

NON-LEAGUE FINALS DAY



Insight

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The Journal of the

WARRINGTON CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

in association with
VR VALE ROYAL
The heart of Cheshire

University receives green light to move into Warrington town centre

THE University of Chester has been given the green light by planners to deliver education to the heart of Warrington town centre at a new building in the flag ship Time Square development.

Warrington Borough Council planners have granted permission for the University, currently based at Padgate campus, to move into the premises in Time Square in between the Cineworld Complex and The Botanist.

The University has received planning permission for change of use of a unit in Time Square to F1 class (learning and non-residential institutions) which it is now leasing. It has also completed the purchase of a property on Barbauld Street.

The University, which will now be relocating over the next 18 months, starting this September, says its plans will support the UK's recovery from the pandemic by providing opportunities for adults to further develop the skills needed for well-paid employment throughout their lives.

This reflects the pledge made by the Government to revolutionise skills and training opportunities in the Queen's Speech yesterday (<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/prime-minister-to-revolutionise-skills-and-training-opportunities>) and will also result in economic benefits by bringing the 'student pound' to the town centre.

The Time Square space will be refurbished and equipped to be operational from mid-September 2021 and is to be the 'shop front' for the University in Warrington. It will host an information point for members of the public to engage and understand the learning opportunities available from the University. It will also include bookable learning space for students with laptops and digital resources, breakout spaces for seminars and a small lecture space for talks and events. This town centre location will also work with partners to showcase the opportunities available for both learners and businesses and

will include offers from Further Education partners and key business support programmes, such as the Accelerate skills programme, working with Cheshire and Warrington Local Enterprise Partnership.

It is proposed that the former office building on Barbauld Street currently called 'Mersey Bank House' will house the majority of the teaching provision, namely Education and Nursing, and will be renamed the 'Sarah Parker Remond Building,' which was announced to coincide with International Women's Day (March 8).

The University has decided to name its new building after Sarah Parker Remond (1826-1894), a prominent anti-slavery and women's rights campaigner from America, who after arriving in Liverpool, was hosted in Warrington and gave a series of lectures at Warrington Music Hall and the Red Lion Hotel. Remond's first lecture, free to enter, was described by contemporary accounts as the best-attended public event in the town's history and following the lecture series she spoke of the reception and sympathy she had found in Warrington. Remond's speeches and writings also speak of her wider commitments to education, human rights and women's suffrage and her later career as a doctor enabled her to put these into action.

By naming the building after Remond the University signals a continuing link with Warrington and the local community, whilst supporting and promoting the University's mission, vision and foundational values, which have such resonance today.

Professor Eunice Simmons, Vice-Chancellor, said: "The University's desire to grow its Warrington presence in the heart of the town is aligned to its Citizen Student strategy to provide a 'premium, personalised and purposeful' experience to its learners. The town centre location helps to realise the ambition to broaden the reach and accessibility of the University in Warrington whilst supporting Warrington Borough Council to

focus on areas of growth, providing strategic support for the post-COVID economic and cultural recovery."

Warrington Borough Council's Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Innovation, Cllr Tom Jennings, said: "This is great news for the ongoing growth of the heart of our town. The purchase of the Mersey Bank House building by the University of Chester will serve as another excellent addition to a bustling town centre and will bring footfall and further business to Time Square and other businesses

in the area.

"This move complements the University's recent announcement that it will be establishing a new information and learning hub at Time Square. Their decision to establish key academic locations in Warrington is testament to the tremendous progress being made here and is another really important step forward, as we continue the development of our town centre."

No official statement has been issued on the future of Padgate Campus although it is expected the site will be sold for housing.



ABBAsolutely fabulous news for LJLA as Ryanair announce new Stockholm route

Ryanair have announced another new route from Liverpool with news that they are to commence flights to Stockholm for Winter 2021/22.

Twice weekly flights are due to start on 2nd November, departing on Saturdays and Tuesdays during the winter season to Stockholm Arlanda airport and this latest route will be a further addition to the list of European countries served direct from Liverpool.

This further commitment to Liverpool is Ryanair's fifth new route to be announced from the Airport over the past six months with a new flight to the Greek island of Kos announced in early May.

Paul Winfield, Liverpool John Lennon Airport's Director of Aviation Development commented, "International travel restrictions are set to be lifted shortly and throughout the pandemic we have continued to plan ahead with our airline partners, remaining confident that passengers will return to international travel over the coming weeks and months.

This latest news from Ryanair of their further commitment to Liverpool is more great news for travellers from across the region with a direct link from here to Sweden for the first time in many years."



The Swedish capital of Stockholm

From the Chief Executive

Stephen Fitzsimons



SUMMER is nearly here, although as I write this, the radiators have been on and the heavens have opened – good for the grass and my rain water harvest tank I tell myself ..

We have probably all had that first drink at the pub by now, meal in a restaurant or browse around the reopened shops. It is really encouraging to see the fortitude and determination of local traders to make up for lost time and I encourage everyone to consider local for your next purchase. Sadly, long gone are the days when most of what we bought was made in Britain, however there are still plenty of options if you look close enough. My New Balance trainers were manufactured in West Cumbria - great for our Chamber member with its Europe and Middle Eastern HQ at Birchwood. If you enjoy a Fever Tree tonic

with your Greenall's gin, it was probably bottled at the Thomas Hardy Brewery in Burtonwood. All keep the Warrington economy outperforming much of the UK.

Exporting levels from members have returned to pre-Brexit levels, however the evidence confirms that it is more expensive and time consuming to trade with our European friends. We have received concerning examples of some countries asking the UK for certificates of origin, even though they are not required into the EU (unless the product is majority sourced outside of the bloc). The British Chamber of Commerce continues to work with government on this so please let us know of any issues you are still facing.

Government is negotiating trade agreements and mutual

recognition agreements with multiple countries around the world, with some modest improvements being secured for places like Japan. Each deal must be judged on its own merits and UK companies will need to be proactive to take advantage of the opportunities. The free trade deal with Australia is only estimated to add 0.025% to the UK's GDP over 15 years, however a significant number of farmers are monitoring the situation carefully to establish what it means for them. Remember that the Department of International Trade, through the Chamber, is on hand to help you navigate this brave new world.

The UK economy is starting to show signs of improvement, with unemployment falling slightly to 4.8% and growth estimates of 7.5% throughout 2021. I've had an increasing number of positive

discussions with companies looking to relocate to Warrington or expand what they already have here. We also held our first "hybrid" networking event, with a handful of members able to meet face to face. Nevertheless, it remains a fragile recovery and we wait to see whether consumer spending will continue, whilst diligently monitoring any new Covid strains. The shoots are there and we wait for baited breath for "normality" to return.

Take care, Stephen.

Blue Whale Media launches a new website for Friends of Meadowside

DIGITAL design agency Blue Whale Media has announced the launch of a new website for Friends of Meadowside.

Friends of Meadowside is a Warrington-based charitable organisation that has become Blue Whale Media's chosen charitable organisation of the year for 2021.

The new website for Friends of Meadowside has improved functionality with rich content focused on providing the organisation with a platform to use within the community. Friends of Meadowside's website went live on April 14th, 2021 and is located at <https://friendsofmeadowside.org>.

Based in the heart of Warrington, Friends of Meadowside support hundreds of people, including families, when they need help with extra food, clothing, or emotional support. They are a non-profit, charitable organisation founded by Mark and Helen Davies in 2018. Friends of Meadowside was established to benefit community members who were struggling to

cope without the essentials.

Blue Whale Media's Operations Director Stephanie Sweeney said: "The Team at Blue Whale Media are excited to be able to support a local charitable that has grown and helped so many local people throughout the pandemic.

