



# Insight

magazine

June/July 2019



The Journal of the

WARRINGTON CHAMBER OF  
COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

*in association with*  
**VR VALE ROYAL**  
The heart of Cheshire



# Warrington charity win Cheshire High Sheriff's Award for Enterprise 2019

**LOCAL charity Warrington Disability Partnership is celebrating after winning the Cheshire High Sheriff's Award for Enterprise.**

More than 300 guests gathered at Chester Racecourse to celebrate the crème de la crème of the region's business community at the prestigious annual Cheshire High Sheriff's Awards for Enterprise.

Hosted by the High Sheriff of Cheshire, Alexis Redmond MBE, and the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Chester, Professor Tim Wheeler, the guest speakers during the evening were Roger Johnson from BBC North West Tonight and Phil Redmond, TV producer and screenwriter, who delighted the audience with their conversation and stories.

Warrington Disability Partnership (WDP) scooped the overall prize, the Cheshire High Sheriff's Award for Enterprise 2018/19, sponsored by White Oak UK, WDP is a locally based and internationally-acclaimed, user-led, pan-disability charity. During the past 28 years they have developed and now deliver 28 mobility and independent living services aimed at supporting disabled people and people living with long-term health conditions. Award judges found this company amazing and inspirational for its achievements.

Dave Thompson, MBE DL, Co-Founder and Chief Executive at WDP, said "It was an absolute honour to have reached the shortlist

in our category, and when it was announced that we had won, it felt utterly amazing.

"As a medium-sized charity, we knew that we had to adopt business strategies in order to survive the past few years of austerity which has resulted in years of cuts in grants and contracts with statutory

services. We have worked hard to find the balance between the use of business acumen needed to develop a hugely successful trading arm, the Disability Trading Company, and the values-based ethical philosophy of our charity.

The Award is truly appreciated by the whole team at WDP, our volunteers,

our staff and our Board, as it adds credibility to our work. We would like to thank the High Sheriff of Cheshire, the organisers, the sponsors and the judges."

Warrington Disability Partnership wins a place on the University of Chester's MBA programme, worth £10,000.



## Oxford undergraduate's inspirational message to Warrington students

AN undergraduate is encouraging other young people from Warrington to aim high as he finishes his law degree at Oxford University.

Greg Horne, who studied A-Levels at Priestley College, is planning to become a barrister after his time at Christ Church is complete.

In a video message recorded for prospective new Priestley students, the former Lymm High School pupil said he had not considered Oxford an option until he went to college.

"My advice to anyone going through A-Levels is to believe in yourself because people are capable of so much more than they realise," he said.

"Just having an enormous amount of heart and being willing to shoot for the stars with everything that you do would be my advice because the higher you aim the more you achieve."

Greg, who coxes one of Oxford's rowing teams, left high school with A's, As and Bs, but never believed that would be enough to get him into Oxbridge.

However, after he joined Priestley's Graduate programme and visited Oxford with others aiming to study

at a Russell Group university he realised a place was within reach.

"I found out that the focus wasn't just about my grades. At the interview you are asked deeper thinking questions just to figure out how your mind works and the sort of logic you have," said Greg.

"It was the way I responded that made the difference to them in terms of giving me an offer."

Greg's inspiring message is being shown to any prospective Priestley student to prove what they can achieve. Since going to Oxford he has also returned to Priestley to offer advice and guidance to the current cohort on how to secure university places.

Senior Tutor Mark Salmon said a lot of work was taking place between Priestley College and the UK's leading universities to ensure young people in Warrington saw them as obtainable.

"There is still an issue with young people across the North West not believing that Oxbridge or Russell Group universities are for them, but Greg's story – and that of countless others – proves this is not the case," he said.



# From the Chief Executive

Colin Daniels

## Jobs and pay continue to rise as British employers keep on hiring

**JOBS and pay continue to rise as the employment miracle ignored Brexit to hit new record levels.**

A record 32.7m people were in work in the three months to February, a rise of 179,000 on the previous three months and a jump of 457,000 on the year.

The quality of jobs improved as most of the increase came in full time employment.

Unemployment fell by 27,000 on the quarter and 76,000 on the year with jobless holding steady at 3.9pc, the joint-lowest rate since the mid-seventies.

Total pay including bonuses now averaged £494 a week compare with £525 in February 2008.

It was feared the political turmoil over Brexit could have an effect on hiring but the Office of National Statistics found 852,000 unfilled job vacancies in March, close to a record high.



## Wage rise to attract British workers

Employers have had to increase wages and offer more benefits to compete for British workers as European migrants shun the UK in the run up to Brexit.

Three quarters of recruiters have seen an increase in businesses looking to source candidates from within the country according to research by Linked In.

## Manufacturers hit by slumping foreign demand

Manufacturers were hit by slumping foreign demand last month as some overseas customers opted to find new suppliers instead of waiting for the resolution to the Brexit impasse.

Exports orders shrank in April

according to the closely watched purchasing managers index (PMI) as the combination of political uncertainty and a global economic slowdown hit growth.

Factories also eased back stockpiling

plans as the delay to Brexit meant they did not need emergency supplies. Output increased but at a weaker pace with the index from 55.1 to 53.1. A score above 50 indicates growth.

## Disabled workforce grows by almost a million since 2014

There are 930,000 more disabled people in work today than five years ago according to the latest Government figures as the rate of

employment for them outstripped that for non-disabled people.

Disabled people in work grew by an average of 500 per day.

The employment rate for those with disabilities increased by 7.4pc over the period compared to 3.8pc for non-disabled people.

## Record number of EU nationals working in the UK

The number of EU nationals working in the UK hit a record high in the three months to March as the jobs market continues to expand.

Nearly 2.4m citizens of other EU nations now work here a rise of 100,000 on the final three months of

2018. It vastly exceeds the outflow from late 2017 to September 2018.

The total number of non-EU workers also increased, the office for National Statistics (ONS) said by 22,000 on the quarter and 80,000 on the year to more than 1.3m overall

unemployment fell to 3.8pc its lowest since the end of 1974.

Employment grew by 99,000 on the quarter and 354,000 in the past 12 months to 34m. The employment rate is a record 76.1pc with just 1.3m unemployed.

