



# Insight

magazine

April/May 2019



The Journal of the

**WARRINGTON** CHAMBER OF  
COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

*in association with*  
**VR** VALE ROYAL  
The heart of Cheshire

# University students 'speed network' to secure industrial placements

SCIENCE and Engineering students at the University of Chester's Thornton Science Park had the opportunity to network with local companies and Thornton commercial tenants during the annual Speed Networking event organised by the Faculty.

The event helps first and second year students secure their industrial summer placements with local and regional companies, which could then lead to paid graduate positions.

Professor Steve Wilkinson, Head of Chemical Engineering at the University of Chester, said: "This event gives our students an important 'leg-up' on the work experience ladder which is something we believe we excel in at Chester."

## Opportunity

Approximately 60 students across Engineering and Natural Sciences programmes attended the event and had the great opportunity to meet with around 18 companies, as well as various industry representatives specialising in engineering, manufacturing and chemistry.

Dr Mike Hancock from business consultants Dee Associates gave the event a 10/10 and said it was a "great event and well organised".

Steve Bennett, from Starchaser Industries, said: "All the students I spoke to presented themselves really

well and it was difficult to choose."

The event was also attended by representatives from the University's Careers and Employability and Commercial Operations teams.

Second year Chemical Engineering student, Dan Innerdale, who secured a placement with global science and chemicals company, Johnson Matthey, at the previous Speed

Networking Event in 2018, said: "This year there was an even bigger buzz in the room, each student only had five minutes with each company so we had to be experts in presenting ourselves! My nerves soon settled down and I was offered several interesting placement projects. I feel so much more confident about interviews going forwards."

Lily Deves from the University of

Chester's Faculty of Science and Engineering, and the event's organiser, said: "This year's event was the biggest and best it has ever been. We're expecting more than 40 work placement opportunities to have come from a single evening's speed networking! Our thanks go to all those companies who came along and supported the event - and, in doing so, also supported our students."



Students being interviewed by representatives from Vynova.



Students being interviewed by representatives from Tata Steel.

# From the Chief Executive

Colin Daniels



## Travellers

**YET again we have been plagued by 'travellers' who illegally invaded the International Business Centre car park with five caravans.**

We were then required to seek a court order at a cost and pay for bailiffs to serve the order and supervise the departure of these 'travellers' who left behind a considerable amount of rubbish and human excrement. We have now in addition to bollards installed a height restriction barrier.

In the meantime we understand that the Borough Council are going to provide a permanent site for the

travellers which will be a magnet to them, the question then is when the permanent site is full where will the travellers illegally camp with all the problems which will ensue.

Very recently a group of travellers took over the car park of a Tesco extra store in Wembley, caravans, mobile homes and vans were spread over the stores car parking spaces at the London site.

This happened days after another Tesco extra store was closed down by what was described as a 'traveller' incursion.

The shop in New Malden was closed as a 'safety precaution' after police were called over criminal damage.

The Wembley supermarket is less than a half a mile from a 32 pitch 'traveller' site run by the local council.

Government counts show that there are up to 1600 unauthorised traveller encampments each summer in England & Wales.

We would urge the Council to think again.

## Trade statistics

The full trade statistics for our export of goods in 2018 have now been published by the Office of National Statistics helped by the low level of sterling our companies had a pretty good year for selling around the world. Our total exports to the rest of the EU despite Brexit were up by 4.3pc year on year for a total of £170bn but sales to the rest of the world were up by an even more impressive rising 7.3pc to £192bn.

## Unemployment at lowest level since 1975

The jobless total fell to its lowest level in 44 years at the start of 2019.

Employment increased by 222,000 in the three months to January almost double the expected growth. There are now more than 32.7m people in work, a record high.

Compared with the same time last year an extra 473,000 people are in work, the Office for National Statistics said full time employment accounted for 90pc of the increase. Unemployment fell to 3.9pc, the first time it has dipped below 4pc since

the start of 1975.

Companies are still keen to take on more workers. The ONS found 854,000 vacancies available slipping a touch from its record high in the three months to January, but still the second highest level ever seen.

# 100 year-old Chamber Year Books unearthed

**AN insight into life in Warrington around 100 years ago has been uncovered during the ongoing renovation works being carried out to the town's cenotaph on Bridge Foot.**

During the removal of the lower section of the cenotaph, two time capsules were found - and the contents of one included Chamber of Commerce Year books dating from 1917 and 1918!

Unfortunately one of these had suffered extreme water damage and was beyond salvage, however the second time capsule was in very good condition.

Items recovered include two local newspapers dated 10th of October 1925, along with two Chamber of Commerce Year Books, old one pence pieces and a tram token.

A spokesperson for the Cenotaph project team said: "The contents will be shared publically very soon with the project team working with

other sections and the museum to investigate how and where these can be displayed."

Meanwhile all of the stonework, including plaques and the actual cenotaph monument have now been removed to a safe storage location.

Works have now started on constructing the sheet piles to the river bank in order to carry out stabilisation of the area.

Removal of the Cenotaph monument is required in order to complete piling to stabilise the river bank. The scheme is expected to be completed for Remembrance Day 2019.

The objective is to structurally improve the supporting river bank and wall that's situated to the north of the Cenotaph.

The scheme also involves upgrading the appearance around the monument, including improvements

to paving, lighting and general access.

The scheme is being delivered on a design and build basis by contractors Balfour Beatty through the Scape Civil Engineering and Infrastructure Framework.