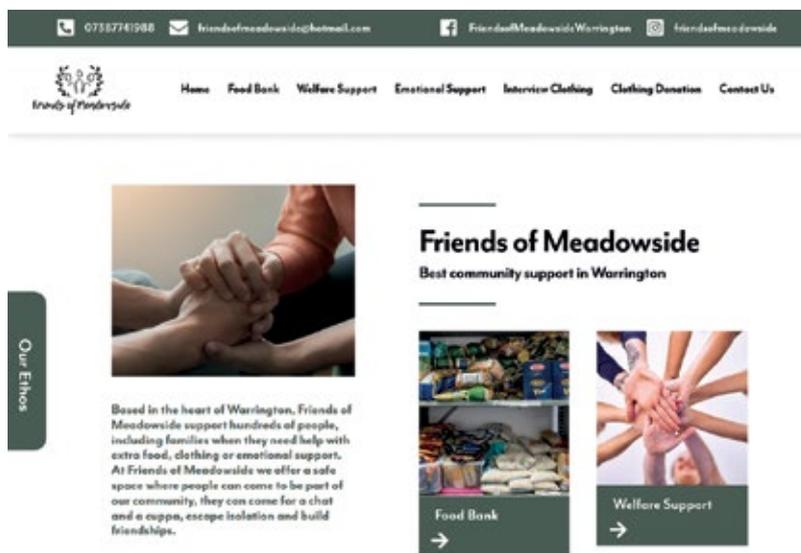
"We hope this website allows them to increase their exposure and will highlight them to local people who are in need. It's been an honour and a privilege to support them and we intend to continue to do so throughout 2021 with our continued charity fundraising."

Blue Whale Media has worked with several charities over the last couple of years, including Warrington-based website FUN (Families United), Centrepont and Save the Children. In the future, the design agency intends to continue working with

charities within the local area to help them with fundraising and enhancing their online presence.

Contact Information: For more

information, or to speak to Blue Whale Media about their services, please contact the team on 01925 552050 or head to <https://www.bluewhalemedia.co.uk>



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Members of Chambers of Commerce North West.
Members of Cheshire Chambers Enterprises Limited

International Business Centre
Delta Crescent
Westbrook, Warrington
Cheshire WA5 7WQ

Tel: 01925 715150 • Fax: 01925 715159

info@warrington-chamber.co.uk
www.warrington-chamber.co.uk

President: Nigel Schofield
Chief Executive: Stephen Fitzsimons
International Trade Advisor: Tricia Francis
Office Manager: Gail McGough
Administration: Carolyne Kasangwa
Editor / Group PR: Gary Skentelbery
Design / Production: James Bryan

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Stephen Fitzsimons, Chief Executive

Peace Centre opens for business and achieves covid-secure accreditations

WARRINGTON'S Peace Centre has re-opened for community hires, business meetings, conferences, residentials, and hospitality catering; and has received two accreditations recognising the high level of bio-security.

As part of HM Governments step three roadmap, the Peace Centre is now open to the public. This applies to indoor and outdoor events in line with the legal gathering limits.

Outdoors, in the gardens and grounds, people can gather in groups of up to 30 people. Indoors, people can meet in groups of up to six people, or as a group of two households/bubbles (unless an exemption applies).

In the first six months of the pandemic, the Peace Centre became part of the NHS emergency response and adopted the highest level of infection control and bio-security.

This learning has been used to design the highest biosecurity standards that are now applied upon re-opening.

The centre's approach has been assessed by the National Tourist

Organisations of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and has been accredited by Visit England in recognition that the Peace Centre has confirmed government and industry Covid 19 guidelines are adhered to, and in ensuring processes are in place to maintain cleanliness and social and physical distancing.

The AA (formerly The Automobile Association) have introduced a Covid Confident assessment scheme that helps support the hospitality industry in re-establishing and rebuilding consumer confidence. The Peace Centre had to meet stringent criteria to achieve this accreditation to show customers that the Centre has the necessary risk assessment, safety measures and employee training in place to reopen safely, in line with the UK's government and trade association guidelines, as they are published.

Nick Taylor, Chief Executive, welcomed the chance to reopen and the accreditations: "The Peace Centre is at the heart of the Warrington community and is known for its incredible atmosphere of safety and security.

"Re-opening sends a positive message, but it is important we do that ensuring all our visitors and supporters know they will be cared for and that our bio-security is of the highest possible standards. The accreditations from Visit England and the AA have been hard-earned from a year of learning and experience; and now we are 'good to go' and welcome people back in."

The Centre is now taking bookings for indoor and outdoor events, with COVID-secure measures and capacity limits in place. This includes business events such as conferences, trade shows, community hires, residentials, exhibitions, charity auctions, private

dining events such as charity or gala dinners and awards ceremonies, and corporate hospitality. Catering hospitality is available to support bookings.

Contact: Residential: residential@peace-foundation.org.uk
01925 581242 / 01925 581238
Conferences & Room Hire: events@peace-foundation.org.uk 01925 581234 / 01925 581238
You can find out more about the Peace Centre at <https://www.thepeacecentre.org.uk/>

You can find out more about the Peace Foundation work in the prevention, resolution, and response to violent conflict at <https://www.peace-foundation.org.uk>



United Utilities celebrating at the double at Innovation in Water Challenge

WARRINGTON-based water company United Utilities is a double winner in the first round of a new £2 million Innovation in Water Challenge (IWC), funded through Ofwat's Innovation Fund.

Two projects sponsored by United Utilities made it onto the list of 11 winners and were awarded £388,819 between them.

A further three winning projects included United Utilities as a key partner, meaning the firm is leading, or collaborating, in a total of five out of the 11 chosen schemes.

The two projects being led by United Utilities are:

·AI & Sewer Defect Analysis: United Utilities will work with the Water Research Centre to train artificial intelligence to automatically recognise features in CCTV inspection of sewers, and give a better understanding of sewer deterioration and reduce the cost of inspections. Other partners in this project are: Dwr Cymru (Welsh Water), Scottish Water, Severn Trent Water plc, Thames Water Utilities Limited and Yorkshire Water Services Ltd.

·Industrial Symbiosis: United Utilities will work with Industrial Synergies to explore innovative ways to re-use various wastes and by-products from the water industry as inputs into other processes. Other partners in this project are: Dwr Cymru (Welsh Water), Jacobs, and Severn Trent Water plc.

Recommended by an independent panel of judges, the projects are among 11 collaborative initiatives led by water companies and

involving a number of partner organisations, each vying for up to £250,000 to tackle the biggest issues facing the water sector in England and Wales.

Run by Ofwat and Nesta Challenges, and supported by Arup and Isle Utilities, the IWC was the first competition this year within Ofwat's £200 million Innovation Fund. It is part of the regulator's goal to create an innovative and collaborative water sector that meets the evolving needs of customers, society and the environment in the years to come.

United Utilities has long been recognised as an industry leader when it comes to innovation culture, leadership and ambition. This is partly thanks to its pioneering Innovation Lab, now in its third year, which has been the springboard for several successful new technologies being adopted by United Utilities and the sector.

Kieran Brocklebank, United Utilities' Head of Innovation, said: "The Ofwat fund is a great way for the sector to come together to share our expertise in a collaborative way for the benefit of all our customers, the environment and society as a whole. It's incredibly gratifying that we have been instrumental in winning two of the inaugural nominations, and be included as partners in another three."

John Russell, Senior Director at Ofwat, said: "Innovation has the potential to drive a sea-change in the water sector and tackle some of the biggest challenges we are facing in society. Solutions such as this will make a real impact in the coming months and mark the beginning

of a new wave of innovation in the sector.

"We were particularly pleased to see so many water company collaborations among the entries, and the winning proposal for the development of the sector's Innovation Centre of Excellence will be crucial in driving future change. We are looking forward to the future rounds of the competitions and supporting even more transformative projects to fruition over the coming years."

Chris Gorst, Director of Challenges at Nesta Challenges, commented: "It's an important moment for the water sector, which must adapt and innovate to build a sustainable water ecosystem that benefits customers, society and the environment. We were delighted to see such strong collaboration both within and beyond the sector in response to this first Innovation in Water Challenge, and we look forward to seeing these innovations developed and adopted widely in the sector."

Rachel Skinner, President of the Institution of Civil Engineers and chair of the IWC judging panel, said: "It was refreshing to see such a high standard of entries across the breadth of the water sector in this inaugural funding round. Taken

together, the shortlisted entries provided a clear snapshot of the industry and its current challenges but also multiple opportunities for widespread transformation in diverse areas ranging from the urgent need for accelerated action on climate mitigation and resilience, to new ways to build value for customers as the social and economic impacts of COVID-19 play out. They also highlighted huge potential for onward cross-sector learning and collaboration that will now be explored in detail. I'm very much looking forward to seeing the funded projects take flight."

