

1993

26 February

Three devices explode at the gas storage facility in **Longford**, causing extensive damage. A police officer, **PC Mark Toker**, is shot and injured after stopping a van connected to the attacks, and a car is hijacked.

20 March

The Samaritans receive a coded message that a bomb is going to be detonated outside the Boots shop in Liverpool, about 15 miles (24 km) away from Warrington. Merseyside Police investigate, and also warn the Cheshire Constabulary (who patrol Warrington). About 30 minutes later, at about 12:27, two bombs explode on **Bridge Street** in Warrington. The blasts happen within a minute of each other. One explodes outside Boots and McDonalds, showering fifty children in the restaurant with glass, and one outside the Argos catalogue store. The area is crowded with shoppers. Witnesses say that "the first explosion drove panicking shoppers into the path of the next blast just seconds later".

It is later found that the bombs had been placed inside cast-iron litter bins, causing large amounts of shrapnel. Buses are organized to ferry people away from the scene and 20 paramedics and crews from 17 ambulances are sent to deal with the aftermath.

Three-year-old **Johnathan Ball** dies at the scene, while his babysitter survives. The second victim, 12-year-old **Tim Parry**, who receives the full force of the blast, is gravely wounded. Fifty-four other people are injured, four of them seriously.

At night the Irish Club in Warrington is targeted by arsonists who set fire to piles of rubbish outside. Police arrest four men for hurling abuse and threatening terrified members who have themselves condemned the bombings.

Players at the Bradford Northern vs Warrington Wire rugby league match bow their heads in silent tribute for Johnathan Ball. The gesture is repeated by sporting clubs all over Warrington.

21 March

The **IRA** admits that its volunteers had planted the bombs. In a statement, it says:

"Responsibility for the tragic and deeply regrettable death and injuries caused in Warrington yesterday lies squarely at the door of those in the British authorities who deliberately failed to act on precise and adequate warnings."

Councillors lead a memorial walk from the Town Hall to Bridge Street to lay wreaths at the spot where Johnathan Ball was killed.

22 March

An IRA spokesman says that "two precise warnings" had been given "in adequate time", one to the Samaritans and one to Merseyside Police. He adds: "You don't provide warnings if it is your intention to kill".

Cheshire's assistant chief constable denies there had been a second warning and says:

"If the IRA think they can pass on their responsibility for this terrible act by issuing such a nonsensical statement, they have sadly underestimated the understanding of the British public".

Susan McHugh, a young Dublin housewife, rings RTÉ's *Liveline* and asks the Irish people to demonstrate their abhorrence of the explosions.

23 March

Hundreds of people are evacuated from their Longford homes opposite the gasworks after a new bomb alert. Bomb disposal experts establish that the device was the remnants of the earlier attack to the gasworks, and give the all-clear after an hour.

John Major speaks about the atrocity in Prime Minister's Question Time:

"I believe that decent families everywhere will have been sickened by that cold-blooded attack on innocent people going about peaceful business on a spring Saturday lunchtime. Even for the IRA, that attack plumbed the depths. To take the life of an innocent child in that fashion and to wreck other lives is absolutely unforgivable. It was, quite literally, an evil act, made more evil in my judgment by messages deliberately designed to confuse those people who should have helped to prevent that incident from taking place. That behaviour has done one thing : it has provoked revulsion and determination that violence will not prevail.

I can assure my hon. Friend that no effort will be spared, within the rule of law, to bring the people responsible to justice. If there were a shred of humanity in the IRA they would hand over those killers for justice without delay. If they do not, as I fear they will not, I hope that they will know that we shall hound them for the rest of their days until we find them and punish them."

24 March

The community in Warrington is shaken further as a burnt-out incendiary device is found at site of previous IRA gasworks attack.

The Belfast-based *Irish Times* newspaper launches an appeal fund for the victims of the bombing, while in an unprecedented move, the **Irish government** ask if they can send a representative to Johnathan Ball's funeral.

Back in Warrington, local breweries Tetley Walkers and Greenalls coordinate an appeal fund involving the licensees of their local pubs.

Meanwhile, **HRH Prince Charles** visits Warrington. The Prince pays a visit to the General Hospital to meet the 12 patients still detained after the bombing and to shake the hands of those who helped them. He pays tribute to the courage of the victims, including **Bronwyn Vickers**, a mother who lost a leg in the blast.

