

insight

November 18

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Town shows support for Troops



WARRINGTON people were given the opportunity to show their support for the troops as two regiments with links to the town took up their right to perform freedom parades through the town centre.

First were the The 75 Engineers Regiment based at Peninsula Barracks, who exercised their right as freemen of Warrington to march through the heart of the town as featured in last month's Insight.

Next up were the Duke of Lancaster's Regiment which has links to Warrington going back almost 150 years.

Recently returned from Cyprus, and currently stationed at Chester, it was the first time the 1st Battalion had joined the other two battalions of the regiment to be in the North West at the same time.

The Freedom was first granted to the South Lancashire Regiment in 1947 and passed to the Duke of Lancaster's Regiment in 2006.



From the Chief Executive

Colin Daniels



Nine in 10 businesses to be paid within five days

The announcement the Government has vowed to step up its efforts to wipe out late payments to small businesses with a new pledge to pay most of its own small suppliers within five days and a call for evidence on how best to tackle

the problem in the private sector.

The new policies are the latest in a long line of efforts to tackle the problem which is estimated to drive 50,000 companies to the wall and costs the economy

£2.5bn each year.

Carillion which forced 120 day payment terms on its suppliers and collapsed in January owing millions, showed the current voluntary Prompt Payment Code "isn't working".

UK Services Growth Slows

Growth in activity in the UK's services sector slowed in September according to the PMI produced by IHS Markit.

The index which is a measure of business confidence, stood at 53.9 in September down from 54.3 in August.

UK's Skills Shortage Deepens

Pay Pressures are building in the UK economy as recruiters continue to struggle to match workers with roles according to fresh data from an industry body.

The availability of qualified staff fell despite a cooling in the number of vacancies being created in the UK economy signalling that there is a deepening skill shortage.

Pay offers for new starters in permanent jobs rose in September with salaries growing at their fastest rate since April 2015.

The findings come after data from the Office for National Statistics separately showed that job vacancies had reached a new record of 833,000 in the three months to August.

Apprenticeship Levy

The trade body representing UK investors has called on the Chancellor to reform the apprenticeship levy after finding that the industry is getting just £1 of funding for every £61 it pays in. The investment association said he must use his forthcoming budget to reform the levy.

Customer Operations Service

The growing number of big companies bringing customer operations service back to Britain continues to grow.

Big names including BT, Barclays and Vodafone have recently vowed to bring call centre job back to the UK to improve customer service.

Green Belt, Air Quality and Traffic Congestion

With the Green Belt yet again under attack in South Warrington, with the obvious serious implications to the highway system both local and town wide which inevitably will result in further worsening both the serious traffic congestion and air quality with the added cost to local business of congestion and serious irritation to local residents.

The last report we had on air quality placed Manchester the worst in the North West followed in second place by Warrington.

Open the Door Campaign

The Chamber is supporting this campaign in tackling domestic abuse which has no respect for age, sex or sexuality. If you, or someone you know is in a relationship that doesn't feel quite right speak to someone about it.

You can get help and advice at openthedoorcheshire.org.uk telephone 01925-243359.

Bus company shortlisted for national award

THE town's bus company, Warrington's Own Buse, has been shortlisted for a national bus award.

The bus company has caught the judges' eye with the transformation of the 20/21 service to "the Pops" and the South Warrington network to "the Cheshire Cat"

Improvements have been seen across the town over the last 18 months, including new buses, new ways to pay through Contactless and an app, several reduced fares, environmental improvements,

better frequencies, new technology and enhanced information.

Managing director Ben Wakerley said: "It is brilliant for our locally-owned company to be recognised at a national level for the improvements we continue to make."

The UK Bus Awards will be held in London on November 20.



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Colin Daniels, Chief Executive

Charity Fundraising at Blue Whale Media



At Blue Whale Media, we're not all about the business side of our company. We feel that as a local business, it is our duty to help local and global charities by taking part in charity events and helping to raise money. Our goal is to take part in as many of these events as we can throughout the year, to help these charities and help others.