Balfour Beatty has engaged with the consultants Ramboll Ltd who have a specialist team of professionals with experience in delivering high profile heritage projects.

The Cenotaph is a Grade II listed monument and is part of the Bridge Street Conservation Area. Listed Building Consent and planning permission were required for the improvement works to take place.

The budget for the scheme is anticipated to be around £1.1m, which will be refined as the project develops. All expenditure is subject to Executive Board approval.



Registered in England No. 2964304

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: Colin Daniels  
International Trade Advisor: Tricia Francis  
Office Manager: Gail McGough  
Administration: Charlene Haslam  
Editor / Group PR: Gary Skentelbery  
Design / Production: Paul Walker

The views expressed by correspondents and contributors to this magazine are not necessarily those of the Warrington Chamber of Commerce & Industry. Whilst our best endeavours have been made to ensure the accuracy of the information contained in this magazine, we do not accept liability for any inaccuracy or omission contained therein.

Colin Daniels, Chief Executive

# Celebrating 20 years of warrington-worldwide online

**WARRINGTON Borough Council Chief Executive Steven Broomhead took a trip down memory lane as he reflected on the changes which have taken place in the town over the past 20 years, since the launch of the first independent online news service in the country in 1999.**

Describing warrington-worldwide as the "social glue of the town" Mr Broomhead praised the publication for the way it had adapted to changes in the media over the years and for being "a fair and critical friend of the town."

"The media has changed and hardly anybody buys newspapers now – newsagents can't even deliver one to the town hall anymore," he said.

Mr Broomhead, who first arrived in Warrington as the youngest principal in the country at Warrington Collegiate in 1994, later becoming chief executive at the council in 1997, before moving on to the North West Development Agency, returning to the town hall in 2012, says the internet has been the biggest change over the past 20 years.

"We have had to learn to react to instant media and to change the way we respond," he said.

Another big change had been the development of the Omega site, which six years ago was little more than a disused airfield but now had

created 6,000 new jobs.

Mr Broomhead concluded that warrington-worldwide had adapted well to change, played an important role in the success of Warrington and been a "great advocate of Warrington."

Twenty years of warrington-worldwide online coincides with the 20th anniversary of Lymm Life magazine, the first of six local publications published by local publishers Orbit News, who celebrated their 50th anniversary last year.

Meanwhile warrington-worldwide magazine will be celebrating 20 years in the town this coming September.

Anyone with a news story or a business to promote in the town should email [info@warrington-worldwide.co.uk](mailto:info@warrington-worldwide.co.uk)



Steven Broomhead with Warrington Worldwide Editor Gary Skentelbery. Image credit: Matt Dempsey MD Media

## Council approve local plan and prepare to consult public

Warrington Borough Council's 'Proposed Submission Version', or draft, Local Plan has been approved, paving the way to a nine-week period of public consultation, which will begin on Monday 15 April.

The council say the consultation period will give everyone in Warrington the opportunity to have their say on the plan, by completing an online response form, or by attending the public consultation events – details of which will be released in the near future.

Warrington Borough Council Leader, Cllr Russ Bowden, said: "Our Local Plan will be hugely influential in shaping Warrington's future. Everyone who lives and works here will be affected by the Plan and what it sets out to achieve – which is a more prosperous future for our borough."

"Now Full Council has given the go-ahead to consult on our draft Local Plan, we can begin the next important stage of the process, which is talking and listening to the people of Warrington."

"The consultation period officially begins on 15 April, but we want to provide people with as much information as possible before then. The draft Plan is available to view on the Council's website, right now. We will also be writing to households in the borough with full details of the consultation and the public events we will be holding."

Drawn up in accordance with Government planning guidance, and informed by feedback from the public, the draft plan sets out the legal planning framework for the borough's development over the next two decades.

It aims to deliver 18,900 new homes (or 945 per year), until 2037. It also aims to support Warrington's ongoing economic growth by making 362 hectares of employment land available.

The minimum number of new homes set by the Government exceeds the amount of urban and brownfield land available in Warrington. The plan, therefore, proposes unlocking some areas of Green Belt land for development to provide more homes and employment land.

Detailed work carried out by the Council has found that it is possible to deliver approximately 14,000 new homes and 111 hectares of employment in existing urban areas. This means that the remainder of land for housing and employment would need to be released from the Green Belt.

The council say the draft Local Plan will ensure that the infrastructure required to support Warrington's growth will be appropriately phased with new development.

For more information, and to read the draft Local Plan, visit [warrington.gov.uk/localplan](http://warrington.gov.uk/localplan)



# Sensational night of dance raises over £61,000 for St. Rocco's!

**WARRINGTON Chamber Director Keith Robertson put on his dancing shoes to take part in the annual Strictly St Rocco's event - which raised a staggering £61,000 for the local charity.**

It was billed to be a night of sass, sparkle and sequins and it certainly didn't disappoint!

Strictly St. Rocco's 2018, sponsored by Rybrook Jaguar, burst onto the dance floor at the Mere Golf Resort & Spa before Christmas with 10 brave amateur dancers putting their best foot forward with their professional partners from Cadmans Dance Centre in front of 400 guests to raise much needed funds to support patient care at the Warrington-based hospice.

The volunteer dancers have been hard at work over the last few months, not only perfecting their routines, but raising vital sponsorship to help St. Rocco's to continue to deliver its care. Jan Costello, patient at St. Rocco's Vitality Centre shared with guests the difference that the care she has received has made to her. By the end of the evening over £61,000 had been raised through the dancers' fundraising efforts and through the generosity of guests on the night.

