



Insight

magazine

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The Journal of the

WARRINGTON CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

in association with
VR VALE ROYAL
The heart of Cheshire

Business started in 2020 now developing an export plan



Family-run Twisted Wheel Brew Co. launched in April 2020 – at the height of the Covid-19 pandemic – offering modern craft beers to both suppliers and consumers direct.

Keen to press on despite the uncertainty the world faced, Managing Director Laura Dearman set up the business alongside her parents and sister, with the aim of creating a truly unique brand that provided quality canned beers.

The company's flagship range of seven beers includes flavours such as 'Sunday Sessions', 'Technicolour Beat' and 'Boulevard of Broken Dreams', all inspired by the Northern Soul music and dance scene.

Within its first year, the company had sold more than 29,000, increasing to almost 109,000 cans in 2021.

And, in 2021, Laura and the team decided to explore how to take the brand overseas and build an international audience.

She was directed to the Department for International Trade (DIT) to help gain access to the relevant information and guidance the business would need to accelerate its growth outside of the UK.

The company was given support by the DIT via webinars and one-to-ones with trade experts, as well as being introduced to key exporting contacts and networks.

Laura said: "Around a year after launching the business, we were keen to develop our presence overseas but had little knowledge on exactly how to do this.

"Our International Trade Adviser within DIT highlighted a niche "Women in Brewing" event organised by the British Embassy in Stockholm. Sweden was one of the countries we'd earmarked as a target so we embraced this hand-held opportunity to showcase our products at an exclusive reception in Her Majesty's Ambassador's residence to which Swedish importers and food and drink stakeholders were invited.

"We have now developed an export plan and, while we're in the

very early stages, we have some exciting tenders in the pipeline that we're currently waiting to hear back about, we're hopeful that our exporting journey will really accelerate this year.

"As a business in its infancy with little experience of exporting, the Department for International Trade was invaluable to us – they answered any questions we had, listened to our concerns and guided us in the right direction when we needed it, so I would absolutely recommend the team to any company in a similar situation."

Find out more about Twisted Wheel Brew Co. www.twistedwheelbrewco.co.uk

Gulliver's World raises thousands for bumblebee conservation

GULLIVER'S World has helped raise more than £6,000 for bumblebee conservation after hosting a buzzing #BeeKind Weekend.

In total, £6,112 was raised across Gulliver's four UK theme park resorts for the Bumblebee Conservation Trust.

The weekend, which coincided with World Bee Day on May 20, created a real buzz with plenty of brilliant bee-themed adventures.

From every ticket sold, £1 has been donated to support the Trust, which has a mission to increase the number and distribution of bumblebees.

The #BeeKind Weekend was part of Gulliver's programme of supersized celebrations for the Platinum Jubilee. Until June 5, there will be even more thrills than usual at Gulliver's including street parties, best of British stage shows and majestic entertainment hosted by Gulliver's own Queen Bee planned alongside thrilling rides and attractions.

Craig Clews, resort director at Gulliver's World, said: "The Bumblebee Conservation Trust do vital work and we are proud to support them with this donation.

"We had a great time at the #BeeKind Weekend and were also able to show our guests how important bumblebees are and why they must be protected."

Kamal Hibberd, Fundraising Officer for the Bumblebee Conservation Trust, said: "We were delighted to be chosen by Gulliver's Theme Parks as a beneficiary of their annual donation weekend.

"Their 'BeeKind' weekend, which coincided with World Bee Day this May, raised an incredible £6,122 towards bumblebee conservation! This type of fundraising is crucial to help bumblebees to thrive and we are buzzing with this significant donation!"

For more information and to book your ticket online for Gulliver's World Giant Jubilee celebrations, visit: www.gulliversworldresort.co.uk/giant-jubilee



From the Chief Executive

Stephen Fitzsimons



IT was really disappointing to hear the Conservative leadership contenders categorically deny that Brexit was at least partly responsible for crippling delays at Dover in July.

Until Ministers accept that there are issues, even in the short term, UK business will continue to be adversely affected by the decision to leave the European Union. This is not being overly negative or "remoaning" - this is the reality of it taking longer and costing more to send products to and from the Continent.

Of course Brexit isn't exclusively responsible for the economic malaise that we are currently facing. When Warrington sweated

through 40 degree heat, the lack of air conditioning in my all-black car was unbearable. Like many manufacturers, Jaguar Land Rover can't secure the replacement part as the pandemic's economic tail continues to affect staffing levels and production outputs. Locally, we have plenty of exciting inward investment enquiries, however few properties available because the nation was unable to construct new-builds at the height of lock down.

Thankfully, we still have plenty of positives, such as KDM Group who have moved to larger premises in Warrington for their lumber distribution centre. Or real5 Digital who were runners up in a prestigious national awards for

start-up of the year. Business men and women are out networking again, with events such as TedEx, Warrington Business Awards and Real5 Networking all experiencing pent up demand from the last 2 years. The desire and the drive is still there, however we still need to make it easier for companies to do business effectively.

We'll have an opportunity to hear what Her Majesty's Opposition would do differently when the Warrington Business Conference is held at Time Square on the 16th September. We benefit from having hard working local MPs in each major political camp and we take it in turns for their senior colleagues to address the business community. Last year we

welcomed Secretary of State Paul Scully so the Labour Party will take centre stage this year.

Fingers crossed the weather settles somewhere between the Sahara and an Indian monsoon so we can all enjoy the summer!

Take care,
Stephen

United Utilities achieves record renewable energy generation

WARRINGTON-based United Utilities has had a record year for generating its own renewable energy in-house, helping protect its water customers from rising power costs.

The North West water company generated a record 210 GWh of renewable energy in 2021/22, equivalent to 26 per cent of the company's total electricity consumption.

In addition, it published in its 2021/22 Annual Report last week, that the second of its six carbon pledges – 100 per cent of electricity used from renewable sources – was achieved from October 2021.

United Utilities' extensive renewable energy installation programme began in 2014, and it now has 70 solar, wind and hydro installations across the region, including Europe's first commercial floating solar array on Godley Reservoir near Hyde in Manchester.

Other notable projects and successes as part of the route to net zero include:

Hydro-turbine at Oswestry: Installed in 2019, this generates around 2,000,000 kWh per year, reducing the amount of electricity that has to be purchased from the grid which

would otherwise cost around £300k. The Feed in Tariff is also received, which is worth a further £140k per year.

More than 60 MW of solar and wind generation has been installed over the last seven years, providing around 6 per cent of the total electricity required by the business.

In FY 2021/22 United Utilities had its best ever generation from combined heat and power (CHP) engines and biomethane production, which uses the biogas produced from wastewater treatment. CHP electricity generation provided 17 per cent of total electricity usage, and the biomethane produced is exported to the gas network to off-set natural gas use. Last year around 50,000 MWh of biomethane was exported, which is enough for 4,000 homes per year (based on the average use per UK home).

Pat Horne, Head of Strategy & Commercial Bioresources, Energy & Carbon at United Utilities, said: "We set a record for renewable energy generation in 2021/22 and have used only green electricity from October 2021, which is great news to share as we mark Net Zero Week.

"We also installed more solar panels during the year and continued our Energy Management Programme,

which helps us optimise site operations and enhance our energy performance.

"We know that energy prices have increased considerably this year and this is one of the biggest operational costs faced by businesses like ours. We're committed to keeping bills as low as possible for our customers, so by generating our own energy in-house we can keep control of our costs. Not only does this make us a greener business, it makes us stronger in supporting households throughout the North West.

"As we look ahead to 2030 and achieving the rest of our net zero pledges, we are confident that we are on the right path and that our continued investment, innovation and analysis will help us achieve our ambitious and important goals."

United Utilities has also achieved

pledge 6 of its net zero goals – to set a target for emissions from the value chain. The remaining pledges where activities are progressing are:

Pledge 1 – Reduce scope 1 (direct) and 2 (indirect) emissions by 42 per cent compared to baseline by 2030

Pledge 3 – 100% green fleet by 2028

Pledge 4 – 1,000 hectares of peatland restoration by 2030

Pledge 5 – Create 550 hectares of woodland by 2030

To find out more about United Utilities' approach to climate change, visit: unitedutilities.com/annualreport2022.com/our-approach-to-climate-change

To see the 2021/22 Annual Report, visit: unitedutilities.com/annualreport2022.com



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Stephen Fitzsimons, Chief Executive

Warrington security firm bolsters service with new senior hire

WARRINGTON-based security firm, CDX Security has appointed a new Group Sales Manager as part of its ambitious growth plans for the new financial year.

