectivity and ranked poorly for the ratio of house prices to average wages.

Steven Drew, spokesperson for Informi said: "Small businesses provide the backbone for the UK's economic strength, even – perhaps especially – during uncertain times, with the nation holding its collective breath for what any Brexit deal may look like.

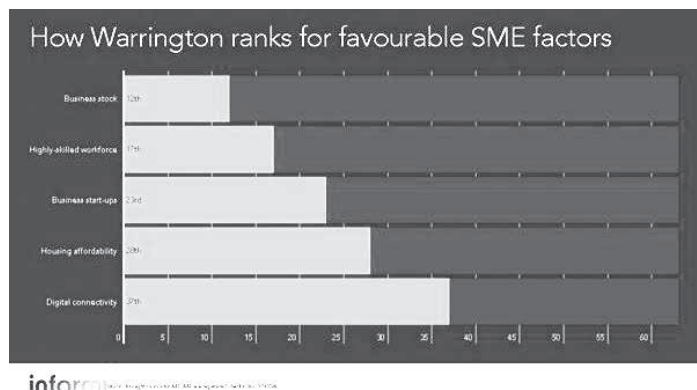
"It is in the best interests of every town and city throughout the UK to create the right environment for entrepreneurs as

thriving businesses contribute to the wealth and prosperity of local communities.

"However it's all too well-established a fact that so many SMEs are doomed to fail, due not only to market conditions not working in their favour, but often

a lack of awareness of the various steps that owners need to take to help their business get off the ground.

Those thinking of starting a business should seek out support – such as our how to start a business in 20 days eBook – to help them in their early days."





# UKTI e-Exporting programme

**By joining UKTI e-Exporting Programme, UK companies and brands can reach consumers through e-marketplaces.**

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- Find new customers
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- Build awareness of their brands

## Warrington Wolves to launch women's team

WARRINGTON Wolves are to launch a women's rugby league team, with an open-age trial next month.

Led by community coach Lee Westwood and supported by club legend Ben Westwood as assistant coach, the set-up will also include Sky Sports' Angela Powers as team manager.

Lee Westwood said: "It is an exciting challenge as we look to develop the women's and girls' game in Warrington as it will help support the growth of the women's game already taking place within our sport.

"We will be entering the women's championship to establish the foundations which will enable us to achieve our vision of becoming a competitive side in Super League in 2020, while developing our very own future women's Super League players through our girls only teams; ensuring we provide a pathway for all girls from 11 years old to open age."

Wolves' Foundation director Neil Kelly added: "Warrington has a strong tradition of success in women's and girls' sport and the re-introduction of a Warrington team, supported by the club, will

be amazing and continue to inspire inclusivity through Rugby League."

Karl Fitzpatrick, Wolves' chief executive, said: "It is fantastic to see the women's game growing in popularity and as a club we are proud to be a part of it. Rugby League is at the heart of the town so the re-introduction of the women's and girls' game within Warrington is a positive step forward. Earlier this year we hosted the women's challenge cup finals day at the stadium which was a big success and we were delighted to be involved in raising awareness of the game, and look forward to seeing it grow from strength to strength."

The club is holding open-age trial sessions at Victoria Park Asics Stadium next month on Monday 3 December at 7pm.

Training sessions for those girls aged 12 to 16 are held every Monday evening between 6pm and 7pm



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For further information please contact Warrington Chamber of Commerce on 01925-715150 or [info@warrington-chamber.co.uk](mailto:info@warrington-chamber.co.uk)

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## Monday, November 19th

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**[info@warrington-chamber.co.uk](mailto:info@warrington-chamber.co.uk)**



# Wire unveil new signings and new kits

Pictures Eddie Whitham

**W**ARRINGTON Wolves have signed utility back Jake Mamo on a one-year deal for 2019 from Huddersfield Giants and unveiled the new signing with their new kit launch.

Mamo, 24, spent two seasons at the Giants joining in 2017. Prior to his move to England he represented Newcastle Knights in the NRL making his debut in 2014.

He is described as a player that has the "X-factor" with explosive speed and agility, playing at fullback, on the wing or at centre.

Warrington head coach Steve Price said: "I've watched Jake closely for a number of years over in the NRL and also in the Super League at Huddersfield. He has a lot of quality attributes and brings a lot of enthusiasm. He competes really hard and can play in a number of positions – in a centre, wing, fullback type role. He's going to be a great acquisition for our footy club."

Mamo added: "I'm very excited to be signing for the Warrington club with its history. I've been wanting to join a strong club for a long time so I'm excited for this opportunity and am thankful to Steve (Price), Simon (Moran) and Karl (Fitzpatrick). I'm looking forward to seeing what the year ahead holds. After speaking with Steve I've come here to improve and add value to this team wherever I can."

"I love the Super League and living in the UK so I wasn't ready to go home yet and I'm now looking forward to living in a new part of the north of England. I've been on the end of some stick from the Warrington fans in the past, especially when I had my long hair, so I know they are great supporters who are always loud so it will be good to be on the better end of that this year. I'm going into the team not knowing anyone but I have a few mutual friends so I've heard that they are all good guys and I look forward to meeting them. It will be fun to get into training now."

Mamo helped unveil the new kit alongside fellow new recruits Jason Clark and Danny Walker outside the Treasury Building in Palmyra Square at a special members event.



## New route to Copenhagen

RYANAIR have launched a new route to Copenhagen for summer 2019. Flights will be taking off twice weekly from Liverpool John Lennon Airport.

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