## Impressed

The standard of the dancing this year was as high as ever and certainly impressed the four judges, Victoria Bennett, Principal of Cadmans, Ian Mackinnon, patron of St. Rocco's and previous Strictly St. Rocco's dancer, Karen Speers, principal of AT Dance and Ralph Casson, actor and dancer. This year two contestants, Andrea Hildrup dancing the quickstep and Liz Williamson dancing the Paso Doble both scored 4 perfect tens.

Once the audience votes had been combined with the judges scores it was Liz and her partner Lewis Crowder, who were crowned Strictly St. Rocco's 2018 champions, with Emile Kreisler and his dance partner Amy Hancock runners up with their jive.

And then it was over to the audience as Chris Millward and Victoria Bennett from Cadmans led the traditional mass merengue before everyone danced the night away to the sound of the Chris O'Grady Roadshow.

## Thrilled

"This is the sixth year of Strictly St. Rocco's and we are thrilled to have raised over £61,000 to help our patients and families," said Rachel Ingham, Fundraising Manager for St. Rocco's.

"Our dancers have worked so hard to master their dances and

to raise an incredible amount of sponsorship. They have been so supportive of each other and we couldn't be more proud of every one of them. Without people in the Warrington community coming together to support our patients and families in ways like this we simply would not be able to continue to deliver our care. We'd like to say a big thank you to everyone who has contributed to the success of this year's event."

Thoughts are already turning to Strictly St. Rocco's 2019 so keep an eye out to see who will be in next year's Strictly spotlight. In the meantime if you would like to help staff at St. Rocco's make Christmas special for patients and families this year, you can make donation to their Christmas Appeal at [www.stroccos.org.uk](http://www.stroccos.org.uk).

The full line up of amateur dancers, professional partners and dances was as follows:

Andrea Hildrup – Teacher, St. Wilfred's CE Primary School, Grappenhall dancing the Quick Step with professional partner Callam Thomson

Keith Robertson - Director & Independent Financial Adviser, Harrington Robertson Wealth Management Limited dancing the American Smooth with professional partner Holly Hewitt

Sarah Derbyshire – Business Manager, McDonald's dancing the samba with professional partner Alex Whyatt

Shaun McDermott – Contract Manager, Torus Housing dancing the Charleston with professional partner Natalie Goodier

Caz Clair – Lead Complementary Therapist, St. Rocco's Hospice dancing the Waltz with professional partner Michael Champion

Adey Lummis – Barber, The Original Barbershop, Stockton Heath dancing the Cha, Cha, Cha with professional partner Leah Hughes

Alison Moody – General Manager, Manflex Ltd dancing the Tango with professional partner Chris Millward

Daniel Lee – Head of Clinical Negligence, Clear Law dancing the Salsa with professional partner Georgina Burke

Liz Williamson – Corporate Bank Manager, Handelsbanken dancing the Paso Doble with professional partner Lewis Crowder

Emile Kreisler – Managing Director, Smithfields, Stockton Heath dancing the Jive with professional partner Amy Hancock



# Paid internships opportunities available for local businesses

**A NUMBER of five and 10 week internships are being offered through the University of Chester, as part of the Eco-Innovation Cheshire and Warrington project which is part-funded by the European Regional Development Fund.**

Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs) based in Cheshire and Warrington have the opportunity to find potential future employees and to benefit from the latest knowledge in techniques and technology from recent graduates.

The project's aim is to increase and strengthen the low carbon, renewables and environmental goods and services sector. The internships will be tailored to the business's needs with a cost to the business of £150 per week.

Tinna Arnardottir, Project Manager of Eco-Innovation, said: "The internships are a great way for businesses to work with the University of Chester and to make changes to their work environment for a sustainable future."

The eco internships are part of the

Chester Internship Programme which is run by the University of Chester.

A number of local businesses have already benefitted from the programme, including Laurie Wills, Director of Element Sustainability Ltd. She said: "Recruitment has proven to be a costly, difficult part of our business and this internship programme provides an excellent introduction to talented graduates."

"Our hope was that we'd find someone suitable for permanent employment - which we did - but if this wasn't the case, then both the

intern and employer would have still benefitted from the experience.

"It is a win-win situation. We received good support from the University of Chester Careers team which made the whole process simple to understand and progress."

Businesses looking for a researcher to carry out a project or even a graduate to assess the company business plan, to include a low carbon aspect, can visit the Eco-Innovation website [www.chester.ac.uk/ecoinnovation](http://www.chester.ac.uk/ecoinnovation) for more information.



A number of five and 10 week internships are being offered through the University of Chester. Image credit: Getty Images.

## An exciting new look for Blue Whale Media

The Blue Whale office has been going full swing and preparations for the St Helens business fair well underway. Through all of the hustle and bustle, it's great to stand back for a moment and really appreciate all of the hard work that our exceptionally talented team have put into these two projects. We're delighted with the outcome so far, and we're hoping that our clients will be just as excited about the new and improved Blue Whale Media.

### Rebranding Blue Whale Media

With a new year came a new image. With new additions to the Blue Whale Team, it felt about time for an upgrade. A rebrand may sound like a simple process, but it has been all hands on deck to ensure

that the rebrand is done before the business fair.

First and foremost, we decided on an overall branding image and colour palette, using these ideas to build our new brand guidelines. Once these were drafted, each member of our team had their guide on how to produce new Blue Whale Media content.

