

# insight

October 18

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# Military freemen 75 Engineers Regiment parade through heart of town



**W**arrington's heroic military freemen paraded through the town centre as members of the 75 Engineers Regiment exercised their right, as freemen of Warrington, to march through the heart of the town.

The Mayor of Warrington, Cllr Karen Mundry, took the salute on the town hall steps and said: "The men and women of the 75 Engineers Regiment have long had a close association with Warrington. We were delighted to bestow upon them our highest honour by granting them the freedom of the borough in 2013.

"We are very proud of the regiment and this was a fantastic opportunity to thank them for the work they do.

The event started with the Commanding Officer asking permission from the Mayor for the regiment to exercise their right as Freemen of the Borough to march through the streets accompanied by the Nottinghamshire Band of The Royal Engineers.

It is the first time the event has taken place since the freedom was awarded in 2013 and is scheduled to take place about every five years.





# From the Chief Executive

Colin Daniels



## Britain now top in Europe for Internet Commerce

Britain has emerged as a nation of online shopkeeper's as new figures show the country's eCommerce companies top the European league table for international trade.

One in seven shoppers in more than 30 global markets have

bought from a UK online retailer in the past 12 months well ahead of the one in 10 who had bought from second placed Germany.

Consumers in the US, Britain's largest online export market, shelled out more than £12.5bn for UK goods in the past year, the

highest level on record.

The report also revealed the strength of Britain's exports with Europe as it was named among the top three online sellers to France, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Norway, Spain and Sweden.

## Economy picks up

Sunny weather, wage growth and a strong exports market helped buoy the economy over the summer in a sign that momentum is returning after a sluggish start to the year.

Economic growth in the three months to July defied expectations after rising 0.6pc marking the strongest expansion in a year.

In the entire month of July, GDP was up by 0.3pc and the services sector contributed the most to the country's growth.

Construction output jumped by 3.3pc with repair and maintenance work up 5.3pc and new construction increasing by 2.3pc.

The amount of goods the country exports rose, which trimmed the trade deficit by £1.4bn to £3.4bn.

In the month of July the trade deficit fell to just £111m which is the fourth smallest figure in 20 years.

## Dominant services sector

The economy is on track for sustained grow, helped by the dominant services sector, whose performance last month defied the slowdown in the construction and manufacturing industries.

Growth picked up, new orders and hiring rose to its strongest level since February in services, which account for around 80pc of the economy.

As a result the purchasing managers index (PMI) rose

from 53.5 to 54.2, any score of above 50 indicates growth so last month's increase shows an acceleration.

Economists believe this means the economy is on track to maintain its second-quarter

gross domestic product growth rate of 0.4pc for another three months. That represents a rebound from growth of only 0.2pc in the first quarter of 2018.

## Money is not the only reason older people are choosing to stay in work

A growing number of older people are working past their retirement age but its not just about money.

Official figures suggest 15pc of men and 8pc of women over the age of 65 are currently in employment.

With businesses finding it harder than ever to recruit workers.

Britain's skills shortage reached "critical levels" in the last quarter of 2017 according to a survey from the British Chambers of Commerce – older workers represent a solution to this staff shortfall.

# The Park Royal Hotel expands senior team

**CHESHIRE duo Sammy Hitchen (25) and Steven Savill (29) have been appointed to managerial posts at four-star Warrington hotel, The Park Royal.**

They will take up the positions of Assistant Spa Manager and Bar Manager at the luxury QHotels spa hotel, operated by RBH.

Sammy's promotion comes during her fifth year at the Cheshire property, having graduated from her position as spa supervisor.

Newcomer Steven started his bar career in 2014 and by 2015 he was a finalist for the UKBG National Cocktail Championships. He has previously worked for Corus Hotels and held the position of Bar

Manager at Tom@101 Bar and Grill.

Sammy said: "I have been working towards this role and I am really looking forward to working with my team to develop our spa offering and continue to showcase what spa is all about. We share a passion for what we do and we strive every day to ensure all clients have an unforgettable spa experience."

Steven added: "I am really looking forward to joining The Park Royal family. I'll be focusing on developing our growing cocktail

culture and enhancing our lounge bar a destination for customers and hotel guests alike."

Parts of The Park Royal Hotel date back to 1831. The property boasts both traditional and contemporary features, with 146 modern bedrooms, a fantastic on-site spa, leisure facilities, conference and meeting spaces and two dining choices: 'The Topiary in the Park' and the 'Lounge Bar'.

The Park Royal is part of the QHotels portfolio, operated by the UK's largest independent hotel management company, RBH.