The Home Secretary **Kenneth Clarke** also visits the hospital to meet PC Mark Toker who was shot three times in the first terrorist attack on Warrington. Clarke hails Toker “a national hero” but Toker says, “my injuries pale into insignificance compared with a child getting killed.” Warrington Borough Council and the *Warrington Guardian* set up the **Warrington Bombings Appeal Fund**.

The cross-party British-Irish peace group **New Consensus** condemn the bombings as “a vile and vicious crime against the people of Warrington.” The group urges civic leaders and townspeople to hold a huge vigil in memory of Johnathan Ball and the 56 people injured. Dublin members of New Consensus also ask the Irish people to express their sympathies by handing in flower for the victims at the British Embassy in Dublin, which will be flown over to Warrington on Friday.

At **Great Sankey High School**, headmaster John Brittan delivers a ten minute speech to the shocked classmates of Tim Parry.

25 March

Tim Parry dies when doctors switch his life support machine off, having asked permission to do so from his family, after a series of tests find minimal brain activity.

Thousands gather in **Dublin**, the capital of the Republic of Ireland, to demonstrate against the IRA, signing a condolence book outside the General Post Office – the scene of the start of the Easter Rising against Britain some 77 years before – and laying floral bouquets and wreaths to be taken to Warrington for the funerals of the dead.

In Belfast, **Women Together** organise a cross-community service and peace walk to coincide with Johnathan Ball’s funeral. “We are calling on women of all ages, especially mothers to join with us and show their total abhorrence at the horrific death of this innocent young child. We want all women to stand together and demand an immediate cessation of all terrorist violence,” say coordinators Anne Carr and Pat Campbell.

26 March

The funeral for **Johnathan Ball** takes place at St. Wilfrid’s Church. Thousands line the streets in tearful tribute. In a moving address the Bishop of Birkenhead, **the Rt. Rev Michael Langrish** condemns the attacks. Irish senator **Gordon Wilson**, whose 20 year old daughter died in the IRA bombing of a Remembrance Day ceremony at Enniskillen in 1987, expresses his grief at the tragedy as he attends Johnathan’s funeral.

Over 5,000 bouquets of flowers along with cards, toys and signatures from all over Ireland are laid out at Warrington’s Fox Covert cemetery and at the shrine on Bridge Street. The tribute was organised by the peace group New Consensus and flown over especially by the Irish air force. The chairman Michael Nugent visits Warrington and says, “We want to show the people of Warrington that the people of the Republic do not agree with what is being done allegedly in the name of the republic by the IRA.”

27 March

Over 30,000 people attend a peace rally in the middle of O'Connell Street, Dublin after Susan McHugh's appeal on the radio.

Meanwhile in Warrington a minute's silence is held and the Salvation Army lead an open air service for the two boys.

David Squires of Warrington presents his Campaign Service Medal to the Parry family. Mr Squires, who served with the Cheshire Regiment for seven years, says, "Words cannot describe my feelings. This is the least I can do. A medal has been presented to toddler Johnathan Ball and I do not want Tim to be left out, after his long and hard battle for life."

28 March

At the request of Johnathan's parents, *You'll Never Walk Alone* is played before the rugby league match between Warrington and St. Helens. During the match around £2000 is raised for the Warrington Bombings Appeal Fund.

31 March

The Warrington Bombings Appeal Fund reaches £30,000 in its first 5 days.

1 April

The funeral for **Tim Parry** is held at St. Mary's Church, Great Sankey. Tim's friends from Penketh United and the Warrington Sea Cadets form a poignant guard of honour for the coffin.

The **Irish Government** announces measures designed to make extradition easier from the Republic of Ireland to the United Kingdom.

2 April

HRH Queen Elizabeth II sends a message of condolence to the town:

"I was shocked to hear of the bombing in Warrington on Saturday, March 20, and send my deep sympathy to the families of the two boys killed and my best wishes for the recovery of all those who were injured."

Newspaper reports reveal that three people have attempted to take their own lives in the aftermath of the Bridge Street bombings – two members of the emergency services and one eyewitness. The Samaritans in Warrington have dealt with over 200 calls in the days since the incident.

3 April

Susan McHugh takes her peace campaign to Belfast and London, urging Catholics and Protestants, British and Irish to work to end Northern Ireland's violence. In London, she addresses a rally of 2,000 people in Hyde Park. The rally is described as an opportunity for Irish people in Britain and their friends to mourn, support peace, reject terrorism and demand

government action. Cardinal Basil Hume, spiritual leader of England's Roman Catholics, and relatives of British victims of terrorism, attends the rally, which ends with the release of 1,000 white balloons to symbolize lives lost in the conflict. There are minor scuffles with counter-protesters.

