

INSIDE THIS WEEK

WHY IS TOWN SO SPORTY?



We ask why Warrington is bucking national trend? Page 6&7

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Hardwired for membership



Eight-page pull-out with everything you need to know on how to get tickets for the 2016 season at Wolves. P49

Danielle's favourite things



We talk to the star of stage with a Penketh family. Weekend starts p59

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Warrington Guardian
READ BY 117,549 EVERY WEEK
(Print & Online)

Source: *Print readership (Weekly) JICREG data as at Apr 2015, Online based on Omniture Jul-Dec 2014 (weekly) unique browsers



The recycled paper content of UK newspapers in 2014 was 78.5%

Humans of Warrington: The Rev Alan Jewell



Humans of Warrington: Magic minister Alan Jewell

MBA8130815

DURING 2015 we will be celebrating the people who help make Warrington so special.

Inspired by the Humans of New York blog, we will be providing names to faces you may see everyday and telling their stories.

NAME: Alan Jewell
AGE: 55
LIVES: Stretton
OCCUPATION: The vicar at St Matthew's Church, Stretton

"I have always thought if people turn up to church, I don't want them to be bored.

"I have always been interested in performing and played the guitar in a band so I decided to offer people something that gets them interested in church, particularly those with children.

"When I was interviewed for the job just over a year ago I did a magic trick, which obviously

wasn't too bad as I got the job, but since then I have also done things with puppets and juggling for school assemblies and church services.

"But I'm not a children's entertainer, there's always a point to it."

Birthday celebrations for St Cross Church, Appleton will take place on September 13 and St Matthew's on September 20.

Town among top 10 to call home

■ Borough beats London in national survey of wages

By Lauren Hirst
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WARRINGTON has been named in the top 10 places in the country to make a living.

Research from credit comparison website *TotallyMoney.com* revealed that the Cheshire town was one of the best places to call home when comparing average wages to mortgage repayments.

Warrington was placed in seventh position with the average monthly salary in Warrington listed at £1,799 and average monthly mortgage repayments standing at £721.

Blackburn came out on top followed by Derby, Cambridge, Sunderland, Milton Keynes and Coventry.

Council leader Cllr Terry O'Neill described it as 'more good news for the town'.

He said: "It's great to appear in the list but it really doesn't come as a surprise.

"Warrington is nationally recognised as an economic powerhouse as all of the independently



Lymm Dam

produced stats verify.

"Warrington is ranked third in the UK for highest business growth, only bettered by London and Aberdeen.

"Our SMEs fare even better. They are ranked number one in the UK for high growth.

"Add to that, we also have one of the highest rates of business start-ups in the UK."

The analysis compared median wages to mortgage repayments, cost of living and the health of the job markets in each town.

The calculations focused on working and living in each town with no points awarded for scen-

ery, culture or connections to the rest of the UK.

London was ranked at number 26, proving that while salaries in the capital are higher than elsewhere, they are not high enough to compensate for the cost of living.

Burnley, Newport, Blackpool, Rochdale and Gloucester were listed in the worst five places to make a living.

Future plans for the town are expected to see the town continue to grow, added Cllr O'Neill.

He said: "What is important and is a priority in terms of Warrington Borough Council's agenda, is that we maintain that position and encourage it to grow.

"We need to make sure that there are a steady flow of jobs for people in the future which is why our ambitious growth framework Warrington Means Business is so important.

"We've announced projects with a value of £750million so far and there are more to come."

Projects including the Future Tech Studio School, University Technical College Warrington and the £8.5m business incubator in the Stadium Quarter are part of the council's strategy to open doors to new business opportunities and training.



Do you know these people?

Theft from gran

■ Continued from page one

Within the hour, thieves were able to make a number of withdrawals and transactions.

While the stolen cash has been returned to the victim, she now hopes the police will be able to find those involved and bring them to justice.

PC Graham Davies has issued a warning to shoppers to always be vigilant.

He said: "If you have to carry your purse in your bag, always keep it zipped shut.

"My experience of these offences is that the offenders are often very skilled but will always take the easy option when looking for a victim – an open bag is just the option they like.

"Always be wary of people invading your personal space when you are out and about.

"Displays and tills are areas where these offences tend to take place as they know people's attention will be elsewhere."

Police have released a CCTV image of four people they would like to speak to in relation to the incident.

Anyone with information can call Cheshire Police on 101 citing crime reference number 0715241088.

Hacker fights fare

AN anonymous 'hactivist' says he will make Network Warrington's website unavailable in 'retaliation' to increased bus fares.

The hacker, known only as Grey, said he will execute a Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS) attack on *networkwarrington.com* until a statement is made on why fares have increased.

The *Warrington Guardian* has repeatedly asked for the firm to explain its price hike of up to 65 per cent on some tickets.

It is now the fourth week attempts have been made but officials have not responded despite increasing anger and frustration from passengers.

Charity auction

A CHARITY auction will be raising cash for three youngsters diagnosed with a complex disease this weekend.

Money raised at the Crown and Cushion pub in Penketh on Saturday from 5.30pm will be going to the Shannon Bradshaw Trust in aid of Callum, Jack and Maycee Senior who all have life-limiting condition mitochondrial.

More than 100 lots will be up for sale on the day including original artwork and Everton and Liverpool signed shirts.

Woman injured

A WOMAN was airlifted to hospital following a collision on Manchester Road on Wednesday.

Cheshire Fire Service reported that the woman had to be rescued from the vehicle in Rixton-with-Glazebrook before being taken to hospital at 9.40am.