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*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

# Cheshire Fire and Rescue service launch of 12 month sprinkler campaign

**A**t the beginning of September CFRS launched the Sprinklers Save Lives campaign to highlight the importance of sprinklers and suppression systems in both commercial and domestic properties.

The campaign will underline how sprinklers prevent fire from spreading, give vital survival time for occupants of a building to escape and drive down death and injury from fire.

Fires in the home still account for the greatest number of fire deaths and injuries each year, so the installation of sprinklers in domestic premises would have a significant impact in reducing these. There is also a compelling case to be made for sprinklers to be fitted in any commercial premises. In commercial environments, businesses could get back to normal in a relatively short space of time. It is a well-known fact that many businesses that suffer from significant fires and fire damage never return to operation. Sprinklers can safeguard against that and significantly improve business continuity.

Throughout the campaign CFRS aims to raise awareness of the benefits of the systems and to dispel the myths and misconceptions that sprinklers attract. There will be a monthly focus aimed at specific sectors including landlords, construction companies, small businesses, education, health and homeowners.

Tracey Carter, the Service's Business Safety Manager, explains: "Engaging with businesses and building relationships is an excellent way to deliver important safety messages, break down barriers and build a rapport with business owners/managers or other partners. The Business Safety team members regularly visit businesses to offer support, advice and signpost people to key information on the website.

"We always aim to help businesses to comply with the requirements of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety Order) 2005 ("the Fire Safety Order") and take every opportunity

to discuss other key elements such as having a business continuity plan. Sprinklers are a brilliant way to extinguish fire but also help to ensure there is no loss of business, in fact, for those businesses unlucky enough to experience a fire, with sprinklers they could be back up and running again within 48 hours!

"We are obliged to enforce the law by implementing a formal enforcement procedure when the Fire Safety Order is not met; however we want to avoid this course of action wherever possible and so we work with, the business owner/manager to resolve deficiencies to meet a satisfactory conclusion where possible, and dependent upon the risk."

Regular questions asked during a visit or seminar are

Where does the Fire Safety Order apply?

The Fire Safety Order applies to virtually all premises and covers nearly every type of building, structure, and open space, for example:

- offices and shops
- premises that provide care
- community halls
- common areas of houses in multiple occupation (HMOs)
- pubs, clubs and restaurants
- schools
- tents and marquees
- hotels and hostels
- factories and warehouses

What exactly are my duties under the Fire Safety Order?

- to plan, organise, control, monitor and review fire safety measures
- to eliminate or reduce risks

- to ensure premises are equipped with firefighting equipment
- to ensure premises have fire detectors and alarms
- to ensure premises have safe emergency routes and exits
- to maintain fire safety equipment and devices
- to provide fire safety information to employees
- provide fire safety training

[www.cheshirefire.gov.uk/business-safety/your-responsibilities/information-for-employers](http://www.cheshirefire.gov.uk/business-safety/your-responsibilities/information-for-employers)

What are the main requirements of the Fire Safety Order?

The Responsible Person is required to:

- carry out or nominate someone to carry out a Fire Risk Assessment identifying the risks and hazards
- consider who may be at risk
- eliminate or reduce the risk from fire as far as it is reasonably practical and provide general fire precautions to deal with any

residual risk

- take additional measures where flammable or explosive materials are used or stored
- create a plan to deal with any emergency and in most cases document your findings, and
- review the findings

Do I need a fire risk assessment?

Yes. You must protect yourself and anyone else in the vicinity of your business from fire. To do this you must assess the risks and make general fire precautions. You can download a risk assessment template from the website [www.cheshirefire.gov.uk/business-safety/your-responsibilities/fire-risk-assessment](http://www.cheshirefire.gov.uk/business-safety/your-responsibilities/fire-risk-assessment)

For more information about the work of the Business Safety team or to book a place on the next sprinkler demonstration/workshop please contact [tracey.carter@cheshirefire.gov.uk](mailto:tracey.carter@cheshirefire.gov.uk) or book on via <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/fire-safety-seminar-for-businesses-schools-and-social-landlords-including-live-sprinkler-tickets-47815141375>



## Eddie Stobart launches new freight train service

WARRINGTON based Eddie Stobart has announced the launch of a new train service.

It is the UK leading supply chain, transport and Logistics Company's first ever train service to run from the Port of Tilbury, with the capacity to travel with between 30 and 36 containers. Rail continues to be a key focus for Eddie Stobart Logistics due to the reduced carbon emissions. It will now be possible to connect ports in Southern England to central Scotland without the use of roads.

The Eddie Stobart branded train will be running three days a week between the Port of Tilbury and Daventry, and twice weekly from Daventry to Mossend.