5 April

A cassette tape of classic songs, *The Heart of Warrington – Ordinary People* is released to raise money for the Warrington Bombings Appeal Fund.

7 April

Two civic services are held in Warrington for people who could not attend the funerals of Johnathan Ball and Tim Parry. Attendees include **HRH The Duke of Edinburgh**, Prime Minister **John Major**, Labour leader **John Smith** and Irish President **Mary Robinson**. Earlier in the day 3,000 people attend an open-air service at the scene of the bombings.

The Warrington Bombings Appeal Fund reaches £40,000.

16 April

Four weeks after the bombing, **Colin and Wendy Parry** appear on *The Late Late Show* in Ireland to make an emotional appeal for peace.

In Warrington, a benefit event arranged by the **Warrington Male Voice Choir** is held at Parr Hall. £11,000 is raised for victims of the bombing.

2 June

The Warrington Male Voice Choir perform at a benefit concert in the Metropolitan United Church in Toronto, Canada. **John Pennington**, Mayor of Warrington attends and the issue of North Americans funding terrorism is raised in a speech.

December

A group of Warrington **town centre clergy** visit Londonderry in Northern Ireland on a fact-finding mission, following an invitation by the Pat Finucane Centre. They share talks with a variety of religious, political, community, peace and reconciliation groups.

15 December

British Prime Minister **John Major** and the Taoiseach of the Republic of Ireland, **Albert Reynolds** issue a joint declaration (The Downing Street Declaration) which affirms both the right of the people of Ireland to self-determination, and that Northern Ireland will be only be transferred to the Republic of Ireland from the United Kingdom if a majority of its population is favour of such a move. It includes the principle that the people of the island of Ireland, North and South have the exclusive right to solve the issues between North and South by mutual consent. The latter statement (which would later become one of the points of the Good Friday Agreement) is designed to produce a positive change of attitude by the republicans towards a negotiated

settlement. The joint declaration also pledges the governments to seek a peaceful constitutional settlement, and promises that parties linked with paramilitaries (such as Sinn Féin) can take part in the talks, so long as they abandon violence.

1994

31 March

80 people from the **Howth community** in Dublin come to Warrington to perform the Passion Play *The Nazarene* at Parr Hall. In the months leading up to the event the *Warrington Guardian* are inundated with local people offering to accommodate the visiting actors in their homes. The production is organised by **Peace '93** in association with the town centre clergy and the **Warrington Project**. Part of the crucifixion scene takes place on the site of the bombing on Bridge Street.

8 April

In cooperation with Peace '93 and Cairdeas, The Warrington Male Voice Choir perform at the Concert for Reconciliation event at St Mary's Protestant Cathedral in Dublin. Guests from both the Republic and Northern Ireland attend along with the British ambassador. The proceeds from the concert are used to establish the Warrington Fund, which finances cross-community youth work in West Belfast.

9 April

Warrington Male Voice Choir attend the Ecumenical Service for Peace at St Michael's Roman Catholic Church, Dun Laoghaire. Colin Parry gives a speech and they link up with the Warrington Community Peace Walk. The Choir then perform at the Reconciliation Concert at St Peter's Roman Catholic church, Drogheda, where Colin Parry delivers a peace message.

10 April

Warrington Male Voice Choir attend the Morning service at the Central Methodist Mission in Dublin, where **the Rev. Stephen Kingsnorth** gives a sermon and **John Donlan**, coordinator of the Warrington Project delivers an address.

13 September

Irish rock band **The Cranberries** release the song *Zombie*, written as a protest to the bombings. The song goes on to become one of their biggest hits.

The parents of Tim Parry set up the **Tim Parry Trust Fund** to promote greater understanding between Great Britain and the island of Ireland.

15 October

Pat Campbell (a Catholic woman whose son was killed by the UFF) and **Tracey Walker** (a Protestant woman whose husband was killed by the IRA) join hands in a symbolic gesture of unity at North Howard Street in Belfast.

17 December

In cooperation with the Warrington Project, the Warrington Male Voice Choir hold a Christmas concert at St Anne's Cathedral in Belfast which is declared a great success. The concert celebrates Belfast's first Christmas after the Ceasefire. Dignitaries from Belfast, Dublin and Warrington attend and the concert is broadcast live on Classic FM. **Terry Waite** delivers a message for peace and £2,250 is donated to Belfast charities.

