

# hsiaht

magazine

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The Journal of the

WARRINGTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE SINDUSTRY



# Award winning LJLA recognised as being the best in the UK – twice in a week!



LJLA's Operations Director Paul Staples, receiving the award from AOA Chair Baroness McGregor-Smith and joined by Airport colleagues and award host Simon Calder, the travel journalist and broadcaster.

## Liverpool John Lennon Airport has been recognised Best in the UK twice in a week.

first up the airport was voted winners of the Best Medium-sized UK Airport at the 2019 British Travel Awards! The awards were hosted in London on 27 November, attended by nearly a thousand travel industry people. Voting for the UK Best Airport Award was based on a public voting system.

We would like to extend our thanks to the public who voted for us and those who helped us achieve this accolade! As the Faster, Easier, Friendlier Airport of choice in the North West we pride ourselves on the great services we provide our passengers as they jet off to their next holiday. At Liverpool John Lennon Airport we cater for everyone's needs with more than 70 destinations offering a whole host of holiday destinations all year round.

John Irving, CEO of Liverpool John Lennon Airport said: "We are delighted to win this prestigious award. Liverpool John Lennon Airport is at the Heart of the North West and now serves over 70 destinations offering passengers from across the North West and North Wales a truly Faster, Easier, Friendlier experience. With security process times of under ten minutes and parking to gate in 15 minutes, we offer a family friendly experience for all passengers. This year, we have launched new routes to Vienna, Copenhagen, Guernsey, Varna, Paphos, Corfu and Tenerife, and continue to look to expand our route offering to allow passengers travelling for business or leisure to enjoy a stress-free start to their journey."

Lorraine Barnes Burton, British Travel Awards' chief executive said: "Liverpool John Lennon Airport is to be congratulated on winning the UK's Best Medium-sized Airport. Competition was particularly strong this year but ultimately it is the travelling public who decide the winners by voting for the travel companies they consider the best in the business. The British Travel Awards is the largest consumer awards programme in the UK and

to win is truly an accolade."

Next up the airport was recognised as being the best UK airport of its size at the Airport Operators Association (AOA) Annual Conference held in

Liverpool John Lennon Airport was announced as the winner of Best Airport (3-10 million passengers).

The award was voted for by Airlines UK, a trade organisation that represents UK airlines and awarded to LJLA in recognition of the Airport's success in offering a best in class passenger experience and becoming the Faster, Easier, Friendlier Airport of choice for passengers from across the region.

The Airport's award entry focused on a number of achievements including more destinations and more passengers whilst maintaining the highest levels of customer service. Queue times to pass through security for 97% of all passengers is just 10 minutes or less and Liverpool is the only UK airport to receive a 5-star airport rating by the world's leading

air travel intelligence company OAG for flight punctuality, confirming its status as the UK's faster, easier, friendlier airport.

John Irving, CEO for Liverpool John Lennon Airport commented, "This is a special award for the Airport as it demonstrates how well respected we are not only by passengers from across the region, but within the aviation industry too.

This award is testament to all the hard work put in by our employees and business partners here at the Airport to ensure the highest levels of service to both our passengers and airline customers."

Karen Dee, Chief Executive of the AOA said, "The AOA Awards showcase the sector's vibrant and innovative work that is globally leading. The Awards were a sample of that best-in-kind work, from improving aviation's sustainability to continuously improving our passengers' experience of airports and aviation. Congratulations to them all!"

#### St Rocco's Christmas tree collection raises £33k for patient care

St Rocco's Hospice, Warrington has seen a huge success for the eighth year running, with their annual Christmas Tree Collection.

More than 2400 trees have been collected and an astounding £33,000 has been raised for patient care at the hospice!

On Saturday January 11 more than 130 volunteers donated their time and help pick up used Christmas Trees. Residents were able to discard of their Christmas Tree by making a donation to St. Rocco's and the trees were then recycled and disposed of

in an environmentally friendly way.

Charlotte Howard, Events Fundraiser for St. Rocco's Hospice said, "We're so happy that this year's Christmas Tree Collection has been so successful and we're thrilled that the people of Warrington continue top support patient care at the hospice through their very generous donations year after year. We'd like to say a huge thank you to everyone who made a booking and a donation and of course would like to say thanks to all of the volunteers who from local businesses who worked so hard on

the day- we really couldn't do it without them all!"

This year Warrington Borough Council, BT Skips, HMS Urban Building Projects, VPS Specialists, SP Energy Networks, nmcn, Ensign, Beesley & Fildes, Warrington Electrical Supplies, Beechwood Industries Ltd, Omega Access North, Bmec, Sandstone Supplies, and Bagnalls all had vans on the roads from 6.30am.

Notification of next year's event will be available at www.stroccos. org.uk soon.



## From the Chief Executive

- Colin Daniels —

#### Towns Fund

Our country is home to some of the world's most innovative businesses, greatest universities, scientists and entrepreneurs and one of the most dynamic business-friendly economies

Unemployment stands at a 44 year low as we prepare to depart the European Union.

The government have launched the

£3.6bn Towns fund to unleash the full economic potential of over 100 places and level up communities throughout the country.

The government are working with local people to agree proposals for a significant investment of up-to £25million in each place.

This funding will help to increase economic growth with a focus on

threat of more traffic in Warrington

we would refer once again to the

particles known as PM2.5 – the tiny

invisible, sooty bits of combustion

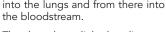
that are key culprits in the air

regeneration, improved transport, better broadband connectivity, skills and culture.

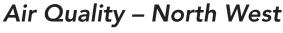
The private sector has an integral role to play in making the town deals a success. The board that will be established will be led by a representative of the local Warrington business community.

#### are small enough to make it deep into the lungs and from there into

They have been linked to diseases



ranging from Cancer to High Blood Pressure.



Yet again the air quality report for the North West places Manchester the worst followed by Liverpool second and Warrington third.

With the continuing problems with the road network and the ongoing

pollution health crises. Produced by diesel and petrol fumes, PM2.5s United Kingdom will outperform eurozone

The IMF says Britain's economy will outpace the Eurozone for the first two years after Brexit.

The IMF has also predicted despite previous warnings over the perils of leaving the European community.

The United Kingdom is the fourth most important nation for business growth plans behind only the Unites States, China and Germany according to a PWC report launched at the world Economic Forum's annual conference in Davos.