To find out more about the IWC and the full list of winning entries visit waterinnovation.challenges.org.

Ofwat's second competition for 2021, the £40m Water Breakthrough Challenge, opens for entries on 6 May 2021. This fund is for initiatives that water companies would otherwise be unable to invest in or explore – and may exist in other sectors of the economy or worldwide. This might include, for example: trialling new technology, commercial models, ways of working or business practices.

A second round of the IWC will open for entries in Autumn 2021.



National award for Priestley's game design course

PRIESTLEY College Warrington has won a national award for its success in equipping students with the skills they need to break into a billion-pound industry.

Priestley won the Further Education Institution prize at the Grads in Games Awards where it was praised by judges for the content of its Computer Game Design course.

"Priestley College have shown they are continually developing their practice to teach the most up-to-date content possible and keep up with the changes in the industry," said the judges.

"Their level 3 games course is considered one of the best in the UK, providing fantastic opportunities for industry collaboration and a great work atmosphere."

Grads in Games' aim is to help increasing numbers of graduates make the leap from student to professional developer.

Their FE Institution Award goes to the college that has done the most to help learners graduate into Higher Education or the industry.

Priestley was nominated by former students, many of whom are now on top degree courses or in employment.

"It's amazing to have recognition from a panel of judges who are taken from across the industry, but this means so much because it came from our students," said Tutor Matt Wilson.

Over the past nine years Matt and several colleagues have made the course at Priestley what it is, including Rachel Williamson who came onboard to develop the programming side of the process.

Together they have equipped dozens of young people with the skills and knowledge to thrive in the competitive gaming business.

Former student Matt Brett, who is currently finishing a third year at Falmouth University studying Game Development, picked up work immediately after finishing college.

He was employed to create the family sigils used in a Sky TV promotional campaign for the Game of Thrones TV series.

"What I learned at Priestley has set

me up for a career in an industry that I love," said the former Lymm High pupil. "I enjoyed the course so much I never wanted to leave the classroom."

As well as praising the course content, Grads in Games judges recognised Priestley's internship

programme that is run in partnership with TT Games and is the only one of its kind in the UK.

"We feel Priestley College is an excellent example of the quality of teaching at FE level and we are very happy to present this award to them," they said.



Rachel Williamson, Matt Wilson and Ian Slonker who have been influential in developing the award-winning Computer Game Design course.

Experienced local banker joins Handelsbanken Warrington

HANDELSBANKEN Warrington has appointed a new Corporate Manager, in response to increasing demand for its local relationship banking services.

Ian Foster joins the team with over 35 years of banking experience, the most recent four of those with Handelsbanken. Ian will be involved in developing existing customer relationships as well as welcoming new locally-based customers to the Bank.

Built on sustainable values, Handelsbanken's focus on delivering high levels of bespoke service, through lasting customer relationships, has seen the Bank rated top for customer satisfaction 12 years in a row in an independent survey of British banks' personal and business customers*.

At Handelsbanken, branches are responsible for making all day-to-day banking decisions based solely on their customers' requirements, free from product and lending targets or bonus incentives.

On the new appointment, Ian commented: "I am absolutely delighted to be joining our Warrington Branch as Corporate Manager, getting back to what banking is all about – supporting local businesses and helping to fulfil their ambitions, and I very much look forward to working with the local professional communities".

Branch Manager, James Barron, also added: "This is a key

appointment in the future growth of our business in the North & Mid Cheshire area – Ian possesses strong local knowledge and a real passion for delivering an excellent service to our customers".

Handelsbanken branches support individuals and businesses with bespoke banking and wealth management services in local communities across the UK.

In February 2021, Handelsbanken was named the most recommended provider for SME banking by the Competition and Markets Authority's Independent Service Quality Survey for business banking, for the sixth time – with 76% of SME banking customers saying they would be extremely or very likely to recommend Handelsbanken to other SMEs for its overall service quality**.

Handelsbanken was named one of the world's safest commercial banks in Global Finance's ranking of the World's Safest Banks 2020***.

* EPSI Rating (Extended Performance Satisfaction Index) is a system created to collect, analyse and disseminate information about how an organisation is perceived by its stakeholders. The assessment is done in terms of image, preferences and perceived quality as well as loyalty and attractiveness by customers, employees and other interested parties. With a system of databases including more than 70,000 indices derived from some 2 million interviews taken during

surveys in numerous country studies over almost two decades, ESPI Rating is the European leader in stakeholder management and benchmarking.

** Competition and Markets Authority, Feb 2021.

*** Global Finance, World's Safest Banks, November 2020.



Daresbury scientists play vital role in creating world's most powerful neutrino beam

SCIENTISTS at Daresbury Laboratory near Warrington are playing a major role in creating the world's most powerful high-energy neutrino beam, helping answer some of the biggest questions in physics.

The Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC) and US-based Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory have agreed to collaborate on building one of the world's most powerful linear accelerators.

Based at the US Department of Energy's Fermilab, the Proton Improvement Plan-II (PIP-II) accelerator, currently under construction involving a team of scientists at Daresbury, is an essential upgrade to the accelerator complex.

Once complete, it will enable the world's most powerful high-energy neutrino beams.

This will allow physicists to study the elusive neutrino particle. Known for having very little mass, it travels near the speed of light and possibly holds the secrets to some of the biggest unanswered questions in physics.

The agreement sets out how the UK will contribute to the PIP-II accelerator project. The project provides the engine for the highly-anticipated global science experiment, the Deep Underground Neutrino Experiment (DUNE), hosted by Fermilab.

DUNE is an international flagship science experiment designed to study neutrinos. Results from studies looking at the neutrino particle could potentially revolutionise our understanding of the universe.

The PIP-II accelerator will also power a suite of other experiments at Fermilab. Its high-power beams can be delivered to multiple experiments at once.

The agreement was signed by STFC's Executive Chair, Professor Mark Thomson and the Director of Fermilab, Dr Nigel Lockyer.

Professor Mark Thomson said: "The agreement further strengthens the UK's collaboration with our US partners in this crucial project, which sits at the heart of a new globally significant facility at Fermilab.

STFC's continued commitment to the Fermilab neutrino programme will pave the way for fundamental discoveries into the nature of these most elusive particles, and will provide key insights into the origins and evolution of the Universe.

The UK's involvement in the upgrade has been made possible through the UK government's £79 million investment in the DUNE experiment, Long-Baseline Neutrino Facility (LBNF), and the new PIP-II accelerator.

This investment, delivered by STFC, has given UK scientists and engineers the chance to take leading roles in the management and development of the DUNE far detector, the LBNF neutrino beam targetry and PIP-II accelerator.

Five nations are collaborating with the US to build the powerful PIP-II accelerator: France, India, Italy, Poland and the UK.

Nigel Lockyer, Fermilab director, said: "We are grateful for the world-class expertise and contributions of our international collaborators in building a state-of-the-art particle accelerator powering the world's most intense neutrino beam.

This upgraded technology will drive the next 50 years of global neutrino research in particle physics and the Science and Technology Facilities Council's contributions will help make this possible.

In the UK, STFC will design, build and qualify vital elements of the 215-metre-long particle accelerator, which will accelerate the proton beam to its highest energy.

The main elements currently being developed at STFC's Daresbury Laboratory are the superconducting cryomodules.

Cryomodules act like a large cool-

box. Working at -271°C, they keep the instruments inside, known as Radio Frequency (RF) cavities, cryogenically cooled.

RF cavities store the energy needed to accelerate the proton beam, which when fired into a carbon or beryllium target, will produce a high-intensity beam of neutrinos.

RF cavities are made from a material called niobium, which is both malleable and is superconducting at low temperature. As a result, they become extremely efficient and need very little electrical power to achieve the powerful beam acceleration.

A powerful proton beam striking a target is critical for the study of neutrinos because neutrinos do not interact very often with other particles. This makes them hard to spot, so scientists need to produce lots of neutrinos to detect even one in the massive detectors.

Niobium is a rare metal with only a few sources and suppliers around the world. It is not an easy material to work with, as it reacts with oxygen in the air at high temperatures, especially during the welding process.