18 December

Warrington Male Voice Choir attend the Morning Mass at Clonard Redemptorist Monastery Church in West Belfast, along with Terry Waite and the Mayor of Warrington.

1995

13 March

Student **Daniel Tetlow** appeals to shops in Warrington to sell his peace song *Together Our New Future*, a song written to raise money for reconciliation work and to promote Fleadh '95. The song features a prologue read by Terry Waite.

20 March

30 victims of violence from both sides of the Irish border visit Warrington to commemorate the second anniversary of the Warrington bombings – believed by many to be a turning point in the troubles. The party is led by Peace '93 campaigner Pat Campbell, whose son was gunned down by the UFF. During their week-long stay in Warrington the group visit several schools and sports clubs to promote peace.

26 March

The second anniversary of the Warrington bombing is marked by a service at Holy Trinity Church in Warrington. The Warrington Male Voice Choir attend and a sermon is delivered by **the Rev. Donald Caird**, Archbishop of Dublin.

March

The third Warrington Community Peace Walk sets off for Dublin after a memorial service for the Bridge Street victims at St. Alban's Church.

28 March

Goats Don't Shave and **The Dubliners** are some of the headliners at Warrington's first Fleadh (pronounced "*flar*"). The festival is backed by John Major, Terry Waite, former Irish Prime Minister Albert Reynolds and the Archbishop of Dublin.

3 April

Mayor of Warrington **Mike Hannon** leads a visit to Belfast in a bid to help develop arts links with the city.

June/July

A delegation from Warrington, including the Rev. Stephen Kingsnorth, Colin and Wendy Parry, Cllr Mary Greenslade, chairman of the Warrington Project and Dennis Cooper, Assistant Chief Executive of Warrington Borough Council attend the funeral of the peace campaigner **Senator Gordon Wilson**.

23 July

John Donlan, coordinator of the Warrington Project delivers an address at the evening service at the St. German's Cathedral on the Isle of Man. Warrington Male Voice Choir attend the service.

22-3 September

Civil dignitaries from Belfast visit Warrington and attend the Centenary Concert at Parr Hall. The Warrington Male Voice Choir perform and a donation is made to the Warrington Project.

16 December

The Warrington Male Voice Choir perform at the Christmas Concert for Peace and Hope at St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Cathedral in Armagh, with guests from both the Republic and Northern Ireland.

17 December

The Warrington Male Voice Choir perform at the morning service at East Belfast Methodist Mission. The Rev. Stephen Kingsnorth delivers the sermon and the service is broadcast on Radio Ulster.

1996

1 January

On what would have been Tim Parry's 15th birthday, five peace groups established after the Warrington bombing unite to form a single organisation to promote the peace process. The Deputy Lord Mayors of Belfast and Dublin, together with the Mayoress of Derry attend the launch of the **Warrington Ireland Reconciliation Enterprise (WIRE)**. As part of the launch,

hosted by the Mayor of Warrington, Councillor Harry Lawson, the newly formed group parades through the town centre and passes the **River of Life** sculptures being created on Bridge Street. The five groups - Peace 1993, the Warrington Project, Warrington International Youth centre, Warrington Community Peace Walkers and The Bridge – were established after the 1993 bombing of Bridge Street.

The **Warrington Community Peace Walk** is extended to Belfast for 1996. The previous three walks ended in Dublin with the walkers being greeted by civil dignitaries and local church leaders. Organiser Chris Whitehead comments:

“This year it has been decided to extend the walk to Belfast, and although this was decided before the recent breakdown of the ceasefire, we feel it is now even more important to join with those who wish to foster peaceful links and seek a peaceful and just settlement in Northern Ireland”

Among the walkers is Albert Spiby, wearing Tim Parry's trainers and carrying Johnathan Ball's teddy bear, Sergeant.

9 February

The **IRA** detonate a large bomb in the **Canary Wharf** financial district of the London docklands, bringing an end to their seventeen-month ceasefire. Two people are killed, 39 people are injured and an estimated £100 million of damage is caused.

10 February

Over 100 people, including the families of Tim Parry and Johnathan Ball, take part in an outdoor prayer vigil on Bridge Street in response to the London bombing.

