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**Guardian** 

# **Golden vision set** to become a reality in 2007





E have seen it slowly grow...and at last, after years of planning and building, 2007 will see the Warrington shopping experience reach a completely new level when the extension to the Golden Square Shopping Centre opens at Easter.

The £120m redevelopment is set to put Warrington firmly on the map, and will be supported by numerous exciting property developments in the town centre, making Warrington one of the most exciting locations in the northwest.

The development has attracted brands such as H&M and La Senza.

Project manager Simon Pritchard recently told the Warrington Guardian that the new centre had spotted a gap in the market for fashion retail

shopping. He explained that the new centre will have two 'anchor stores' - Debenhams and Boots. Debenhams, who recently held a recruitment drive in the town, is in the latter stages of fitting out its store and Boots is heading the same way. Also, around 65 per cent of the new retail units have been signed up and almost all the remainder are in the later stages of negotiation. The new car park, holding 1,700 vehicles is already partly open with an exit in Midland Way. When Warrington Guardian visited the site, back in September, 495 people were working on the site and over 2,400 people have been involved in the construction so far.

In August, the Guardian reported that Golden Square was already named as one of the best shopping centres in the UK in a leading publication. Rachel Broughton, leasing manager

for Golden Square, stated: "We are confident that, when it is fully open, Golden Square will provide a fantastic shopping experience for the people of Warrington while providing a great alternative to shopping destination to Liverpool, Manchester and the rest of the north west. The town is primed to become a viable alternative to very crowd city centres and shopping malls. Already in place and working superbly, is the stunning new bus station. A stylish and cleverly designed addition to the town, which perfectly reflects the burgeoning regeneration of the area.

And, with new developments, houses, flats emerging across the area. Warrington's future is distinctly cosmopolitan. One reason why companies across the UK are currently seeking relocation to this prime location.



The new Debenhams (above) and ariel and interior views of the forthcoming Golden Square



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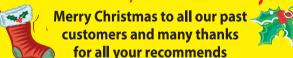


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# A stylish gateway to a retail dream

UGUST saw the opening of Warrington's £9.75m bus station, a fantastic gateway to the town for visitors during the Christmas period. This gleaming building of modernistic proportions and spacious interiors has played a major part in transforming the image of the town centre. Featuring a whole host of facilities, including real-time passenger information, the station has been paid

for by Warrington Borough Council and

built by Kier Construction to accompany the redevelopment of the Golden Square Shopping Centre. Being so close to the shopping precinct, the bus station's metamorphosis has been regarded by many townspeople as a crucial improvement in what was formally a forgotten part of the town centre. Acting as the perfect accompaniment to the transformation of Warrington's retailing heart, the bus station's new and improved services can only go on to boost hopes of encouraging more people

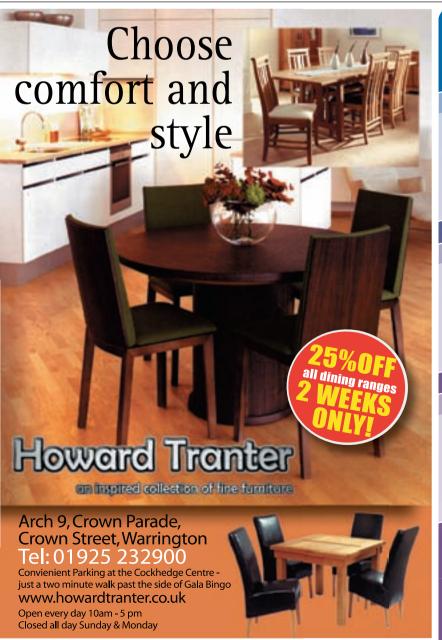
to use public transport...and more outof-towners coming into Warrington to enjoy the Christmas festivities While much has been made of the bus station's stunning new look, there was careful consideration to retain one particular feature from its previous incarnation; the eye catching artwork created by students from Penketh High School back in 2002.

The giant mural is a wonderfully colourful work, depicting scenes from Warrington's illustrious past.











While stocks last

New Year Bookings



## Festive fun and late night shopping

**ESTIVE** lighting and decorations will adorn Warrington town centre and Golden Square throughout the Christmas period. Both inside and outside the centre, mulled wine and mince pies will be available for those needing a little shopping sustenance.

Late night shopping will take place every Thursday from November 30 until Christmas with free car parking at Golden Square and all council car parks.

Shops will be open on Sundays from 10.30am until 4.30pm with free car parking all day at Golden Square and all council car parks. There will be free entertainment across the town centre throughout the festive period and free bus travel into town for the over-60's.

## The top presents for the women in your life — with gifts to suit all budgets

By Shereen Low

Let the woman in your life know just how much she means to you. Whether you're a big spender looking to give her a real treat or prefer a little sweet something, there's something here for mums, daughters, girlfriends and wives to fall in love with.