Our website has been undergoing some very interesting changes. Our brilliant videography and photography team have been hard at work, creating new and exciting imagery for our new site. Along with beautiful photography from around the office, all of our team have had their photograph taken for our new 'meet the team' page. We think that they came out great, and our staff

members look great!

Not only is our website going through a complete overhaul, but everything that carries the Blue Whale Media name is too. Our business cards, roller banners and leaflets have all had a makeover to fit in with our new brand guidelines. Our next step is to refresh to office in our new colours and branding, so watch this space! All of our team are excited to show off our new branding to our clients and partners at the St Helens Business Fair.

### St Helens Business Fair

The clock has been counting down to the next St Helens Chamber of Commerce business fair, and the whole team has been preparing and planning the perfect way to

showcase all of the work that we do. We work tirelessly on every project that comes our way, and we want this to be represented in our work at the business fair. We plan to offer promotional offers to potential clients, run demonstrations of our fantastic drone and build connections with local businesses. The office is buzzing with excitement about getting out there and speaking to people about the business that we love, so if you spot a member of our team at the business fair, don't hesitate to come and say hi!

We're excited about these changes and are looking forward to what the next month brings for our business, and how our work and team will settle into the new brand guidelines.



# New meet, eat and work destination to drive innovation at Birchwood Park

**PATRIZIA-managed Birchwood Park, the North West's leading out-of-town business destination is proud to be launching Warrington's first-of-its-kind, all day, eat and meet working destination, set to promote collaboration and wellbeing amongst the park's 6,000 occupiers.**

The park, which was established 20 years ago and is currently home to more than 165 businesses and organisations from Dr Schär to Wood Group, has transformed its central hub into an integrated meet, eat and work space, offering the very best facilities for park occupiers and general public alike.

## Transformation

The brand new business hub was unveiled on Monday 4th March, after a £850,000 investment. The transformation will see a brand new trend-led interior, bringing a relaxed, open-plan area to the site and encouraging all-day use with the facilities opening from 7am until 5pm, Monday to Friday.

The innovative space has been renamed 'the EngineRooms', to align with the new modern look and feel of the space. It reflects a new identity for the new all day meet, eat and work concept – a place to fuel your body and work your mind.

## Carefully-crafted

Designed by Birchwood Park occupier, interior design and architectural firm, DV8 Designs, the EngineRooms is a carefully-crafted and forward-thinking concept, which combines the relaxed ambience of a hotel business lounge, the sociability of a co-working space and ultra-modern food hall, offering the best of Europe's food market-style dining.

Managing Director of DV8 Designs, Lee Birchall said: "As a team we wanted to wow occupiers and visitors with the new design aesthetically, but as park residents we were all in agreement that the design process also had to be experience-led, we wanted to make it work in a practical and convenient way for the busy people who spend

time here.

"There is nothing like this around for eating, meeting and working socially, so we know it will attract talent and business from all over the UK and we're proud to have been involved."

The transformation of Birchwood Park's central hub dovetails into its ethos of driving innovation and wellbeing amongst its occupiers and its emphasis on retaining its talent, whilst attracting new businesses.

## Development

Martin O'Rourke, commercial director at Birchwood Park comments: "The development of the Engine Rooms is our most exciting renovation on the park to date, and we can't wait to see our occupiers and the wider business community using it.

"We're committed to ensuring that Birchwood Park remains at the forefront of innovation – continuing to drive occupier retention and attract the next generation of

business talent. With easy access from the M62, ample parking, and fast WiFi, the Engine Rooms will become a premier destination in the North West for all-day meeting, eating and working – anyone is welcome to work from the EngineRooms, from as little as the price of a coffee."

Martin continued: "We know that there is no one-size-fits-all approach to the workplace and, while we're proud of the park's growth over the last 20 years, we're ready to up our game throughout 2019."

"The refurbishment of the Engine Rooms is just the first step towards our wider ambition to completely disrupt expectations when it comes to becoming the best out-of-town all day eat and meet co-working destination."

In 2018, Birchwood Park celebrated 20 years of growth. Since 1998 the park has almost tripled in size, providing 1.1million square feet of office and warehouse space and accommodating over 165 businesses.

# Production Arts students step into the limelight



**STUDENTS from Priestley College now make up more than 10% of those accepted onto one of the UK's leading theatre production courses.**

Dave Roxburgh, Course Leader for Theatre Production at Guildford School of Acting, said Priestley College's backstage talent had impressed him.

He said: The course regularly recruits students from Priestley College. GSA regard their students as both highly motivated and well prepared for professional training.

As of October 2018, Priestley graduates represent over 10% of the students at the GSA production programme.

"The connection between Priestley and GSA is now well established and I look forward to a long and prosperous relationship."

Every year dozens of young performers reach the country's top theatre schools after studying A-Levels and BTECs in dance, drama and musical theatre at Priestley.

Now that success is being replicated

behind the scenes as those students with a passion for sound mixing, lighting and set construction are also stealing some of the limelight.

Tutor Mark Edgington said the opportunities to stage their own productions was setting Priestley students apart from their peers.

"The talent on stage is matched by the professionalism and skill of our production artists," he said.

"They are confident enough by the end of their time at college to manage the production of a

performance with little, if any, guidance from tutors."

Among those in this year's cohort who are aiming to study at Guildford School of Acting is Aaron Cartwright.

The former Irlam and Cadishead College pupil said: "I am hoping to go on to become a sound operator and work on shows across the world.

"The opportunities I've had at Priestley have put me in good standing for university and I hope the lessons from both will enable me to achieve my goal in the industry."

