PRESS RELEASE
11 May 2015

NORTHWICH PUB ‘LAYS THE SMACKDOWN’ ON MENINGITIS WITH LIVE WRESTLING

GET READY TO RUMBLE as live wrestling returns to the only pub in the country to stage professional wrestling for free.

The Leigh Arms, at Little Leigh, is for the fifth year running hosting the wrestling action to raise funds for charity Meningitis Now. The free event will aim to beat last year’s total of £2,000 and the action starts this Saturday (16 May) at 2pm.

Leigh Arms landlady Jo Higham, who is organising the event in partnership with north east promoters 1st Class Wrestling, said: “Over the past five years we’ve raised a phenomenal £6,000 and seen over 1,000 people come to the event.

“The show is great fun for the whole family and extremely popular. We all look forward to hosting the event every year and it brings everyone together for a really great cause.”

In keeping with the American wrestling theme, the pub will be serving American-style food, including hot dogs, burgers and chilli nachos, during the day to keep visitors happy.

“We hope as many people as possible will be able to join us for a great day out and make the event a success again this year”, Jo added.

Making a welcome return to the Leigh Arms is fan favourite Tony Spitfire along with former British and European Champion James Mason, Little Legs (the smallest wrestler in the world!) and, for the first time, female Wrestler Xia Brookside; proving that the ladies can show the men a thing or two when it comes to ring prowess.

Following the wrestling there’s an opportunity to meet the wrestlers and live music from 6pm from local band Smoke Shack.

Wrestling fans are asked to make a donation to support Meningitis Now’s work and many local individuals and businesses have donated raffle and tombola prizes.

The day has also been supported by Barclays Bank, which has agreed to match fundraising up to £1,000.

Jo added: “We want to thank all the businesses who have supported us this year and over the years – we couldn’t have done it without you.”

Roya Armstrong, Community Fundraiser for Meningitis Now in the North West, said: “This will be a spectacular event. Jo, her staff, everyone ringside and, of course, the wrestlers themselves, do a superb job and we’re so grateful for their support.

“All the money we receive will help fight the disease on all fronts – through funding pioneering preventative research, raising awareness and supporting survivors and their families.”
Meningitis Now is working towards a future where no one in the UK loses their life to meningitis and everyone affected gets the support they need to rebuild their lives. For more information on meningitis or to donate, visit www.MeningitisNow.org.

For more information on wrestling at The Leigh Arms, Warrington Road, Little Leigh, Northwich, Cheshire CW8 4QT call 01606 853327 or visit the Leigh Arms website at www.leigharms.co.uk

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Editors Notes:

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Meningitis and Septicaemia Facts

- Meningitis is usually caused by bacteria or viruses
- Meningitis is inflammation of the membranes that surround and protect the brain and spinal cord
- Septicaemia is blood poisoning
- Some bacteria that cause meningitis also cause septicaemia
- Meningitis and septicaemia often happen together – it is vital to know all the signs and symptoms
- The early signs and symptoms of meningitis and septicaemia can be similar to ‘flu and include fever, headache, nausea, vomiting and muscle pain.
- The more specific signs and symptoms include fever with cold hands and feet, drowsiness, confusion, pale blotchy skin, stiff neck, dislike of bright lights and a rash which doesn’t fade under pressure.
- In babies, symptoms can also include being floppy and unresponsive, dislike of being handled, rapid breathing, an unusual, moaning cry and a bulging fontanelle (soft spot on the top of the head).
- There are an estimated 3,200 cases of bacterial meningitis and septicaemia each year in the UK.
- Following bacterial meningitis or septicaemia, one in ten people will die and at least a third of survivors will be left with lifelong after-effects such as hearing loss, epilepsy, limb loss or learning difficulties.
- Meningitis and septicaemia can affect anyone, of any age, at any time. However, babies and young children are most at risk, and young people between 15 – 24 years are also a higher risk group.
- In the past 20 years, effective vaccines have been developed to give protection against SOME types of meningitis. These are offered to all babies and young children as part of the UK childhood immunisation programme. BUT there are not vaccines to protect against ALL types.
- A vaccine to protect against meningococcal group B (Men B) disease, the most common cause of bacterial meningitis and septicaemia, will be introduced into the UK childhood immunisation programme in September 2015.
If you suspect someone may be ill with meningitis or septicaemia, trust your instincts and get immediate medical help.

For more information visit www.MeningitisNow.org or call 01453 768006. Freephone helpline 0808 80 10 388.

About Meningitis Now

**Meningitis Now**, the UK’s largest charity fighting the disease, formed after Meningitis UK and Meningitis Trust merged in April 2013.

The newly united charity, with around 30 years’ experience, shares its predecessors’ goals – saving lives and rebuilding futures – through research, awareness and support.

**Meningitis Now** fights the disease on all fronts by providing a powerful, united voice for people fighting meningitis.

- Saving lives by funding vaccine and preventative research.
- Reducing the disease’s impact through awareness.
- Rebuilding futures with dedicated support.
- Fundraising to deliver our plans.