12 March

Irish President Mary Robinson calls on the people of Warrington to reach out even more to help bring back peace to Ireland, as she attends the launch of Fleadh '96. “Out of the trauma and the suffering of the bombing, there has been a community coming together, and a determination to move forward in a way that will bring something very positive.”

17 March

The **Warrington Male Voice Choir** are invited to participate in the St. Patrick's Day parade in Armagh, Ireland's ecclesiastical centre, signalling the endorsement of the Roman Catholic Church in Ireland. The choir becomes the first English group to receive such an honour and enjoys an unprecedented welcome on the streets of Armagh. The choristers are presented with sprigs of shamrock by Cardinal Cahal Daly, Primate of All Ireland, in a powerfully symbolic gesture. Terry Waite becomes the choir's Patron, in tribute to the humanitarian role which the choir has adopted. Messages of appreciation are also received from the President of Ireland, Mary Robinson, and from the British Prime Minister, John Major.

June/July

The River of Life Flower Festival is held at Bold Street Methodist Church.

August

The Warrington Male Voice Choir participate in concerts for peace and reconciliation, arranged in partnership with the Irish Peace Institute, before large and enthusiastic audiences in Limerick and at Glenstal Abbey, Co. Limerick. The choir is invited to perform as part of the opening ceremony of the 38th **Rose of Tralee International Festival** where, before an audience of 50,000 people, Tanaiste Dick Spring publicly endorses the choir's efforts to promote peace.

28 November

Young people from Belfast and Dublin visit Warrington to take part in a weekend of workshops arranged by Peace '93. The young people are applauded by the audience during a concert for peace and reconciliation organised by Warrington Male Voice Choir in Manchester Cathedral.

1997

26 July

WIRE organise a football match between **Warrington Town AFC** and **Crewe United** of Northern Ireland. Crewe United are the first cross community organisation to visit Warrington offering the hand of peace following the bomb attack.

27 November

Warrington Methodist Mission hosts the annual peace service held by Merseyside and Region Churches' Ecumenical Assembly, with reconciliation Ireland as its focus.

December

Working in cooperation with Dublin Rotary Club and the Irish Peace Institute, the Warrington Male Voice Choir initiates a unique and ambitious Christmas Concert for Peace in Dublin's National Concert Hall. A 260-strong 'Youth Choir for Peace', school children drawn from North and South, Catholic and Protestant, are brought together symbolising hope and harmony. During the visit to Dublin, in Christ Church Cathedral, the choir is presented to Ireland's newly elected President, **Mary McAleese**, who offers her personal support. The occasion catches international attention as President McAleese chooses to receive the Anglican Holy Communion in a bold and highly controversial act of reconciliation.

1998

20 March

Five doves of peace are released in Guildhall Square, Derry to commemorate the fifth anniversary of the Warrington bombing. Warrington Community Peace Walk are present as guests.

March

Fleadh '98 commemorates the 5th anniversary of the bombing with a concert from **Finbar Furey** on 20 March, a concert from Warrington Male Voice Choir at Parr Hall on 21 March, and a special exhibition at **Warrington Museum & Art Gallery** called *Urban Myths*. There is also an evening of music, theatre and dance produced by **Warrington Youth Theatre** in association with Warrington Schools Out Dance Groups called *Unequal Angles* held at **Parr Hall** on 12 March.

10 April

The Good Friday Agreement (or Belfast Agreement) is signed in Belfast. The Agreement was approved by voters across the island of Ireland in two referendums held on 23 May 1998.

22 July

Colin Parry and the Rev. Stephen Kingsnorth attend the funeral of the **Quinn brothers** to represent Warrington and show solidarity with the family in Carnany, Ballymoney. The three brothers aged 9, 10 and 11 were killed in an a firebomb attack on their home by the Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF) on 12 July 1998.

2 December

The Good Friday Agreement comes into force.

December

The Christmas Peace and Harmony concert is held in the Waterfront Hall, Belfast. The concert, arranged in cooperation with Belfast Rotary Club and the Irish Peace Institute, involves a cross-community, cross-border 'Youth Choir for Peace' formed by 540 young people, possibly the largest children's choir assembled in the Ireland. The bands of the Royal Ulster Constabulary and An Garda Síochána, in a significant show of cross-border co-operation, agree to come together to play as one combined police band for the first time since the founding of the Irish State. Warrington Male Voice Choir perform at the concert. The choir is also invited to perform in Omagh, Co. Tyrone, to bring some Christmas solace to the victims, families and friends in the wake of the devastating bombing of **Omagh** town centre three months earlier.