## ***New transmitter to give Radio Warrington a boost***

Radio Warrington – the town's community radio station – will soon be available to more listeners than ever before.

The not-for-profit station is taking delivery of a new transmitter at its site in Great Sankey.

This will allow a stronger signal on 1332am, better quality sound and a greater reach to its audience.

Radio Warrington is wholly run by volunteers from studios in Warrington Market. It has been broadcasting 24 hours a day since March 2007 in digital stereo online and since May 2016 on 1332 medium wave.

It broadcasts national and local news, sport, local topic and events and music. Its outside broadcast team visits local events and of course there is music, including locally produced and specialist music.

The new transmitter will enable many more people to hear the station on the medium way.

Radio Warrington is keen to hear from any local people who want to get involved in running the station, either on air or behind the scenes.

For more information about getting involved visit [www.radiowarrington.co.uk](http://www.radiowarrington.co.uk)



## New Pub & Grill now open at Village Hotel

**THE Village Hotel has undergone a major refurbishment with the opening of the brand new Pub & Grill, taking recent investment to over £1m.**

The new facility provides all day dining facilities alongside big screen TVs for sports fans, alongside a plush dining area for those who prefer a more intimate dining experience.

As well as the traditional big screens at the bar, there is also a mini cinema with 10 theatre seats and a 99 inch screen, to help with the big match experience.

Centre piece is a brand new bar serving a variety of drinks to suit all tastes, while the dining area also boasts a "living moss" wall as one

of its features.

The latest investment comes on the back of a major refurbishment to the leisure club facilities, taking recent spending to over £1m.

General Manager Donn Timmons said: "We have done a full refurbishment spending more than £1m in the last 12 months - and we are not finished yet!

"We are now open all day long with our new menu. We have our traditional menus but we are also at the cutting edge and have now introduced the latest technology so customers can order their food through our new tablets.

"We also have the village app so everyone can order their food on their phones."



# HOT NEW GRILL COOL NEW PUB

Village Hotel Warrington  
Pub and Grill  
Now Open



VillageHotels.com

VILLAGE HOTEL  
WARRINGTON  
Centre Park,  
Warrington WA1 1QA  
01925 377540

VILLAGE  
HOTEL CLUB

# Student entrepreneur's sustainable co-operative sweeps the board

**A STUDENT-LED business has swept the board at the Young Enterprise Student Start-up Regional Finals with an initiative which will help support communities in North Africa.**

Set up by second year Global Entrepreneurship and Business Management student Jessica Kelly, 21, from Delamere, The Goat Tree is an argan oil co-operative, founded after a summer business trip to Morocco. The Fairtrade business will produce sustainably sourced 100% argan oil with no additives. Jessica will reinvest 20% of her profits back into forming education systems to help the 40% of Moroccan women who are illiterate and animal welfare projects for the donkeys that are abandoned at the end of their working life.

The Goat Tree beat stiff competition from other North West university businesses to progress to the next stage of the competition and represent the region in the national finals in May. Not only did it win Best North West Student Start Up, it also won Best Trade Stand and Managing Director Jessica was named North West Enterprise Student of the Year.

Dr Connie Hancock, Associate Professor and Head of the Department of Business and Finance at the University's Business School, said: "Our students really were fabulous and are proof of the importance of practical, applied learning and innovative assessment.

"Well done to 'The Goat Tree' and Jessica Kelly and many thanks to all colleagues who teach and support on programmes in the Business School."

Jessica has been supported by fellow University student Ayoup Jarrai in her business endeavours.

Jessica said: "This is my passion

which is driving the business start-up and we hope that we can communicate that through our product and brand. I would not be able to do this without my business partner and operation and sales director, Ayoup Jarrai, who has been so supportive.

"I wanted to win for my lecturer, Dr Connie Hancock, who is such an inspiration. I am proud to represent the University and I hope that people see our passion for what we do. We will soon have our website

launched and are in the process of updating our social media sites, so keep an eye out."

Andy Firr, Young Enterprise Start Up Manager said "Goat Tree will be fantastic ambassadors to represent the region. Their success is testament to their vision, passion and hard work. Young Enterprise is proud to be chosen and trusted by a number of colleges and universities to provide the operating framework, wrap-around mentor and business partner support that has enabled

400 North West students to set up and run their own business this year. Many of our Start Up students go on to successful careers and we look forward to following Jessica and Ayoup's future progress."

The Global Entrepreneurship and Business Management degree involves planning and setting up a business in the second year of the course. To find out more visit [www1.chester.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/business-management-entrepreneurship/201909](http://www1.chester.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/business-management-entrepreneurship/201909)



Ayoup Jarrai and Jessica Kelly with all three awards. Image credit: Mike Black

## Celebrations once again as Procurement and Supply students relish top exam results

Students carrying out their CIPS qualifications with Neil Fuller Associates Ltd are celebrating following their most recent exam results being published.

Neil Fuller Associates, a CIPs approved training provider have guided their students through their exams to see them achieve outstanding results right across CIPS levels; from Diploma, Advanced Diploma to Professional Diploma. All students benefited from being able to study via the Neil Fuller Associates Chartered Institute of Procurement and Supply Centres of Excellence in Liverpool and the Wirral. Further excitement ensued after Neil Fuller Associates Head of Business & Director Steve Lovatt went on to confirm another Centre of Excellence has also opened.

The approved training provider has relished seeing their dedicated students take positive steps to achieving their CIPS qualifications. And the MCIPS lecturers have delivered amazingly once more, to see exceptional results with an 85% pass rate which is well above the national average and cements their Centre of Excellence status furthermore.