STFC has been working closely with industry partner, The Welding Institute (TWI) in Cambridge, which has commissioned the UK's first Electron Beam Welder able to weld in vacuum the high-purity niobium cavities.

Teams of scientists, engineers and

technicians at STFC's Daresbury Laboratory, working with TWI, will construct three cryomodules, each housing six Superconducting RF (SRF) cavities. Before installing into the cryomodules, each cavity will be thoroughly tested using STFC's Daresbury Laboratory Superconducting RF Lab (SuRFLab) facility.

Now 18 months into the project, the STFC Daresbury Laboratory team is making its way through major milestones, including the completion of the cryomodule transport system design.

Once the cryomodules are built, each of them will need to be safely transported to Fermilab in the US. The transport frame has to protect the cryomodule and all of its high-tech components during transportation.

Professor Peter McIntosh, PIP-II Principal Investigator and Deputy Director, ASTeC at STFC's Daresbury Laboratory, said:

"The UK, STFC and Daresbury Laboratory in particular, have a fantastic opportunity to provide cutting-edge accelerator technologies for 'powering the heart' of the international flagship project LBNF/DUNE in the USA.

"I am immensely proud of how the delivery team at Daresbury, along with our industry partners, have adapted to the challenges faced in developing our leading provision of Superconducting cryomodules for PIP-II.



Opticians back in business at Warrington Market

Maskell + Josephson Optometrists opened in Warrington Market in September 2020 when things looked on the up with regards to COVID-19.

Sadly one lockdown after another led to major disruption in the services they could offer though they remained open for any emergencies.

They are delighted to say that they are now fully operational again and open 9-5 six days a week.

Their new shop and consultation room is fully COVID compliant (for as long as it needs to be).

They have some of the most sophisticated technology available in the world of eye care and highly

trained staff to look after your eyes and your glasses.

They offer corporate care packages (for £5 per month per person) and their range of corporate glasses start from just £49 including lenses.

They also offer premium brands and lenses for those who want to get the very best out of their eyes and all products are available on an interest free payment plan.

If anyone would like to know more about this they can contact anthony@maskelloptometrists.com or speak to the team in store in person (Unit 20/21 Warrington Market) or by phone 0161 549 2560.



College students help redesign a dementia ward during work placement

WARRINGTON & Vale Royal College's Level 3 Health & Social Care students recently took part in a virtual work placement to 'Redesign a ward for people living with dementia.'

This project, set by Warrington and Halton Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust in conjunction with The Cheshire & Warrington Pledge, provided the students with a valuable industry insight and allowed them to take part in essential work experience.

The college students were asked to come up with innovative dementia-friendly ideas to transform a hospital ward and make it more suitable for patients living with dementia and their families. The student used Warrington Hospital's 'Forget Me Not' Ward- a pioneering ward providing specialist care for people living with dementia- for inspiration. The only one of its kind in the North West, the 'Forget Me Not' Ward contains unique design features such as a mock bus stop, traditional fireplace and relaxing quiet room.

The students spent a week working in groups and meticulously planning their projects before presenting their ideas back to representatives from the NHS and The Cheshire & Warrington Pledge. As part of the project, the students were also required to work to a budget and come

up with fundraising activities to support the development of the ward. Health & Social Care Tutor Jack Davies, who led the project in college, felt the experience was very worthwhile and provided the students with valuable skills. Jack said "The learners have developed key skills such as communication, time management and teamwork that will be able to be directly transferred into the workplace."

The ten groups of students presented back via video call to a panel of industry professionals: Fiona Exley, Health & Social Care Catalyst at The Cheshire & Warrington Pledge; Sandra McCann, Apprenticeship Lead Warrington and Halton NHS Foundation Trust; Deborah Hammond, Matron for Integrated Medicine & Community CBU Warrington and Halton Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, and Katie Nixon, Ward Manager of the Forget Me Not Unit.

Tutor Jack said: "Everyone who took part put in a brilliant effort and I'm so proud of every learner. The presentations were professional and as stated by the judges were of a quality suitable for practice- the ideas could be used immediately."

Fiona Exley commented: "All ten groups worked really hard on their presentations and some of the ideas they came up with were fantastic." Fiona particularly

enjoyed the students' suggestions of a ward garden, 'blast from the past' charity ball and memory boxes for each patient.

The winners of the challenge were group nine, who impressed the judges with their "professional floorplan" and "lovely consideration for family members." The judges described the presentation as "absolutely fabulous!"

Lisa Murrell, Employment Engagement Officer at Warrington & Vale Royal College, helped to coordinate the work

experience and said, "This has been a fantastic experience and opportunity for the Level 3 Health and Social Care learners, they have had a wonderful insight into the NHS. I would like to thank all the practitioners and professionals who have volunteered their time and expertise to help organise and support the event." Warrington & Vale Royal College are extremely proud of their hardworking Health & Social Care students and are very grateful to the NHS and The Cheshire & Warrington Pledge for the opportunity to take part in this fantastic experience.



Warrington campus becomes centre of excellence in advanced manufacturing and engineering

THE Warrington campus of Warrington & Vale Royal College has become a centre of excellence in advanced manufacturing and engineering.

After the successful launch of the Advanced Manufacturing & Engineering Training (AMET) Centre at Warrington & Vale Royal College's Winsford campus, the next phase of the project is underway and will see the specialist centre launching at the college's larger site, Warrington campus this September.

There has never been a better time to study for a career in engineering and manufacturing. According to Prospects.ac.uk, there is sector-wide skills shortages meaning trainees will have ample job opportunities. Additionally, engineering and manufacturing is one of the UK's broadest growing sectors with almost 5.7 million people working in engineering in the UK, accounting for just over 19% of all UK employment.

Thanks to a £656,000 funding grant from the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) and support from local employers, the new AMET Centre will be fitted out with a range of specialist equipment designed for materials

measurement, testing and analysis, and join the college's AMET Centre in Winsford to enhance the provision of digital and manufacturing skills across Cheshire and Warrington.

The AMET Centre will support and train students in applying smarter manufacturing techniques and Industrial Digital Technologies (IDTs) such as robotics, industrial control and digital intelligence. There will be a focus on Mechatronics and Metrology at Warrington campus, with the curriculum developed in line with demand from local manufacturing and engineering businesses located in and around the town. The AMET Centre will work in close collaboration with local employers who have voiced a need to digitalise their manufacturing processes and are keen to upskill their current workforce and recruit skilled employees.

Applications are open for September 2021. You can submit an application [click here](#).

You can also register for our apprenticeship programme by contacting our Apprenticeship Matching Service team at: apprenticeships@wvr.ac.uk



Put your products to the test with a materials MoT from GISMO

THERE'S never been a more important time to look at the materials that make up your products and to find smarter ways to use them.

The last year has introduced us all to the importance of anti-viral measures and there is seldom a day when waste materials don't feature in the news. The circular economy is gaining traction and environmental sustainability is no longer the preserve of 'green' businesses. Products and materials are becoming harder to source, time to market is ever-critical, and competitors are always hot on your heels with new ideas.

How well do your products shape up to these materials challenges? The first step is to put them to the test. The Greater Innovation for Smarter Materials Optimisation (GISMO) project from Lancaster University helps you to do just that.

It is available exclusively to businesses in Cheshire and Warrington at no extra cost, and can help you in a number of ways.

Test the anti-viral and anti-microbial qualities of your products

Our virologists will take your materials and products and can test them against a wide range of viruses, including SARS CoV-2 (the cause of COVID-19) and all of its variants. In addition to a full analysis, we will show you how to improve their anti-viral and anti-

microbial resistance, protection and effectiveness.

Understand material characteristics, properties and performance

Let us put your materials under the microscope to understand their strengths and limits, check bonds and interfaces and look for flaws and contaminants that may hamper their performance. We can characterise and image surface features and the composition of surfaces and materials. We can also carry out a wide range of mechanicals tests to evaluate product reliability, including surface roughness, fatigue testing, failure load, tensile-, bending- and fracture-toughness and hardness testing.

Check the characteristics and effectiveness of coatings

Use our virtual coatings laboratory to test the effectiveness of protective or functional coatings on your products. We can analyse characteristics such as adhesive bonding, gas or moisture sensitivity and wettability. We can also help you with anti-viral and anti-microbial coatings specific to your needs, along with others that can prevent staining, make your products waterproof, self-cleaning and bio-compatible.