Just this year alone, Blue Whale Media and its staff have taken part in over nine events, one of which we raised over £100 for Macmillan on our coffee morning last month. Not only do we feel that it's essential to take part in these events, but we love doing it as well!

Why It's Important to Us

Being involved with local events is something we consider to be an essential part of our yearly routine. Charity events are not only a good cause but are something that we all

enjoy getting involved in. For many, events like these mean a great deal to members of our team and we want to support them!

Nothing beats the joy you feel when you know you're making a difference to someone's life or even spreading awareness on any subject or issue. We want to make that difference in the local area, in any way we can.

Our Events

So far in 2018, we've taken part in 9 events. With the likes of full

marathons, 5 and 10K runs, Tough Mudder and Macmillan coffee mornings, we've got a large range of events that suit everyone's interests. We're always coming up with new and exciting ideas to raise money, with our marketing team researching new events to get involved with every day.

Future Plans

For the rest of the year, we have 3 more events planned before we enter 2019. With events like Children in Need, Christmas Food Bank and Samaritans Christmas Box, it's clear that we're not yet done with charity events!

As we move into the new year, we're sure to come up with new

and exciting ways to raise money for brilliant causes that are dear to our hearts. With each event, we post updates on our social media to let our clients and followers know how we're getting on!

Look Out for Our Blue Whale Media Team

With plenty of opportunities arising within the local area, our team are always ready and raring to raise money for a new cause. If you see them out and about, don't be afraid to say hello and make sure you follow all our new endeavours on our social media (@bluewhalemedia). If you have any suggestions on what you'd like us to get involved in, let us know, and we'll take a look!

1,000 Seasonal Positions available at Amazon in Warrington

AMAZON has announced it is creating 1,000 seasonal positions at its fulfilment centre in Warrington.

Across its UK network of fulfilment centres Amazon has started recruiting for more than 20,000 seasonal roles.

Earlier this month, Amazon announced that from 1 November it is increasing its minimum wage to £10.50 for the London area and £9.50 for the rest of the UK for all full-time, part-time, temporary (including those hired by agencies), and seasonal workers to help pick, pack and ship customers' festive orders.

"We prepare year round for the festive season and we're excited

to have over 20,000 seasonal positions available this year to help delight our customers," said Stefano Perego, Amazon's Director of UK Customer Fulfilment.

"We look forward to welcoming back seasonal workers who return year-after-year to work at Amazon and welcome new faces to the seasonal team."

Edmon Yohannes, Site Leader at Warrington, said: "We look forward to welcoming 1,000 seasonal workers at Warrington to play an integral role in helping us deliver an exceptional experience for our customers during the Christmas season. We plan all year round for the festive period and the increase in people at our site to provide a

positive work environment with a series of fun events that can be enjoyed by everyone."

Recruitment for seasonal roles

is now underway through local recruitment agencies. Further information about working at Amazon can be found at www.jobsatamazon.co.uk



Today Team delivers the goods with CIPD People Management Awards win

A FORMER Warrington Wolves player turned entrepreneur has gained national recognition for his same day collection and delivery service at a prestigious awards ceremony.

Jamie Boyd, Managing Director of Risley-based Today Team, was presented with the coveted 'Best SME People Management Initiative' accolade for a company with less than 250 employees at this year's CIPD People Management Awards.

Joining Jamie, who is originally from Great Sankey, at the glittering event was Jayne Chadwick of strategic HR specialists People Puzzles Ltd. Together, they have devised a new and ambitious organisational framework that has transformed the way Today Team operates from the ground up – leading to record-breaking growth for the business.

"We're over the moon with this award; it's great to be recognised for the investment and effort that

has gone into building a future for the business," said Jamie, who founded Today Team in 2005 with a small loan from The Prince's Trust after experiencing a knee injury that ended his fledgling rugby playing career.

"I can't speak highly enough of Jayne's support and guidance; she is very much a part of our team going forward. We're now in a fantastic position to attract, retain and develop the people who will put us in a great position for continued growth – and the hunt is now on for more superstars!"