#### **United States** keen to seal trade agreements with the United Kingdom

A trade agreement with New York or California would be worth billions to the United Kingdom economy, according to an advisor to the Department for International Trade

United States Census Bureau figures show that in 2018, United Kingdom exports to New York, California, Texas and Georgia were worth more than £3.8 billion per state in 2018.

# Warrington's Own Buses champions St Rocco's Hospice

St. Rocco's Hospice are thrilled to have their very own branded bus which will be seen across routes in the town, after being chosen as Warrington's Own Buses' next Charity Partner.

St. Rocco's, plays a vital part in providing essential services to people within the community and are looking forward to working in partnership with the bus company in 2020.

The promotion of the hospice on the specially branded bus will help to get the message out that St. Rocco's are there for the town's residents when they

Nicola Henshaw, Corporate Fundraiser for St. Rocco's Hospice said: "It's exciting to be partnered with Warrington's Own Buses as Charity of the Year for 2020 and we're very excited to see the amazing fundraising that the company will be doing throughout the year.

"St. Rocco's is dedicated to providing an important service to the people of Warrington, much like Warrington's Own Buses are, so it's always lovely to be able to work with companies that share our vision.

Bus Driver Tony Hughes and Staff Manager Tom Chisnall joined staff at St Rocco's to launch the partnership this week.

Ben Wakerley, Managing Director of Warrington's Own Buses sadded: "It is terrific to support St Roccos, who have been there for so many of our friends and family. Our team has already raised over £1000 and hope to do much more this year.



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International Business Centre Delta Crescent Westbrook, Warrington Cheshire WA5 7WQ

Tel: 01925 715150 • Fax: 01925 715159

info@warrington-chamber.co.uk www.warrington-chamber.co.uk

President: Nigel Schofield Chief Executive: Colin Daniels International Trade Advisor: Tricia Francis Office Manager: Gail McGough Administration: Charlene Haslam Editor / Group PR: Gary Skentelbery Design / Production: Paul Walker

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Colin Daniels, Chief Executive

# World-leading sports software company teams up with digital marketers

Digital Marketing students at Chester Business School have teamed up with one of the world's leading sports software providers working of a variety of exciting digital marketing projects.

Chester-based SportSessionPlanner. com is an innovative sports coaching platform for football and hockey clubs to create customised training drills using state of the art 3D technology. Its clients include nearly 1,000 clubs globally, with 20,000 individual members in over 100 different countries. It provides the club software system to 10 Premier League and 16 MLS Clubs.

Together with SportSessionPlanner. com, Chester Business School's student digital marketers will work on a range of practical digital marketing projects covering social media, blogging and content marketing, as well as web design and Search Engine Optimisation.

Undergraduate Digital Marketing and Marketing Management students at the University of Chester's award winning Business School put their learning to in to practice by working on real business projects alongside their academic studies as part of the project.

Beth Morris, Programme Leader for BA Digital Marketing, said: "We are delighted to have developed a partnership with Magnus and SportSessionPlanner.com. The hands-on experience that our digital marketers will gain from these projects is invaluable. The specific digital marketing skills they will develop are highly sought after within industry."

Company owner, Magnus Alford, said: "We are really pleased to be in partnership with our city's University. I have been extremely impressed with Beth and her talented group of marketing students. Having come from a teaching background, it is very refreshing to be able to work with the students and give them the opportunity to apply their learning and creativity into the real world of business."

Jonathon Roberts, Marketing student and Digital Marketing Lead for Chester Business School's student Enterprise Society, Outside the Box is involved with developing Sports Session Planner's blog content and social media. He said: "I'm really looking forward to working with Magnus. I will be enhancing my digital marketing skills and applying my Digital Marketing knowledge into the project. Thanks to my lecturers for their ongoing support."

To find out more about Chester Business School's Digital Marketing degree contact Beth, b.morris@ chester.ac.uk or visit the website

For more information about Sports Session Planner contact enquiries@ sportsessionplanner.com or visit the website at www.sportsessionplanner. com



# What are the crucial elements in a functional and successful website?

The team at Blue Whale Media are no strangers to creating beautiful, functional and highly successful websites for their diverse range of clientele. Understanding what makes a great website is something that the Blue Whale Media team have spent their years learning and through years of work and dedication to their craft, the team members at Blue Whale Media have developed a detailed and comprehensive knowledge of what it takes to create and run a successful and unique website.

#### **Custom elements**

For your website to stand out from the competition, it is vital to create a bespoke and unique content that showcases your brand and your product or service in the most accurate manner. The Blue Whale Media team has in house content and graphics designers that can work alongside businesses to develop the perfect representation of your company in both the written and visual languages. Through customised features like graphics and content, your brand will be built on solid foundations.

#### Secure pages, quick loading speeds and simple to navigate

When the Blue Whale Media team have spent time with your business creating the perfect website or online platform, it is essential that that platform is secure and safe. The web development team at Blue Whale Media has extensive experience in providing regular and tested updates to websites to ensure that they are fully functional whilst remaining secure against any cyber threat.

Any successful website must also be easy and simple for the average user to navigate. Easy navigation will earn a website a higher ranking in Google and other search engines and therefore encourage more clicks and visits from potential customers.

Another element that can help your search engine ranking is a quick and responsive loading time. The average website user will wait no more than a few seconds for a website to fully load or they will search elsewhere for the product or service they require. The web development team at Blue Whale Media understand how to create quick and responsive websites that are guaranteed to increase sales and conversions.

#### Calls to action, multimedia and SEO campaigns

When the Blue Whale Media team have built a strong technical foundation for clients and their websites, the team develop multimedia elements and aspects that draw the eye in and can provide extra assistance in conversion rates. The in-house team

of creators develop bespoke and personalised images, graphics and videos to showcase your brand and your product to customers. Unique icons, graphics and calls to action can encourage visitors to invest in your service.

When filling your new website with personalised multimedia content, the Blue Whale Media team understand the importance of supporting the new website with driven and targeted

SEO and social media campaigns. The professional Warrington based team understand that every company requires a personalised social media and SEO campaign that delivers their specific requirements.

If you are looking for a fresh update for 2020, contact the team at Blue Whale Media to discuss your requirements and get your project started.