## Centre Park Link

We have received information on this project which comprises a new fixed bridge across the River Mersey from the A5060 Chester Road just north of Gainsborough Road. This crossing will join onto an extended Sluthers Lane leading from Wilson Pattern Street. A new signal controlled junction is to be constructed at each end of the new link on A5060 Chester Road and Wilson Pattern Street.

Works to construct the scheme will start in earnest in June and it is anticipated that the full scheme will be completed and open to traffic by late 2020.

It is most people's experience that signal controlled junctions cause traffic delays and in advance concern needs to be expressed at what this will do to traffic access to Bank Quay Station.

# A new site leader announced at Amazon

**A NEW site leader has been announced at the Amazon fulfilment centre at Warrington.**

Prashant Pandey will oversee operations at the centre, which opened its doors in 2017.

He has worked for Amazon in the UK and the US for three and-a-half years and previously served six years

in the Merchant Navy.

Mr Pandey, who has also previously worked in the insurance industry, has moved to Warrington. In his spare time he plays cricket for Barrow, near Chester.

He said: "I'm over the moon to join the team in Warrington. My main goals are to have a big impact on

our community and to have a big impact on my team. I've already seen how talented and fun the team at Amazon in Warrington is and I'm excited for all the great things I know we will achieve together."

Amazon employs more than 1,200 people in Warrington.



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Colin Daniels, Chief Executive



# Business park announces winners of 'wellbeing' awards

**A WARRINGTON business park has announced the winners of its first-ever "Expect More" awards.**

The awards are designed to recognise firms on Birchwood Park for their approach to employee workplace well being.

Litmos Heroes, MPP Global, and Cavendish Nuclear were crowned winners of the inaugural competition.

There were three categories within the Expect More Awards to recognise small, medium and large office occupiers within Birchwood Park.

The award for Small Offices went to Litmos Heroes, a company providing a fun and unique off-the-shelf library of content for learning and training.

For medium offices the award went to MPP Global, a subscriber management and billing platform, and the award for Large Offices was given to Cavendish Nuclear, a leading nuclear services company.

Danielle Kennedy, director of learning at Litmos Heroes, said: "We're absolutely delighted to be one of the winners of the first ever Expect More Award. We work hard to make sure our staff enjoy coming into work every single day by providing our team with benefits that promote wellbeing and a fun environment to work in.

"Our office comes with a break-out area fully equipped with pool table and games, and we offer free fruit and an allowance towards breakfast and lunch each day. There's no strict dress-code in the Litmos Heroes office, and we also like to host fun office activities such as regular 'Bake Off' competitions and office fitness days at the Alive and Well gym."

Winners of the Medium Office award, MPP Global Solutions, were recognised for the focus placed on the wellbeing of their team and implementing "The Culture Code Project".

Director Paul Johnson said: "We wanted to focus on enhancing our company culture by delivering on real actions that mattered to our workers. We did this by launching our Culture Code Project, to better understand our employees and invest in our employee wellbeing."

MPP Global also spent £80,000 on a complete office re-vamp, to modernise their space and provide an inspiring environment for their staff, conduct regular employee forums to keep on top of feedback and ideas, and provide funding and subsidies for extra-curricular activities for staff.

Johnson continued: "Our people are the lifeblood of MPP Global, and the importance of our people is paramount as we continue to grow and look at ways we can make MPP Global one of the very best businesses to work for in the North West."

Nuclear services company Cavendish Nuclear, were awarded the Large Office award for their pioneering efforts towards employee wellbeing.

General manager Bill Peate said: "Our success depends on how our workforce perform and we believe that this is driven by the health and wellbeing of our employees, and so we're continuously looking to invest in our workplace wellbeing programme and ensuring our employees look forward to coming into work every day."

Martin O'Rourke, commercial director at Birchwood Park said: "We were thoroughly impressed with the range of entries we received for our inaugural Birchwood Park Expect More Awards, and thrilled to recognise Litmos Heroes, MPP Global and Cavendish Nuclear for their fantastic approach to workplace wellbeing."





# Students aiming for places at the UK's top universities

**STUDENTS from Warrington's Priestley College are taking part in a programme designed to give them the best chance of securing places at the UK's top universities.**

Priestley students make up nearly a quarter of those on the Pembroke North programme, which is organised by Pembroke College, Oxford University.

Former University Academy Warrington pupil Ethan Holton said he was enjoying working alongside young people from other North West colleges.

"As much as it's challenging, it's very open and there's an inherent comfort knowing this is a challenge

for not only yourself, but for those around you," he said.

"The style in which the course is taught means the only way to succeed is through communicating with other people. Not only does the course provide the academic challenge, but also one of teamwork and communication. To me that has been the most enjoyable thing."

Nine students from Priestley attend the Pembroke North sessions every Tuesday after college.

The unique humanities programme prepares them for the intensive learning required by competitive universities.

It includes support with applications, a study day and a residential at Pembroke College as well as a number of seminars in Manchester.

Megan Byrom, a former pupil at Hope Academy, now studies A-Levels in English Literature, Classical Civilisation, Geography and Politics at Priestley College.

She said: "As students in the north west, selective and competitive universities such as Oxford and Cambridge can feel like unrealistic goals.

"However the programme, along with the trip to Oxford, has helped us see these universities as places we can aspire to study in."

For former Cardinal Newman RC High School pupil Ewan Craven the Pembroke North programme has allowed him to develop valuable skills such as critical reading.

"The academic literature that has been given to us is very challenging, but I have developed the skills needed to follow a difficult text and to critically analyse a hard piece of work," he said.

All the Priestley students also take part in the college's Graduate programme, which is designed to make them as competitive as possible when applying for top university places.

## Portal Business Centres proud to host Men's Mental Health Event

Portal Business Centres is delighted to be opening the doors to a Men's Mental Health event, taking place at the company's Dallam Court centre in Warrington on the evening of the 13th June. The free event, run by Simon Osborne, will focus on the very important and relevant topic of men's mental health, and the impact these issues can have, especially in the workplace. The format of the event will be a mix of presenting, discussion and interactivity, and the session is open to anyone who may find it useful or relevant, be it for business or personal use, and is of course open to both men and women.

Commenting on the event, Sallie Maskrey, MD Portal Business Centres said "We have been running our own very successful networking events for a number of years now, however we are looking to open the centre up to more events that include topical and perhaps more serious issues. Having met Simon at one of our previous events, we asked if he would be interested in hosting something, and we are delighted that he is bringing his expertise to us, allowing people to get involved with an area that is becoming more and more relevant, both in the workplace and at home."