Jayne, Today Team's part-time on-site HR Director, added: "When we first started working together, Jamie joked about becoming a People

Puzzles case study. We are delighted that Today Team have now taken a step further – winning a much-deserved CIPD award. With five new senior managers now taking care of operational matters, Jamie is free to focus on the continued expansion of the business."

Ally Maughan, Founder of People Puzzles, was in attendance and said: "We love working with ambitious business owners and entrepreneurs who are committed to taking their organisation forward. Jamie is leading Today Team with passion and humility, and it is a privilege working with him."

TV presenter and journalist Steph McGovern hosted this year's event, which was held at London's Grosvenor House Hotel and headline sponsored by Resource Management. The

awards celebrated the outstanding achievement of those working within the people profession across 19 categories.

Peter Cheese, Chief Executive of the CIPD – the professional body for HR and people development – commented on the awards: "The standard of entries has continued to rise, with each of the winners showcasing innovative and effective people management and development practices. Critically, we continue to see the link between these initiatives and the positive impact they have on people at work, as well as bringing about positive outcomes for their wider business."

For a full list of the 2018 CIPD People Management Award winners, visit www.cipdpmas.co.uk



From left Paul Devoy, CEO of Investors in People; Jamie Boyd, Managing Director of Today Team; Jayne Chadwick, HR Director at People Puzzles; Ally Maughan, Founder of People Puzzles; and awards host Steph McGovern.

Warrington council buys Eddie Stobart distribution HQ for £26m

WARRINGTON Borough Council has bought Eddie Stobart's distribution HQ at Stretton for £26.1m, a 4.35% net initial yield.

The distribution HQ totalling 164,048 sq ft, has been purchased from Ropemaker Properties and adjoins the M56 at the established Stretton Green Distribution Park, Warrington.

Ropemaker originally bought the building in 2013 for £16m by way of a sale and leaseback from Eddie Stobart until July 2033 with fixed annual increases equivalent to 1.5% pa.

The 17.59 acre site incorporates a distribution warehouse, vehicle maintenance unit, head office and expansion land.

Warrington Borough Council used its in house property team for the purchase.

The Council's executive Board approved the proposal to acquire the property for financial

investment purposes to support the medium term financial plan and reasons of economic growth.

Members of the executive Board were told the purchase supported the Council's Property Investment Strategy and seeks to deliver the ambition to become financially sustainable through longer term planning as set out in the Council's Corporate Strategy 2018-2020.

The property acquisition is an invest to save scheme, generating a commercial return to the Council.

The reasons outlined for purchasing the property, which will yield a rental income of over £1m a year are

- To provide a secure, net income stream for the Council
- To bring another Warrington property asset into Council

ownership and open opportunity for future regeneration

- To enhance the Council's position as a major land owner with the ability to influence the growth of the future development of the town
- The Council is seen to be acting proactively and taking leadership, investing in the town to promote

economic development

- To enable the Council's ambition to become financially sustainable through longer term planning
- To assist in delivering the raised target for property income

Last year the council purchased Birchwood Park for an estimated £200m which has returned a yield of around £5m in year one.



Charity launch "The Smart Flat"

LOCAL charity Warrington Disability Partnership (WDP) has launched their latest new service "The Smart Flat" at their Centre for Independent Living.

The new facility which provides demonstrations on all the latest technology to help disabled people lead independent lives, has been developed in partnership with Warrington Borough Council and with financial support from the Better Care Fund.

The service will provide information, advice and guidance on the latest Assistive Technology that can help to improve or maintain independent living.

Over 35 guests were present at the official opening event, with representatives from health, social care, housing, local businesses, Councillors and members of WDP's Board of Trustees and staff.

"Technology is changing at a rapid pace and what we're trying to do at the Smart Flat is show what it can do to help disabled people in their everyday life," said WDP CEO and founder Dave Thompson MBE DL.