01925 552050 Email: hello@bluewhalemedia.co.uk



# Change in management at Warrington Campus

Professor Chris Haslam has been named as the new Provost of the University of Chester's Warrington Campus, following the recent retirement of Professor Annette McIntosh-Scott.

Professor Haslam also holds the post of Senior Pro-Vice-Chancellor and has held a number of positions at the University since joining the institution from the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education and,

### Research celebrated

The culture of Ibiza, training for cyber threats in Cheshire and what the arts can offer older people were just some of the issues explored at this year's ninth annual Warrington Works Research Festival.

The day was opened by Dr Brendan O'Sullivan, Deputy Provost of the Campus. Sessions included: Attrition, Autism and Equity: Surviving a professional degree with Asperger syndrome by Jo Sullivan, Lecturer in Public Health and Well-being; Professor Malcolm Carey from the Department of Social Work analysed Ioneliness and internet use among older people in Cheshire, England; Lecturers in Policing Cath Elvey

looked at Policing the Cyber Threat in Cheshire: Developing Education and Training for the Frontline with Senior Lecturer Giles Orton exploring cyberrelated fraud and Dean Wilkinson's talk was entitled Elderly Prisoners: Characteristics; challenges and whatthe arts have to offer.

From the Department of Media, Senior Lecturers Jim Mason asked Can Harmonic Techniques Common in UKSingles Chart Music of the 1980s be Successfully Used in Music Targeting Today's UK Singles Chart? while Chris Hart looked at Why so many Pink Floyd Songs about Trauma?; Lecturer Katie Barnett discussed The House on

Sorority Row: Re-evaluating Spaces of Sisterhood on Screen and Senior Lecturer Simon Morrison looked at Psychogeography, Hauntology and Cultural Mediations of Ibiza.

Debbie Scott, Senior Lecturer in the Centre for Work Related Studies gave poster presentations focusing on Work Based Learning and Work Based Integrated (WBIS) Studies. Andy Nixon, a Technician in the Media Department studying for a Master's through WBIS discussed his postgraduate research into how Faculties based at the Warrington Campus interact with the student radio station, The Cat Radio.

Two posters were presented by Dr Val Gant from the Department of Social Work and Inter-Professional Education one relating to Autoethnography.

Both a process and research method this included details of the recently formed North West Auto-ethnography Group (NWAG).

The other poster was presented as a tribute to Jane Walker (Senior Lecturer in Social Work) who passed away in June. Jane's research, which was the subject of much interest at Warrington Works, explored practice education prior to that, working elsewhere in the higher education sector and in industry.

He said: "I'm very much looking forward to working with both colleagues and students here at Warrington to deliver a high quality and enriching academic experience.

"I'm also very much looking forward to working with businesses, both large and small, in Warrington and its surrounding areas to explore how we can work more closely together - not only to help develop the strength and performance of individual businesses, but also the economic strength of Warrington and the region.

"I really welcome ideas and suggestions as to how the University might work more closely with businesses in the region and I'd be very happy indeed to meet with business colleagues to help develop a better understanding of their needs and how the University might help

Any businesses wishing to work with the Warrington Campus can contact m.fellows@chester.ac.uk



Professor Chris Haslam.

### Learning about nuclear fusion with Lego blocks

For most people, playing with multi-coloured plastic blocks is just a bit of fun.

But now Lego bricks are being used to help physics students at Warrington learn about nuclear fusion and astrophysics.

Priestley College borrowed the coloured cubes from York University so that young physicists could construct nuclear elements in class.

Sarah Cuddy, who also studies economics, fine art and completed AS mathematics, said: "It was enjoyable and a great way to visualise a 3D nuclear chart.

Former Bridgewater High School pupil Gabriel Twist added: "It definitely furthered my understanding to be able to see the stable isotopes in the model we built.

Binding Blocks is a nuclear physics outreach project that aims to get the public and schools to build a 3D nuclear chart out of Lego.

Along the way, the builders are educated in nuclear fusion, fission, astrophysics and nuclear physics in medicine.

The project gained funding from The Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC) and the University of York in 2016.





# Academic recognised as one of the most influential in his field

An academic at the University of Chester has been named as one of the most significant people of the year by a leading education publication.

Egan-Simon, Lecturer in History Education in the University's Faculty of Education and Children's Services, joined the likes of climate activist Greta Thunberg to be named in the top 10 released by the TES (Times Education Supplement) who were chosen for the impact or influence they have had on education over the past 12 months.

Daryn and Ed Finch, who was jointly recognised, developed the highly successful BrewEd, a grassroots organisation of teacherled Continuing Professional Development (CPD) which takes place in the pub. Ed, a primary school teacher in Oxford, and Daryn said they enjoyed learning about the profession and wanted to be able to do it in a more relaxed and informal setting.

Daryn and Ed began chatting on Twitter about their shared view that something was missing in the field of education to enable teachers to talk about their experiences and develop their knowledge. Daryn and Ed wanted to create an event where teachers could have these discussions in a comfortable and more social setting and decided to set up BrewEd, with its first event at The Greystones pub in Sheffield in 2017, where the pair met for the first time.

The idea behind BrewEd is that all who attend are part of the day and are not sat in an audience listening. It enables teachers to be part of the conversation and talk about pedagogy, ideas that shape practice and not just tips for teaching

Daryn and Ed encourage others to use the concept and adapt it to their own area and have seen it grow across the country into Europe and now globally, with an event held in Thailand in December 2019. Tickets are usually limited to 50 an event to give all a chance to communicate and network with promotion via Twitter and costs kept low to encourage attendance. All events are not-for-profit and are free from corporate sponsorship, with many BrewEd events raising money for local charities such as the Limbo Foundation which provides assistive devices for children. Anyone working in education can set an event up as long as they follow some simple guidelines.

Daryn said: "BrewEd is about creating a space for educators from all phases and sectors to come together to discuss/ debate issues and ideas around education. We chose the pub as it feels less formal and more intimate. BrewEd is a grassroots movement in the truest sense of the word. It is for educators, organised by educators and attended by educators. Anyone, anywhere can organise their own BrewEd event. There are no keynote speakers as such. Presentations are great (and are a part of BrewEd events) but it is dialogue that truly brings us together.

"Ed and I are both really honoured to be included in such a list, however, BrewEd would not be the success it has been if it wasn't for all the wonderful educators

who have organised and attended events across the country and beyond."