John Welch joins the team to expand the firm's service offering within the construction and housing sectors, following a successful 2021.

An experienced business development and sales professional, John has more than 20 years' experience working across various sectors, including; construction, housing and logistics and joins CDX Security as Group Sales Manager to support the company as it grows its housing and construction specialisms.

John said of his appointment: "I'm thrilled to take on a new challenge at such an ambitious and fast-growing security firm to help achieve their bold growth plans.

"We've collaborated on numerous projects in the past, working together on various charitable and commercial projects and also within the Rugby League world. They really are a great team and I'm looking forward to working with them.

Away from CDX Security, John is also founder of the UK Physical Disability Rugby League. After establishing the league five years ago, John now acts as Chairman,

working closely with the governing body, The Rugby Football League, to ensure Rugby is an inclusive and diverse sport. There are now around 200 registered physical disability rugby players and 350 learning and disabled players in the UK.

Speaking of the appointment, Commercial Director, Christian Roddy, said: "We're delighted to have John join the CDX team and are looking forward to him helping us expand our portfolio of clients in the construction and housing sectors"

"John has always been a friend to the business and it's great to welcome him formally on board. We're confident his knowledge and experience will be central to helping us achieve some of our big plans for the coming year."

CDX Security was founded in 2012 and is a northwest-based security firm providing premium concierge services, facilities management and security solutions to large-scale businesses, distribution centres and the retail sector throughout the UK.

CDX Security recently scored among the top five per cent of UK security firms, following a successful audit from the Security Industry Authority.



How can UK businesses tackle the energy crisis?

WITH the UK on the verge of a potential recession and energy prices still soaring causing concern for many businesses, Leavitt Walmsley Associates (LWA) have collaborated with award-winning Connected Purchasing platform – Reducer, with whom they are a Gold certified partner, to provide businesses with some useful tips on tackling the energy crisis.

Energy prices are reaching record rates in the UK

An increase in global demand together with supply shortages not helped by the Russia-Ukraine war, means that wholesale energy prices have surged. Businesses in the UK are facing bills up to five times the former market rate, further straining those that were already severely impacted by COVID-19, and analysts are expecting a second record surge still to come in 2022.

A lack of protection and business closures

With a lack of legislation in the B2B market, businesses are being left feeling the full force of price shifts. Sadly, an estimated 30% of businesses have remained closed to avoid these price increases.

Furthermore, staggering wholesale prices are forcing suppliers as big as Bulb to enter

administration or go bust, causing increased market uncertainty. Businesses under these suppliers will automatically be switched to another supplier - and placed on high, out-of-contract rates.

Make the most of tax reliefs

High energy usage businesses, such as steel and paper manufacturers, are set to receive further support for electricity costs as the UK government has confirmed details of the Energy Intensive Industries (EII) compensation scheme. The scheme will be extended for a further 3 years and its budget will be more than doubled.

The scheme provides businesses with relief for the costs of the UK Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) and Carbon Price Support mechanism in their electricity bills, recognising that UK industrial electricity prices are higher than those of other countries. The scheme will now also provide support for companies that manufacture batteries for electric vehicles.

How can Reducer help my business?

Reducer will analyse your spend history to discover whether you are overspending on your bills, both in energy and in other areas.

Reducer gathers all the information it needs by connecting to your Xero or QuickBooks account.

Businesses should seek out contracts that offer more security for the future. Reducer creates bespoke purchasing recommendations for your business - all you need to do is choose which switches you'd like to take, and Reducer will handle the rest.

You'll stay up to date with both your current contracts as well as changes in the market. Your dedicated Reducer account

manager will be on hand to guide you on any of your current or future core purchase decisions.

To learn more about Reducer and how it could positively impact your expenditure on energy bills, contact LWA's inhouse accountancy software expert, Matt Jones on 0161 905 1801 or by email to matt@lwaltd.com. If you have a specific question about the tax reliefs available to help with your energy costs, please contact the tax team in Manchester on 0161 905 1801 or in Warrington on 01925 830 830.



Introducing hybrid working to your business

IT seems like everyone is talking about 'hybrid working'. What is it?

Put simply it means a flexible working agreement where an employee works from a variety of different locations – including an agreed space such as 'the office'. Inevitable following the past couple of years and a positive cultural shift.

Here are five tips for business leaders who want to implement an effective hybrid working model:

1. Research

Speak with your workforce and take time to plan. Consider job roles that need to be performed in the office. Consider the maximum space capacities of your available workspaces, to allow comfortable distancing where required. Listen to your staff, ask their opinions and how they envision successful hybrid working.

2. Establish a routine

Consider a weekly routine which sees different people physically in the office on certain days. Perhaps core working hours would ensure collaboration takes place, regardless of location. Some people might prefer starting their day earlier or later than others. It's important to give some flexibility, but by setting the hours you expect your staff to be online, you lay foundations for a successful on-going hybrid working routine.

3. Define communication methods

Look to achieve one culture, regardless of where team members are located. Support this by determining communication channels. We advocate Microsoft 365, but many apps exist. Establish a standard and don't allow your teams to mix and match different platforms, as this extends your system surface area for cyber-attack, making it much harder to secure. The apps and solutions we find work well are Teams, Teams Rooms and

Whiteboard, all part of the Microsoft 365 suite.

- Microsoft Teams allows seamless chat and files sharing amongst colleagues and workgroups.

- Microsoft Teams Rooms integrates your existing meeting room spaces with advanced cameras, microphones, displays and control unit. You invite your 'Teams Rooms' equipped room to your meeting, then hit 'Join' using the control panel in the room. It's never been easier to meet, bring remote staff into the room virtually.

- Microsoft Whiteboard allows you to interact, brainstorm and collaborate on a digital whiteboard within Microsoft Teams.

Consider training sessions on new apps, to get your team up and running quickly.

4. Get the right equipment

Don't expect people to work efficiently while perched on their sofa. Take time to complete a Display Screen Equipment (DSE) assessment of individual home working areas. Provide staff with adequate equipment (desk, chair, monitor, etc.) where required. Laptops provide more flexibility than desktop PCs. Equipping your office with hot-desks that allow single-cable laptop connect to a display, monitor, keyboard, network and charging (via USB-C) allows staff to arrive and work quickly and easily.

5. Move everything to the cloud

Cloud computing is the delivery of your business systems to your team members via the internet. Many cloud services utilise a pay-as-you-go model, minimising business costs while allowing you to scale the business as it grows. Traditionally businesses would buy, deploy and manage their own IT infrastructure, but cloud computing has brought

many benefits:

- Reduced costs – gone are the days of purchasing hardware and running data centres within a business and resource is no longer needed to manage this infrastructure.

- Performance – infinite capacity is available at your fingertips. Businesses can leverage computing power as and when required. Seasonal businesses can achieve high performance at peak times without compromise, scaling back at quiet times to reduce costs.

- Scale – you pay for what you need, so its easy to scale up and increase the computing power, storage and bandwidth very quickly.

- Security – mainstream cloud providers are a big target for malicious activity, so they're leaders at protecting themselves with cutting edge solutions and resources. Most small or medium businesses could only dream of protecting themselves in a similar way.

- Reliability – moving your

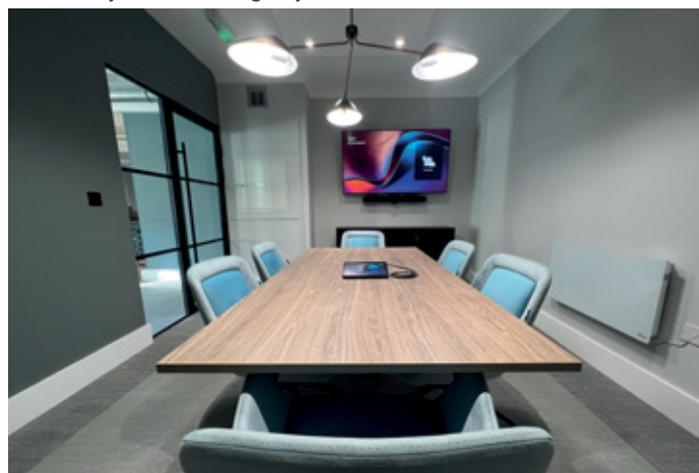
technology requirements to the cloud removes any single points of IT failure. Hardware issues within a cloud data centre aren't felt by customers, as providers build-in resilience to achieve service guarantees typically over 99%.