Find new or alternative materials and formulations

We can help you to find or develop alternative materials to improve the quality and effectiveness of

your products, or replace what you can no longer source efficiently. We can introduce new properties to enhance their versatility, resilience and longevity and even create new molecules, formulæ or compositions for you.

Improve environmental sustainability

If a sustainable approach to using materials is key to your business, or if you need to adapt to current or future regulations, we can help you to find or develop renewable alternatives and develop new ways of upcycling the materials that you use to reduce waste and create useful by-products or sources of energy.

Validate designs and formulations, new and old

To help you to prove a new concept or product, we can create a 3D or virtual prototype and advise you on design effectiveness and the implications for producibility and performance. We can also help to make an older design ready for today's standards by using reverse engineering techniques to get the concept of the original. The same goes for formulations for paints, polymers, adhesives and other chemical-based products.

Benchmark the quality and performance of your products with other products

Compare the characteristics, quality and performance of your materials with a standard, benchmark or alternative product.

We will subject them to a variety of materials analysis techniques and tests to provide you with a comprehensive set of performance notes and pointers.

Incorporate smart materials or properties into your products

If you would like to improve the versatility, performance, and appeal of your products by introducing 'smart' materials that react to changes in their surroundings (think polarising sunglasses, colour changing shirts and mugs, forehead thermometers, shape memory products and the like), we can show you how to do it.

James Stancombe, Programme Manager for the GISMO project at Lancaster University says, "Think of it like a 'Materials MoT' for your products, but with added extras - not only will we test them and give you advisories, but also help you to implement the new methods and improvements"

Contact us for an initial assessment and to tell our scientists and engineers what you would like to check and achieve.

Get smart with GISMO and put your products to the test. For more information, visit www.smarter-materials.co.uk or email gismo@lancaster.ac.uk

GISMO is part-funded by the European Regional Development Fund.



Former college student nominated for 'Outstanding Bricklayer Apprentice' award

FORMER Brickwork apprentice at Warrington & Vale Royal College Connor Evans has been nominated for The Association of Brickwork Contractors (ABC) 'Outstanding Bricklayer Apprentice' award.

Connor has been nominated by his employer PLF Limited, one of the leading brickwork contractors in the North West, for his outstanding performance and attitude. Connor completed both his Level 2 and Level 3 Brickwork apprenticeship at Warrington & Vale Royal College, and was immediately recognised as an extremely dedicated and talented student.

Andrew Atkin, the college's Director of Apprenticeships, said, "Connor stood out from day one of his studies. His attitude in all sessions was exemplary and his thirst for knowledge was clearly seen by all. Connor was the apprentice of the year for all three

years whilst at the college and was an absolute pleasure to teach, his attitude is exactly what the industry needs."

The ABC awards recognise excellence in brickwork and

celebrate the emerging talent in the UK's brickwork sector. The awards ceremony will be taking place on Friday 3rd of September at The Royal Horseguards Hotel in central London. Connor

is delighted to have been nominated for such a prestigious award, saying, "I'm really happy to be nominated for the award and I'm looking forward to seeing what happens."



Graphic Designers make their mark

GRAPHIC Designers studying at Priestley College have been accepting challenges set by a variety of fascinating 'clients'.

The students have been set live briefs by organisations as diverse as a publishing company, an international photographic magazine and a leadership movement founded in the Netherlands.

"These kinds of opportunities are invaluable for students to learn how the industry works," said Tutor Paul McConnell.

"As well as allowing them to put their design skills to the test it also teaches them about working with clients, the importance of deadlines and communication."

Among the challenges was one by Stockton Heath-based Gatehouse Books – a specialist publisher of reading books and teaching resources for developing literacy in young people and adults.

A-Level and BTEC Graphic Design students were commissioned to illustrate a new series of books covering a range of topics from the Second World War to catching a fish.

Former Penketh High pupil Laura Eckersley was among those paid for their time and talent.

"The client would send us a short story with some inspiration photos and we would have to illustrate three images that would be used in the book," she said.

"I completed four books with the overall themes spanning from love, to pregnancy, to depression."

Priestley's Digital Art Foundation group, BTEC Graphic Design and

Photography students developed striking promotional imagery for BOOST, a leadership movement founded by Rosanne van Zalingen in the Netherlands.

The group's ethos is to make the world a better place for everyone and it aims to encourage young people to live happy, healthy and prosperous lives.

Its brief was to create promotional campaign imagery in the form

of still or animated pictures or a storyboard explaining the vision.

A different task was set by the editor of Imagemaker, Mike McNamee, who asked students to design pages for his magazine.

Their work – much of it influenced by the experiences of the past year – was published in the March edition and seen in more than 70 countries.

"It is interesting that working under lockdown conditions has forced these young people to confront all of the downsides they have been subjected to," said Mike.

"They will never forget this phase of their lives and their designs will automatically pass into the national library collections of the UK so preserving them for posterity."



Laura Eckersley and Dylan Ditchfield who took part in the Graphic Design briefs set by businesses.

Pandemic Pivot Making a Difference and Adapting to the New Normal

The pandemic has affected businesses large and small in many different ways. For the team at Alcimi, it allowed us to reassess, realign, and pivot to what we are great at.

Like most digital agencies, we had clients that temporarily closed their doors, clients that scaled back their operations, and clients that ramped up their activities, one of those that we are incredibly proud of is the National Emergencies Trust.

The National Emergencies Trust is a charity that was formed in 2019 in response to the intensity of emergencies in 2017; it is a charity that was created due to the national need of having one central point of donation at the time of a national emergency and little did we know that the national emergency would come so quickly.

Less than five months from its official launch by the Duke of Cambridge in London, the trust was readying to activate a fundraising appeal for the Coronavirus crisis that was on the UK's doorstep. What happened

next, no one could have predicted but fueled by coffee and data; we are happy to make a difference as the digital contractor for the National Emergencies Trust.

14-months later, nearly £100m raised, 13,000+ organisations helped (over 40 of those in Warrington), 20,000+ emails sent, 80 million organic social impressions, 1.5 million website visits, and 3500 hours of coding, and probably 1600 cups of coffee (underestimate). The team has had some time to reflect on what we have done, how we have helped, and how we have changed and submit our first story about our journey.

So what did we do, how did we change?

Alcimi was formed in 2017 by our Managing Director Ben Sefton, a former Forensic Investigator for the Greater Manchester Police (That's a whole other story in itself!). Formed initially as a digital marketing and website building agency, we identified the need to adapt as the pandemic continued; it was clear as home working continued that organisations

needed to digitally transform and luckily, our mission as a company is to automate and simplify the digital landscape for companies and organisations.

Over the last 14-months, we have grown our capability, capacity, and knowledge. What was once a small digital agency has expanded into a Digital Transformation agency with a new base in Warrington and a technology development hub in Budapest. We have focused on specialist key hires in creative, marketing, technology, and strategy to assist our clients in adapting and innovating in the new normal.

What comes next in the global

business environment is difficult to predict. However, one of the critical things we have learnt is time is finite but done right, our impact can be infinite.



NEW MEMBER

Alcimi

Mr Ben Sefton – Managing Director
The White House, Greenall's Avenue, Warrington, WA4 6HL
Email: info@alcimi.com
Web: www.alcimi.com
Description: Digital transformation agency



University recognised for positive impact on community

THE University of Chester which has a base in Warrington, has been recognised nationally for its positive impact on businesses, local growth and regeneration, as well as its commitment to public and community engagement.

In a new Government-led benchmark demonstrating the importance of English Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), the results of the first-ever Knowledge Exchange Framework (KEF) were published yesterday, Wednesday, with the University scoring in the top 30% for Working with Business; its impact on Local Growth and Regeneration and for its Public and Community Engagement.

It also placed in the top 40% in the categories of Research Partnerships and Skills, Enterprise and Regeneration. The University scored higher than other comparative institutions in these categories.

The aim of the KEF is to increase efficiency and effectiveness in the use of public funding for knowledge exchange and to further a culture of continuous improvement in universities. It will allow institutions to have better understanding and improve their own performance, as well as provide businesses and other users with more information to help them to access the world-class knowledge and expertise that exists in English universities.