### Wonderful

Stephen Lovatt, Head of Business & Director, described the results as a "a wonderful demonstration that top buyers can be found in Warrington, and surrounding areas".

"Whether you're just starting out on your CIPS journey, or close to achieving your MCIPS status, we as a company are so pleased and so

proud that we have topics that suit all professionals, where ever they may be on that CIPS journey. We feel so excited to know that we are helping talented, local professionals achieve their dreams".

He continued, "every organisation relies on effective procurement to ensure the smooth running of their business. We are delighted to be at the epicentre of a flourishing business commerce of Warrington. Our unique training centre location means we are very lucky to be in exceptional company with our cohorts. It's an exciting combination of very talented, local people".

"The procurement talent pool in Warrington brings exciting times for businesses and for our students who will prove the everyday importance of supply chain management for

every business".

### Advantage

CIPS qualifications are designed to equip learners with the knowledge of organisational procedures and processes to build strategic direction and stakeholder management. Warrington based students have made the short journey to the Wirral and Liverpool centres to study, and also taken advantage of being able to self-study, or approach the topics as Distance Learning students so they can commit to busy work schedules whilst also being able to study for their exams.

MCIPS is a globally recognised qualification and CIPS is the most prestigious institute in the world for those working in procurement and supply to be a part of.



# Alicia's Army launch Friday Feeling Starlight t-shirt

**A GROUP of 19 ladies walking together in the St. Rocco's Starlight Ladies Walk on Friday June 21 were the first to reveal this year's Friday Feeling Starlight T-shirt.**

They will all be walking in memory of Alicia Callaghan and say she would be furious if she knew she was missing out on being part of their fabulous team for this year's event.

Alicia from Latchford, passed away after being cared for by staff at St. Rocco's in September last year, aged 37.

However, she left a wealth of love and affection behind her which has motivated her friends and close family, including her Mum Frances, daughter Lily, sisters Sadie and Emily and niece Madalyn to form a team in her memory for this year's walk.

Before she died Alicia was determined to make great memories and travelled widely including trips to Malta, Tenerife,

Portugal and New York, as well as having the honeymoon they'd never had with her husband, Richard.

She called her friends her 'jigsaw pieces'. The Christmas before she died she gave them all key rings in the shape of an individual jigsaw piece inscribed with their names. All the individual pieces fit together to make a complete puzzle.

"Alicia was a lovely, warm and funny person, adored by everyone who knew her. She was determined to make the best of things," said her friend, Kim Rowan, "She would hate to be missing out on the walk, especially as St. Rocco's was close to her heart."

They have all come together to walk as Alicia's Army and were thrilled to be the first walkers to get a glimpse of this year's Friday Feeling Starlight T-shirt. In a departure from previous year's the new T-shirt is bright orange, making all the ladies even more visible as they walk the new route around Warrington from midnight on 21st June.

As in previous year's the walkers will set off and finish at the Livewire Orford Jubilee Hub, but for the first time the route will come right past St. Rocco's where there will be the opportunity to pause and remember loved ones.

Registration costs £15 until the

end of April and is a great way of bringing together friends and family for a girl's night out. You can sign up now at [www.starlightladieswalk.co.uk](http://www.starlightladieswalk.co.uk).

If you'd like to sponsor Alicia's Army you can do so at [www.justgiving.com/companyteams/walkforalicia](http://www.justgiving.com/companyteams/walkforalicia).



# A web company that's a little different

HERE at Aspire, we like to think we're a little different. 'What?!' I hear you say 'I've seen that lot and they all look pretty normal to me'. You're right, we are - most of us anyway.

We provide websites and social media services for small to medium sized businesses in the Warrington area, just like a number of other companies do. So how are we different? We're not different in a 'sit down on a bean bag and drink this wheatgrass smoothie while we

compare your business to a piece of cheese' kind of different. No, we're straight talking, we do what we say we will and we won't tell you stuff that isn't true. Admittedly that doesn't sound very exciting but you wouldn't believe some of the stories we hear. Here are a few of the recurring ones.

Have you ever experienced anything like this?

I can never get hold of my web developer. I leave messages and nobody ever replies!

## Maintenance

A number of companies report having a lovely new website built and then it's impossible to get any changes made, sometimes even when they're paying for an ongoing maintenance contract. What we like to do is put you in charge of your own content, so you don't need to ask us to change it! Every website we build comes with a 1:1 content management training session included and we'll leave you with a handy reference document as a reminder of what you've learnt in the session.

When you do need us to make changes, we're usually able to get them done within a couple of days, even if you don't have a maintenance contract with us. At Aspire we operate a helpdesk manned 9-5 so you can always get hold of us.

Problems with website updates are particularly common when a friend or family member has created the site as a favour. It sounds like a great idea but once the site has been built the kind developer will move onto something else and you'll feel that they've done already enough to help you so you can't ask for more.

TIP: When you have a website built, make sure there is an adequate level of ongoing support available to you.

My domain name has been registered in the developer's name, not mine!

## Development

We've had cases where a web development company has ceased trading and the owners are not contactable. This situation often leaves the customer with no control at all over their website. If the domain is registered in the customer's name, as it should be, getting control of the domain and pointing it to a new website or holding page isn't too much of a problem. However there have been occasions when the developer has registered it in their own name rather than the customer's. In this case without a lengthy legal battle it's virtually impossible to get control of a domain name that might be vital for your company website and email accounts.