### **BUDGET BABES — £10 AND UNDER**

The young at heart will adore Christmas Mini Winnies. See Disney favourite Winnie The Pooh dressed as an angel, as Santa and even as a stocking! They can be attached to mobile phones or bags, and cost £1 from Sainsbury's, Woolworths and Toys 'R' Us'...

Marks & Spencer's vintage bow brooch and flower barrette brooches, £6 each, are pretty stocking fillers. They can be pinned to bags or jackets, in fact anywhere you want a bit of bling. Ensure she travels effortlessly and stylishly through time zones with Boots' travel alarm clock, £8. The dinky timepiece comes with a red leather case with funky printed lining. The bamboo oil extract and muru muru butter in Miso Pretty body cream will make the driest skins soft. The scent of freshly picked exotic peony will transport her to far-off places - much cheaper than a plane ticket! It's



Gift of bling. Marks and Spencer

£9.95 from Pulpshop - call 01225 335 255 or see www.pulpshop.co.uk

Sohum's Glimmer Wand is laced with a fine shimmer to deliver a light dusting of 'champagne' Christmas sparkle, and is guaranteed to get her noticed. £10 from www.urbanapothecary.co.uk

### FABULOUS FINDS — £20 AND UNDER

Mums and grandmothers will appreciate The Carpenters Ultimate Collection. This three-CD compilation, £16.99, is chock-full of their greatest hits, from (They Long To Be) Close To You, We've Only Just Begun, to Rainy Days And Mondays and Please Mr Postman. Great for sing-alongs. From HMV and Woolworths

Jetsetters and aspirational travellers will have hours of fun putting their favourite pictures into the Bobby Pin photo album, £9.99, and reliving experiences in the matching Set To Jet travel journal, £8.99 (includes a luggage tag), from WHSmith.

Fiorelli's black bow purse and mirror set looks glamorous, whether she's at work or play. Small enough to fit into a handbag yet roomy enough for storing coins and notes, and even a lipstick, it's £19 from BHS.





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# Creative fun and games at The Cockhedge Centre

OCKHEDGE Shopping Park, located in the heart of Warrington Town Centre has a great selection of shops open every day of the week to accommodate your lifestyle. Whether you visit for groceries at Asda, or you are after the next fashion accessories from Select, The Cockhedge has everything you could possibly ask for.The Cockhedge also has a number of fantastic facilities including a café, car park, security, and baby changing facilities (in ASDA). Entertainment is highlighted all year round, especially at Christmas time.

Christmas time.

Christmas entertainment starts this month at The Cockhedge, with the opening of the Winter Wonderland Christmas Display on Wednesday November 22 When you come and see this fabulous Winter Wonderland Christmas Display not only will you get to watch the fun, musical, animated characters, you will also be in with a chance to win a trip to

Disneyland Paris. Simply count the number of mice in the display and write how many there are on the in store entry forms.

Other Christmas entertainment at The Cockhedge includes a festive Stilt-Walking Christmas Tree who will glide around The Cockhedge on Saturday 9th December, giving away free delicious Christmas chocolates to all the well-behaved shoppers. Father Christmas will also be visiting The Cockhedge on the Saturday 9th December, and like the Stilt-Walking Christmas Tree he will also be handing out delicious free chocolates.

chocolates.
Father Christmas will be back on the 16th and 23rd also. He will be bringing his Elves with him on the 16th for a fantastic Christmas Elves Creative Workshop. All shoppers that participate will be able to make Christmas cards and crafts to take home with them along with all their other wonderful gifts purchased from The Cockhedge.





# Come and see our fabulous Christmas Display; which will open on 23rd November.

Sat 9th December 10am-4pm

**Christmas Tree Stilt Walker and FREE giveaways Meet Father Christmas and get FREE chocolates** 

Sat 16th December 10am-4pm
Elves Creative Workshop
Meet Father Christmas and get FREE chocolates

Sat 23rd December 10am-4pm

Meet Father Christmas and get FREE chocolates



Also count the mice in the display to be in with a chance of winning.

Cockhedge Shopping Park 17 Cockhedge Way WA1 2QQ



# Fun-packed December days for all the family

Entertainment and events for all tastes and ages

WILL YOU LOOK **GREAT THIS CHRISTMAS?** 

Believe it or not, there is still time to lose a dress size and shape up for Christmas.

Gymophobics is an exciting new figure improvement programme which takes just 30 minutes per session. It's an ideal concept for busy women who want to shape up but don't want to spend hours in the gym.

In just two years Gymophobics has spread to 25 towns in the UK and more will be opening in January. Already more than 10,000 women of all ages have taken up this unique programme and their results are nothing

Donna Hubbard is Gymophobics Founder and Explains how quickly results can be achieved.