The event, which will run from 6-8pm on Thursday 13th June, is free to attend however places are limited. If you are interested in coming along, please email [salesteam@portalbusinesscentres.co.uk](mailto:salesteam@portalbusinesscentres.co.uk)



## New bus route launched

Local bus company Warrington's Own Buses has launched a new route called 'the Blueline' which connects Warrington to Widnes Market via Penketh every 15 minutes.

MD Ben Wakerley said: "We see it as a great way to attract people to our town and as such we've put three full rear advertisements for Warrington Market on the back. We've also reduced the fares!"





# Blue Whale Media take on Snowdon for the second year in a row

**THE team at Blue Whale Media like to set themselves a challenge in aid of a worthy cause every year.**

Last year, they seemed to choose one of the hottest weekends of the year, because climbing a mountain wasn't enough of a challenge!

This year, their annual trip was to Snowdon in Wales in aid of St Helens Mind. They tackled the mountain on 27th April 2019.

They chose St Helens Mind as their nominated charity because it is a cause that is very important to many of the team at Blue Whale Media.

St Helens Mind work with the local community to promote and preserve healthy attitudes towards mental health. They work tirelessly to assist those who are experiencing difficulty with their mental health and help them to achieve their full potential. They offer non-judgmental services and self-esteem opportunities to anyone, regardless of cultural, religious or lifestyle. An all-encompassing organization that helps the residents of our local community preserve and better their mental health.

At Blue Whale Media, the team are proud to support local charities that better the local community. All donations to St Helens Mind will contribute towards their vital work.

No matter how big or small, the

money donated will be used to help them run their services and get their volunteers out there in the community.

Just a £5 donation can cover the expenses needed for a one to one Befriending Session, which helps lonely and isolated members of our community. The organization runs amazing activities, such as The Sound of Mind choir and the Social Groups to help attendees gain confidence and assurance

Blue Whale chose to walk up Snowdon again as it was a very worthy challenge for their team. Needless to say, they got our walking boots ready and battled against the wind and rain.

This time, they stayed in the local area the night before and got a good night's sleep before setting off bright and early to try and reach the summit. In total, 8 of the team took on the challenge.

The rest waited on the ground, with a drink and a pat on the back when they finished.

All together, they raised £450.00 for St Helens Mind.

On behalf of Blue Whale Media and St Helens Mind, the team greatly appreciate everyone who donated to this great cause. They are now looking forward to any challenges for other great causes that they can take on in the future.



## Death of Freeman of Warrington Norman Banner MBE

Freeman of Warrington Norman Banner MBE has died aged 71 after a near two year battle with cancer.

Born and bred in Warrington, Norman, who recently retired as solicitor with FDR Law was well known and hugely respected across the town for his various charitable and community roles spanning more than 50 years.

He leaves wife Louise and his sons Mark (21) and Edward (15).

His voluntary work began over 50 years ago when he built and ran up the Youth Club at Grappenhall Independent Methodist Church for a number of years.

After graduating in law from Manchester Polytechnic, Norman joined Robert Davies & Co and served a total of over 48 years with one or other of the component firms that comprise FDR Law. He became a partner in the practice and rose to Senior Partner before retiring from the partnership at 65 continuing as a consultant solicitor with the firm until earlier this year.

Shortly after qualifying Norman was approached by well known local head teacher, magistrate and charity champion Marjorie Griffiths and was invited to join the recently formed Warrington Committee for Disabled People, an umbrella group representing local

charities and statutory colleagues to encourage collaborative work and an improvement to the provisions for people with a disability.

Norman chaired the committee for many years and out of their work was formed Warrington Crossroads Care Attendant Scheme which Norman also chaired and from which he also obtained the full funding for the first single occupancy vehicle with a tail-lift for Warrington Community Transport.

Involvement with Crossroads Care took Norman onto the national board which he also chaired for 10 years. Crossroads was based in Rugby and apart from monthly meetings, Norman spent many evenings addressing the AGMs of member schemes across the UK, visited schemes in Scotland, Ireland and the Netherlands and attended and hosted many events in London including three receptions at No. 10 Downing Street. His weekday Crossroads commitments were taken as annual leave from his legal work.

Crossroads Care grew under his chairmanship from around 50 schemes to over 200 at the time of his retirement.

Following Crossroads, Sir Donald Wilson the chair of the Regional Health Authority invited Norman

to sit on the board of the authority following which he appointed him as the first chair of Warrington Hospital Trust which office Norman held for 12 years, the last four following the merger with Halton.

It was in the first weeks of the Trust that Warrington Hospital was at the centre of the town's brave response to the IRA bombing.

For 10 years Norman was on the board of St Rocco's Hospice for most of that time as Chair.

For the last few years he served as a Deputy Lieutenant of Cheshire and

was a founder member of Cheshire Community Foundation where he was able to assist in the creation of a £1m + trust fund for the benefit of projects for elderly people ring-fenced for Warrington.

In 2016 he was awarded the inaugural Lifetime Achievement Award at the Warrington Business Awards.

There were many other local voluntary and statutory organisations that Norman has been involved with including the Warrington Festival Trust and Warrington Community Health Council.





# College celebrates top 10 ranking for third consecutive year

**WARRINGTON & Vale Royal College is celebrating some of the highest pass rates in England, with the latest figures ranking it in the top 10 colleges nationally for the third consecutive year.**

Statistics from the Further Education and Skills Agency (March 2019) put the college in the top 5% of General Further Education (GFE) colleges, with 96.4% of its cohort passing their qualifications.

These figures put the college 3.8 percentage points above the sector average, higher than colleges in the surrounding area.

Nichola Newton, Principal and Chief Executive of Warrington &

Vale Royal College, said: "We're delighted to be ranked within the top 10 General Further Education colleges in the UK for pass rates for the third year running. This fantastic achievement reflects the continued hard work and dedication of our staff and students in maintaining our status as a first-rate further education provider.

"The college has come a long way in recent years and these figures demonstrate that. As a college, we are passionate about ensuring every single one of our learners – no matter what their age – leaves us having achieved their qualification and with the opportunities and career prospects they deserve."



## Eleventh woman Mayor of Warrington helping create history

Lib Dem Cllr Wendy Johnson has been elected as the 136th Mayor of Warrington – and only the 11th woman to hold the office, following in the footsteps of retiring Mayor Cllr Karen Mundry.