John Clark, Sector Director at Eddie Stobart said: "The ability to link London Ports by rail to central Scotland is something we have been looking to launch for some time and the interest in this new service has been extremely encouraging. It's an exciting step that sees Eddie Stobart Logistics continuing to broaden its complete end-to-end logistics offering, while remaining focused on how we can offer environmentally conscious transportation solutions."

The train service is launched as part of a four-month trial, with a view to being rolled out fully in 2019.

Ross McKissock, Asset Manager at London Container Terminal added: "This new service underpins our

commitment to provide sustainable and cost effective logistics solutions for our customers, aiding growth and competitiveness in the supply chain. The service is made

possible thanks to Eddie Stobart's collaboration with Port of Tilbury, Direct Rail Services, JF Hillebrand and Samskip."





# Taylor Business Park sale completed for £19.2m

**THE sale of Taylor Business Park, near Culcheth, Warrington, has just completed for £19.2m for all of the land and buildings associated with the site.**

The site consists of 55.15 Acres of land with a mix of industrial and office space across 284,773 sq ft and has extensive HGV parking facilities.

Paul Taylor, MD of Taylor Business Park Ltd, said: "We're delighted that the buyers, Ribston, based in West Yorkshire have a similar hands on approach to ours and want to see the site sustain its high level of security and appearance that have been maintained since the 1960s. We're sad to see it go but this is a new chapter for everyone now. The plan is to reinvest the funds into Warrington and the North West, sticking to industrial and commercial property and steering away from retail. The sale of this site and the price it has achieved just go to show how much investors recognise Warrington and Cheshire as a key part of the Northern Powerhouse and how it's a logistical jewel in the crown of the North West with the convergence of so many major motorways and rail networks.

"We were very pleased to work with CBRE, Antrobus Capital Partners, KK Thompson solicitors and Claire Murphy Legal to achieve this. It was a challenging sale as there was a lot of unregistered land involved with the site dating back to the 60s when it was bought from the ministry of supply. Despite this the whole process, from going on the market to the completion of the sale only took four months. We're looking forward to exciting times ahead. We've created a new management company, Taylor Estates, and we've already started looking at some

interesting properties that are out there"

The buyer, Ribston, added: "We are delighted to have completed the acquisition of Taylor Business Park which represents a significant holding for us and is

complimentary to other assets in our Fund. From the first inspection we were immediately impressed by the attentive manner which three generations of the Taylor family had managed the estate.

"Having now acquired it, we look forward to forming our own relationships with the tenants, many of whom have had very

longstanding presence on the property. Having a material asset in Taylor Business Park consolidates our representation in the North West where we own a number of properties on Trafford Park and also in Preston, Wigan, Bolton, Accrington and Stockport."

Cushman & Wakefield acted for the purchaser.



## *All change at Aspire Computers Ltd*

WARRINGTON businessman Geoff Plass has decided after 18 years to have a change in career direction, and as a consequence he will no longer be directly involved in the day to day running of Aspire Computers.

Geoff will however, continue to perform an active role on behalf of Aspire Computers' products and services, promoting their continued growth within the Warrington business community, and seeking out new partnerships and opportunities. His work for Aspire will run alongside his involvement in new business opportunities.

All the team at Aspire acknowledge Geoff's achievement in partnering with Mark to set up the company and build it to its current position, we look forward to Geoff's continuing input and wish him every success in his new ventures.

Geoff will remain contactable via [geoff@aspire-computers.com](mailto:geoff@aspire-computers.com) and 07768 947877.

Following Geoff's move a new structure has been put into place:

- Mark Hamer Managing Director IT Service & Support Division
- Josh Laff Support Director
- Ethan Clarke becomes Apprentice Junior Engineer Website and Social Media Division
- Roz Healey Director of Web and Social Media Services
- Sophy Bostock Senior Web and Social Media Developer.



# Peace Foundation overwhelmed by public response to Mother's Day

**WARRINGTON'S unique Peace Foundation has been overwhelmed by the public response following the screening of "Mother's Day" on BBC2.**

The factual drama which tells the story of two mothers following the IRA bomb attack on Warrington which claimed the lives of Tim Parry and Johnathan Ball, was the Peace Foundation's biggest ever event trending at number two in the UK on Twitter.

Foundation Chief Executive Nick Taylor said: "The Tim Parry Johnathan Ball Peace Foundation is overwhelmed at the reaction to the BBC drama, Mother's Day screened on Monday evening. Thousands of messages of support have been posted on social media and sent to the Peace Centre.

"We always knew from the moment this production was talked about, that it would be hard hitting, but ultimately would tell a story about the families and a town coming out of a tragedy and building a sense of hope and making a real difference.