- Productivity – collaboration is easy. Your workforce can be anywhere with an Internet connection to be connected.

Get in touch with Highstream if you'd like support in preparing your business for hybrid working.

Highstream Solutions are a North West based IT provider, enabling customers to focus on their core business by removing the noise and hassle associated with business technology. We offer a one-stop shop, including support, security, infrastructure, cloud, hardware and software solutions, as well as strategic guidance.

www.highstream.co.uk
01244 952 500



Let's take a look under the bonnet of your business!

JOIN the Cheshire and Warrington Business Growth Programme in September and delve into the challenges stopping you from growing your small business.

On the Cheshire and Warrington Business Growth Programme, our practical workshops, peer networking, and coaching sessions cover:

- Who are your customers?
- Effectively communicating your value
- Your internal mindset and how to get out of your own way
- Your financial endgame
- How your business model fits together
- Group coaching your way out of your current business challenges

It's a reflective course: they are there to help you understand

what the problems are, and what's holding you back. And to help you find a way out of the situation so that you can develop your business.

The 10 sessions are spread out to give you time to embed the things you've learnt – and because they understand that, as the boss, taking a whole week out of the office in one go isn't sustainable for your business!

The Cheshire and Warrington Business Growth Programme is fully funded by the European Regional Development Fund and there's no charge for eligible businesses to take part.

Start dates: Tuesday 20 September; Wednesday 21 September

Find out more and apply: <https://bit.ly/3oE9a7b>

Hear from their alumni

"After 15 years of running the

business it was time to take a step back and rethink the way we had always done things!" John Sewell, Co-Founder and Director, Greenlight Computers

Hear John's story: <https://bit.ly/3S0o1Gm>

"Attending this programme has

been truly transformational for my business. I feel like a completely different person; who I am today, sat in this chair, is not who I was when I first walked through those doors." Michelle Ewen, Director, Write on Time.

Hear Michelle's story: <https://bit.ly/3Jj54e7>



■ Kinaxia Logistics staff and the truck with 10 tonnes of aid before its departure from Warrington. Driver Tomasz Konarski is on the far left.

Kinaxia sends 10 tonnes of aid to Ukrainian refugees

A LOGISTICS company has delivered 10 tonnes of aid to Ukrainian refugees in Poland after an appeal for clothing, baby supplies, toiletries and food received a bumper response from staff and customers.

Employees of Kinaxia Logistics, their families and friends rallied round along with clients of the nationwide group to donate thousands of items over a four-week period.

The goods were collected from the group's sites across the country and taken to Kinaxia company Mark Thompson Transport in Warrington for wrapping and packing.

A Mark Thompson Transport

warehouse team stacked the donated items on 26 pallets which were loaded on to a truck and driven to the town of Zamosc, which is 40 miles from the Ukrainian border.

Kinaxia driver Tomasz Konarski, 42, who is from Poland and lives in Chester, volunteered to travel to his home country to deliver the much-needed aid.

His route took him via Dover, Calais, Belgium, the Netherlands and Germany before he arrived in Poland after a four-day journey of 1,400 miles.

"I was happy to help. It was a good thing to do and greatly appreciated," said Tomasz.

The mission was coordinated by Dave Cork, senior operations manager at Mark Thompson Transport.

He said: "It was a fantastic effort by our staff, their families and friends and our customers.

"The trailer was full of items generously donated from across the country, including clothing for men, women and children, nappies, baby medicines, rice and other foodstuffs, toiletries, sleeping bags and bottled water.

"The aid will make a tremendous difference to the lives of Ukrainians who have fled their homeland and sought refuge in neighbouring Poland."

Kinaxia chief executive Simon Hobbs said: "The response to our appeal was truly heart-warming and inspiring. It was great to see our Kinaxia family and our customers coming together to offer support to the people of Ukraine in this way."

Kinaxia Logistics has its headquarters in Macclesfield and comprises 13 freight and logistics businesses across the UK with over 1,800 staff and more than 800 vehicles which transport goods for the retail, leisure, food and drink and manufacturing sectors.

The group has 2.7 million sq ft of warehouse facilities nationwide, offering contract packing, e-fulfilment, returns management and storage services.

Enjoy so 'me-time' with health and wellbeing event

NOT for profit mental health project, Take 2, in association with Bents Home and Garden Centre are delighted to be hosting a Health and Wellbeing Event on Thursday 8th September.

Take 2 have partnered with various high end brands to bring you an exceptional experience, including therapies, in-store demonstrations, a VIP experience, high tea and wine tasting. Furthermore, the health and wellbeing specialists and services will be on hand to discuss and advise on a variety of topics.

Hosted within the fabulous setting at Bents, immerse yourself in the many treats that will be in store for you to experience. Some of the many vendors include Estée Lauder, Odeon, Livewire, NHS hospitals, Healthwatch, Merseycare, Alder Hey and Boots.

Project Manager Tony Pendlebury said "Come along to the event and allow yourself some me-time, and a day to concentrate on you!"

For further details and tickets, visit <https://bit.ly/3OfZ3jn>



Redwood Bank hails 'resilience of British business' as first profit revealed

WARRINGTON-based Redwood Bank says it has reaped the rewards of continuing to lend to British businesses throughout the pandemic by reporting its first profit.

When other lenders pressed pause on plans to support businesses in the wake of COVID-19, Redwood Bank continued to invest in local companies as it looked to help 'power up the North'.

Since its inception in 2017, the Bank has loaned more than £140 million to people and properties based in Warrington and the North West, representing approximately 28 per cent of Redwood Bank's lending. This compares to an industry average of 10 per cent – underlining the Bank's commitment to its roots.

Gary Wilkinson, CEO and Co-Founder of Redwood Bank, said: "Where we are from is important to us, we are a part of the community. Giving back to Warrington and the North West, and helping to deliver vital funding to the area, is something we are extremely passionate about.

The fact that we made our first profit, in 2021, is testament to the robustness of our business model. We reached this milestone because we continued to offer vital lending support to British businesses during the various COVID-19 lockdowns, when many other lenders retrenched. We are proud to have played our part in bolstering the resilience of British business."

Due to the demand in the region, Redwood is moving to bigger offices within the Base in Dallam Lane, Warrington, where up to 30

staff will be based.

The specialist lender, renowned for having its finger on the pulse of SME funding requirements, recorded a pre-tax operating profit of £2.2 million in the year to December 31, 2021 (2020: Loss £1.7m), while its loan book increased by 14 per cent to £370m (2020: £324m) and deposits rose by 15 per cent to £438m (2020: £380m).

The results illustrate the resilience of Redwood Bank's business model at one of the most challenging times for UK businesses, with shareholders investing a further £9.9m of Tier 1 capital in the Bank during the year, increasing the total invested to £47.9m.

The Bank recently increased its maximum Loan to Value (LTVs) on mortgages up to 70 per cent for commercial loans and to 75 per cent for residential loans. These changes are part of the Bank's plans and commitment to facilitate greater lending options and to drive investment into and by SMEs.

Mr Wilkinson said: "We are an established specialist bank focused on simple commercial property loans and business savings accounts, offering secured mortgages to professional landlords, and business owner-occupiers. We are experts in our chosen markets and use that expertise to deliver superior results for our customers and investors.

Redwood Bank plugs a gap in the market where mainstream banks prefer not to lend. We dare to be different, as we truly understand the challenges of British

businesses, responding to their concerns and supporting their need for flexibility and resilience in the face of a crisis."

Warrington Borough Council Deputy Leader, Cllr Cathy Mitchell, said: "The COVID-19 pandemic presented a lot of challenges to many lenders who ultimately decided to pause, but Redwood Bank continued to invest in local companies as it looked to help support Warrington and the wider region.

"The bank continues to perform highly despite the difficult current market conditions and it has done exceptionally well to produce a profit in its fourth year of trading.

"What is more important however, and what as a council our policy for the bank focuses on, is that since its inception it has helped to provide vital support to SMEs in Warrington and beyond, and we're pleased to see that more than £140 million worth of loans have been made to businesses in Warrington and the North West."