But with Labour's Maureen Creaghan elected as her deputy, the balance is gradually being re-addressed at the town hall – and means when the Deputy Mayor succeeds as Mayor next year, it will be the first time is Warrington's history that three women will have served consecutively as Mayor.

Cllr Johnson, who represents Lymm North & Thelwall has chosen Warrington Disability Partnership, Walton Lea Project, MacIntyre and Contact the Elderly as her charities for the year.

Born in Warrington at Great Sankey, she moved to Thelwall aged one.

In nominating Cllr Johnson, fellow Cllr Bob Barr said it was quite appropriate that she was becoming Mayor at the time the Golden Gates were being renovated. Her

grandfather had been a planner at the town hall and was involved in the project the last time the gates had been restored.

She has served on a range of committees and working groups and has particularly enjoyed her time as the Chairperson of the Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee. She will be focusing on two themes in particular, tolerance and homelessness, in her year as Mayor.

Cllr Johnson said, "I have been a long-serving council member since I first joined in 1998. To now succeed to the role of Mayor of Warrington is an honour.

"I look forward to the year ahead and being able to support the charities under the Mayor's Appeal. I'm excited to get out and meet all the different residents of Warrington and to take on the new responsibilities of the mayoral role."

Her sister, Beverley Hallam, will be the Mayor's consort and support her throughout her mayoral year.





# Universities set sights on Priestley students

**UNIVERSITIES have lowered their grade requirements for students who have successfully completed the Extended Project at Priestley College.**

Grace Duffy, who achieved an A\* with her dissertation on the bleaching of the coral reefs, had her original offer from Birmingham reduced from an A to a B in each A-Level on the strength of her project.

"It is great news for me because Birmingham was my first choice to study a Masters in Geology with a year abroad," said the former Penketh High pupil.

"I wanted to do my best in the EPQ anyway, but it definitely gave me more motivation knowing it could influence my offer."

The Extended Project allows

students to choose their own topics and titles, which have been as varied as 'Are humans really made of stardust?' to 'What makes the perfect pop song?'

Most students complete a dissertation of at least 6,000 words. Students can opt to complete an investigation, experiment, field study, performance or an artefact plus 2,000 words instead.

Many universities reduce offers for successful EPQ candidates because it demonstrates a number of key skills including the ability to learn independently.

Almost half of the students who take the course alongside their other A-Levels and BTECs at Priestley secure A\* or A, two thirds achieve a grade B or above.

Former Sir Thomas Boteler student

Daniel James also completed his EPQ early and received a reduced university offer.

At Priestley he is studying Classical Civilisation, History, English Language and Literature and has now accepted an offer to study Ancient History at the University of Manchester.

However, it was the University of Liverpool that lowered its grade requirements after he achieved an A in his EPQ, which was about how Julius Caesar became so powerful he could claim to be a dictator for life.

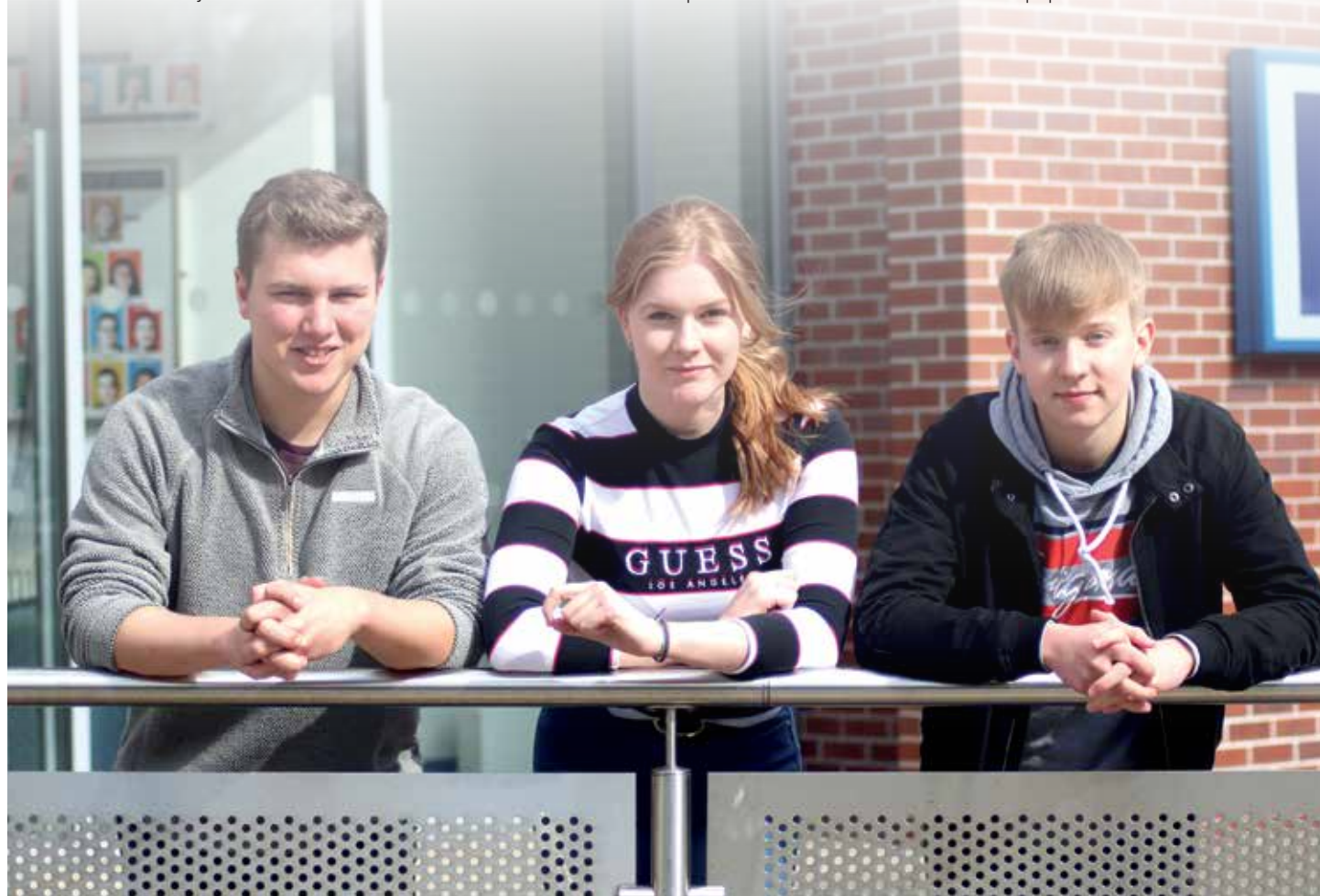
"EPQ has helped me to develop numerous skills like the ability to collate and critically analyse a selection of useful sources and giving an effective and efficient presentation," he said.