The Smart Flat has a display bedroom, living room and kitchen. They feature products such as voice and switch operated openers/closers for doors, windows, blinds and curtains, the Amazon Echo Show, movement sensors, talking glasses, mugs, cups and microwave, Joy for all Cat, facial recognition security cameras, talking clocks, medication dispensers and reminders, along with many more innovative products to help those with physical and sensory disabilities and dementia.

Theresa Dawson, Head of Care Management and Occupational Therapy at Warrington Borough Council said, "The use of technology

is becoming more mainstream, people are using it in everyday life. Much of the equipment available in high street stores can help people carry on living independently".

Warrington Borough Council Chief Executive Steven Broomhead performed the official opening.

The new service is located in the Marjorie Griffiths Learning Centre,

part of the Warrington Disability Partnership's Centre for Independent Living and is open Monday to Friday from 10am to 2pm, appointments are necessary, please call 01925 240064.



New Executive Dean to lead the University of Chester Business School

A leading business professional, with extensive experience of both Academia and working in private enterprise, has been appointed Executive Dean of the University of Chester Business School.

Professor Chris Jones has held numerous senior academic management roles as well as being employed by a major multinational company and managing his own SME (Small Medium Enterprise).

He began his career with several prominent roles at Unilever before setting up his own clothing company, giving him an invaluable insight into the challenges of both global and small businesses.

Moving into academia, he was recently Professor and Head of the North Wales Business School at Wrexham Glyndwr University and Professor and Director of the Falmouth Business School at Falmouth University.

In all his roles, Professor Jones has developed strong links with industry partners such as the Duchy of Cornwall Estate, Samworth Bros, The Rick Stein Group, Nooli UK, Headforwards and Halto.

He has also worked extensively on developing new academic programmes around the themes of employability, entrepreneurship and future trends. At Falmouth University, he led the creation of new degree courses which enabled students to “do it for real” by developing their own businesses as part of their studies. He has also played a key role in working with international partner colleges for business in Hong Kong, Singapore and Malaysia.

Professor Jones is committed to working with businesses in the area and chaired the development project of the North Wales Business Academy, which launched in 2016. He has been a member of

numerous boards and councils including the CBI (Confederation of British Industry) and the North Wales Business Council.

He said: “This is a really exciting time for the University of Chester’s Business School. Not only have we recently been shortlisted for

the Business School of the Year award in the prestigious Times Higher Education awards, we have also risen seven per cent in overall satisfaction in the National Student Survey.

“The Business School has a remarkable history with celebrations this year for its flagship WBIS (Work Based Integrated Studies) programme, now in its 20th year and as a trailblazer in

establishing Chartered Manager Degree Apprenticeships.

“I’m extremely proud to be working with such a dedicated and talented team as we aim even higher in our achievements. There is a real appetite for change and over the next few years I have every confidence that we shall reach new heights of success across teaching, research and knowledge transfer.”



Student radio nominated for two awards

CAT Radio – student radio station on the Warrington Campus of the University of Chester – has been nominated for two national radio awards.

The station has received two nominations at this year’s Student Radio Awards (SRA), which are held annually in London. This year there were more than 500 entries across 16 categories.

Judged by over 100 industry professionals to produce a shortlist of six nominees in each category, the nominees are then whittled down to a Bronze, Silver and Gold award winner by some of the biggest names in radio.

Cat Radio’s Student Radio Chart show has been nominated in the Student Radio Chart Show Award category. Each year, student stations are invited to host the chart show. This year, students Will Dell and Cat Warren produced the programme, which has featured an interview with The Voice 2017

winner, Mo Jamil.

Cat, who is aged 21 a, studies Television Production with Radio Production. She said: “Producing the SRA Chart show was incredibly fun, despite being at one of the busiest times of the academic year and that was all down to the amazing team of presenters and the ongoing help from my co-producer Will and lecturer, Michelle Ponting. Fingers crossed for November 8 guys!”

Will, aged 22, who studies Radio Production with Journalism, also presents The Mind Guide, which has been nominated in the Best Podcast category. The Mind Guide is a five-part podcast series all about mental health and wellbeing, created to coincide with Mental Health and Wellbeing Awareness Week back in May. At the end of each episode, listeners were invited to join in with 60 seconds of meditation and relax to some soothing sounds.