"The names of Tim and Johnathan are known across the world and their legacy lives on. Mother's Day also showed how Warrington came together, at first with some anger and confusion, but quickly leading to a search for reconciliation and peace. It was Warrington that reached out to other communities across the world, and has for 25 years led work towards peace.

"From the comments on social media, I know many people had very strong emotions during the transmission but I hope they ultimately felt proud of the town, its people and will continue to support the Peace Foundation and Peace Centre as our work continues."

A special premiere of the drama was screened at the Peace Centre prior to the broadcast on BBC2, with members of the cast in attendance alongside the Parry family and Peace 93 campaigner Susan McHugh.

Written by Newton-le-Willows based Nick Leather (Murdered For Being Different), Vicky McClure (Line of Duty) plays Susan McHugh, the Dublin mother of two so outraged by the loss of young life that she organised one of the largest peace rallies in Irish history, leading thousands through the streets in protest at the continued violence of the Troubles.

Anna Maxwell Martin (Motherland) plays Wendy Parry, the mother of 12 year old Tim, who lost his life in the attack which left two boys dead and many others injured.

Daniel Mays (Against The Law) plays Tim's father Colin Parry, with David Wilmot (The Alienist) as Arthur McHugh.

warrington-worldwide Editor Gary Skentelbery, who is the longest serving Patron at the Foundation For Peace reflected on the screening.

He said: "As a young reporter who covered the Warrington bombing on Bridge Street on March 20, 1993 and then went on to report on the aftermath and Warrington's response of peace and reconciliation, this factual based drama left a lump in my throat and brought back many memories.

"It made me realise more than ever,

the strength of those most closely affected, like Colin and Wendy, who lost their son Tim and also gave me great pride in how my home town responded to atrocity with peace and reconciliation.

Watching the drama unfold on a big screen in the Peace Centre, which has become a lasting legacy to the two boys and other victims, alongside Colin and Wendy, their other children Dominic and Abbi, Peace 93 campaigner

Susan McHugh and the actors who play their roles, was a surreal experience.

"It brought back many memories and provided a fascinating insight into how the Warrington bombing impacted on two ordinary families who developed into extra-ordinary people and the important role Warrington played in the Peace process and how the Irish people responded."



## Strictly St Rocco's 2018 - Keith's Fundraising Page

Keith Robertson who is a Director at Harrington Robertson (Independent Financial Advisers) and who is also a Chamber Board Director is looking to raise money for St. Rocco's Hospice.

His story is below and would love the support of other chamber members.

Keith said "St Rocco's Hospice holds a very special place in my heart after seeing first-hand how they cared for my Dad when he stayed there 11 years ago in his final weeks. We were so very impressed and ever go grateful, and since then I have always tried to help in fund raising for the hospice, so that that they can support other families in the same way.

"So when I was asked to enter Strictly St Rocco's I said yes without thinking. It was only after a few weeks that I realised I had signed up to dance in front of hundreds of people at a very glittering, glamorous evening on 9th December 2018, that's when the nerves kicked in!

"Strictly St Rocco's is a great charity evening of 10 novice dancers doing

their moves with 10 professional dancers. Lots of sparkle, great outfits and spray tans!

"My only previous experience of dancing (very loose term of it really) would be after several drinks on a Friday or Saturday night on the dance floors of Fiesta, Mr Smiths, Secrets, Mississippi Showboat, Evergreens, Brannigans, Chaplins & Chigago Rock (all to the classics of the 80s and 90s!) but I have certainly never done anything like this at all. But I really do like a challenge, and despite being way outside my comfort zone I shall give it my best shot and have as much fun as possible and enjoy the experience, and of course always remembering that it's for such a fantastic cause.

Can I please ask you to consider sponsoring me? It doesn't matter what the amount is, every penny donated is a penny the hospice doesn't have. Please donate via my Just giving page below:-

[www.justgiving.com/fundraising/keith-robertson4](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/keith-robertson4)





# Mitchell Charlesworth boosts tax team with two new senior hires

**W**arrington accountancy firm Mitchell Charlesworth has strengthened its expert tax team with two senior appointments.

Phil Hartley and Phillippa Britchford have both joined the firm as tax managers.

Phil Hartley is a chartered accountant and chartered tax adviser with more than eight years' experience of dealing with owner-managed businesses and providing tax advice on a wide range of issues. In particular, Phil specialises in owner-managed business tax planning, corporation tax planning and research and development tax relief claims. He joins the firm from Haleys Business Advisers.

Commenting on his appointment, Phil said: "Mitchell Charlesworth has a well-established tax practice which provides a high-quality service to a range of clients and I'm looking forward to working closely with the team as we build on this together."