1999

March

Mo Mowlam visits Warrington to dig the first sod of earth for the **Peace Centre**. She issues a challenge to raise the £1 million needed to complete the centre and says that a full implementation of the Good Friday agreement, including decommissioning of weapons, is needed to restore confidence in the peace process in Northern Ireland

April

Peace '93 present the people of **Carnany** with a park bench inscribed, "from one community touched by tragedy to another."

December

A third event is held in association with the Warrington Male Choir and the Irish Peace Institute, in Limerick University Concert Hall, again involving a massed cross-border Youth Choir representing all traditions. This is followed by an historic concert in Dublin's Mountjoy Prison, in the company of Terry Waite. Warrington Male Voice Choir become the first British choir to perform in an Irish jail, a gesture which is supported at the highest level of government.

24 December

British Prime minister **Tony Blair** and his Irish counterpart **Bertie Ahern** along with U.S. President **Bill Clinton** join forces for a special radio tribute to the victims of Northern Ireland's troubles, remembering the 3,637 people killed in the conflict.

2000

20 March

The seventh anniversary of the bombing is commemorated with a remembrance service on Bridge Street, hosted by Brookside star **Luis Emerick**. **HRH The Duchess of Kent** lays a floral tribute at the site of where Johnathan and Tim were killed. The newly-built **Peace Centre** is formally launched by the Duchess, with Northern Ireland secretary **Peter Mandelson**, former British and Irish Prime Ministers **John Major** and **Albert Reynolds** also in attendance to mark the occasion. There is also star-studded concert at the Spectrum Arena.

December

In addition to further special performances in West Belfast, East Belfast and Omagh, the Warrington Male Voice Choir is invited to take part in a Community Christmas Concert in Londonderry by the Apprentice Boys of Derry. Although numerically a small event and somewhat controversial, the concert represents an historic step by the Apprentice Boys towards reconciliation.

2001

March

As part of the 2001 Feadh, Warrington Youth Theatre collaborate with Icon Youth Dance Company to produce *The Patrick Project*, an epic and contemporary retelling of the story of St. Patrick, focusing on the eternal themes of faith, hope, trust and forgiveness, alongside the darker elements of hate and betrayal.

15 December

Former IRA chief and now Northern Ireland education minister **Martin McGuinness** visits Warrington to attend a sold-out cultural concert organised by the Bridge as part of Fleadh 2001.

After the concert McGuinness meets the parents of Johnathan and Tim to shake hands and apologise for the bombing. The meeting lasts for over an hour and is followed with a tour of the **Tim Parry Johnathan Ball Peace Centre**. McGuinness says:

“In coming here for this event I am very conscious of what has been suffered by the families and I am very pleased they were prepared to meet with me. The killing of Johnathan and Tim should not have happened. I am sorry and Irish Republicans are sorry for the death of these children. It is important to face up to these challenges in the peace process and I hope it will encourage people on both sides to face up to what has been done. In spite of the pain of the past we have to move forward.”

A group of objectors, part of a church congregation from Chester stage a protest outside the Parr Hall, while a majority of voters on The *Warrington Guardian* website disagree with McGuinness' visit to Warrington.

2002

The Warrington Male Voice Choir participate in a concert dedicated to International Peace, to open the 2002 Sligo International Choral Festival. This is followed by a second unique event in an Irish jail. A Goodwill Concert is performed in Castlerea Prison, Co. Roscommon, leading to Terry Waite and the choir's chairman Barrie Johnson being invited to a private meeting with the Republican paramilitary prisoners. During their meeting, an assurance is given that despite weapons decommissioning issues, the IRA's long campaign of political violence is over.

October

Dr John Reid, former Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, visits the Peace Centre to view progress on its completion.

2003

20 March

The tenth anniversary of the bombing is marked with a day of tributes in the town centre, including a service at Holy Trinity Church and a march from Bridge Street to the Peace centre with school children holding placards. As part of the procession, **Wilf Ball** collects a tear-shaped vessel which he passes on to Tim Parry's siblings **Abigail and Dominic** who fill it with water from the River of Life sculpture. The water is then used to water a tree planted outside the Peace Centre and the vessel itself is mounted inside the building to remind future generations of the reconciliation work that has taken place. The day of tributes is based on three separate themes – remembrance, thanksgiving and commitment.

The event also represents an epitaph for the **WIRE** organisation, which formally comes to an end after ten years of promoting peace and positive relations with Ireland.