Redwood Bank was 'born in the cloud' in 2017, with its forward-thinking infrastructure helping it achieve one of the fastest 'licence-to-launches' in UK banking history. Having started with a team of 12, the Bank now employs more than 125 employees.



easyJet announce new service from Liverpool to Paris

LIVERPOOL John Lennon is delighted to announce a new route, as easyJet will be operating up to daily flights from Liverpool John Lennon Airport to Paris Charles de Gaulle, starting 30 October 2022.

Book yourself a break in the City of Light with easyJet!

Lessening the burden of fuel poverty across the North West

AS even more households are expected to slip into fuel poverty due to cost of living increases and the unprecedented rise in energy costs very real solutions need to be provided to help those that need it most.

Endo Enterprises working in partnership with The Sureserve Foundation and in collaboration with Sure Maintenance and Irwell Valley Housing, donated supplies of their EndoTherm product to

tenants across the North West to help reduce their space heating fuel consumption.

Pat Coleman, Managing Director of Sure Maintenance said "Sure Maintenance always strives to assist our clients in enabling their tenants to cut costs and improve efficiency with their heating systems. The work of the Sureserve Foundation has provided us the fantastic opportunity of offering those tenants substantial savings,

and at no cost to themselves. Endo Enterprises has proven to be an excellent partner with a groundbreaking product in EndoTherm and we are looking forward to working closely with them in the future".

EndoTherm is an Energy Saving Trust verified product which can be quickly added to any wet heating system with no interruption and has been proven to reduce energy consumption by up to 15%.

Do you manage properties or work with tenants who are likely to be facing the impossible choice between heating or eating?

Endo Enterprises want to continue to get EndoTherm installed into the heating systems of those that need it the most, visit www.endotherm.co.uk to find out more and get in touch via email enquiries@endotherm.co.uk or phone 01925 747101.

EndoTherm
 Lessening the burden of Fuel Poverty across Greater Manchester

The Sureserve Foundation
 Creating warmer communities

irwell valley
 housing

ENDO ENTERPRISES
 ADVANCED WATER TREATMENT SOLUTIONS

Find out more: www.endotherm.co.uk/fuelpoverty

Warrington Chamber of Commerce welcomes new member Skincity

SKINCITY is an online skin care clinic that offers a finely tuned selection of professional skin care products and makeup.

The digital doors to Skincity opened in 2011 in Stockholm – they were proud to be one of the very first online shops to offer professional skin care products wherever the customer wanted them and with an equal level of service that you would expect from a bricks-and-mortar store.

Skincity quickly expanded into Norway and Finland and launched in the UK in 2018. The amazing product selection, online skin analysis, access to qualified skin therapists and unsurpassed order wrapping made it an instant success in the UK.

“Our core values of Knowledge, Quality and Service is what I believe sets us apart from our competitors” says Skincity UK Managing Director Sarah Edwards. “All our customer service staff are qualified skin therapists so our customers can be reassured that they are speaking to knowledgeable staff that can provide them with the best advice

to suit their individual skincare needs.”

The online shopping experience struggles to compare with the “real-life” experience of shopping on the high street. From its inception Skincity wanted customers to experience a truly amazing shopping experience online, the carefully curated brand selection and access to real therapists is just part of this. Skincity wants customers to feel truly special when they receive their order - gone is the excessive packaging and hard-to-recycle padding. Instead, orders sent with the complimentary signature wrapping experience will receive a recyclable Skincity tote bag to protect and cushion the products in transit, along with a make-up bag, samples, and a collectable Kokeshi.

Since launching in the UK Skincity has gone from, strength to strength. Not only have they expanded their brand portfolio to over 60 carefully selected brands including bareMinerals, Neal’s Yard, Obagi Medical and of course, their own skincare brand Skincity Skincare. In 2020 Skincity

moved from Lower Whitley to much larger premises on Centre Park in Warrington.

Sarah Edwards said “this additional space has allowed us to expand our warehouse and pick/pack area, install a great customer showroom used by our therapists to help customers make the best product choices for their skin and offer spacious and productive

office space for our marketing, HR, and finance teams.”

“The future is looking bright for Skincity, we see Warrington as our long-term home in the UK and have plans to grow rapidly over the coming years.”

If you’re looking for expert skincare advice visit www.skincity.com/uk for more information.



KDM strategic warehouse expansion in Warrington

KDM has recently invested in a second warehouse in Warrington due to the increased demand for further support around the Northern corridor, reflecting the continued expansion of our business and the increased number of projects that have been undertaken. The opening of this new location comes after strong growth in KDM’s best recorded financial year, with an annual turnover of £99 million in 2021.

The new 15,000 sq ft building is in addition to our existing 19,000 sq ft warehouse in Dalgety Bay. This key distribution hub enables us to service our customer base regardless of where they are in the UK with quick and

efficient deliveries due to greater flexibility with stockholding whilst minimising costs and carbon footprint.

Mark Jones, Executive Director of KDM Group said “We are delighted to be opening a new warehouse and offices in Warrington. With additional storage space, and dedicated Commercial and Operations Support Teams in place, we can continue to expand to better serve our customers locally and globally. It also allows us to grow our team

with skilled and talented staff from the Warrington area.”

The offices have been fitted out to be in line with our company ethos of providing quality workmanship and excellence with value. As office environments continue to change and adapt, we want to ensure our employees “feel at home” and have the opportunity and flexibility to socially interact and collaborate in our breakout areas.

We also wanted to show our support to the local area as rising costs continue to cause concern and put stress on many families. A donation was made to the Warrington Food Bank and we continue to support other charities through our KDM Group Charity Committee.

KDM is a Principal contractor and specialist fit-out contractor who also manufactures and designs in the construction sector. We are based in Dalgety Bay and have regional hubs in Leeds, Warrington, Chelmsford and Zeeland, Netherlands. We operate locally, nationally, and multi - nationally for many blue-chip clients throughout the UK and EU.



Opticians Rebrands and Refocuses

MASKELL + Josephson the Optometrists rebrands as EDGE Eyewear. You may know that there is an opticians in Warrington Market. You may know they have a long name that’s really hard to spell and really hard to remember.

Well not anymore! They are now rebranded and under new ownership. Graham, the optometrist there since they opened in September 2020, is now the owner. He’s come up with a snappy new name, a stylish new logo, and has big ideas to bring eyecare innovation to the people of Warrington.

Graham has kept the services of the excellent Joan – AKA the Glasses Whisperer. Have you never been able to find glasses don’t suit you? See Joan! She’ll prove to you that there’s a pair of glasses for everyone!

New Ideas - Sustainability

Optics is not an eco-friendly industry. EDGE Eyewear would like to help to change that. They are using lenses whose production process employs minimal water, chemical and energy consumption. They are also stocking frames that are more sustainable – like Coral Eyewear. Their fabulous Econyl frames are created from rescued ocean fishing nets and recycled plastic. Now you can be planet friendly, look great, and see brilliantly!

The eye examination at EDGE Eyewear will remain of the highest standard. It is exactly the same as it was under Maskell + Josephson (good enough for every Google review to be 5 stars) but is now £20 cheaper. They have the latest equipment, and Graham is the one to get best use out of it. He has been a qualified optometrist for 16 years, and for the last 7 years he’s also been teaching Optometry at The University of Manchester. He has special interests in contact lenses and myopia management (slowing down short-sightedness in children).

There are extra discounts available for any members of the Chamber. Give EDGE Eyewear a call on 01925 344 007, see them on social media as @edgeeyewearuk, check out their website at www.edge-eyewear.co.uk, or email them on info@edge-eyewear.co.uk



A new way for employers to support employees through the cost-of-living crisis

AS the impact of the cost-of-living crisis is increasingly being felt, David Brown, founder and CEO of Hi, believes employers should look at new approaches to the traditional monthly payroll cycle to help employees.

With inflation expected to hit 11% within months, and the cost of food expected to rise by up to 15% this year, families are facing huge increases in their monthly expenditure which will force many to turn to short-term, expensive debt to make ends meet.

New research has found that more than a quarter have dipped into their savings to cope with rising prices. Of those without savings to rely on, 9 per cent have increased their use of credit cards, rising to 16 per cent among the 18-34 age bracket, while 7 per cent are paying more in the long run from increased use of 'buy now, pay later' schemes.

Employers, struggling themselves due to a challenging economic environment are looking for ways to support their employees through this crisis. Flexible payroll could be the answer.

Using one debt to pay off another

Faced with the inability to meet their outgoings from their monthly pay packets, workers are increasingly turning to payday loans or buy now pay later (BNPL) schemes.