**Donna:** "Most ladies on our programme lose a dress size in the first few weeks and go on to achieve their ideal weight and measurements. They finish up with a firm, well proportioned figure, unlike dieters who often lose from all the wrong places".

### QUESTION: With just a few weeks to go till Christmas, what results can I expect if I start Gymophobics right away?

Donna: "Three 30 minute sessions each week is all it takes to achieve spectacular inch loss. Within a month most women will have a flatter tummy, slimmer arms, trimmer waist, shapelier hips and thighs and better posture. They will have a great deal more energy too. Anyone starting now can expect to see a real difference in time for Christmas'

### QUESTION: Can everyone cope with these 30 minute sessions?

**Donna:** "Yes! There are no clanking weights at Gymophobics. Our circuit uses beautifully light, smooth 'air resistance machines' which makes exercise fun and surprisingly easy. It's suitable for ladies of any ages, size or fitness. In fact most of our Ladies have never exercised before they came to us. I developed the programme for the majority of women who find conventional gyms and health clubs intimidating. We treat our ladies like VIP on every visit"

### **QUESTION:** How can I get started?

Donna: "Just give us a call. We will book you in for a FREE Guest Visit so you can look around and find out more. There is no obligation to get started but I can promise you will love the beautiful female only environment and the friendly relaxed

atmosphere. You will even love our prices which are around half of what local Health & Fitness clubs charge these days".



For a better figure this Christmas BRANCHES THROUGHOUT THE UK. CALL

01925 446744

7 CROWN STREET, WARRINGTON www.gymophobics.co.uk

ECEMBER in Warrington town centre sees a packed diary of exciting events which will appeal to all ages and tastes...from stiltwalkers to live music of all kinds, from carol services to live bands, an ice rink to theatrical extravaganza's.

All in all, it is set to be the most fun-packed yuletide ever. Indeed, something for everyone and every day.

Here is our guide to Christmas entertainment in

**ADVERTISEMENT** 

Sunday November 26 Christmas Lights switch – on. Market Gate (free) It all begins on Sunday 26 with Warrington's famous Lights Switch-on, this year set to be the finest yet, with musical entertainment, competitions and special guests.

The countdown begins at 2pm with a Gulliver's World
Showcase followed by the Wire FM Roadshow at 2.30pm.

4pm sees the Countdown to Switch-on reaching its climax with rat-pack/swing singer David Hollington, Gulliver's Mondal Shawcase Babal Vall (Billy Idal Tributa). World Showcase, Rebel Yell (Billy Idol Tribute) CODY's choir and special guests.

The Gulliver's Christmas Kingdom Christmas Grotto is also open in Golden Square every day (From November 24) until Christmas. Entry of £4.99 includes a gift.

### Saturday December 2

Victorian Day, Warrington Market. The return of historical Warrington Market's famous Victorian Day, with themed entertainment throughout the day. Entry is free. This is the first day of a month long Santa's Christmas Grotto, within the Market and organised in conjunction with Warrington Disability Partnership. The Grotto is also open on December 3/9/10/16/17/23/24.

Warrington Market is also providing 'walk round' entertainment every Saturday throughout December up

Salvation Army Band will be entertaining with traditional carols and hymns at Market Gate on December 2/9/16/23 (10am - 2pm).

ice Skating in Golden Square - Warrington Shoppers will be able to escape the Christmas crowds by swapping their shoes for skates as a giant ice-rink takes centre stage at The Old Market Place, throughout December until 24. There will also be evening entertainment with music and fun for all the family during late-night shopping on Thursdays throughout December.

### **Monday December 4**

Song in the Square. (The Old Market Place). Enjoy the sounds of Christmas as Wire FM hosts a school carol singing competition. (Also taking place December 11 / 15)

### Friday December 8 / 15 / 22

Paula Dalby and friends. Enjoy some of Warrington's top acoustic musicians as they perform a mixture of Christmas songs and pop classics at Market Gate. (11.30am – 2.30pm)

### Sunday December 10

There is a Carol Concert at the Salvation Army Hall, Academy Street at 3pm and 7pm. (free)

### **Saturday December 16 (until March 2007)**

An exhibition of Large Scale Flower Presses 'Meadowlands', by Ruth Moillet begins at Warrington Museum (10.30-3.30)

### **Thursday December 21**

Red Robin Decoration Making. Design and take home your own red robin pom-pom decoration. Warrington Museum (10am-3.30pm) free.

### Saturday December 23

Scrub the Manager. The Riding Lights Theatre bring their special brand of unusual jovial mayhem to the Salvation Army Hall, Academy Street 3pm and 7pm. (Adults £6, children £4).

### **Sunday December 24**

Family Carol Service. Enjoy a traditional family carol service at the Salvation Army Hall, Academy Street 4.30-6pm (free)

### **Monday December 25**

Christmas Meal. Entertainment and Christmas Dinner for the lonely and the needy at the Salvation Army Hall, Academy Street (free)