March

The **Peace Centre** receives nationally recognised accreditation for Conflict Resolution and Citizenship, which teaches teenagers collective responsibility.

2003

Former Prime Minister **John Major** gives the inaugural Peace Lecture at the Peace centre:

“Let me return to Tim and Johnathan in whose memory we are here tonight. Were their lives wasted? In one sense - yes: for they should have been here today - young men on the threshold of life with so much to experience and so much to give.

But, in another sense, the loss of these young lives - and the pain and agony of their families - bears another interpretation. It shook the world. Forced it to think afresh. Closed down options for the men of violence. Impacted deep on the demands for peace. Led to the foundation of this Peace Centre. They are both - forever - an important landmark in the agonisingly slow movement from a path of hatred and violence in Northern Ireland to a now probable future of tolerance, compassion and hope. Let that forever be their epitaph.”

Broadcaster **Nicky Campbell** speaks at the Tim Parry Johnathan Ball Foundation for Peace House of Commons reception.

2007

November

At a press conference in London, Sinn Féin leader **Gerry Adams** publicly states that the IRA attack on Warrington had indeed been the turning point in the Troubles.

2008

April

The Warrington Male Voice Choir in partnership with the Irish Peace Institute mark the tenth anniversary of the signing of the Good Friday Agreement with special concerts in Belfast and Dublin. The choir later receive a personal letter of endorsement from former U.S. President Bill Clinton.

6 June

The President of Ireland Mary McAleese creates history as she becomes the first Head of State to visit Warrington's pioneering peace centre where she meets peace campaigner Colin Parry and announces €75,000 funding from the Irish government over the next three years to help with the running costs of the centre. Mrs McAleese heaps “grateful” praise on the Foundation4Peace, who

have so far worked with over 20,000 young people and adults to tackle some of the key issues including prejudice, discrimination and violence.

2009

August

The Peace Cup - an annual game between Crewe United and Warrington Town AFC, with the aim to offer some financial support to the Peace Centre in Warrington – is inaugurated. The game takes place at Crewe Park and Warrington win 7-2.

2010

18 March

Justice Secretary **Jack Straw** gives the annual Peace Lecture at Warrington's pioneering Peace Centre as it celebrates its tenth anniversary.

Under the heading "Using Power Properly" Jack speaks about his experience of the rule of law, both in high level international negotiations as Foreign Secretary and in establishing a legal framework in communities which supports people who wish to go about their lives peacefully.

August

A depleted Crewe United squad visit Warrington for the annual Peace Cup match. After a visit to the Peace Centre and a civic reception at the Town Hall the match takes place. Warrington Town AFC win 9-0 to retain the Cup. Later the two teams enjoy the Warrington Wolves vs St Helens Rugby League match at the Halliwell Jones Stadium.

September

A group of young people from Warrington and Leeds embark upon a special peace mission to the **Glencree Peace Centre** in Southern Ireland to work alongside young people from Northern and Southern Ireland. The Tim Parry leadership development programme, formerly 'The Tim Parry Scholarship', is a cultural youth exchange programme developed in 1996 as the first Foundation programme.

The programme aims to improve Anglo-Irish- Northern-Irish relationships (including across the communities in Northern Ireland) and foster friendships between the young people of Britain, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

2011

February

Young people from Warrington and Ireland take part in a special exchange programme based at Warrington Peace Centre to help spread the message of peace through their respective communities. The third and final phase of the Tim Parry Leadership Development Programme includes a four day residential programme where group of 20 young people from England, Northern Ireland and the Republic come together for the final leg of their learning programme.

The programme, funded by the DFA in the Republic of Ireland is the longest running programme of the Foundation and is targeted at working with young people to develop their skills and understanding in relation to conflict and the non-violent resolution of conflict.

Exploring themes and topics ranging from International conflicts and sectarianism and contemporary challenges such as racism and Islamophobia that exist in all communities, the programme works to increase young peoples' understanding of those issues that divide and threaten to divide our communities. Crucially, the young people also look at issues in their own communities and how their own individual actions can effect change.

The 20 young people previously took part in leadership programmes in Northern and Southern Ireland.

March

Tim Parry's mother and sister, Wendy and Abbi overcome appalling weather conditions to reach the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro, after a five day climb. The climb marks the 18th anniversary of Tim's death and they hope to raise £20,000 for the Tim Parry Johnathan Ball Foundation for Peace.