While this has helped families make ends meet, it has also led many into short-term, expensive debt. BNPL offerings enable users to pay for

their purchases in instalments over a short-term fixed-term and interest-free schedule, but there is concern about the lack of visibility on debt.

A survey of more than 2,000 users of BNPL schemes, conducted by Citizens Advice, found that almost half (48%) are turning to credit cards, bank overdrafts or loans from family and friends to meet their repayments.

This is especially true of 18-34-year-olds, who are more than twice as likely to borrow money to repay their BNPL borrowings than over 55-year-olds. Citizens Advice have also highlighted that the majority of people using BNPL are already living off overdrafts and credit cards. Effectively, they are using one debt to pay off another. This creates a cycle which for many can be very difficult to escape.

Reconsidering monthly payroll

The benefits of monthly payroll are heavily if not entirely skewed in favour of employers rather than employees - more predictable cashflow, reduced administrative costs and compatibility with various digital payment schemes, for example. Yet, the monthly payroll has become the standard model, accepted by all.

The cost-of-living crisis should prompt greater questioning of the standard model and lead employers to consider dropping the concept of a monthly paycheque. Instead, they could adopt a more flexible payment policy that allows employees greater access to their

wages and supporting financial data.

These wages could be paid on either a daily, monthly or weekly basis based on employees' demands. Furthermore, employees should be given real-time wage updates helping them to manage their monthly budgets. This has the potential to reinvent remuneration, transforming how time and pay are tracked, viewed and verified.

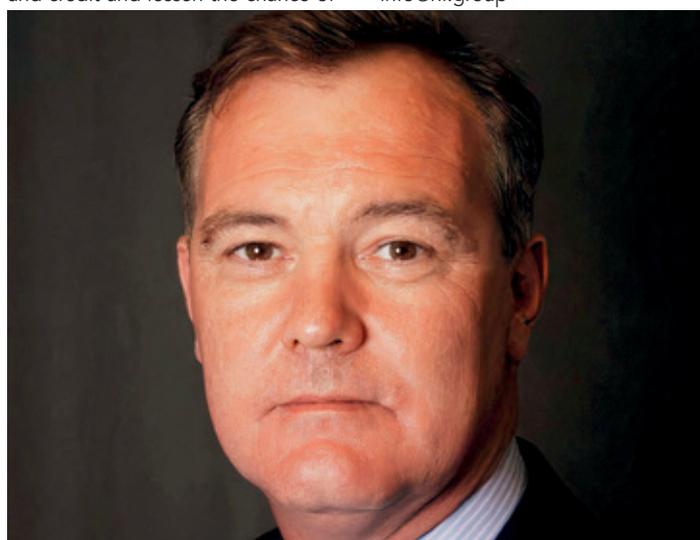
It would improve financial wellbeing by giving greater control over cashflow and allowing for more efficient budgeting. It would also reduce the dependency on loans and credit and lessen the chance of

going into long-term debt.

There are also benefits for employers, such as enhanced employee wellbeing, improved productivity, reduced absenteeism and the potential to attract and retain talent in an increasingly competitive marketplace.

If employers really want to support their employees through this crisis, it's time they break the feast and famine cycle of monthly pay and provide their employees with free, flexible access to their salary.

To learn more about pay asset finance, please get in touch with Hi: info@hi.group



■ CEO David Brown.

Defibrillators save lives

CONCEPT Hygiene is a leading washroom and waste management provider, with nearly 30 years' experience of providing friendly and reliable service across the North West of England and beyond.

In recent years, we have noticed and acted on the need for accessible defibrillators without capital outlay for schools, businesses and leisure facilities.

People who suffer a sudden cardiac arrest need immediate help. You need to get to a defibrillator and have it on the patient in under four minutes for best chance of success. If a defibrillator is used and effective CPR is performed within 3-5 minutes of cardiac arrest, their chance of survival increases from 6% to 74%.

You don't need to be medically trained, or even first aid trained to administer a defibrillator. The units will talk you through the process and the ambulance service will assist when 999 is called.

At the moment, there are approximately 10,000 defibrillators in the UK, with defibrillator map, The Circuit, showing the emergency services where the closest unit is.

We supply a number of small and large companies alike with serviced defibrillator packages, ensuring full peace of mind in the knowledge that the unit on-site is always rescue ready and can be used in the case of emergency at any given time.

In this year alone, our units have been successfully administered on-site and have saved five lives. Immediacy is the key with a cardiac arrest and it was the quick thinking and bravery of staff that ensured the patient was stable before the emergency services arrived.

In April of this year, we were contacted by the family of Ivy Wright, from St Helens, who asked if we could be of any assistance acquiring a defibrillator for use in Ivy's day to day life. At only three years old, Ivy had a cardiac arrest at home and her life was saved by her dad and the paramedics. She has a heart condition that only affects 10 children in the UK and is at high risk of a repeat cardiac arrest. Andrew Cotter, our Managing Director, agreed to give Ivy a unit, after her nursery had fundraised for a unit to ensure she would be covered there.

If you are interested in having

a defibrillator onsite for your business, school, leisure club or housing development, please contact victoria@concept-hygiene.co.uk for more information or

visit our website: www.concept-hygiene.co.uk.

Warrington Chamber members receive 5% discount on serviced defibrillator packages.



■ Victoria Atkinson of Concept Hygiene presenting Ivy Wright with her gifted defibrillator.

Firm launches drive to recruit more than 40 engineers

WARRINGTON-headquartered engineering and maintenance provider Bilfinger UK has launched a recruitment drive to hire over 40 engineers nationwide as the business prepares for further growth delivering some of the UK's largest infrastructure projects.

The new roles range from entry level posts to senior engineering positions across the firm's portfolio of renewables, chemical and petrochemical, utilities, oil and gas and food and beverage manufacturing contracts.

Successful candidates will support a range of projects, from providing fabric maintenance and construction services at Hinkley Point C to working on systems at National Grid transmission sites.

The recruitment drive follows the merger of Bilfinger's two UK entities, Bilfinger UK and Bilfinger Salmis, in January to create a turnover business employing more than 4,500 people with 13 onshore locations across the UK's key industrial hubs.

In addition to supporting future growth, the business, which is headquartered in Warrington, Cheshire, is creating new capacity to bolster its services in engineering, procurement and construction (EPC), where the firm provides clients with one interface as the lead contractor on major construction projects.

Jane Atkinson, engineering and automation executive director said: "The markets we operate in are changing rapidly as the UK

accelerates its energy transition and this is creating new, exciting opportunities to support our customers across the asset life cycle, from consulting to decommissioning.

"These roles offer the prospect of working at the forefront of industrial change across some of the UK's most important infrastructure projects, with one of the industry's largest tier-one contractors.

"Learning and development sits at the heart of our operations. In addition to our UK programmes, we lean on our international network as part of the Bilfinger Group to supplement our leading development schemes, providing our engineers with learning opportunities and placements with our teams across Europe."

To apply for the roles, visit: www.jobs.bilfinger.com



Young Traders Market success for Warrington businesses

WARRINGTON'S young traders came out on top at the North West regional final which took place in Bolton recently.

Warrington entrant, Ellie Francesca Design, was crowned North West Young Trader of the Year alongside taking first place in the arts and crafts category. Ellie impressed judges with her collection of hand-drawn prints inspired by music and lyrics.

There was more success for Warrington's traders on the day as Ma Lumiere and Sway progressed to the next stage. Warrington Young Trader of the Year, Cheshire Botanicals – who

also took first place in the food and drink category at the regional final – also moved on to the grand final, which is due to take place in Stratford-upon-Avon next month.

Holly Challinor of local spirits business Cheshire Botanicals, who produce Nantwich Gin, impressed judges with her family business at Warrington's local heat earlier this month, securing the Warrington Young Trader of the Year title.

Warrington Market held its annual celebration of young traders at its local heat, with over 30 entrepreneurs taking part in the competition. Over 7,500 people came down to support the young

business owners at Time Square, as well as enjoying some local musical talent thanks to a live music stage hosted by Warrington Music.

The Young Traders Market scheme is a nationwide competition hosted by the National Market Traders Federation (NMTF) set up to encourage young business owners across the country, to utilise local markets as a viable trading space, while also aiming to find the National Young Trader of the Year.