To find out more information about BrewEd visit https://just-

brewed.org/

Events listings can be and tickets can be found at: http://brewed.pbworks.com/w/page/120273042/FrontPage



Daryn Egan-Simon. Photo: ACRE

### Portal Business Centres scoops prestigious national award

Portal Business Centres, which has a centre at Dallam Court in Warrington, is delighted to announce that its Bridgewater House business centre in Ellesmere Port, has been named as Flexible Workspace Operator of the Year (1-5 locations) 2019/2020. The award was presented to the centre by FlexSa, the flexible workspace industry's trade body at their annual gala dinner in London last

Opened in March 2017, the centre occupies the site of the former Bridgewater paper mill, and was converted by Portal Business Centres into a serviced office business centre, providing office accommodation, meeting rooms and virtual office services. The centre proved very popular from day one, and is now home to a number of local businesses. It was the third centre for Portal, which first opened in Warrington back in

Commenting on the win, MD Sallie Maskrey said, "I am absolutely delighted that we have been named Flexible Workspace

Operator of the Year. The centre has only been open for a short space of time, and this award is fantastic recognition of everything that the team does here at Bridgewater House. At Portal, we have always believed that excellent customer service is key to making the business a success, and for our clients to nominate us in this way backs up everything we have always strived to achieve. The team at Portal makes the centre what it is, and this award is for each and every one of them.

Portal Business Centres established in 1992 and three centres throughout North West, in Ellesmere Port, Warrington and Bromborough. It offers a range of services across the three centres, from serviced offices for one to over 20 people, meeting rooms from small informal lounges to training rooms for 30 guests, and virtual office services including telephone answering, mail handling and business address. To find out more about how Portal can help your business, please contact the team on 0151 305 2260.



# £7m congestion busting road scheme is completed

THE Warrington East project – a series of transport and highways improvements on Birchwood Way – has officially been completed.

Completion of the third and final phase of the project is a significant milestone for east Warrington. It brings to an end the major programme of improvements for the area – following the completion of phase 1 (the Birchwood Pinchpoint project) in 2016, and phase 2 (Birchwood Way junction improvements) in September last year.

Phase 3 consisted of the dualling of the A574 Birchwood Way between the Moss Gate/Daten Avenue junction and M62 junction 11 and was opened to traffic last month

The new carriageway has been constructed on land reserved for this purpose since the Northern Expressway was first built in the mid-1970s as part of the Warrington New Town highway network

Overall, the project now complete, will play a key role in supporting the local economy, including the Birchwood Enterprise Zone, Birchwood Boulevard, Birchwood Shopping Centre and all other employment sites in the area.

Minister for the Northern Powerhouse and Local Growth Jake Berry said: "Congratulations to Warrington Borough Council and Cheshire and Warrington Local Enterprise Partnership on the successful completion of this important infrastructure project which will help reduce congestion, improve local connections and support businesses to grow.

"This £6.9 million investment from the Government's Local Growth Fund into the Warrington East Highway demonstrates our commitment to boosting economic growth, levelling up and connecting communities across the Northern Powerhouse."

Warrington Borough Council's

cabinet member for transportation, highways and public realm, Cllr Hans Mundry, said: "I'm absolutely delighted that this hugely important project— delivering major transport improvements on a key gateway into Warrington—has been completed on time and well within budget.

"When we began work on the project in 2016, our ambition was to deliver a high quality scheme which would reduce congestion – especially during the peak hours, improve traffic flows and journey times and make the network safer and more reliable. It's great news that this has now become a reality.

"These improvements will make a huge difference to motorists travelling into and out of Warrington along this key corridor, now and in the future."

Leader of the council Russ Bowden, said: "The completion of the Warrington East programme is a major success for our borough, and an important part of our ongoing investment in our highways infrastructure.

"Keeping East Warrington

moving, with a safe, reliable transport network, will bring huge benefits, not only to the travelling public, but to local residents, who will see a reduction in the impact of traffic on them.

"At the same time, these improvements will support Warrington's growth as a business-friendly destination, providing a more attractive area for businesses, and encouraging increased occupancy of existing employment land in the area, which in turn will help generate additional employment and training opportunities for local people.

"What is also very important is that these improvements are just one part of a much wider programme of transport improvements across the town. The council will have delivered over £100m worth of transport improvement schemes in just 5 years between 2016 and 2021. These include improvements at M62 Junction 8, further improvements to a number of junctions around Omega and Lingley Mere, the recently opened Warrington West Railway Station and the Centre Park Link scheme

which is due to open to traffic before the end of 2020."

The final project cost is expected to be around £7.0m. Funding has come from council borrowing and grants from the Local Growth Fund, managed by the Cheshire and Warrington Local Enterprise Partnership, and the National Productivity Investment Fund, managed by the Department for Transport.

The works were carried out by principal contractor Balfour Beatty. Landscaping works will take place this Spring.

The cost of both phases 2 and 3 were reduced by delivering them simultaneously, with a reduction in the cost of preliminary and site supervision works and the use of one site office for both phases. The Council would like to thank everyone in east Warrington for their patience with regard to the disruption to traffic flows which, as with all major highway works, is to be expected.



### Nursing student named 'Pride of St Helens' for dementia initiative

A STUDENT nurse from the University of Chester has received an award for helping the people in her community who live with dementia.

Leanne Gauchwin, from South Windle in St Helens, scooped the Charity Champion prize at this year's Pride of St Helens Awards for her work on creating The Loving Arms Dementia Group – a project she set up during her studies.

In August last year, Adult Nursing student Leanne teamed up with The Gerard Arms to create a safe and fun community space for those living with dementia and their carers to meet and socialise.

The 33-year-old, who studies at the University's Warrington Campus, worked alongside the pub's landlord Mark Hayes and a group of almost 20 volunteers to develop the project.

And it's for her dedication to the group, which offers activities ranging from afternoon tea, bingo and karaoke, to coach trips, sensory farm visits and cabaret afternoons, that Leanne has been honoured.

Speaking after her award win, Leanne said: "It's all about teamwork and this is a fine example that together we can make a difference. Each volunteer brings something unique to the group.

"I never thought I would win against fantastic contenders, so to do so is absolutely amazing."

She added: "The inspiration behind it came from my nan, Florence who lives with dementia. Mark's nan also had dementia, so it was something that connected us.