At Aspire, as a matter of policy, we always register domains using our clients' names and contact details.

TIP: Always check that domains are registered with your contact details as the registrant.

My developer charges me

monthly for SEO (search engine optimisation). I can't see what they're doing for that money.

Search engine optimisation is the practice of refining your website to be more attractive and accessible to search engines. The aim is that this kind of refinement will help your website rank more highly within organic search results for the key search phrases your customers are using.

Sometimes SEO involves changes you can see on the page, such as re-worded text, and sometimes it involves changes behind the scenes that only web robots can see.

In some cases, there is no evidence of any change to websites, either in the content or behind the scenes, covered by a monthly SEO contract. It is extremely difficult to work out exactly what the customer is paying for in this situation, even though the developer sends them a pretty monthly report full of coloured bar charts.

Even for websites where regular SEO changes are visible, there can be very little benefit in just stuffing keywords into page content for the sake of it. In fact, Google now recognises the tactic and counts it as a negative, rather than the positive result being aimed for.

## Informative

We advise customers to get their content right first time; readable, relevant, accurate, useful and informative for human visitors. Don't think you can 'beat' Google by using underhand tactics - they're onto you!

Once your content is right for your target audience, definitely add more and always keep it up to date so that it reflects your business as it grows and changes. Bear in mind that there is nothing to be gained by rewriting the same content in a slightly different way just to make Google think it's fresh. Tactics like that are a complete waste of time in our opinion.

TIP: If your developer is charging you for monthly services (SEO or otherwise) make sure you know exactly what they are doing for the money.

If I change website developer, they'll need to build me a whole

new website.

This is usually rubbish and is just said because, as well as making them more money, the new developer feels more comfortable doing things their own way.

Unless your website is built using bespoke software that's not widely used, another developer should be able to pick it up and maintain it (assuming they have been granted full access to the site files).

## Security

This is particularly easy to do for websites built using WordPress software. WordPress can easily be transferred between web servers and developers. We often take over hosting and/or maintenance of websites developed by others. The only stipulation we make is that we set up our own security measures on any website we take on. We don't want to put the other client sites on our server at risk, and we really don't like the idea of your site getting hacked on our watch!

TIP: If you move web developer, you don't necessarily need a new website

So that's it. We aim to make working with us hassle free and a pleasant experience, which might seem dull to some, but we just like to get the job done, calmly, efficiently and professionally.

If you're looking for a new web or social media partner, give Roz or Sophie a call on 01925 251143.

Aspire Computers are also very tedious in our provision of excellent IT support and hardware. No dramas or traumas, we just focus on getting the job done well, and we're there when you need us.

Contact the Aspire team now to find out about website development, social media management, IT support and hardware.

Aspire Computers Ltd.  
Suite 2, Central House  
Central Way, Winwick Street  
Warrington, WA2 7TT  
www.aspire-computers.com  
Tel: 01925 251143



## Offshore wind energy to provide a third of UK electricity by 2030

CLEAN, green offshore wind is set to power more than 30% of British electricity by 2030, Energy and Clean Growth

Minister Claire Perry announced with the launch of the new joint Government-industry Offshore Wind Sector Deal.

This deal involving £250m, including new Offshore Wind Growth Partnership to develop the UK supply chain, will mean for the first time in UK history there will be more electricity from renewables than fossil fuels, with 70% of British electricity predicted to be from low carbon sources by 2030.

This the tenth sector deal from the modern Industrial Strategy signed by Business Secretary Greg Clark. It is backed by UK renewables companies and marks a revolution in the offshore wind industry, which 20 years ago was only in its infancy. It could see the number of jobs triple to 27,000 by 2030.

The deal will also:

- Increase the sector target for the amount of UK content in homegrown offshore wind projects to 60%, making sure that the £557 million pledged by the Government in July 2018 for further clean power auctions over the next ten years will directly benefit local communities from Fife to the Isle of Wight;
- UK government alongside the deal will provide over £4 million pounds for British business to share expertise globally and open new markets for UK industry through a technical assistance programme to help countries like Indonesia, Vietnam, Pakistan and the Philippines skip dirty coal power and develop their own offshore wind projects

# Tickets sell out in just four hours for Warrington Music Festival

**THOUSANDS** of tickets for the first day of the free Warrington Music Festival have been snapped up in record time with huge demand causing the website to briefly crash.

Tickets were released at 9am on Friday 22 March and by 1.10pm, every one of the 2,800 free tickets had been claimed.

Ian Cox, Centre Director at Golden Square Shopping Centre, said: "The response has been phenomenal. As soon as we announced that we were bringing Shaun Ryder's Black Grape to headline the event there was a huge buzz of excitement across social media and once the tickets were made available the interest only grew further.

"The demand for the ticketed event was so huge that our website briefly crashed but we soon managed to get it back up and running, so people could register for their tickets," he said. "It's been an amazing few hours and we're all absolutely thrilled that this year's Warrington Music Festival is already gearing up to be the most popular yet."

Golden Square and Warrington BID will be hosting the two-day free event at the shopping centre's Old Market Square on Saturday 4 and Sunday 5 May. The bank holiday week of live music will feature performances from Shaun Ryder's

Black Grape, The Farm, Fez and Clint Boon on the Saturday evening and more than 20 up-and-coming bands on the Sunday.

Ian added, "Whilst the Saturday evening tickets have been snapped up, it's worth remembering that the Sunday event is open to everyone between 12pm and 11pm, and

really makes for a great start to the bank holiday."