"Delivering my presentation also greatly increased my confidence when presenting to, or speaking in front of, a group."

For aspiring chemical engineer Ben Hilton, the Extended Project was a chance to write about a vast area of research in his chosen field.

He investigated whether hydrogen fuel cells are the best option to power transport. The A\* grade he achieved meant that one of his grade requirements for studying Chemical Engineering at university was reduced from an A to B.

"I thought an EPQ would be helpful, as it would give me an academic topic to talk about at length in an interview," said the former St Gregory's Catholic High School pupil.



Daniel James, Grace Duffy and Ben Hilton are aiming high after completing their Extended Project at Priestley College.

## NEW MEMBER

### La Difference Translation Service Ltd

Isabelle Sommeil-Hornby - Managing Director  
9 Harrogate Close, Great Sankey, Warrington, WA5 3AU  
Tel: 07391 120120  
Web: [www.ladifferencetranslation.co.uk](http://www.ladifferencetranslation.co.uk)  
Description: Translation Services

## La Difference Translation Services Ltd

New Chamber member Isabelle Sommeil-Hornby is the founder of La Difference Translation Services Ltd, established since 2008 in the UK to provide professional English to French translations primarily to solicitors, law firms and courts across the UK and abroad.

Additionally she provide translation services to other sectors such as Governmental establishments and police forces and translate also general documents. She offers translation services in all major European languages.

Her service is bespoke, fast, accurate, competitive and confidentiality is guaranteed. Members will be offered a special rate.



# 28th Disability Awareness Day set to be a cracker!

**THE 28th annual Disability Awareness Day at Walton Hall Gardens on Sunday, July 14, is set to be a cracker.**

More than 25,000 visitors are expected to attend this year's DAD, the world's largest not-for-profit, voluntary-led, pan-disability exhibition, which will once again be hosted at Walton Hall Gardens. Organisers Warrington Disability Partnership is proud to announce their new joint principal sponsors, Expanse Learning Group and Harry Fairclough Construction.

A huge tented village will house over 220 exhibitors - including equipment suppliers; transport; holidays; leisure and employment providers; and support groups and services - is set to attract visitors to travel from all over the UK and beyond. Inclusive Arts is just one of the highlights, plus a free fully accessible Sports Zone with have-a-go events, and a main arena and children's rides and entertainment.

Checkout the website for details on the free accessible Park and Ride service, plus a free bus service from Warrington Bus Interchange, British Sign Language (BSL) interpreters, scooter / wheelchair loans.

The big day on Sunday, July 14, from 10am to 5pm - will be a fitting finale to a week comprising a variety

of complementary daytime and evening events to savour, including:

**Tuesday 9th July**

6.15pm – 9.30pm Frogstastic in the Park - Arts Marquee, Walton Gardens: Featuring fantastic Tribute Artists 'Robbie Williams / UB40 / The 80's & Swing' plus special guests including DJ's from the famous Frogstastic Club Night. Come and enjoy a great evening of Live Music, Dance Floor and Licenced Bar, bring your own food. Advanced Tickets £6.00 call 07875 142233 or online at [www.ldok.net/shop](http://www.ldok.net/shop), £8 on the door.

**Wednesday 10th July**

7pm – 10pm - "Ella's Summer Time Special" - Arts Marquee, Walton Gardens: The Ella Performance Group, one of the UK's leading inclusive drama groups will be performing thrilling and entertaining songs from their recent productions. Adult tickets £8.00 and children's tickets £5.00 from The Ella Team on 01928 713877 or Kate 01925 240064.

**Thursday 11th July**

6pm - 9.30pm – Children's Party in the Park - Arts Marquee, Walton Gardens: Warrington Wolves Foundation & Warrington Disability Partnership present a fun filled

evening for disabled children/young people, their families and friends. Sports, Arts, Dance, chill out and fun areas. Free admission: Contact Craig 01925 248894.

**Friday 12th July**

7.30pm - 11.30pm DAD Mega Quiz Night, Charity Auction with Hot Food. Arts Marquee, Walton Gardens: Teams of up to 8 people,

hundreds of £'s worth of prizes, fun quiz, great food, licensed bar and a charity auction. Tickets £8.00 (includes hot food). Contact Kate on 01925 240064.

For more details on exhibiting or attending #DAD2019 and our 'DAD Week' events, please contact Warrington Disability Partnership on 01925 240064 or visit [www.disabilityawarenessday.org.uk](http://www.disabilityawarenessday.org.uk)



# Disability Awareness Day

## SUNDAY 14TH JULY 2019

### Walton Gardens, Warrington

### 10am - 5pm

- Support Groups & Services
- Equipment Suppliers, Holidays & Transport
- Sports Zone, Arts Marquee, Live Bands, Dance & Drama

Organised by

Joint Principal Sponsors

Tel: 01925 240064 [www.disabilityawarenessday.org.uk](http://www.disabilityawarenessday.org.uk)

## Promoting Independence Through Life and Work





**St. Rocco's 2019**

**COLOUR BUBBLE**

**FUN RUN**

**WHEN?**

**Sunday**

**29th September**

**at 3pm**

**Walton Hall & Gardens**

**Run, walk, jog or hop**

**around our 3km course**

**at the BRIGHTEST & BUBBLIEST**

**fundraising event**

**in Warrington!**

**Sign up & fundraise online at**

**[www.stroccos.org.uk](http://www.stroccos.org.uk)**

**01925 575780**

**Register NOW!**

# Thornton Professor leads the North West on hydrogen matters

WITH the North West aiming to deliver the UK's first hydrogen economy, a University of Chester professor is leading the way in the region's ambition to make that vision a reality.

Among his many regional and national roles focussing on clean energy, Professor Joe Howe, Executive Director of the Thornton Energy Institute at the University of Chester, is Chair of the North West Hydrogen Alliance. NWAHA is a new industrial partnership backing the region's primary hydrogen economy bid.