"Other dementia groups seemed too clinical, and everyone looked anxious being in there. I wanted to create something that was relaxing and to give them as much normality as possible."

Dean McShane, Mental Health

Lecturer in the University's Faculty of Health and Social Care, said the award recognises both Leanne's passion and devotion to her studies and her local community.

He said: "Leanne epitomises the passion and dedication that our students are demonstrating for helping people to live well with dementia.

"I am super proud of Leanne and she deserves this award and so much more.

"The Loving Arms is a fantastic initiative that helps so many people and hopefully more people will be inspired to emulate this model in their community.

# Amazon adventure awaits college biologists

Biology students from Priestley College will be heading to the Amazon Rainforest this summer to conduct valuable research into its future.

Tutor Louise Naidu is organising the trip for 15 A-Level students who all share a passion for making a difference in the world.

Among them is Katie Bartrop whose dream is to work in biological research.

"When I heard about this trip I knew I just had to go because it described exactly what I want to do in life," she said.

"I've always been fascinated by the rainforest so this is an amazing opportunity for me."

Priestley's team of researchers will be flying to Peru in July and live on riverboats during their stay.

Data they collect will be used by Operation Wallacea to assess changes to the Amazon's ecosystem, which is one of the most biologically diverse on the planet.

Their efforts will help support the indigenous Cocama Indians who, in recent years, have been affected by more extreme weather conditions including flooding and drought.

Chloé Green said the trip was unmissable.

"It's a once-in-a-lifetime experience for me," she said. "I've heard we will be catching piranhas to measure their teeth and counting the numbers of macaws in the rainforest."

The trip is going to cost each student more than £2,000 so they are now busy fundraising. A recent race night held at Priestley College added more than £800 to the pot, which has now passed the £1,400 mark.

Louise Naidu said local businesses had also pledged money to help pay for the trip.

"The students are working hard to make sure this dream becomes a

reality and have already achieved a lot," she said.

"If any other businesses would consider sponsoring the students in some way we would really appreciate it."

If your business would be interested in sponsoring the students please email l.naidu@priestley.ac.uk



Pictured Back row - Louis Sutcliffe, Kyle Durney, Gabe Twist Front row - Caitlin Robinson and Chloé Green.





# Students gain internships with top computer games firm

Three students from Warrington's Priestley College have secured internships with one of the most high-profile computer games companies in the world.

Sam Sharp, Mitch Weir and Courtney Cunliffe met with TT Games – which is part of Warner Brothers – through their computer games design course at Priestley.

Now they have been taken on by the games giant and given some extraordinary opportunities such as working on the Lego Star Wars: The Skywalker Saga game.

"They threw me straight in at the deep end using their software and hardware," said former Helsby High pupil Sam.

"I thought there would be a huge difference between being an intern and everyone else, but I've been treated the same.

"I never thought I'd be doing this so young. People spend a long time trying to work on such a high-profile game."

Priestley tutor Matt Wilson forged the partnership with TT Games after inviting its head of design, Arthur Parsons, into his classroom. Impressed and inspired by what he saw, Arthur offered to look at the possibility of internships for some of those who completed the Level 3 course.

Successful candidates then continue on the Art Foundation course at Priestley while being paid to work at the company.

So far, the team at TT Games have been impressed by the contributions made by Sam, Mitch and Courtney.

"You'd struggle to know they were interns," said Arthur. "They've all been accepted as being part of their teams and being expected to deliver work like any other team member. This experience will be completely invaluable as they are learning how to make games in the best way possible, by actually working on some of the biggest hit games of the future."

Each of the interns has been placed on a different project and integrated into a development team with meaningful work to complete.

Former Penketh High pupil Mitch applied for the internship because it offered the chance to gain industry experience without having to move far away. "A lot of people at work have been surprised with the knowledge I already have – especially when they find out I haven't been to university," said Mitch.

To apply for the TT Games' internships, Priestley's students put together a portfolio like the ones they prepare for university applications. They attended an interview and were struck by how informal it was. Interviewees were simply keen to get the best out of them so created a friendly atmosphere.

Courtney, who attended Hope

Academy before Priestley, said the interns had felt ready for their new role.

"College prepared us really well because before we started work we had covered all the software we would be using," she said.

"In our second year we worked in teams which was really useful because it helped us develop our communication skills."

Following their one-year internships, the students might receive an offer of full-time work, but also have the option of university or applying to another company.



### New project takes root at Priestley

Young people are using an ancient method of controlling woodlands to learn about the environment and produce sustainable materials to be used in class.

Students at Priestley College have planted a small area of coppicing on the campus that will be nurtured for years to come.

Willow rods will be harvested and eventually be used by Art & Design students to create sculptures.

Staff member Ken Halliday, who has worked at Priestley for 12 years, came up with the idea.

"Once it is established the coppice should produce enough material to make woven items the students can then sell and money could go back into the college charity," he said.

"Another plus is that we are contributing to the greening of our environment. Much is being made in the media of replanting and rewilding of areas so although it is a small patch this is our way of contributing to that idea."

Ken enlisted the support of Priestley's Public Services students to plant the coppice. They marked out the plot to ensure the trees were spread evenly before hammering holes into the ground and planting the stems.

It will take two to three years for the coppice to establish itself enough for students to make use of it

Art Foundation coordinator Steve Lane said: "The notion is that Architecture and Art students can crop a renewable source and use it as a building material to create sculptural forms.

"We see it as a great opportunity to explore a renewable material that is grown and sourced here at Priestley. It's exciting to see a collaboration between Public Services and Art Design, not forgetting the science department's involvement in the growth of the willow."

Coppicing is an ancient method of controlling wooded areas to prevent the crowding out of one species of tree by another.

Last week the coppice was already starting to sprout and growth is expected to accelerate once temperatures warm up.

"This is a really great project that has so many benefits and involves many students from across the college," said Ken.



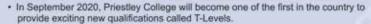
Nathan Cullen preparing the ground for the coppice with help from Holly Ditchfield.





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# Student rewarded for bravery after tackling armed and masked assailant



District Superintendent for GMP, Andrew Sidebotham with student Callum Matts.

A teenage University of Chester student, who tackled a man who was carrying a gun and threatening him and his friends with a large kitchen knife in a Warrington Park, has been honoured for his bravery.

Eighteen-year-old Callum Matts, from Manchester, was presented with Greater Manchester Police's District Superintendent's Award for Bravery at a ceremony recently.