An example of an exchange of knowledge occurs when universities take the leading research and understanding they are recognised for and translate it into impact that benefits both the economy and society.

Vice-Chancellor of the University of Chester, Professor Eunice Simmons, said: "I am so encouraged and proud to see how the University is delivering real benefits to our region and beyond. This is through supporting established businesses

and helping new ones to get off the ground; delivering cultural opportunities; and demonstrating our community spirit, which features heavily in the University's new strategy, with the concept of developing Citizen Students to make purposeful contributions to society.

"As we prepare for a post-pandemic world, it has never been timelier to provide skills, jobs and learning. The University has proved it is in an excellent place to support all these requirements."

The University offers its skills and expertise to a wide range of businesses. In the health sector, the institution has recently worked with a biological solutions organisation on an immunology project and on a study into Chron's Disease and Ulcerative Colitis with leading pharmaceutical companies. The University has worked with Wirral Community

NHS Trust to design, develop and deliver a Clinical Leadership Programme and has developed numerous research partnerships such as looking at reducing fat and salt in soups with a leading supermarket.

The University is a central part of the local economy (Cheshire and Warrington plus areas of Shropshire, Wirral and North Wales) and the wider region, providing the skills, research and business support to underpin growth ambitions, innovation and business resilience. It has developed strong working relationships with local LEPs (Local Enterprise Partnerships), businesses and other stakeholders to address the need and demand for specialist facilities, equipment and services, unlocking the potential for knowledge exchange activity, with more than 1,200 Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) benefitting since 2016.

Through engagement with the LEP, Further Education colleges and key local employers, the University was able to identify

growth areas. Supported by the ERDF (European Regional Development Fund), it developed the Riverside Innovation Centre to enable start-up and meeting facilities for small businesses; the NoWFOOD Centre, focussing on developing SMEs in the food and drink sector, and the High Growth Centre, at Thornton Science Park, where commercial tenants are also able to benefit from the University's expertise. Working with Shropshire Council and the Marches LEP, the University developed University Centre Shrewsbury (UCS) to address a UK Higher Education 'cold spot' and to develop, attract and retain talent in that area.

The University is involved in growth and regeneration in numerous ways. Examples include: all students are encouraged to take a five-week work-based learning opportunity; the Venture programme has engaged more than 1,000 students in entrepreneurial activity; the Digital Solutions and CREST ERDF projects at UCS support businesses with digital health and environmental science; and the Eco-Innovation project, in partnership with Lancaster University, focuses on carbon reduction and environmental efficiencies in SMEs, with support from Master's and PhD students.

The institution also has strong relationships with local NHS Trusts and Police forces, and 84% of its apprenticeship activity is with public sector employers.

With an emphasis on the social, economic and cultural wellbeing of the region and beyond, the University's community and public engagement includes lectures, exhibitions, partnerships, specialist provision and projects through centres and institutes, Continuing Professional Development (CPD) and professional advisory services.

It shares knowledge with the public sector extensively, through teacher education, nursing and

health, policing, and social work. The University engages with the community through multiple events including its Volunteer Celebration Evening, involving students, partner charities, community groups; the Annual Diversity Festival open to the public/partners and focusing on improving engagement, diversity and inclusion; the High Sheriff's Awards for Enterprise and the Volunteer and Wellbeing Fair.

The institution shares its knowledge and expertise through partnerships with a wide-ranging number of organisations including community events and lectures at Storyhouse; sharing social care expertise with the Alex Timpson Trust; the

Westminster Centre for Research in Veterans works with local Councils and charities to support the military community through award-winning research, education and community engagement; and the institution is a major contributor to the North West Hydrogen Alliance. In the community, there were 164 off-campus schools/college outreach events in 2018/2019; more than 16,700 people attended public lectures and events and more than 1,150 attended exhibitions. An incredible 23,678 hours of volunteering by students and staff were carried out in 2018/2019, with a significant proportion benefitting local communities.

Professor Neville Ford, Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Research and Innovation, said: "I would like to thank everyone who contributed to this report. It is the very first KEF and the result for the University of Chester is very promising indeed as we have performed well in our key areas of focus which are our work with businesses; our impact on local growth and regeneration and in our commitment to public and community engagement and how they bring benefit to the economy and society of our region."

Project to reduce carbon receives prestigious education award

A PROJECT which brings together science professionals and students to work on ways to combat climate change has won a major education accolade.

Eco-Innovation Cheshire and Warrington won the Research Project of the Year at the Educate North Awards.

Eco-Innovation Cheshire and Warrington is a collaboration between the University of Chester, Lancaster University and small-to-medium sized enterprises

(SMEs) within the Cheshire and Warrington area. This EU-funded initiative has established low-carbon solutions to improve the production processes of companies and develop new products which reduce carbon emissions. Research projects under the Eco-Innovation banner have so far involved six PhD and 19 Master's degree students.

One research project is the development of a new technology for carbon capture with PMW Research Ltd. This technology

is known as 'A3C' (Advanced Cryogenic Carbon Capture) and is intended to be utilised in shipping and smaller industrial sources, where alternative means of reducing carbon emissions are unfeasible or not cost effective.

David Cann, a PhD student at the University, developed an experimental pilot in conjunction with PMW to demonstrate the feasibility of this innovative process which makes it cheaper and easier for businesses to reduce their CO2 emissions. If A3C was applied to all target industries in the UK, it would result in an approximate 10% reduction in emissions, equivalent to half of all residential emissions, while application to the global shipping fleet could have an impact many times larger.

This project has received over £100,000 in financial investment from Eco-Innovation to facilitate new research. At a company level, this investment helped PMW develop its business and improve its potential earnings, enabling improvements for the economy by providing job opportunities.

Carbon capture is vital to decarbonising the global economy but is often seen to be too costly. The award-winning A3C carbon capture process, patented by sister company PMW Technology, has a lifetime cost of capture up to 70% lower than alternatives for small-scale applications. This project could therefore result in a significant reduction in future costs for industry, improving the wider economy by allowing companies to reduce costs, increase profits and reinvest within society, whilst also reducing emissions. The research would have not been possible without the support of

Eco-Innovation Cheshire and Warrington.

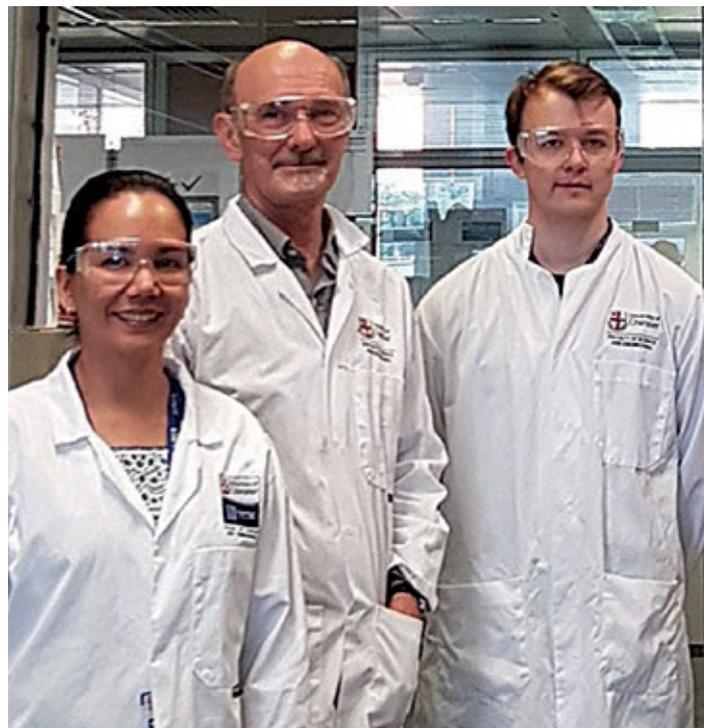
This project is just one example of many that Eco-Innovation has supported financially through sharing its expertise to create green technologies for the future.

The Educate North Awards is a prestigious awards event which celebrates, recognises and shares best practice and excellence in the education sector in the North.

David Cann said: "I am glad the Eco-Innovation project has been given such positive recognition by this Educate North Award. Decarbonisation is at the forefront of the government's agenda and I'm thrilled to have had the opportunity to drive it forward with the Eco-Innovation team whose support has been invaluable throughout the project."