Phillippa Britchford has returned to Mitchell Charlesworth after having spent 10 years working for other accountancy firms in Cheshire. When previously working at the firm she completed accounts and audits. She has spent the time since

leaving the practice developing her knowledge of personal tax and returns to look after personal tax clients, especially those with residency issues. Phillippa trained in Belfast and recently became a FCA of the Institute Chartered Accountants Ireland.

Phillippa said: "Having previously worked at Mitchell Charlesworth, I was aware of the excellent team that they already had and was keen to join it again to bring both my own experience and to further develop my knowledge. I look forward to developing long term relationships with my clients, and helping them plan for their future in the most tax efficient manner."

The appointments follow on from the promotion of Alison Birch who recently became a VAT partner in the tax team.

Tim Adcock, partner and head of Mitchell Charlesworth's tax team, said: "As a firm we are continually investing in our team and recruiting the best talent we can to enable us to deliver the highest-quality service to our clients. Phil and Phillippa's

knowledge and expertise make them both key additions to the team. It's great to have them on board."

Paul Wainwright, managing partner at Mitchell Charlesworth added: "Our clients' needs have become less about tax compliance and more about dealing with their tax planning. In response to this, we

have further enhanced our senior tax team with both appointments, strengthening our well established specialist tax offering and enabling us to add even greater value and service to our clients."

Mitchell Charlesworth's tax team spans across the firm's five offices in Manchester, Liverpool, Chester, Warrington and Widnes.



## Is your Workplace Prepared?

**Did you know that an estimated 609,000 workers in Britain sustained an injury at work in 2016/17?**

The Health and Safety (First Aid) Regulations 1981 require all employers to make arrangements to ensure their employees receive immediate attention if they are injured or taken ill at work. This includes carrying out a risk assessment, appointing a suitable amount of first aiders and providing appropriate first aid training. However, having the correct first aid provision in the workplace is not just a legal requirement, it is incredibly important for the safety of all members of staff!

The **QA Level 3 Award in First Aid at Work (RQF)** qualification is specifically designed for individuals who wish to act as a first aider in their workplace. Successful candidates will learn how to manage a range of injuries and illnesses that could occur at work and will be equipped with the essential skills needed to give emergency first aid.

What's more, as a regulated qualification, employers can book this course for their employees and rest assured that they have fulfilled their legal responsibilities for providing quality first aid training, without having to undertake any lengthy due diligence checks.

# Why apprenticeships matter at Blue Whale Media



**We** know how daunting it can be for a young college or high school graduate to start looking at which career path they want to pursue.

Many people aren't quite ready or interested in the heavily committed approach that university offers and others are looking for a bit more guidance before diving into the professional world. Apprenticeships provide an opportunity to work within the sector that interests you while still providing you with guidance and education.

Below is some insight as to why Blue Whale Media finds apprenticeships so valuable, and how Blue Whale Media makes the most of the apprenticeship experience for the young graduates joining us.

## Flexible and Job-Specific Training

A large part of why Blue Whale Media makes the most of apprenticeships is the flexibility and customisability of many apprenticeship programs. This allows us to ensure our apprentices are receiving relevant job-specific training that is closely related to their career aspirations. This is also important for Blue Whale Media, as we can ensure our apprentices are developing and being taught instrumental skills relevant to their everyday work.

Many apprentices at Blue Whale Media mention how important they believe it is to be put in a real work environment, as it pushes them to solidify and apply the skills they're taught throughout their apprenticeship.

## Recognised Industry-Specific Qualifications

Apprenticeships give young people who have decided on their aspiring career path the opportunity to learn the specifics of a particular job role. Unlike university, apprenticeships allow you to individually tailor each unit of a specific course, letting companies and apprentices work together to form a planned and applicable course of study. Recently, apprenticeships have also started including unique third-party workshops and examinations to provide industry-recognised qualifications.

With some of Blue Whale Media's apprentices in training soon earning Google analytics qualifications, we are ecstatic that the apprenticeship program is continually improving and providing more qualifications and opportunities.

## Inside Blue Whale Media Apprenticeships

Apprenticeships at Blue Whale Media involve four days a week of work and training with the company, with one day a week dedicated for the apprentice to work on coursework and to continue their study. In the office they'll also be visited by their tutor, who oversees the apprentice's progression through the course units and ensures that the workplace is a safe and comfortable work environment for the apprentice. The tutor is also present to answer any questions

or concerns that the apprentice might have with his coursework, workload or work environment.

Our apprentices also have a few days a month where they attend their apprenticeship academy instead of work, continuing with their course studies and receiving lessons from an additional tutor related to their work and apprenticeship.