Warrington Borough Council leader, Cllr Russ Bowden, was among the judging panel for Warrington's local heat, along with deputy leader, Cathy Mitchell, Chester Market Manager, Karen Bates, and Marketplace Europe Managing Director, Allan Hartwell.

Cllr Bowden, said: "I'm so pleased that some of Warrington's fantastic young traders impressed at the regional final and will now represent the town at the final stage of the competition. The panel were really impressed with their businesses at the local Warrington heat a couple of weeks ago. A huge congratulations to Ellie on being named the North West Young Trader of the Year and Holly for winning Warrington Young Trader of the Year.

The Young Traders Market is a fantastic initiative that provides a platform for talented and entrepreneurial young people to showcase of their ideas, creativity and business skills. It's a great way to support the next generation of business owners in Warrington. Good luck to all of the finalists!"

The judges were so impressed

by the high standard and quality of all the businesses that were showcased at Warrington's local heat that a total of 13 traders progressed to the regional final. This was the highest number of finalists to be put through to the regional round.

The four category winners on the day were Cheshire Botanicals, Clay & Coats, Ma Lumiere and BBQ Up North. Ellie Francesca Design, Sway, Sam's Bakehouse, Thirty Eight, Calico Collective, Laura Frances Heitzman, Petal n Ink, and last year's Warrington's Young Trader of the Year, GeeArte Makes – all of which were awarded Highly Commended in their respected category – made it through to the regional final.

Joe Harrison, Chief Executive of the NMTF, visited the heat in Warrington and was blown away by the standard on show. He said: "What a great visit it was to Warrington for their local competition. Warrington never fails to disappoint us with their showcase of young business talent and once again the event blew me away. All of the businesses involved were brilliant with some truly unique products on offer and with the added addition of the young musician stage, the atmosphere was truly great to see.

Year on year we experience an increase in interest for the Young Traders programme, which is an even bigger demonstration of what great young entrepreneurial talent the UK has on offer and it's a great boost of enthusiasm for UK markets and their future."

Keep up to date with what's going on at Warrington Market on social media @Warringtonmkt.



Fiddler's Ferry site sold – and set for major new development

THE site of the iconic Fiddler's Ferry Power Station – a landmark in the Warrington area for 50 years – looks set to continue to play a key role in the town's economy.

It has been purchased by natural resources and energy company Peel NRE who now plan to produce a 10-15 year mixed-use master plan for the 820-acre site – one of the largest brownfield sites in the country.

New developments for industrial use and new homes in a sustainable community are planned to provide jobs, skills and address housing shortages in the borough.

The plans will also create extensive new parkland and wildlife areas to enhance the environment.

Peel NRE is part of regeneration business Peel L&P. They have acquired the site from energy company SSE Thermal.

Fiddler's Ferry and its eight cooling towers were decommissioned in 2020 in line with Government policy to phase out coal-fired facilities by 2025.

With its parent company responsible for some of the country's most transformational projects across the North West including The Trafford Centre, MediaCity at Salford Quays and Liverpool Waters, Peel NRE will now help to mark a new era for Warrington by developing fresh

plans to regenerate the former fossil-fuel dependent power station.

The Fiddler's Ferry site, which also includes agricultural land, was identified in the 2021 version of the Warrington Local Plan for the development of around 250-acres for employment use and a minimum of 1,760 new homes.

Kieran Tames, development director for Peel NRE said: "Fiddler's Ferry power station has been a local landmark and part of the community for many years but as the UK moves away from the use of fossil fuels for energy generation, the site was recently decommissioned by SSE.

"We now want to work with local people to develop exciting new plans and mark a new era for the site that best respects its history and meets the future economic, social and environmental ambitions of Warrington, the neighbouring district of Halton and their communities.

"As echoed in the draft local plan, employment, housing, parkland and wildlife areas are a key part of this and with decades of experience regenerating towns and cities across the UK, we are confident that we can bring forward proposals that build on the strengths of both areas and create new exciting communities with more jobs, better homes and facilities, and open space to help

improve lives.

"We have a significant track record in regenerating redundant heavy industrial sites and we are keen to continue investing in more opportunities like this and work with partners to support local and regional economies."

Peel NRE will also help to oversee the land remediation of the site and will be in touch with the community as plans progress.

John Johnson, director of Development for SSE Thermal, said: "Fiddler's Ferry was a major contributor to our energy system for decades, but as we power past coal the decision was made

to close the site in 2019. As custodians of the site for more than 15 years, we know how much it means to the local community and during the sale process we wanted to find a buyer who would ensure the site continued to play a vital role moving forward.

"In Peel NRE, we are passing the baton to a developer with ambitious plans to regenerate Fiddler's Ferry, providing new economic opportunities for the local community, and we look forward to seeing those plans progress in the years ahead."

For more information about Peel NRE or the plans, visit www.fiddlersferry.com



The Cost-of-Living Crisis - supply chain shortages and how a local company is offering help and guidance

A LOCAL Supply Chain Consultancy has reported a huge percentage increase in enquiries and support-based packages to local businesses seeking bespoke guidance and support in light of the current cost of living crisis and the supply chain shortages seen globally, nationally and regionally.

S.L. Procurement Solutions Limited - a Procurement and Supply Chain Consultancy Specialist, is offering guidance to businesses covering vital advice, provision and strategies.

S.L. Procurement Solutions, known for offering procurement and supply chain management, teaching, training and consultation services across all sectors, are dedicating the next few weeks to all things Supply Chain based, to help support local businesses.

Currently the biggest topic and most popular line of enquiry is surrounding the cost-of-living crisis and how this is impacting businesses. The training and consultancy company can help businesses through the next few months, looking at supply chains, risk assessment, supply chain value creation opportunities, training need analysis, general procurement activity analysis, contract terms development, negotiations, sustainability, supplier sourcing and sourcing projects.

Stephen Lovatt, Director and Head of S.L. Procurement Solutions Limited is inviting local businesses to make contact if they need guidance on this complicated, multifaceted and important issue

Stephen, who has a plethora of experience in consulting on behalf of companies across the UK is offering this unique opportunity.

Stephen said "we can help minimise risks in supply chains and boast an abundance of dynamic solutions, for all businesses in any sector."

"We have been guiding a huge number of companies with small to very large new implementations with supply chain shortages in mind. It's been an honour to provide solutions for all our clients and it's really important to us to support our region during this time."



■ Stephen Lovatt.

Premier Business Conference Returns for 2022



THE Chamber of Commerce will be joining forces with the Business Exchange and Warrington & Co to deliver the 3rd annual Warrington Business Conference.

Cineworld at Time Square will once again host the town's most popular business event, followed by lunch at the exclusive Botanist restaurant.

Chamber Chief Executive, Stephen Fitzsimons, commented "The Conference has quickly established itself as the event that all local businesses look out for first. The networking opportunities are unmatched in Warrington and we look forward to welcoming a senior member of Her Majesty's Opposition to put across their plans for the economy".

Tickets are available through the Business Exchange website at www.wbex.co.uk or contact the Chamber for more details on 01925 715 150. These are free for members of both organisations or £49 + VAT for non-members.

Warrington Business Conference 2022
Cineworld, Time Square, WA1 2LH
Friday 16th September – 08:45 to 14:30

60 years at the cutting edge of science



DARESBURY Laboratory, near Warrington, is celebrating 60 years at the cutting edge of science and innovation – and also looking forward to a continued future of milestone breakthroughs, inspiration and job creation.

Since 1962, the laboratory has pushed the boundaries of modern science. Today, it is recognised worldwide across a range of scientific fields, from nuclear physics to supercomputing and many in between.

Part of the Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC) and located at Sci-Tech Daresbury, it enables research that positively impacts society, from new cancer therapies, to cleaner fuel and energy.

A focal part of Daresbury's history, and which has played a significant role in what it is today, is undoubtedly the Synchrotron Radiation Source (SRS). One of the most pioneering scientific inventions of its time, it played a key role towards a share of two Nobel Prizes in Chemistry.

Generating light billions of times brighter than the sun, this particle accelerator revealed the structure of atoms and molecules inside materials, enabling research into diseases such as HIV and motor neurone disease. Research into the structure of the Foot and Mouth virus led to the development of a vaccine and was the first animal virus structure to be determined in Europe.

Since its closure in 2008, the impact of the SRS continues to be far reaching, leading to the development of many similar facilities around the world, of which there are now at least 70, with technologies and skills originating from Daresbury still in use.