Graham Smith, Dean of the Faculty of Science and Engineering at the University of Chester, said: "This award of Research Project of the Year is a real triumph for the Eco-Innovation team and shows the strength of the Faculty's approach to Research and Development. We are delighted to have been able to support David in his research."

Paul Willson, Director of PMW Research said: "The award of funding by Eco-Innovation enabled us to make the vital step from concept to demonstration. Without that support and David's excellent work we would not be where we are today, completing our follow-on pilot project and planning a large-scale prototype for our world-beating technology. Congratulations to David, his supervisor Dr Carolina Font Palma and the Eco-Innovation team for this well-deserved award."



Vistry Partnerships hire new Finance Director

AFTER a period of substantial growth, Warrington-based regeneration specialist Vistry Partnerships has appointed Stuart Rennie as its new Finance Director for the North West region.

Stuart joins from ENGIE where he started working across various complex long-term outsourcing contracts with local authorities before occupying the role of Head of Finance for the North West Places & Communities business.

Shortly after joining the business, Stuart commented: "Everyone at Vistry Partnerships has an incredible amount of ambition, and the business keeps going from strength to strength. I am therefore incredibly pleased to be joining their dynamic team and I look forward to helping the business reach new heights in the North West."

Stuart's new role will see him tasked with supporting the business to deliver its ambitious strategy whilst ensuring that there are robust systems in place to enable profitable growth and

managing working capital to ensure funding is in place for future developments.

Vistry Partnerships' Divisional Managing Director for Central and North, James Warrington, commented: "We are working with some fantastic partners, councils and housing associations in the North West and the business is continuously expanding. Stuart's appointment reflects our commitment to take this growth a step further, and he will help to drive the financial performance of the business as we strive to reach our ambitious targets."

The new Finance Director will join Vistry Partnership's regional office in Warrington, and his appointment is part of the business' broader recruitment drive as it looks to strengthen its workforce. Over the past few weeks, the North West team has added several employees to its ranks, including a new Sales Director and Land and Partnerships Director.

lay our part to increase the
ly of housing and help build
sustainable communities.

We'll do this by being a true partner
our clients, partners and colleagues
adopt a collaborative approach
drive innovation in regeneration



How Croft's patented product innovations can help improve filtration performance

Croft Filters Ltd are celebrating their first patent: "GB2527996 – Filter and method of manufacture" granted shortly after 7th May 2021. Years of experience in filtration have led Croft to develop a filter and manufacturing method that improves the performance of fine filters for fluids.

The application for this patent was filed on 25th April 2014 and the patent was published on 6th January 2016. Since then the patent has been under examination until recently.

About the patent

The key to this innovation involves a two-part filter that provides a substantially rigid support and filters at a predetermined size; and a method to manufacture the filter that utilises additive manufacturing processes. Both the filter's design and the manufacturing process were created by Croft Directors Neil Burns, Mark Burns and Darren Travis.

The protected innovative design aims to avoid and reduce the disadvantages of conventional two-part filters, including pore blockage and risk of change in pore size caused by the support layer. These factors can significantly impact the performance of very

fine filters (having pores of a few microns for example). Additionally, the pressure drop through filters increases as the pores become blocked with captured solids, which can distort the fine filter layer.

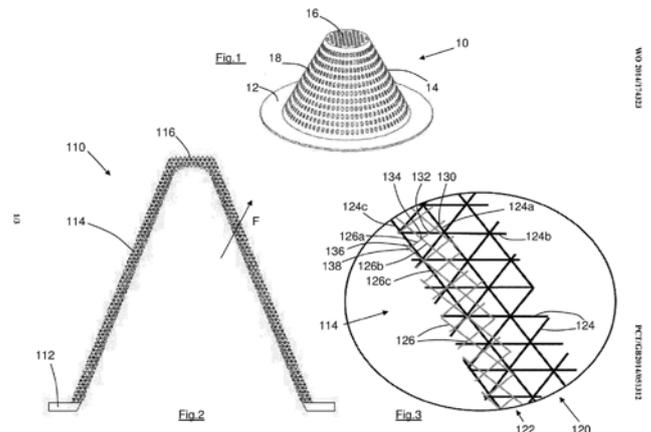
Croft's invention is to join or attach each strand of the filter portion to the support portion forming a continuous and complete structure. This means that the pores through the filters maintain their desired size, shape, and position. The filter portion is also able to withstand the operational pressure during use.

About Croft Filters

Croft Filters is the leading UK manufacturer and supplier of custom filtration solutions for over 30 years to various industrial sectors. Quality of both product and service has been the key to Croft's success; the Company takes great pride in understanding their customer's needs, quickly supplying them with a high-quality product that exceeds customer's expectations.

For more information about Croft's custom filtration solutions:

W: www.filters.co.uk | E: sales@filters.co.uk | T: 01925766265



Careers day inspires future NHS professionals

MORE than 70 students took a step towards their dream jobs during an NHS Careers Day at Priestley College.

Members of the Health & Social Care cohort took part in the virtual event run by Cheshire and Warrington Pledge.

"The aim of the day was to raise awareness of more than 300 roles within the NHS," said Priestley's Work Experience Coordinator Pam Gardner.

"It was a chance for our students to look at entry routes into these careers and hear what the speakers thought were important aspects to consider when applying for the roles."

Those who took part were able to ask questions of the speakers via an online chat. The experts included a GP, physio, healthcare assistant and paramedic along with people in non-clinical roles such as IT and administration.

Kesia Jimmy, who studies Sociology and Religious Studies alongside Health & Social Care, said the day had helped her make some decisions about her future.

"I wanted to find out from different healthcare professionals what the experiences of their jobs

have been like," said the former Cardinal Newman RC High School pupil.

"Before this event I was thinking about going into adult nursing, but now I am keeping my options open and exploring different careers in the NHS."

For former Bridgewater High School pupil Joe Evans the highlight was hearing from a paramedic about what it takes to do the job.

"It provided me with crucial information that I will take on board when applying to university," said

Joe, who is studying Applied Science with Health & Social Care.

"I hope to become a paramedic with St John's Ambulance service because I like the idea that no two days would be the same and the work environment would always be fast-paced."



Kesia Jimmy and Joe Evans who took part in the NHS Careers Day at Priestley College.

Virtual Annual Property Review showcases Warrington's resilience and ambitions to 'move forward'

WARRINGTON'S Annual Property Review showcased the town's ambitions to 'move forward' despite the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Business leaders have been finding out how Warrington is looking forward with optimism to a swift, assured and ambitious recovery from the coronavirus pandemic as the town saw strong performance in industrial lettings, with the highest level of floorspace transacted since 2014.

Meanwhile, Zoopla recorded 1331 residential sales completed in Warrington during 2020, avg price £217,903 – 3.2% inc on previous year, while 9 major investment deals involved £30.46m for 58,716sqm of property, while online sales accounted for 30% of retail sales during 2020 as more people shopped online during the pandemic.

Other success stories included the opening of the Warrington Retail Market with over 50 businesses, including those involved in the food and drink sector, opening in the Time Square Development.

The launch of the 23rd Warrington Annual Property Review, entitled 'Moving Forward', took place today, Friday 23 April, providing an in-depth analysis of the Warrington property development and investment market.

Due to the ongoing Covid-19 restrictions, the Review launch was again held virtually, this year on the Microsoft Teams platform. It once again proved popular with businesses, with more than 160 signing up for the event.

The Review featured presentations of statistics and reports independently commissioned, compiled and collated by Warrington-based commercial property agents, The BE Group, who have authored the report for the past 23 years.

This year's Review demonstrates how Warrington continues to respond to the unprecedented challenges of Covid-19, with the resilience of the town's economy leaving it well placed to recover, grow and thrive.

The event format featured pre-recorded video presentations given to businesses by:

- Warrington Borough Council Chief Executive, Steven Broomhead MBE – who welcomed delegates
- Managing Director of The BE Group, Vince Sandwell – who provided the summary of the Annual Property Review
- Associate – Development & Strategic Advisory Team, Cushman & Wakefield, Heather Standidge – who provided an overview of the market

- Warrington & Co's Head of Development, John Laverick – who explained how Warrington is looking ahead to a successful future

Steven Broomhead MBE, said: "This year's Annual Property Review was another big success, providing an invaluable, independent analysis of our economic performance.