He said: “I’m really proud of The

Mind Guide and I loved working on it for Mental Health and Wellbeing Awareness Week. I got to talk to some great people with some fantastic stories to tell and I was able to have some great conversations because of it. I’d love to pursue a career in the podcast industry, so being recognised by the SRA is amazing. Plus it’s the first year that there has been a podcast category.”

Michelle Ponting, programme leader for Radio Production, said:

“We entered quite a few of the categories this year so I had high hopes. To get two nominations is great for the students and the university. We got Silver for the chart show a couple of years ago, so let’s see if we can beat that this year. Will’s podcast was fantastic and a great tie-in with a university wide initiative.”

The awards ceremony takes place at Indigo in the O2, in London, on November 8.



10th English Half Marathon was “one of best ever”

A total of 7,000 runners from four continents helped make the 10th Annual Warrington English Half Marathon “one of the best ever” according to Race Director Rob Griffiths.

The three-day event across Warrington, consisted of the first ever GS Active Lifestyle Expo, a Pasta Party, EHM Night 5k, EHM10K and the classic half marathon distance.

The event kicked off on the Friday evening in Victoria Park with the EHM5k Night Race. There was a stunning light display provided by Culture Warrington, illuminating the track as runners finished the 5k around the park. The team of amazing volunteers braved the cold with their glow sticks, guiding runners around the course.

For the first time the event hosted an expo supported by Golden Square. The GS Active Lifestyle Expo was held at Old Market Place, Warrington with runners and the general public being able to interact with a number of exhibitors and seminar talks.

The 10k saw Warrington winners in both the male and female categories. Lee Fuller of Warrington Club took the men’s 10k crown with a 2-second victory over Lee Hughes of Lymm Runners with Anthony Lawlor of Knowsley Harriers coming in third.

Warrington Road Runner’s Tracy Entwistle won the female 10k title in a time of 40:54, with Carmel Triggs in 2nd and Gemma Floyd of Morpeth Harriers in third place.

Steven Bayton of the Hallamshire Harriers won the half marathon in an impressive time of 1:07:35. Nick McCormick of Morpeth and St. Helens Sutton’s Matthew Crehan took second and third place

respectively.

The female half marathon race was closely contested with Catherine Carrdus of Lythan St. Anne’s Road Runners taking the win with a time of 1:27:14. Sharon Johnstone of Wilmslow RC came second, with Warrington’s Louise Blizzard finalising the podium.

The event concluded with the Wire FM Family Mile with over 1,200 people of all ages and abilities getting involved.

Race director Rob Griffiths said: “Ten years of the English Half Marathon in Warrington and based on the feedback so far, I must say that this one has been the best. The runners have crossed the spectacular Golden Gates and raved about

our army of volunteers and the very loud and supportive Warrington residents who gave them that extra bit of energy to get them to the finish line. The team and I are looking forward to building on a great weekend, as we set our sights on another 10 years in Warrington.”

A team from Chamber members warrington-worldwide entered the event for the first time, with nine members completing the 10k and one the half marathon, helping raise over £5,500 for the Tim Parry Johnathan Ball Foundation for Peace.

Members of the team were later invited to visit the peace centre to hear about the inspirational work of Colin and Wendy Parry, who outlined the history of the building and provided a guided tour.





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Connections Recruitment celebrating 12 months in Warrington

Connections Recruitment, one of the North West's longest established independent agencies, has recently celebrated 12 months in Warrington and are delighted to join the Chamber.

MD Jonathan Dobkin said: "we have built some great relationships as a result of working with the Manchester Chamber and Pro-Manchester. We wanted our local team to integrate with the Warrington business community through the networking events."

Connections offers extensive expertise on a wide variety of commercial and professional services recruitment solutions, providing Permanent, Temporary and Contact solutions.