Key Role

Today, Daresbury's scientists, engineers and technicians continue to play a key role in designing and building the newest generations of particle accelerators across the world. These include the Large Hadron Collider at CERN in Switzerland, as well as a host of ground breaking facilities currently under construction in both the US and Europe.

Daresbury is also home to CLARA, a one-of-a-kind particle accelerator designed to develop, test and advance new accelerator technologies of the future.

Most recently, it has enabled researchers to carry out experiments they cannot do anywhere else in the

UK, including research to develop new proton imaging technologies for cancer detection, and our next generations of radiotherapy for targeting tumours that are hard to treat.

Paul Vernon, head of STFC's Daresbury Laboratory said: "It is with so much pride that I reflect on the success of 60 years of Daresbury Laboratory, and how it has helped change our world for the better in so many ways.

Every day there's incredible research happening right here which has the potential to improve our lives.

"We remain today as committed as we have ever been to supporting excellent research and providing access to world-class research facilities and expertise to solve real world challenges."

The cutting-edge science and results emerging from the early days of the SRS led to the establishment of the internationally recognised Scientific Computing Department at Daresbury, and subsequently to the opening of the Hartree Centre, exactly 10 years ago.

Home to some of the UK's most advanced technologies in computing, data science and Artificial Intelligence (AI), the Hartree Centre is one of the UK's only supercomputing centres dedicated to industry applications.

Here, businesses can access specialist expertise and supercomputers that are normally only available to academia and large-scale industry, reducing the time and cost of developing new products.

Amongst many other projects, the Hartree Centre is currently collaborating with the UK Atomic Energy Association (UKAEA) to develop fusion technologies for a low carbon future with supercomputers and AI.

The recently launched £210 million Hartree National Centre for Digital Innovation (HNCEDI), a collaboration with IBM, enables companies large and small to discover how the latest AI and quantum computing technologies could benefit their business.

Putting the UK at the forefront of AI and digital innovation not only requires the latest in supercomputing technologies, but also in infrastructure and data security requirements. To support this, planning and preparatory work is now complete and ready for construction to begin of a

new, state-of-the-art, 33,000ft² Supercomputing Centre.

STFC's Kate Roysse, director of the Hartree Centre, said: "The Hartree Centre is committed to providing an environment where UK science and businesses can be at the forefront of the latest digital technologies, such as AI and quantum computing.

Real potential

"These technologies have the real potential to revolutionise our lives, and could help us to re-think how we solve the world's problems, from climate change to security. With our support, businesses can explore these technologies at reduced risk for increased productivity and competitiveness.

"As we also celebrate 10 years of the Hartree Centre, there has never been a more exciting time to work in this field, and I can't wait to see what the next decade brings."

In 2006, the expertise, facilities and industrial links created around the scientific facilities and expertise at Daresbury Laboratory led to the Government's creation of the successful and vibrant campus now known as Sci-Tech Daresbury.

A joint venture between STFC, property developer Langtree and Halton Borough Council, it integrates world-class science, technology and business enterprise to benefit the economy and drive forward 10,000 jobs by 2030.

Today, the rapidly expanding campus is home to more than 150 technology companies, ranging from pioneering high-tech start-ups to major international firms such as IBM Research, Hitachi Hi-Tech Europe and Croda.

Small businesses are critical to the health of the economy, and the commitment to support them at Sci-Tech Daresbury remains stronger than ever.

Whether this is through the range of business incubation programmes available, or access to cutting edge laboratory or office space, businesses are accessing the support and technologies they need to succeed and grow. This commitment was re-enforced recently by the creation of three industrial clusters, dedicated to supporting HealthTec, Space and Digital businesses.

The effect this support has had on the success and resilience of businesses located at the Campus is significant, with the campus now home to more thriving start-ups

than before the Covid-19 pandemic. Key to this support is the Home for Life ethos, a set of principles that allows businesses to achieve their ambitions within the Campus, with firms offered the technical support, world-class facilities and access to local and national networks needed in order to become trailblazers in their chosen field.

John Downes, chief executive officer of Langtree and director of Sci-Tech Daresbury, said: "I would like to congratulate Daresbury Laboratory on 60 years of trailblazing and inspirational science and innovation. The groundbreaking work undertaken with the SRS set a benchmark for what can be achieved on our campus, and I'm very proud that companies based at Sci-Tech Daresbury keep that legacy alive today by delivering pioneering work in a range of industries in order to improve the world around us while creating tangible economic benefits for the Liverpool City Region."

Major employer

As a major employer in the region for 60 years, Daresbury Laboratory places great importance on providing opportunities and training for future generations.

Work experience opportunities and a successful apprenticeship programme are a key part of securing the skills needed to support the ongoing job creation and growth of the campus, with almost 60 apprentices on site working across a whole range of roles

Paul Vernon said: "The range of skills and talents needed for the UK to thrive as an innovation nation is huge and under-recognised. People are our opportunity, and investing in talented young people will unleash the region's full potential.

"As a proud partner of Sci-Tech Daresbury, we are committed more than ever to putting apprenticeships and training at the heart of what we do. With almost 60 apprentices working across a range of roles, our apprenticeship scheme continues to grow.

"Celebrating our 60th anniversary of is an immensely proud moment for all of us here at Daresbury Laboratory. I would like to thank all who have contributed to its growth, many of whom have dedicated their entire careers to Daresbury. I look forward with great anticipation to our next 60 years, celebrating the continued successes of the facility, made possible thanks to the dedicated staff both now and in the future."

New Warrington BID manager wants to bring businesses together to be proud of their town

BORN and bred Warringtonian Andrea Morley has been appointed as the new project manager of the Warrington Business Improvement District (BID) and was welcomed at a recent meeting with the Board.

She has taken on the role until August 2023 covering the maternity leave of the current Warrington BID Manager, Amy Dawber.

Andrea has spent most of her career working for Warrington-based organisations including LiveWire and Culture Warrington. She has worked on several town centre events including Warrington Music Festival, the LiveWire Mile, and the impressive 'Museum of the Moon' installation in 2019. She was the initiator of the Maker's Market launching in Warrington at Queen's Gardens and the Beach at Bank Park in 2018.

Andrea said: "Businesses and residents of the town need to be reminded of our quality events, leisure facilities, shops, bars and restaurants so they can be proud of where they live, work and entertain. We still have a lot of work to do but I know we can make real enhancements and improvements for Warrington's business community. We are already planning for Christmas with a weekend of festive activities for all the family with a finale event at the Town Hall. Importantly we'll be looking at how we can support

the different business sectors and continue to deliver across our four key themes. I am proud to become the BID manager and am looking forward to the next 9 months heading up to the next ballot".

She also told us as a born and bred Warringtonian, she is passionate about giving back to her town. She is a trustee for Warrington Charities Trust and advisor to the board at the Warrington Wolves Foundation. She is also an elected parish councillor for Great Sankey North, where she is a resident.

Warrington BID was approved at ballot in 2018 after the majority of businesses voted in support. The current term of the BID will end in 2023, when businesses will again have the chance to vote for it to continue for another five years. Since the BID started in 2018, Warrington BID has supported more than £1m of investment into the town centre.

Emma Hutchinson, chair of the Warrington BID Board, commented: "We are excited to welcome Andrea as BID manager, her experience and energy will drive forward our plans to continue Warrington town centre's evolution into a thriving place where people can live, work, play and learn. Ultimately becoming the consumers' destination of choice and supporting local businesses with the opportunities this will bring."



Prime time for Amazon Warrington team's celebrations

A SERIES of events, fun and games took place at the Amazon fulfilment centre in Warrington recently as employees celebrated Prime Day.

Some of the week-long activities at the fulfilment centre included a t-shirt giveaway, games and a Mexican-themed celebration meal. The events were organised by Amazon in Warrington to say thank you to the team for the work they do delivering for customers around the UK.

Prime Day is one of Amazon's biggest annual sales events, and this year some of the bestselling items purchased by customers in the UK included Hardware, Spirits, Skin Care and Devices.

One of the Warrington Amazon employees who enjoyed the Prime Day fun was Karen McPhillips. She said: "We always have so much fun on Prime Day and this year's celebrations have been our best yet. It's great that we can all get together as a team and celebrate Prime Day."

Amazon Warrington Site Leader, James Pitt, added: "Prime Day is

a real highlight in the calendars of our customers and team members, and we've enjoyed lots of celebrations in Warrington. I've enjoyed seeing all the great things happening across our fulfilment centre this week and I'm looking forward to more fun events that will be taking place here over the coming weeks and months."