## Keeping Creativity Flowing

Here at Blue Whale Media, we firmly believe that young minds are full of fearless creativity. Along with this, as a company working within the technology sector, we think

it's important to have the input of a digitally native generation. Apprenticeships allow Blue Whale Media to welcome and train young and committed individuals who are looking to make an impact and career for themselves immediately.

We are proud to say that we currently have three apprentices in the office, with another three former apprentices who completed their apprenticeships and still work with Blue Whale Media today.

## Start Your Apprenticeship at Blue Whale Media Today!

Blue Whale Media is always looking for young individuals with self-initiative and desire to work in the media and technology industry. If you've been looking for what to

do after you've finished school, an apprenticeship is a fantastic way to continue your education while stepping into the working world. Blue Whale Media works in a variety of sectors, from web design and videography to content writing and social media marketing.

If you're considering an apprenticeship with us, take a look at our Facebook and Instagram channels along with the Meet the Team page on our website to get a feel for our company and get to know our staff. Whether you're looking to join our team or want some more information about apprenticeships with Blue Whale Media, you can email us at [info@bluewhalemedia.co.uk](mailto:info@bluewhalemedia.co.uk) or speak with us at 01925 552 050.

# Charity launches new hospital service to help thousands

**WARRINGTON** Disability Partnership has launched their latest new service which will help thousands of people visiting Warrington Hospital.

Working in Partnership with Warrington and Halton Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, with support from ten local businesses, the service will provide information, advice and guidance on disability matters, based within a retail store offering mobility and independent living products.

More than 30 guests were present at the official opening event including the Mayor of Warrington Cllr Karen Mundry, representatives from health, social care, local businesses and members of WDP's Board of Trustees and staff.

WDP Chief Executive Dave Thompson MBE DL, said: "There are nearly 14 million reasons why this service is needed, as there

are 14 million disabled people living in the UK and 60,000 live in Warrington and Halton.

"That's not to mention 40,000 carers," added Dave at the official opening of the new Mobility and Independent Living service at Warrington Hospital.

Each week hundreds of people leave Warrington Hospitals ward or outpatients departments facing a new life after a diagnosis of a debilitating and often long-term health condition, affecting their everyday lives at home and in work.

Steve McGuirk, Chair at the Trust said: "This new service will provide our patients and staff with direct access to mobility and independent living products, as well as peer support, information, advice and guidance to disabled people, from disabled people, at the point where people need it most".

Dave added, "This will help to rebuild confidence, improve self-esteem and enable disabled people to have more independence and choices on how they live".

Before cutting the ribbon to open the new service, the Mayor paid tribute to the local businesses who have financially supported the new venture. These include Cheshire Telecom, BAS (NW), Dunky's Day Nursery, Foden Estates, Mech Tech Automotive, Central Self Drive, The Print Company, Toni & Guy, Hoppy Trust and Health Service Money Claims.

The new service has provided employment to two disabled people and is located in the orthopaedic fracture clinic, at the rear of the Warrington Hospital site and is open Monday to Friday from 9am to 4pm.





# Shareholders dispute? – Primas law provide a whistle-stop tour of unfair prejudice

**INTRODUCTION.** Venturing into business with close friends, family members or even long term acquaintances has always been common practice. Today, limited companies with a small number of shareholders are prevalent throughout the UK, with about a third of all businesses being family owned.

Unfortunately, personal relationships can breakdown and internal feuds can arise. It is often extremely difficult to prevent this impacting on the daily running of the company.

## WHAT IS 'UNFAIR PREJUDICE'

Section 994 of Companies Act 2006 provides statutory protection for shareholders where the affairs of the company are (or will be) conducted in a way which is 'unfairly prejudicial' to the shareholder.

Two elements must be established for a successful claim in unfair prejudice:

1. The conduct by the company has to cause prejudice/harm; and
2. Such prejudice or harm must be unfair.

1. The conduct must 'prejudice' the shareholder

It is important to note that a section 994 petition can only be made by a shareholder, this can be a minority shareholder or a majority shareholder, but usually the petitioning shareholder will be a minority shareholder.

Prejudice to the shareholder's interest usually (although not always) involves some kind of financial harm caused to the shareholder. The protection afforded by Section 994 can extend to a shareholder's legitimate expectation to be involved in the management of the company's affairs.

If no harm has been suffered by the shareholder there can be no petition under Section 994; it is not a tool for shareholders to use when votes have simply not gone their way.

2. Is the conduct unfair?

Just because a decision made by the company prejudices or causes harm to a shareholder, it does not automatically follow that the prejudice is 'unfair'. On the other hand, the petitioning shareholder does not have to establish that the company intended to cause him harm, or that the directors have acted in bad faith.