Professor Joe Howe.

## Pioneering

Joe will be one of the keynote speakers and co-chair of 'Delivering the Hydrogen Economy North West', a region-wide event which will bring together key stakeholders to discuss how the region can deliver pioneering hydrogen projects that set the standard for the UK. It will also showcase the extensive range of hydrogen projects that are already happening in the North West. The aim is to develop hydrogen regionally as a key part of the Government's Industrial Strategy.

'Delivering the Hydrogen Economy NW' will feature talks and presentations from Liverpool City Region Mayor, Steve Rotherham, as well as some of the region's key players in the energy industry, including INOVYN, BOC Gases, Peel Environmental and Costain. Delegates will hear how the region has committed £500m to meet the challenge of becoming the UK's first zero carbon cluster by 2040.

The event takes place at the Heath Business and Technical Park, Runcorn, on Wednesday June 5. The programme and list of speakers can be found at: <https://hydrogeneconomynw.com/>

## Expertise

Professor Howe has also recently been announced as a member of an advisory board for the All Party Parliamentary Group for Carbon Capture and Storage (CCUS). The advisory board has been established to provide expertise and guidance for the APPG's enquiry, which will examine the benefits and value of CCUS and what is required to commercialise the technology in the UK. It also includes representatives from heavy industry, academia, think tanks and non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

Professor Joe Howe said: "When pure hydrogen is combined with oxygen and burned, it produces only heat and water – with no harmful CO2 emissions. Here at the University of Chester, we believe that Thornton Science Park is a, if not the, pivotal feature for the further development of the

hydrogen economy in the North West. To use an energy metaphor, we see our Energy Centre as our beacon at Thornton, which is a Campus all about skills, innovation and clean growth. Hydrogen is exactly that: an energy source to deliver clean growth for businesses and people (through car fuel, for example). I am extremely excited that the University of Chester is at the heart of such an exciting future prospect."

## Innovation

Professor Howe has undertaken extensive energy related research, development and innovation funded by Government, Industry and RCUK (Research Councils UK) and the EU and has published in excess of 100 peer reviewed articles. Specifically on energy systems, he has led and been involved in the development of industry/ university partnerships including BAE Systems and the National Nuclear Laboratory, where he is an academic associate.

During the last six years, he has been successful in securing six energy related EPSRC Industrial Collaborative PhD funded students and has been either PI (Principal Investigator) or CI (Co-investigator) on several energy specific ERDF programmes supporting SMEs in the North West of England. He has recently completed two Innovate UK projects concerned with Carbon Capture and Storage and Nuclear Decommissioning respectively and is currently leading on two industrial sponsored energy research projects funded by URENCO and Costain.

## Collaboration

Among his research projects, Professor Howe is supporting award winning PhD student Reace Edwards, who is exploring how hydrogen can be used to decarbonise gas in the region. Funded by Costain, the smart infrastructure solutions company, Reace's work is part of a collaboration research project on decarbonising gas that has been signed between Costain and the University of Chester.



# #LookUpWarrington launched

**WITH more jobs in digital than Liverpool, more start-ups than anywhere outside London and multi-million pound investments; the tech sector in Warrington is booming.**

But without a High Street presence or neon signs above their office doors, this significant contribution made to our local GDP isn't common knowledge.

Carpe Diem, Warrington's consultancy led website and development agency, has responded to this by opening Opus. A coworking and collaboration space specifically for digital creatives and technologists.

Bill Carr, CEO of Carpe Diem, describes Opus as "A home for innovators, something Warrington

has been for centuries."

Housed on the top floor of Pyramid, on Palmyra Square, in partnership with Culture Warrington; their Open House events have already attracted the likes of WP Engine, the hosting platform behind WordPress, sharing insights about Generation Z.

And as well as supporting the LEP's successful submission for Warrington and Cheshire to become a Local Digital Skills Partnership, Opus by Carpe Diem has just sponsored a Girls Make Games workshop with FabLab and a pitch by students of Priestley College, who went on to exhibit at Play Expo.

"We're trying to bring all the strands together - access for young people to industry, knowledge transfer between Opus members and commercial advice for digital entrepreneurs - all in one place" shared Saul Peake, Carpe Diem's Managing Creative Director.

## Benefit

One of the crucial gaps being addressed is the future gene pool and the training or upskilling of the existing digital workforce and Opus will soon be asking local businesses and HR departments if they'd like to become partners so employees can benefit from the exchange of ideas that Opus is all about.

If you're interested in becoming a member or a partner you can find out more, get in touch or book onto the next event via [www.opus-diem.co.uk](http://www.opus-diem.co.uk)



## College's sell-out book auction raises funds to help improve literacy



Warrington & Vale Royal College is celebrating after the success of a sell-out book auction dinner at their award-winning restaurant, Buckley's.

The annual auction, sponsored by warrington-worldwide, raised over £900 which will be used to purchase books for the college's reading schemes including 'Accelerated Reader' and the Reading Agency's initiative, 'Reading Ahead', which the college runs with partner LiveWire Libraries.

The auction, which was led by the college's Director of English, Elizabeth Draper, and Learning Resource Centre Manager, Bethan Bligh, commenced with a delicious four-course meal prepared and

served by the college's talented hospitality and culinary arts students.

Anna Lucas, author of Sir Undercracker, spoke at the auction and donated multiple copies of her children's best-seller, along with a visit to two local primary schools of the highest bidders choosing. The college's Personal Development, Behavioural & Welfare Manager, Stephanie Crane, and Work Placement Co-ordinator, Abbie Hildebrandt, bid together to win a visit from Anna Lucas to Darnhall Primary School in Winsford, where Stephanie Crane sits as a governor.

This academic year over 3 million words were read from the college's

fiction collection and over 3000 fiction books were loaned from the college's libraries at its Warrington and Winsford campuses. This increased reading has resulted in a demonstrable improvement in grammar, vocabulary and spelling, and the ability to process written texts. It has fostered an enjoyment of reading, and students are now in the habit of reading for pleasure. This year the college identified seventeen students as having made significant academic progress through reading, awarded

Reader of the Year to Art & Design student Jack Dickenson, and Reading Group of the Year to ICT Diploma Level 2, for their excellent

reading progress.