Amazon provides competitive pay, comprehensive benefits and a modern, safe and engaging work environment for its employees. The roles pay a minimum of £10 per hour, and Amazon employees can also take advantage of Amazon's pioneering Career Choice programme, which pre-pays 95% of tuition for courses in high-demand fields, up to £8,000 over four years, regardless of whether the skills are relevant to a career at Amazon.

Amazon also provides opportunities to improve existing skills or learn new ones through internal career progression opportunities such as cross-training, transferring to a different department and promotion into a managerial role.

Amazon has invested over £32 billion in the UK since 2010 to provide convenience, selection and value to UK consumers, while supporting tens of thousands of businesses and creative professionals including small

businesses selling on Amazon's online stores, Amazon Web Services developers and Kindle Direct Publishing authors.

To find out more about beginning a career with Amazon, visit [Amazon Jobs](#)



Warrington Mortgage Centre becomes first Carbon Neutral mortgage broker in town

SINCE 2017, Warrington Mortgage Centre (WMC) has taken significant steps to reduce its carbon footprint and in January 2022 pledged to become Carbon Neutral by 2024.

After only a few months the broker firm has now achieved its goal and become a fully Carbon Neutral business.

Sam Fox, Founder of WMC, said "We're committed to change. We're thrilled to announce our family-owned business is now

Carbon Neutral. We've worked incredibly hard over the past few months to not only provide a friendly, down-to-earth service for our clients but create a positive impact on the planet during the process."

Becoming Carbon Neutral means that WMC has measured its entire business emissions, including its supply chain, and has purchased carbon credits to offset its carbon footprint. This year it's funding the planting of 1060 trees, the removal of 106kg of plastic from the ocean, and a range of social

and environmental projects globally which will reduce carbon emissions by 106 tonnes of CO2e. WMC is not only creating a positive impact on the planet via these projects but is supporting 16 of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals including good health and wellbeing, gender equality, decent work, and economic and climate action to name a few.

In addition to offsetting the company's carbon footprint, the team is going one step further by planting 1 tree in the Scottish Highlands per customer to offset the carbon emissions associated with their mortgage products. 1 tree has the potential to sequester up to ¼ tonne of CO2e over its lifetime. WMC is also committing to helping customers reduce their household emissions.

The company has gone from strength to strength and to achieve these goals WMC worked alongside Positive Planet and

Trees For Life.

Bryony Salter, Sustainability Engagement Manager at Positive Planet, said "We are delighted to be supporting Warrington Mortgage Centre to achieve their ambitious climate goals. It is great to see a local business commit to not only reduce their own environmental impact but also help their customers and wider network to do the same."

WMC is not stopping there though. The company is now setting a Net Zero goal of [2035] which means they aim to reduce their own emissions by approximately 90% and continue to offset any residual emissions. This is much more ambitious than the government's Net Zero 2050 goal but with the help of Positive Planet, the team believes it will be more than achievable.

Find Out More – <https://positiveplanet.uk/company-dashboards/warrington-mortgage-centre/>



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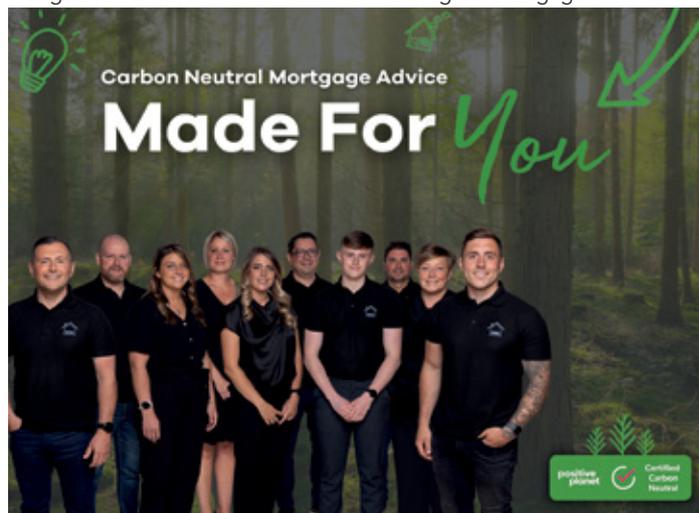
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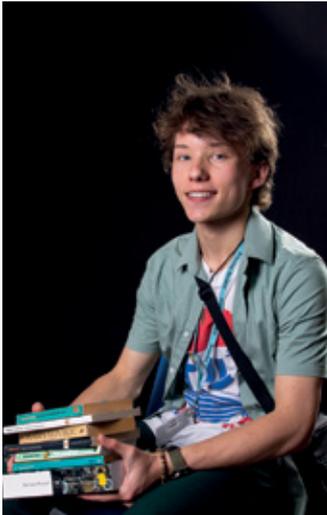
Essay prize for Priestley philosophy student

A **PRIESTLEY** College student has won a Philosophy essay competition set by one of the UK's finest universities.

Cameron Matthews, who studies Philosophy alongside History, English Literature and Psychology, won the prize awarded by the University of Sheffield – one of the Russell Group institutions.

His 1,500-word essay attempted to answer the question of whether free will exists?

"I liked the challenge of answering the question and obviously there is an element of



this being something I can put on my personal statement," said Cameron.

"It's an interesting question because we like to think that we all have free will, but there are things outside our control that mean this isn't the case."

The Sheffield Philosophy Essay Competition is an annual event and received a record entry this year of 186.

Judges said all the essays were of an 'exceptionally high quality' so competition was fierce.

Eventually they named 10 winners who each received a £25 voucher and invitation to a virtual workshop organised by the university's Department of Philosophy, involving academics and current students.

They said Cameron's essay was well written and followed a clear line of argumentation.

Their only notes were to suggest a slight restructure of his essay to introduce a key piece of evidence earlier in the work.

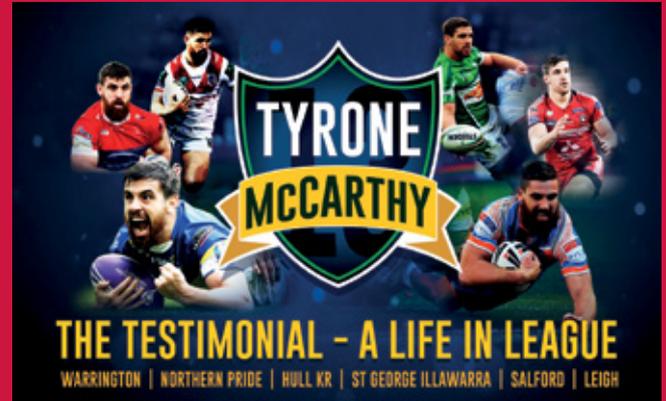
Overall they scored the former Cardinal Newman Catholic High School pupil's essay 77.

Cameron, who is aiming to progress to one of the UK's top universities to study Philosophy or Psychology, is on Priestley College's Graduate Programme.

Connie Bostock, Graduate Tutor and Oxnet Coordinator, said: "Cameron has excelled in this competition. I am really proud of

his achievement in receiving this commendation and I hope it has given him some insight into how good he could be."

Testimonial for Tyrone



SINCE being awarded a testimonial year by the RFL, former Warrington Wolves forward Tyrone McCarthy has announced several exciting opportunities for businesses to get involved in supporting.

Among the charities set to benefit from McCarthy's testimonial will be Warrington Youth Zone.

Events coming soon include a Golf Day at Lymm Golf Club on 19th September, a WarringtonRLFC reunion dinner on 23rd September and an afternoon tea celebrating women on Sunday 13th November at Parrs Bank.

For details on tickets and how you or your business can get involved, email Tyrone at Tyronemccarthy2022@outlook.com



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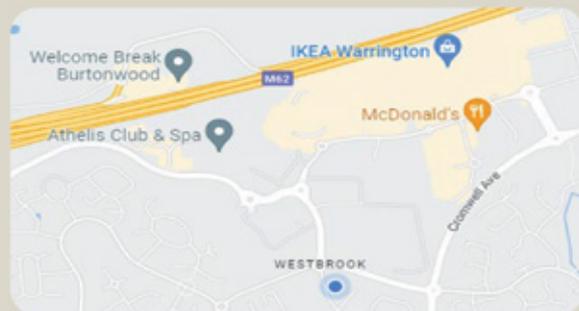
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