In a claim under Section 994, it will be for the Court to assess whether the company's conduct is 'unfair' and fairness will be judged objectively, within the context of the pre-existing relationships and with reference to the company's Articles of Association and any shareholders' agreement.

## EXAMPLES OF UNFAIR PREJUDICE

There is no exhaustive list of the type of conduct which can constitute unfair prejudice. Each case is different - What is considered to be unfair prejudice in

one company could well be found to be fair in another business.

Here is a list of some examples of conduct which has and could constitute unfair prejudice:

- Failure to pay dividends;
- Dilution of a minority shareholding;
- Exclusion from management;
- Failure to comply with Articles of Association or shareholders' agreement;
- Breaches of fiduciary duty – (e.g. where directors have misappropriated company assets);
- Amending Articles of Association;
- Mismanagement; and
- Payment of excessive remuneration.

## REMEDIES

The Court has a wide discretion to make any order it seems fair in order to remedy unfairly prejudicial conduct. Such remedies may include:

- Regulating the conduct of the company's affairs in the future;
- Preventing a company from carrying out a particular act or require it to undertake a particular act;
- Authorising proceedings to be brought by the company;
- Prohibiting changes to the company's articles of association with the Court's permission; and/or
- Requiring the purchase of shares of any shareholder, by other shareholders or by the company itself.

The most common order the Court will make is the last one and will usually require the shareholders/company who are being accused of unfairly prejudicial conduct to purchase the shares of the petitioning creditor, for fair value.

The idea behind this is that it enables the petitioning shareholder to leave the business, having been properly paid for his/her shares. It also provides a clean break for the other shareholders and the company and, in theory at least, allow the business to move on from the dispute and survive.

At Primas Law, we have an experienced, trusted and forward-thinking commercial team. If you have a shareholders dispute or think you have been unfairly prejudiced by fellow shareholders, please get in touch with our Head of Litigation, Daniel Thomas at [daniel.thomas@primaslaw.co.uk](mailto:daniel.thomas@primaslaw.co.uk) or on 01928 248 672.



## QUALITY AS THE PRIORITY

### From Amazon Warrington to Amazon Seattle

AN Amazon employee from Warrington is set to go on the trip of lifetime to visit her company's HQ in Seattle next month.

Amazon invited employees at their fulfilment centres, including Warrington, to tell them what they liked best about working at Amazon and why it is the right place for them.

More than 800 employees from across the UK and dozens from each site took part, with one person from each fulfilment centre set to visit Amazon's headquarters in Seattle this October as part of the 'I Found the Right Place' programme.

Kirsty Mallinder was the lucky Warrington employee chosen for the trip.

Safety Coordinator Kirsty said: "I have had an amazing journey and first year as an apprentice here. Amazon always finds a way to satisfy my hunger and curiosity for learning, growth and development. I am an instructor, a first-aider, a forum representative, I have recently been promoted to Safety Coordinator... and now I'm going to Seattle! Amazon offers fantastic opportunities and on top of that, you get to work

with a great bunch of people, so if you are considering a career here, go for it!"

During the five-day trip to Seattle, Kirsty and Amazon colleagues from sites across the UK will be shown around the city and enjoy a trip up the Space Needle. They will also go on a tour of the Amazon campus and the robotics fulfilment centre in Kent, Washington, where they will meet Amazon's Chief Scientist.

Kirsty said: "I love it here, that's for sure; the work, the team and so much more; the chats, the laughs, the interaction. It's an amazing thing working at Amazon and all the possibilities it brings. What comes next in my Amazon journey? I'll have to wait and see but longevity, that's the key and always looking at the bigger picture...that's just me. Amazon has given me a home...a base. I absolutely know that I have found the right place!"

Edmon Yohannes, Site Leader at Amazon's Warrington fulfilment centre said: "We take pride in providing a positive workplace and a great environment and I am delighted that Kirsty will be jetting off to Seattle for the trip of a lifetime."



# UKTI e-Exporting programme

**By joining UKTI e-Exporting Programme, UK companies and brands can reach consumers through e-marketplaces.**

An e-market is an online location that provides a platform for companies of all sizes to do business through e-commerce.

Popular e-marketplaces include Amazon, Tmail and ebay. UKTI have identified over 400 e-marketplaces worldwide.

**By selling through an e-marketplace UK companies can:**

- Find new customers
- Analyse date on what consumers are searching for
- Build awareness of their brands

## Easy like Sunday Afternoon at The Park Royal

As the shorter days and cooler temperatures begin to set in, The Park Royal reveal the launch of their brand new Sunday Lunch menu to ease you in to the winter months.