He said: "I felt quite privileged when I heard about the award it's not often something like this comes around."

Callum, a Sports Journalism student, was sitting with his friends in the park in Čadishead, near Warrington, at around 1am, when a masked man started running towards them.

He recalled: "We were just chatting and listening to music when one of my friends said he saw a weird looking man.

"I turned around to see a man dressed all in black, wearing a clown mask and holding a big kitchen knife.

"The park was dimly lit and visibility wasn't great. Then the man started running towards us.

"I managed to get my legs from under the bench and get to my feet when he swung the blade towards my abdomen. I reacted instinctively and grabbed the arm that the knife was in and tackled him to the floor.

"I restrained him for around 20-30 minutes until the police arrived – they had been taking home younger teenagers, who had previously been threatened by the

"Even more frightening was the fact that while he was on the ground, we discovered he also had a gun."

Callum said that although he panicked at the sight of the man rushing towards him, an adrenaline rush made him feel 'quite calm' in the moment.

"Afterwards, I felt lucky to not have been injured and quite pleased with the outcome.

"It hit me later that the situation was very serious, because I had no time to think about it as it all happened so quickly.

Callum says the award means a lot to him. He said: "I feel as if I made a difference that night. It could have ended badly for anyone else he may have encountered, and a lot worse for me and my friends.

"A young man came up to me afterwards and said: 'You didn't have to do that – you saved my life'. Apparently, he had been threatened by the man before he encountered us.

"It was quite hard hitting to say

the least."

District Superintendent for GMP, Andrew Sidebotham said: "Callum is a remarkably brave young man. Thinking only of those around him, he took control of the situation and safely detained the male ensuring he couldn't cause any harm to anyone. He instructed those present to call the police and remained at the scene until officers arrived and arrested the male.

"This was an incredibly serious and violent incident and as a consequence the offender received a significant custodial sentence.

was delighted to present Callum with this award as he truly deserved it for the selfless bravery that night. He is an absolute credit to his family, community and University."

### No slow down in growth for Cheshire and Warrington economy

continues to be the second highest performing economy in England outside of London, according to new figures.

Average income per head has risen by an impressive 3.3 per cent and the overall size of the economy is now worth £32.48 billion.

figures cement Cheshire and Warrington's position as an economic powerhouse.

New Office for National Statistics (ONS) data shows that for every resident, goods and services are produced worth £34,896, the second highest in England outside of London, and growing at a faster rate than the rest of the North West of England.

The Cheshire and Warrington economy continues to outpace that being achieved across the majority of England and is now bigger than those of Sheffield, Leeds and Birmingham.

Christine Gaskell, chairman of Cheshire and Warrington Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) Enterprise Partnership (LEP) said: "Cheshire and Warrington's said: Cheshire and Warrington's economy is continuing its strong performance, with all three local authority areas positively contributing to consistent and sustainable growth.

"The LEP, together with our partners, is forging ahead with plans to grow our economy, by focusing on our key strengths in high-value manufacturing, clean

energy and life sciences."

The data comes as the LEP prepares launch a £30m skills programme early in the New Year which is set to benefit almost 20,000 residents and in turn improve the performance of our businesses.

Cheshire and Warrington LEP covers the three local authority areas of Warrington, Cheshire East and Cheshire West and Chester.

# Council approves 20-year vision for the town centre

A 20-year vision to make Warrington town centre a vibrant, dynamic destination – and a great place to live work, visit and do business – has been given the goahead.

The borough council's cabinet has approved the Warrington Town Centre Masterplan, which aims to guide the regeneration of the heart of the town, and help foster physical development and economic growth.

The masterplan pulls together current achievements, short-term 'quick wins' and longer term transformational investments. It builds upon what's special about Warrington town centre – particularly its cultural assets and architecture, its locational advantages and its waterfronts and green spaces.

A number of key areas form the focus of the masterplan, including:

- Circular Parklands to enhance the 'green ring' around the town centre – one of Warrington's most unique and distinctive assets – through a programme of specific improvement projects, street enhancements and the delivery of major town centre regeneration schemes.
- Rediscovering the River progressing 'strong' and 'special' development areas orientated towards the river, ensuring attractive waterfront promenades and walking and cycling routes, enhancing and creating parks and open spaces and improving bridge crossings.
- Changing our main shopping streets – through cafes and restaurants with active frontages and outdoor eating, transforming former shops into

new space for small businesses, converting vacant and underused commercial space into new homes and promoting pop-up spaces for temporary, colourful activities.

- A Place of Culture reinforcing the town centre's sense of place through new public spaces (Time Square and Riverfront Plaza), enhancing and pedestrianising routes, animating streets and spaces through alfresco dining, public art, street markets, events and festivals and further improving the offer of The Pyramid and Warrington Museum and Library.
- Town Centre Living working with partners, including the council's own Local Housing Company, to deliver over 8,000 new homes in the heart of the town, and ensuring as many as possible are affordable for local people.
- A Focus for Business making Warrington town centre a focus for new businesses and hotel development, focusing on four key locations – Stadium quarter (phase 1), Bank Quay Rail Hub, Southern Gateway, Riverfront and Port Warrington.
- Keeping the town centre moving and connected further enhancing Warrington's transport network and connectivity, tackling congestion and promoting active travel as laid out in Warrington's Fourth Local Transport Plan (LTP4), and delivering a National Rail Hub at Bank Quay train station, grasping the opportunities of HS2/West coast Main Line and Northern Powerhouse Rail.

Accompanying the masterplan document will be a fully digitised

and interactive version, which will provide a proactive tool in supporting developers, designers and decision-makers and promoting and delivering the town centre vision.

Borough council leader Russ Bowden, said: "This is a hugely important plan, which sets out our ambitions, up to 2040, to deliver a thriving, prosperous future for our town centre and the large-scale Warrington Waterfront development area.

"Several major town centre projects are already coming to fruition here. The Time Square development has started to trade and our Palmyra Cultural Quarter is coming alive as a colourful destination of high quality restaurants and bars. We have also

**EXPORTING** 

recently given the go-ahead for over 700 new homes in the heart of our town.

"This masterplan aims to build on our success and support the delivery a vibrant and attractive town centre which is a great place to live and work, a cultural and leisure hub and a destination our residents and businesses can be proud of.