Elizabeth Draper commented: "It was a splendid occasion with a delicious menu and fun auction. The monies raised will have such a positive impact on our reading at college. It is only through local support and generosity, particularly from our wonderful sponsor and friend Gary Skentelbery from warrington-worldwide, that we are able to continue this fantastic reading journey."

The event has been inspired by the historic Warrington Gentlemen's Book Society, of which Gary is a member and special guests included the Society's Chairman Roger Bingham.



# New joint principle sponsors announced



**A LONG-established construction firm and a health and social care education provider have been named as principle sponsors of this year's Disability Awareness Day at Warrington.**

Harry Fairclough Construction, of Warrington and Leigh-based Expanse Learning Group are joint principle sponsors of Warrington Disability Partnership's showpiece event, which takes place on Sunday, July 14 in a huge tented village at Walton Hall Gardens.

Disability Awareness Day (DAD) is the world's largest "not for profit" voluntary-led disability exhibition and this year's event will mark its 28th anniversary.

Dave Thompson, co-founder and chief executive of Warrington Disability Partnership (WDP) announced the sponsorships at an event hosted by the Mayor, Cllr Karen Mundry, at the Town Hall.

He said: "We feel honored and humbled that DAD continues to receive the support from all of our sponsors, and the exhibitors and thousands of visitors each year".

DAD offers something for all the family with attractions such as the tented village housing about 250 exhibitors, live entertainment and a fully accessible sports zone and arts marquee.

John Gartside, chairman of WDP's board of trustees, said: "It's a free event, but without the sponsors it wouldn't take place. The sponsorship is vital to us."

Harry Fairclough Construction delivers building and civil engineering projects across the north of England with a 120 year heritage based on their founder, Harry Fairclough.

Company chairman Martin Budden said:

The Chairman of Harry Fairclough Construction, Martin Budden said "Listening to Dave, it's about a can do attitude, an opportunity to

allow people to reach their potential and when you look at it from that perspective, why wouldn't you want to be involved in the event?"

Expanse Learning, are a leading provider of education, health and social care and professional skills development across the North West and recently teamed up with WDP with a supported internships programme for young disabled people.

Chief executive Tony Brown said: "Last year it was absolutely amazing to see the passion of people talking about what DAD is all about. It's something that we're really pleased to be involved in".

The Mayor, who had chosen WDP as one of her charities this year, said: "The DAD day is fantastic. It's not just in Warrington. That's where it started, but it's all over the world in 10 countries and its brilliant that it started here in Warrington"

## Mayor's charity appeal raised more than £10,000

Mayor of Warrington Karen Mundry's charity appeal raised more than £10,000 during her year in office.

Cllr Mundry hosted a small reception at the Town Hall to honour the charities.

The money raised has been split between the Mayor's chosen charities – Warrington Disability Partnership, a voluntary organisation improving the quality of life for disabled people and their families – and the Tim Parry Johnathan Ball Centre for Peace, a charity working nationally and internationally for peace and non-violent resolution of conflict.

Part of the money is also going to a local charity, Harry and Co, which supports maternity bereavement services and other charities will also be awarded sums.

Cllr Mundry said: "It's an honour to host this event to present these charities with over £10,000 between them. This money will help them to support the people of Warrington and beyond, and enable the charities to further develop and carry out their services."

Warrington Disability Partnership and the Tim Parry Johnathan Ball Centre for Peace each received £3,500.

Other beneficiaries include: Harry and Co., Warrington Fire Cadets, Room at the Inn and Y Project and the Warrington Wolves Foundation.





# Priestley crowned county football champions

**Priestley College won the John Sleigh (Cheshire) Cup defeating West Cheshire College 3-0.**

Captain Jamie Smith, a former pupil at King's School Academy, said: "West Cheshire came out with a game plan to intimidate and frustrate us, but we kept our cool and played some of the best football we've played all year."

The only goal of the first half was scored by Scott Gatley, a point-blank finish after the keeper spilled a dangerous Tom Kirkpatrick free kick.

After that West Cheshire earned a couple of dangerous shots on target, but an in-form Josh McMutrie pulled off two world class saves to keep the score at 1-0.

During the second half McMutrie prevented the ball from flying into the top corner with another impressive save before Josh Sigsworth came off the bench to fire a shot hard and low under the keeper to make it 2-0.

With the game being controlled by Priestley's midfield and defence, Jamie Smith found some space and produced a lovely through ball for

Jack Smith who slotted neatly past the goalkeeper.

"The whole team were amazing from start to finish and every player contributed to this victory,"

said Priestley's Football Academy manager Dan Jordan.

"It means we go into the national finals with our confidence high, believing we can be the best

college team in the country."

In July the team travel to the United States to play in the New York City Cup, an international scholarship tournament.



## New Blue Islands Liverpool to Guernsey service takes off

Blue Islands has launched its inaugural Guernsey flight from Liverpool John Lennon Airport establishing a new twice-weekly connection to the island from the North West's Faster, Easier, Friendlier Airport.

To mark the occasion of the first flight, staff at Liverpool John Lennon Airport, celebrated the arrival of the Blue Islands aircraft with a traditional water cannon 'aircraft baptism' with arriving passengers from Guernsey greeted by representatives from Marketing Liverpool.

Paul Winfield, Director of Aviation Development for LJLA commented, "We're delighted to welcome Blue Islands to Liverpool for the first time today as they become the latest operator to join the growing list of airlines operating from Liverpool."

Guernsey is another fantastic destination to be served from here, giving the region's travellers the opportunity to travel to this beautiful Channel Island direct from Liverpool, the North West's Faster Easier Friendlier airport."

Rob Veron, CEO Blue Islands added, "Islanders can now enjoy direct connections to the cultural city of Liverpool, as well as the Lake District and North Wales and a lower cost alternative to Aurigny's Manchester service. What's more the new route will also be a boost for inbound tourism to Guernsey."

Blue Islands is a Flybe franchise partner and flights can be booked now at flybe.com



Celebratory Water Canon Arch over the Blue Islands aircraft.



(L to R) LJLA's Paul Winfield with Rob Veron, of Blue Islands celebrating the start of new route.



# Hard work pays off as student given second chance at Warrington Wolves

**A YOUNG rugby player from Priestley College has earned a second chance to prove himself at Warrington Wolves after securing a contract for the U19s team.**

Karlton Bates, from Fearnhead, previously trained with Wolves two years ago, but was released after struggling to live up to his potential.