Sunday lunch is the meal that ends one week and begins another, a stalwart of Britain's great edible institutions and a delicious moment for pause, so where better to enjoy the most special meal of the week than at The Park Royal – the perfect destination for a relaxing Sunday afternoon with your loved ones.

With a choice between roast beef, roast chicken or pan seared hake,

plus a wild mushroom risotto for those after something a little different, there's a dish to tantalise all taste buds.

The menu offers 2 courses for £18 or 3 courses for £23, plus a 3 course lunch for 2 plus a bottle of wine available for £49.

From this Sunday September 9th, Sunday Lunch will be available in the hotel's Topiary in the Park AA Rosette awarded restaurant from 12:30pm – 2:30pm.

To reserve a table, call The Park Royal on 01925 730 706.



**Join UKTI's e-Exporting programme to:**

- Meet with an e-Exporting advisor to discuss export plans
- Receive help and advice on building your online an e commerce presence
- Increase the reach of your brand globally
- Identify new e-marketplace around the world
- Set up on e-marketplaces around the world
- Set up on e-marketplaces quickly
- Attend events and webinars about retail/e-commerce opportunities

**How to Join**

Email UKTI's retail team consumerretail@ukti.gsi.gov.uk if you're interested in joining the programme or need more information.

UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) with its team of expert advisers located across the globe, can help you fulfil your international ambitions. It can assist you at all stages of the business planning cycle, from inception to completion. Whether you're a seasoned exporter or just beginning to expand overseas, talking to UKTI is one of the best moves your company can make.

Through a range of unique services, including tailored support programmes, participation at selected trade fairs, outward missions and providing bespoke market intelligence, we can help you crack foreign markets and get to grips quickly with overseas regulations and business practice.

For further information please contact Warrington Chamber of Commerce on 01925-715150 or info@warrington-chamber.co.uk

## 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:

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**The copy deadline for the next edition of Insight magazine is**

## Monday, October 15th

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

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



# Warrington Wolves announce departure of seven first team players

**W**arrington Wolves have announced seven first-team players who will bid farewell at the end of the current season.

The players leaving the club are Tyrone Roberts (Heritage Number 1140), Ben Pomeroy (1137), George

King (1113), Mitch Brown (1141), Bodene Thompson (1145), Dominic Crosby (1132) and Taylor Prell.

All at Warrington would like to thank each player for their contributions during their time at the club and wish them well for their futures in Rugby League and after.

They join the departing Tyrone Roberts, who is returning to Australia, and Dom Crosby and Matty Russell who left earlier in the season.



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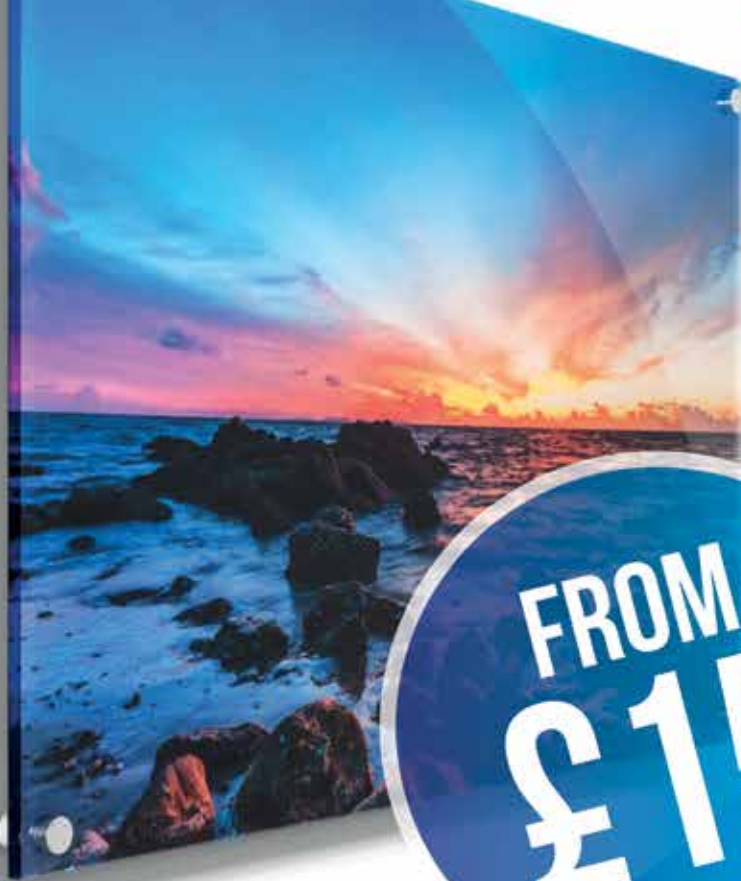
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