"The coronavirus pandemic has brought significant challenges for us all, and has created huge pressures for many of our businesses and communities. However, what is clear is that Warrington remains resilient in the face of the most testing circumstances.

"While we don't underestimate challenges ahead of us, our continued strong economic performance – which outstrips that of many other towns and cities – is very encouraging and gives us plenty of reason to be optimistic for the future.

"We welcomed the opportunity to once again showcase the ongoing success of our town as a place where businesses can thrive. This year's Review demonstrates that Warrington is strongly positioned to be a leading destination in the nation's economic recovery."

Successes of the past year include:

- The 2021 Centre for Cities Annual Outlook confirming Warrington as one of the towns with "strong economies which have only been marginally affected by Covid-19."
- The completion of nine major investment deals, amounting to a total disclosed investment spend of £30.46 million, across 58,716 sqm worth of property.
- Data by Zoopla indicating that a total of 1,331 residential sales were completed in Warrington throughout the year, achieving an average sale price of £217,903, a 3.2 percent increase on the previous year
- An ongoing appetite for large warehouse and distribution space in Warrington, with a strong performance in this area leading to the highest level of floorspace transacted since 2014.
- The securing of £22m in Government Town Deal funding, to deliver a range of transformative transport, infrastructure, skills, culture and wellbeing projects.
- The completion of the £19.9m Centre Park Link, a major highway project which will support Warrington's ongoing economic growth and transform journeys around one of the borough's busiest road networks
- The Council taking ownership of the flagship, £142m Time Square scheme, with the continued signing up of new, high profile

tenants supporting the ambitions to make it a premier retail, leisure and entertainment destination.

The Warrington Annual Property Review is hosted each year by Warrington & Co – the town's urban regeneration and inward investment partnership.

This year's event was sponsored by:

- Chancerygate
- Baker Mallet

- CBRE
- Falconer Chester Hall Architects
- Miller Developments
- Orbit Developments
- Pin Properties
- Cheshire & Warrington Local Enterprise Partnership
- Muse Developments
- Turner & Townsend



Queen's Awards for Enterprise

APPLICATIONS are now being sought for the Queen's Awards for Enterprise 2022.

The Queen's Award for Enterprise is seen by many as the most credible UK award out there for any business.

It has an entry deadline of 8th September this year and comes with a host of benefits, such as:

*Being able to fly the logo as a flag above your office for five years and use the emblem on your marketing materials.

*A site visit from Royal representatives to present the award.

*Invites for a leader and frontline staff member to a Royal reception at Buckingham Palace.

*Being given a Grant of Appointment and a commemorative crystal bowl.

The awards have four categories, and each is looking for something very specific indeed. There is no limit on the number of Queen's Award winners in each category.

Innovation: You have an innovation that can be defined as an invention, design or production of goods, performance of services, marketing and distribution or after-sales support of goods or services. Whichever it is, you need to ensure it has been available on the market for at least 2 years. Traditionally these awards tended to go to companies that invented and

manufactured a physical product.

International trade: You are leading your sector in exporting goods or services overseas and have had three financial years of outstanding overall financial performance and growth in exports or six financial years of strong continual growth. You must have made a minimum of £100,000 in overseas sales in the first year of your entry and show year-on-year growth.

Promoting opportunity through social mobility: You have had a social mobility programme running and can prove that your organisation has benefited from it financially. The programme needed to be something that specifically reaches out and supports people from disadvantaged backgrounds, in order to inspire and guide the best talent into their organisation and beyond. To be eligible, the programme must have been running for more than two years.

Sustainable development: You should have achieved outstanding sustainable development for at least three years. You also have evidence of the benefits or positive outcomes of your actions or interventions.

Finally, your sustainable development should align with at least one of the United Nations (UN) 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

To apply visit www.gov.uk/queens-awards-for-enterprise/how-to-apply

Radio is working from home too

So many of us are working from home now, and what are we doing more of whilst in our new home offices?

Answering the doorbell to our latest online delivery?

Stopping our cats and dogs from gatecrashing virtual meetings?

Actually, we're all listening to the radio!

In fact, new research shows that 90% of work-from-homers are listening to radio whilst working.

To reach this new, huge, work from home audience with your advertising message, get Bauer radio working for you.

Bounce Back With Bauer

FIND OUT MORE www.hitsradioadvertising.co.uk/advertise-in-the-north-west/



Export Documentation Services

As you develop your international trade activity the Warrington Chamber of Commerce can assist you with all the documentation you need to export your goods and services easily. All our staff have passed the required training to become British Chambers approved documentation officers and are able to provide the following services:

- Certification of European Certificates of Origin
- Certification and Legalisation of Arab Certificates of Origin
- Certification of agency agreements, invoices, other documents
- Certification of EUR1 movement certificates
- Certification of ATR movement certificates
- Certification of EUR-MED movement certificates
- Certification of GSP Form A preference certificates
- Advice on import and export procedures

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Whether you need to travel now or are planning on jetting off once restrictions allow, you can get your Fit to Fly (departing) and Test to Release (arriving) COVID-19 tests at Liverpool John Lennon Airport.

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New route: Liverpool to Kos with Ryanair

Situated in the Aegean Sea, Kos is home to stunning natural landscapes, an incredible coastline and some of the most important historical sites in the world.

And, starting 1 July 2021, you'll be able to fly to Kos from Liverpool with Ryanair, once international travel is permitted.

Bookings can be made at www.ryanair.com/flights/gb/en/flights-from-liverpool-to-kos

Liverpool John Lennon Airport welcomes Loganair with inaugural Derry flight

Loganair were welcomed to Liverpool John Lennon Airport ahead of the inaugural Liverpool to Derry flight.

The fire service greeted the aircraft with a water cannon salute as Captain Michael Holmes and Cabin Crew member Abbey Maxwell were on hand to join in the celebrations.

The route is North West England's only airlink to Derry, and passengers can take advantage of Loganair's summer sale when booking seats, saving 10% on over 1 million seats when using the promo code: GO10

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Please email your news stories and pictures to the Editor at our NEW email address:

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Dream comes true as Rylands take next step on journey

DREAMS do come true after Warrington Rylands 1906 won the Buildbase FA Vase at Wembley beating Binfield 3-2 on the next step of the club's journey.

Backed with promotion to the Northern Premier League and now just one division below neighbours Warrington Town, club owner and well-known sports agent Paul Stretford sees it as the next step on the club's journey.

It was a surreal experience for those who have been following Rylands, a team not so long ago which played their games in front of the proverbial one man and his dog, now playing at the National Stadium.

Teams like Rylands, a works team from Orford, do not generally get the chance to play at Wembley.

Their opponents Binfield, from a small village (population 8,000) in the Bracknell Forest probably thought much the same thing.

But play at Wembley they did, and what a treat they put on for their fans who had managed to secure a ticket to watch their team play in the flesh for the first time this year.

Cup finals are often dour affairs between two nervous teams not

wanting to take any risks, however this one as anything but. Any jitters soon disappeared as play switched from end to end as control of an open and entertaining game ebbed and flowed between two teams committed to attack.

The destination of the Vase came down to a shoot-out between two goal-hungry centre forwards.

In the blue corner Elliot Nevitt, in the red Liam Ferdinand.

Nevitt struck first in the 24th minute volleying home from close range, Ferdinand leveled with

a header three minutes before half-time but Nevitt restored his sides lead a minute later from the penalty spot. After the break Nevitt doubled Rylands advantage in the 58th minute with a powerful header before Ferdinand scored again in the 66th minute to set up a nervy finale.

Named man of the match Nevitt, who scored the winner in the FA Sunday Cup Final a week earlier, and his teammates managed to hold out to bring the FA Vase back to Warrington for the first time in the competition's history.

In fact it is the first time any Warrington team of the round ball variety has won a major national football competition.

Lifting the Vase was the culmination of probably the most significant week in the club's 115-year history as earlier in the week their elevation to the Northern Premier League was confirmed as part of the FA's league restructure.

While for many winning a cup final at Wembley is the culmination of a dream for Warrington Rylands 1906 it is just the first step on the next stage of their journey.



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