## Opportunity

However, the second opportunity arose after Karlton captained the Priestley College Academy team, which is run in partnership with Warrington Wolves.

"I know there are people who would

have given up if they'd had the setbacks I've had, but if you want something I believe you've got to go out and work for it," said Karlton, who is 17.

"I've got to stay grounded because I understand now that the hard work is just starting."

Karlton was late to rugby and joined Rylands when he was 15. However, he was quickly scouted by Wolves and asked to join them for training.

"I thought I'd made it and took my foot off the gas," said Karlton. "I know for a fact my effort level could have been higher, but I wasn't ready.

I learned a lot from that experience because I was heartbroken when I was released."

Despite the blow, Karlton never gave up. He kept playing, working on his strength and fitness and watched as many rugby matches as possible, analysing team strategies.

However, it was joining Priestley College's rugby team that led to his second chance.

## Discipline

Wolves coaches Lee Mitchell and Lee Westwood work with students in the Cat 3 academy to develop all aspects of their game and Karlton benefitted from the added discipline he developed.

It was during a match against Wigan's Cat 3 academy that Karlton impressed Wolves' Head of Youth Peter Riding who invited him in to discuss his future.

"I turned up with my boots, kit and

bottle of water so that if he asked me to training again I was ready to start straight away and that's what happened," said Karlton.

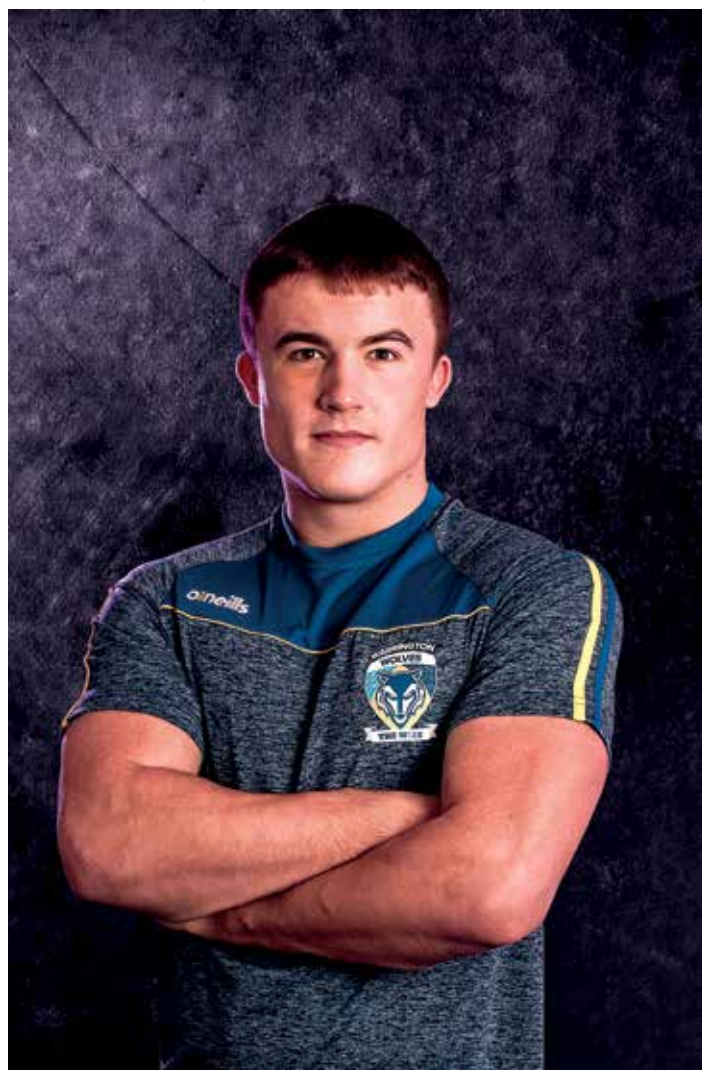
"When I was told I had a contract I was like a kid at Christmas because it is something I have been working so hard for."

Lee Mitchell said Karlton was a prime example of how Priestley's academy aimed to give players a second chance or the opportunity to be discovered for the first time.

"Rugby is a late maturation sport and some players can be missed if they don't develop until late," he said.

"Thanks to the academy we are already seeing lads develop a greater love for the sport and more of them are going out to play in the local community."

For more details about the Priestley Rugby Academy contact [leemitchell@wolvesfoundation.com](mailto:leemitchell@wolvesfoundation.com)



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# Carden commits to Warrington Town and aims to keep squad together

**WARRINGTON** Town boss Paul Carden has committed to the club by signing a contract extension and is now aiming to keep much of his squad together for another tilt at promotion next season.

With six of the existing squad already agreeing new deals and a new signing - Carden appears to be well on his way.

The Yellows were cruelly denied promotion to National League North at the weekend, beaten 3-2 after extra-time by King's Lynn Town in the super play-off.

In any other year, winning the Northern Premier League play-offs would have been enough to go up, but due to a re-structuring of the football pyramid, an extra game was needed and that proved a hurdle too far.

Carden's men have finished in third in the table in each of the past two seasons, and last summer he had to virtually re-build his whole side due to a number of player departures, largely to teams in leagues above.

He said: "There will be a few vultures circling, as I would expect, because there's a lad there who have had unbelievable seasons and are destined to go higher, so it'll be a case of when they move and when they decide to move.

"The thing is we knew it before the start of the season so there's no point moaning about it.

"Any other year gone by and any other year going forward, you're promoted.

"It's just the way it seems to be, we've had to overcome another hurdle but we're back staying in our division next season unfortunately.

"I said to the lads we don't need to

rip it up and start again. Looking at the side there I think Tony Gray was the only one to play in the play-offs last season, which tells you how well and strong the lads have done.

"We will try our best to keep as many of them to take us forward, and we will be trying to keep it together."

Goalkeeper Tony McMillan (above), team of the year defender David Raven (top), winger Jack Dunn

(below) and striker Josh Amis (bottom) were the first to agree to remain and were quickly joined by skipper Mark Roberts and leading scorer Tony Gray.

Their first new signing for next season was the capture of Gainsborough midfielder Alex Byrne.

Byrne, 26, was previously with Shaw Lane and played against the Yellows twice last season.



Keeper Macmillan, David Raven and skipper Mark Roberts who have all committed for next season in action against Kings Lynn at a packed Cantilever Park.

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