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that every penny counts. Our commitment to our clients both existing and new is to offer value for money and a personal service but most importantly, we want to identify the best talent for our clients.

To mark their 1 year anniversary in Warrington, Connections are offering a 30% discount to all chamber members who utilise Connections services.

For further info please call Jonathan Dobkin 01925 01925 357353 or email jd@connectionsrec.co.uk

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Another Grand Final heartbreak for Wire

WARRINGTON Wolves' wait for a league championship goes on after they were beaten in the Super League Grand Final 12-4 by Wigan Warriors.

Dom Manfredi's second try minutes from time secured the win for Wigan in Shaun Wane's last game in charge at Old Trafford.

It was a fourth Grand Final defeat in seven years for the Wolves, who also lost this year's Challenge Cup final to Catalans Dragons at Wembley.

The final had started so well for the Wolves with former Wigan winger Josh Charnley crossing for the game's opening try after 14 minutes.

But Oliver Gildart fed Manfredi for his first try in the right corner and a smart kick by George Williams was pounced upon by Tom Davies in the other corner to give them a 8-4 half-time lead.

A cagey second half never really got going, and though Warrington had a couple of Ratchford breaks, they never really tested the Wigan line with much vigour.

The Warriors didn't have much luck either, but after Tomkins had missed a long range penalty that would have put them six points in

front, they finally made sure of the win four minutes from time when Sean O'Loughlin shifted the play in midfield to the right and Manfredi finished strongly in the corner.

Warrington's outstanding full-back Ratchford collected the Harry Sunderland Man of the Match reward but it will have done little to ease the pain along with his team

mates after a fourth successive Grand Final defeat.

After the game Warrington's Head Coach Steve Price, who has taken the club to both major finals in his first season said: "It could have gone either way. I'm super proud of them, to where we have come. Sometimes you've got to give credit where it's due, so credit to Wigan."



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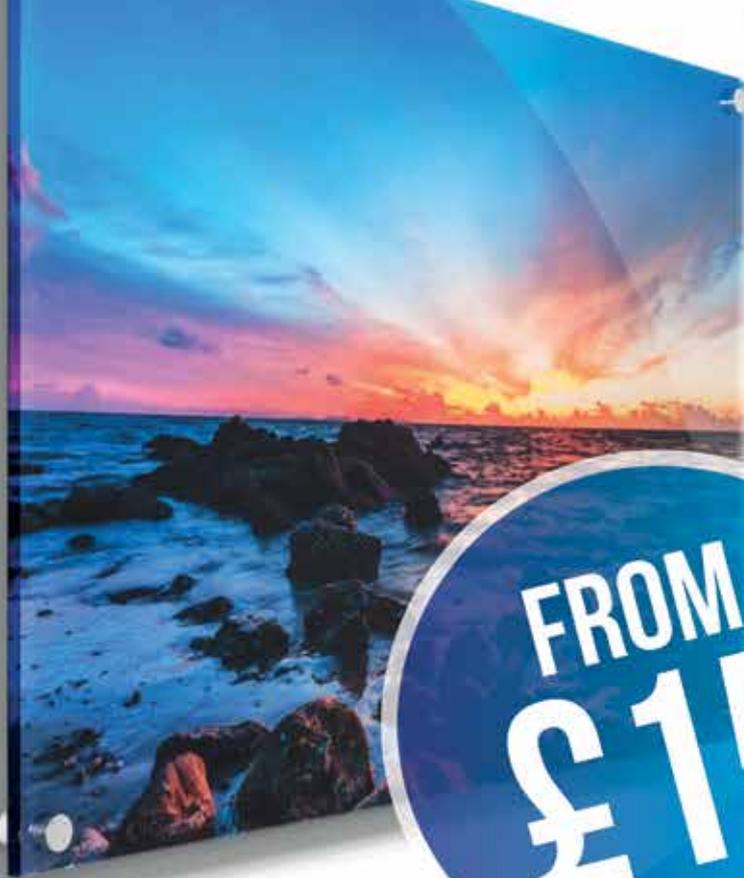
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