"At the heart of this is the firm aspiration to deliver inclusive growth so that everyone can participate in and enjoy the benefits of a distinctive, diverse, safe, vibrant and green town centre."

To read the Warrington Town Centre Masterplan in full, visit warrington. gov.uk/town-centre-masterplan





You Can Export: How to Manage Agents and Distributors

The use of agents and distributors to enter international markets is common. But is it the best method for you? And if it is, how can you build and manage a network of these trade multipliers?

This interactive workshop, delivered by Tony Brown, Consultant for international Trade, will provide background theory and practical advice in this business critical area.

The topics covered will include:

- The difference between agents and distributors
- Other possible routes to market
- How to find the right agents and distributors for your business
- What to consider before appointment what are the predictors for success?
- What should be included in an agreement?
- How do you set targets?
- How do you manage your network and motivate them?
- Terminating an agreement without getting sued

Event date: 09:30 - 13:00 - 19 March 2020

Wilage Hotel Club IIO Centre Park Square Warrington

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# Sharples Group announce the launch of the Treemendous Print & Plant initiative

Warrington based Sharples Group are delighted to announce the launch of the Sharples Group Treemendous Print & Plant initiative.

For every hardware product sold, they will plant a minimum of six trees in The Mersey Forest. They aim to plant a minimum of 1000 trees during 2020.

Steve Lowndes, Group Sales Director at Sharples Group, explainsed: "Our business has a long track record for contributing to the community in which we operate, and for championing the health and wellbeing of our team.

"We are conscious of the impact our industry has on the environment, especially if print isn't managed effectively. To mitigate this, we offer free consumables recycling, partner with manufacturers that share our values and provide solutions to help businesses print less.

"But we wanted to do something more, and locally too. Active Cheshire introduced us to The Mersey Forest team, and the Treemendous Print & Plant initiative was born. We're very excited about this and are looking forward, with the support of our clients, to contributing to this superb project."

The initiative is very straightforward. Every time a client buys a hardware product from Sharples Group, they will donate to The Mersey Forest team. The team will plant the trees in their client's name, and every client will receive a

personal certificate of tree planting from The Mersey Forest.

In this way, their clients and Sharples Group will support The Mersey Forest objectives of benefitting the local environment, wildlife and community.

# Jamie hits the right note to secure place in national orchestra

When he first played the trombone the sound it created struck a chord with Jamie Reid.

Now – despite having only picked up the instrument four years ago – the 17-year-old has secured a place in the National Youth Orchestra.

It will mean he takes part in three residences alongside some of the UK's most talented young musicians as well as perform in concerts around the country.

"It was the second year that I auditioned for the orchestra, but the first time I tried for two different instruments and didn't get in," said Jamie, who is a Music student at Priestley College.

"This year I just went for trombone and was much more focussed, which helped me a lot. I will be getting lots of good experiences and will learn so much just by being around a lot of performers who are at the top of their game."

By securing a place with the orchestra, Jamie has completed a treble of national achievements that also includes a place in the National Children's Brass Band and the National Youth Brass Band of Great Britain.

He can now look forward to performing in concert halls around the country and helping with the orchestra's outreach programme, NYO Inspire.

Jamie's A-Level music teacher at Priestley College, Chris Dodd, said his talent was obvious.

"Jamie has already performed many times for the college community and his passion for music really does shine through every time," he said.

It is a passion that started young. His career on cello began with the Warrington Youth Örchestra when he was just seven-years-old and then he also picked up the euphonium.

However, there is no place for a euphonium in an orchestra so when Jamie decided he wanted to become a professional musician a change in instrument was required

"Even though it is the third instrument I've learned it is the one I am pursuing," said Jamie, a former pupil at Lymm High. "I love the sound and the uniqueness of the trombone."

The National Youth Orchestra believes in inspiring its members with a sense of personal responsibility for giving world-class performances.

Composer Sir Peter Maxwell Davies once said the quality of any orchestra is enhanced by former NYO musicians.

For Jamie, who studies A-Levels in German and Politics alongside Music at Priestley College, being a part of the orchestra will set him on the road to success.

Next stop, he hopes, is to study at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London next year.

"I think talent gets you so far, but there comes a point where the only way of improving is hard work and I am prepared to put the time in to achieve my goals," he said.



# University staff member takes on charity 180 mile cycle

A member of staff has raised hundreds of pounds for the Warrington Wolves Foundation, after taking part in a charity cycling event.

Jake Edwards, Fitness Facilities Supervisor at the University's Warrington Campus, cycled from Hull to Liverpool, covering a total distance of 180 miles over two days. The challenge began at the Port of Hull and took riders across the Pennines, eventually arriving at Liverpool's Anfield Stadium.

Jake said: "It was a fantastic couple of days, but also incredibly hard! The support from everyone involved played such a huge part in all of us making it to Anfield. We cycled 180 miles in two days – you can't achieve that without everyone rallying round together!"

He added: "I was looking for a personal challenge, something that was completely out of my comfort zone. I'm not a cyclist and didn't do any training for the event, so getting on the bike every morning was tough! It's the mental side that youhave to conquer though. I wanted to have something I could look back on with pride and also help raise as much money as possible for the Warrington Wolves Foundation."

The Warrington Wolves Foundation aims to make a positive impact on the community through sport, by developing and benefiting young people and their families through positive and rewarding experiences. Jake said: "The Warrington Wolves Foundation is constantly creating and developing opportunities for everyone to participate in sport and it is really inspiring. The Foundation is so unique and I wanted to help by contributing to the great work they do there."

James Howes, Sport and Lifestyles Manager, Warrington Wolves Foundation, said: "'The Warrington Wolves Foundation relies on the fundraising efforts of people from the local community to deliver its portfolio of sport, health and education projects. We are extremely proud of Jake and thankful that he chose to take part in one of our challenges, as the money he has raised will make a huge difference to the people of Warrington. The Coast2Coast cycle was undoubtedly one of the toughest events the charity has ever undertaken, but his

determination to get to Anfield was incredible and his support of others during some extremely tough moments was a true reflection of him as person."

Meanwhile volunteers from the Warrington Campus raised more than £400 at a bucket collection for local charity Brainwave at the home of Warrington Wolves.

Staff and Health and Social Care students visited the stadium as part of fundraising activities being held throughout the year.



Jake Edwards (pictured fourth from the left).