17 May

HRH The Queen visits Dublin. It is the first time in 100 years that a British head of state has visited Ireland – the last time was when George V visited, which was before the partition of Ireland and the independence of the South. Former Prime Minister Sir John Major, writing in *The Times*, says:

“That such a visit has now taken place is due to the many unsung heroes whom history will not record at all. It was emphatically not due solely to the work of politicians, and I would myself like to pay personal tribute to those whose names are known by only a few, but who played such a crucial role in improving our relationship. The success of the Queen's state visit is an historic event. She and the Duke deserve our heartfelt thanks. For those of us who dearly wished to see old sores healed, it has been a magical few days. I have no doubt that it is emblematic of new relationship between Britain and Ireland and that , when history looks back with its penetrating eye, that will become much clearer than perhaps it is today.

This past week a new chapter has been opened, a better chapter, a chapter of an improving relationship between two inherently friendly neighbours that will – I sincerely hope – put an end to our troubled past and offer a much happier and brighter future for the people of both Britain and Ireland.”

Sir John Major donates the fee for his article to the Tim Parry Johnathan Ball Foundation for Peace, of which he is a patron.

July

The Tim Parry Johnathan Ball Foundation for Peace are awarded a £300,000 grant from the Big Lottery Fund. The grant will enable the charity to continue its work with victims of violent conflicts over the next two years.

The foundation is the only UK organisation which supports victims and survivors of political violence, conflict and acts of terror through the provision of learning programmes.

Work includes conflict resolution, the development of leadership and advocacy skills, opportunities for constructive dialogue between potentially conflicting parties and the sharing of experiences within a safe, supportive environment.

This funding represents a continuation of the support which the lottery has given the foundation since 2008. During the past three years, the foundation's programmes have helped nearly 300 people, survivors of the Northern Ireland Troubles, the bombings in London and Sharm-el-Sheik, 9/11 and worldwide conflicts including Iraq and Afghanistan.

6 August

Warrington Town AFC visit Crewe United for the annual Peace Cup, further cementing the friendship between Lisburn and Warrington. Warrington Town win 4-0 to retain the Cup in an entertaining game at Crewe Park.

2012

May

After the theft of the memorial plaque at the River of Life Memorial on Bridge Street, The Foundation for Peace are overwhelmed by calls offering to help replace the plaque.

Speaking about the theft, Foundation Chief Executive, Clare White comments:

“We have been inundated with calls from organisations and individuals offering to replace the plaque. The level of support nationally has been humbling. We would also like to thank those individuals who have made donations to the Foundation and ask that people continue to follow Colin and Wendy’s example in taking a positive approach to managing conflict, rather than engaging in any negative actions as a result of this incident.”

27 June

The final day of the Queen's two-day visit to Northern Ireland is marked by an historic handshake. The Queen meets the deputy first minister of Northern Ireland and former IRA commander **Martin McGuinness** at a charity event in Belfast. They shake hands at a private meeting and later shake hands in public.

6 August

Warrington Town AFC and Crewe United share the **Peace Cup** for the first time, following a 0-0 draw at Cantilever Park. The match follows a special civic reception at Warrington Town Hall and marks the build-up to the 20th anniversary of the Warrington bombing in March 1993. Special guests at the event include Tim's parents Colin and Wendy Parry and Everton and England legend Peter Reid.

2013

February

Warrington peace campaigners Colin and Wendy Parry are invited by the American government to address the international community on how it can improve support for those who suffer at the hands of terrorism.

The couple are invited as guests of the United States Government to address a meeting of 30 member countries at a high level meeting in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates where they discuss how the 'Survivors for Peace' project can be incorporated into the United Nations global counterterrorism strategy.

The Peace Centre's 'Survivors for Peace' programme offers support to victims and those affected by any form of terrorism or violent conflict. It is a unique project that is attracting global attention.

Colin comments:

"This is the twentieth anniversary year following an event that changed mine and Wendy's lives forever. We set out to keep our son's name alive and created the Peace Centre, an impressive building, as a fitting legacy to Tim and Johnathan. The work that goes on inside the Peace Centre and also on an increasingly national and international basis is equally impressive. Survivors for Peace is unique because it enables victims to participate in carefully researched programmes where they can share their experiences with others and bring about positive change in their lives. The fact that our work is now being viewed from Capitol Hill in Washington DC and diplomats and government officials have invited Wendy and me to present our work is a great honour and we hope that the work we started in Warrington will be adopted by the wider international community."