Dawn Smyth, Chair of the Warrington BID said "The Warrington BID are delighted to be involved with an event of this nature. It will bring visitors into the town from far and wide to not only enjoy the festival but also everything the town has

to offer.

"There are some really big acts lined up which once again shows Warrington's draw when attracting performers. This is just the beginning of the events and festivals the BID will be looking to help deliver in Warrington over the coming months and years.



The Farm.



Shaun Ryder's Black Grape.



# University to host evening with Warrington Wolves

**UNIVERSITY of Chester Warrington Campus have announced their first Public Lecture event of 2019 - an evening with the Warrington Wolves.**

'An Evening with Warrington Wolves' will take place on Tuesday 30th April in the Lance Dobson Hall at the Warrington Campus starting at 6.30pm. Free tea and coffee will be served from 6.00pm.

Warrington Wolves' Chief Executive - Karl Fitzpatrick, Chairman - Stuart Middleton, Vice Chairman

- Professor Steven Broomhead and Head Coach - Steve Price will be interviewed about their future plans for the Club.

Following the interview there will be an opportunity for the audience to ask questions.

The evening is free to attend, but booking is essential. To secure a place please click the link below to book a ticket:

[www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/an-evening-with-warrington-wolves-tickets-57099438959](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/an-evening-with-warrington-wolves-tickets-57099438959)

## Fly to Vienna direct from Liverpool!

Liverpool John Lennon Airport has announced that Laudamotion will be operating flights from Liverpool to Vienna, starting at the end of October 2019.

The historic capital city of Austria should be on everyone's bucket list. Flights will depart twice weekly, on Mondays and Fridays.

## 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

(This service is available electronically)

Chamber members receive a

# 50% discount

on all European certification, EUR1 and ATR services.

## Call 01925 715150

for more information and details of our prices.

## Advertising Rates

Eighth Page	£75+VAT
Quarter Page	£188+VAT
Half Page	£250+VAT
Full Page	£313+VAT

Chamber members

# 20% DISCOUNT

The copy deadline for the next edition of Insight magazine is

## May 22nd

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

[info@warrington-chamber.co.uk](mailto:info@warrington-chamber.co.uk)

# Wolves' boss drops in on town's bus company

**WARRINGTON** Wolves head coach Steve Price met with the senior leadership at the town's bus company – and shared what drives him.

He explained what his leadership values and lessons are – and stressed the importance of building a team around trust, honest and shared values.

Steve also signed at Wolves' shirt, which will be presented to the bus company employee who gets the best customer commendation

during February.

Ben Wakerley, managing director of Warrington's Own Buses said: "Steve is an exceptional leader, who is charismatic and driven to succeed.

"Steve generously gave his time to inspire us and we were pleased to learn that he is one of our customers.

"We are one of the biggest employers in Warrington, with many Wolves fans who were delighted to see Steve at our offices today."



(left to right): Ben Wakerley, David Woods, Andy McDermott, Stephen Stringer, Steve Price and Lee Marsden.

## Free fire safety event

Cheshire Fire & Rescue Service will be hosting an event on April 9 to educate and inform responsible/designated persons on the requirements under the Fire Safety Order when hiring community rooms or planning events.

The aim of the seminar is in response to several enquiries from community groups, scouts, guides, schools, etc. The sessions will provide an opportunity to gather advice and offers responsible/designated persons the opportunity to ask questions specifically relating to their group.

There will also be the opportunity to look at risk assessments and take part in short workshops that will inform and educate how these are best completed. Particular interest will be paid to activities that include persons sleeping in community rooms, church halls and school halls where the original purpose of the hall is not for sleeping. Extra fire detection and fire evacuation processes should be in place when sleep-overs are taking place and this workshop will advise you on the 'what', 'how', 'why' this is necessary. The agenda is as follows:

- 09:00 - 09:30 Registration (tea and coffee provided)
- 09:30 - 09:35 Introduction and welcome to Cheshire Fire & Rescue Service
- 09:35 - 09:45 Introduction to the Regulatory Reform Fire Safety Order 2005

- Identifying the responsible person
- 09:45 - 09:50 Risk - Exercise introduction
- 09:50 - 10:05 Looking at identifying risks
- 10:05 - 10:20 Looking at putting measures in place to address the risks
- 10:20 - 10:35 Risk - Exercise debrief
- 10:35 - 10:50 Who is at risk - Exercise introduction
- 10:50 - 11:00 Measures to ensure risks reduced
- 11:00 - 11:15 Who is at risk - Exercise debrief
- 11:15 - 11:35 'What if' - Exercise introduction
- 11:35 - 11:55 Measures to deal with additional risk
- 11:55 - 12:15 'What if' - Exercise debrief
- 12:15 - 12:40 Introduction to simple fire risk assessment template
- 12:40 - 12:50 Summary
- 12:50 - 13:00 Question & answer session

If you can't make the date, don't worry! We are also running this workshop on 23 May, but in the evening. You can find more information and book your place now by following this link: <https://cfrs-voluntary-sector-seminar-2.eventbrite.co.uk>

# Grants of up to 35% for your digital project

If you want to **grow your business**, develop a **new website** or improve your **digital processes**

then please contact us on

**01925 299842**



hello@carpe-diem.co.uk

www.carpe-diem.co.uk

C A R P E D I E M

---

# twentyfour seven design & print ltd

---

We supply and fit all types of signage:  
self adhesive graphics, glass, metal,  
wood, perspex, foamex plastic.

Call or email for a free site visit.