### Business park raises record £11,000 for charity

Warrington's vibrant Birchwood Park business park raised more than £11,000 for charity last year – and is aiming to raise more this year.

The total of £11,578 was its largest fundraising total to date and will be distributed between the RSPCA Warrington, Halton and St Helens and Hand on Heart.

In order to achieve their grand total, the team at Birchwood Park put on a series of events throughout the year, including summer fairs, bake sales, sponsored challenges and the park's now infamous annual Duck Race, all open to companies on the Park and local residents alike.

Martin O'Rourke, commercial director at Birchwood Park, said: 'It's fantastic to see that we've once again broken our previous fundraising records, and the money raised couldn't be going to two better local charities.

I'd like to thank each and every member of staff, local resident and Park occupier that got involved in any way during our fundraising and those who donated their hard-earned cash for their contributions. To be able to give back to those organisations within our local community in need of help and funding is crucial and something we always strive to do

at Birchwood Park.

Catherine McGee, operations manager at the RSPCA Warrington, Halton and St Helens, said: 'We're over the moon to have been one of the chosen Birchwood Park charities over the past year, and can't thank the team there enough for everything they've done to raise money for our branch and the animals we care for.'

Lesley Appleton, fundraising coordinator at Hand on Heart, said: 'It's fantastic to have such a boost and support from businesses in our own community, and the money raised will go a long way in helping us to raise awareness for sudden cardiac arrest in children and provide essential funding for in-school defibrillators.'

In addition to monetary totals raised throughout the year, Birchwood Park also held special festive appeals for local causes, including collecting food, warm clothing, blankets and toiletry items for Warrington Open Door

at Christmas (WODAC), a local charity supporting the homeless, lonely and vulnerable over the festive period.

Fundraising efforts will continue into 2020, as Birchwood Park is pleased to announce its newly chosen park charities St Rocco's Hospice, Warrington and Dogs for Good, a charity which explores the ways in which dogs can help people overcome specific challenges and enrich and improve lives and communities.





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Students Naimah Couzens; Safina Hussain; Isobel Sherrat and Lucy

## Students row the Channel - without leaving dry land!

A group of students have rowed the English Channel for charity – without leaving the dry land of

The Women's Football team at the University's Warrington Campus organised and took part in a rowathon to raise money for Women In Sport.

The event was devised by Lucy Morris, 20, from Tenby in Pembrokeshire and Safina In Pembrokesnire and Safina Hussain, 20 from Cannock, who both are studying Policing, with their team mates and students from the Football and Rugby

The students started the day at 6am by setting up gazebos on campus with the rowing starting at 7am. Taking it in shifts, the group rowed until 7pm, covering the entire length of the English Channel – 350 miles or 560,000m - despite a thunderstorm!

Lucy said: "The idea came from when we had a committee meeting we said we wanted to do something different that other teams wouldn't have thought of, and something that was a challenge that would have to work towards! It was a lot of planning and hard work, but it was a great day, so well worth it.

"So far we have raised over £500. We are all very proud of everyone who took part and to raise so much before Christmas too."

Hayley Braddock, Fitness Facilities Co-ordinator at the Warrington Campus, said: "I'm really proud Lucy and the Women's Football team for completing this gruelling task, especially with all of the weather issues they faced. Women In Sport is a great charity to raise awareness and highlight the achievements of women, not only in sport, but also in society.

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# Wire kick start season with win over Salford in Mike Cooper Testimonial

Pictures: Eddie Whitham

Warrington Wolves kick started the new season with a 26-10 victory over Salford Red Devils in Mike Cooper's testimonial game in front of a crowd of just over 4,000.

Wire boss Steve Price named a strong 21-man side to take on last year's losing grand finalists including new signings Matty Ashton and Anthony Gelling, while former Wire Kevin Brown lined up for Salford.

Cooper, who was celebrating the start of his testimonial season was given a guard of honour as he walked onto the pitch with his children.

The visitors looked like causing an upset as they led 8-10 at the break but were kept pointless in the second half as Warrington stepped up a gear.

Sarginson went over for the Salford after seven minutes, with the touchline conversion attempt going

Warrington hit back on 12 minutes, when Salford fumbled and King was in place to claim possession and cross for the try. Ratchford's kick made 6-4

Asthon showed hios pace to save a try for Evalds but from 10 metres out the ball was moved out to Sarginson who over for his second try on 25 minutes. Lolohea was successful with the conversion, making it 6-10.

On 36 minutes Atkin darted over the

line but was held up on the last to deny another Salford try.

A penalty went to the Wire and with two minutes to the break with Ratchford converting to make it 8-10 at the break.

After a slow start to the second half Warrington eventually took control with Ashton showing pace again to get to within 20 metres. The ball was moved out wide and space opened up for Gelling to go over.

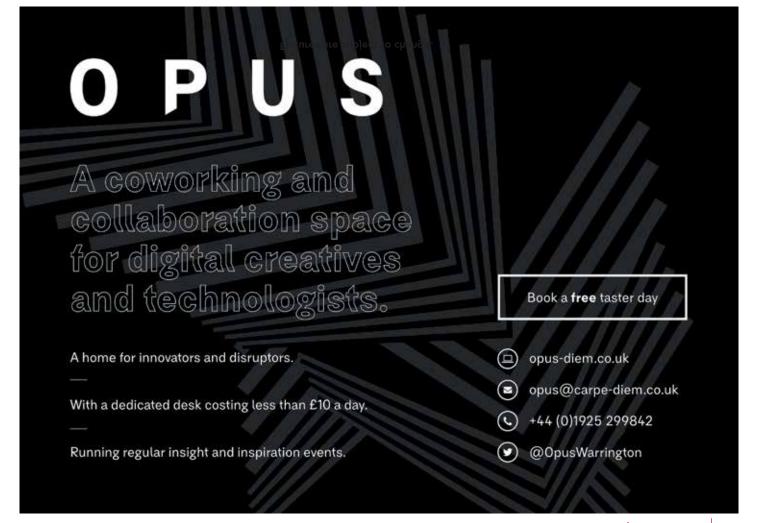
Ratchford converted making it 14-

Warrington continued to press and eventually Burrell went over with Ratchford adding the extras to make it 20-10.

Then on 68 minutes Warrington wrapped up the game with quick hands out to the left edge to put Lineham over in the corner, the conversion making it 26-10.







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