



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

New Vice-Chancellor appointed at University of Chester

Professor Eunice Simmons has been appointed as the next Vice-Chancellor of the University of Chester from January 2020.

Professor Simmons is currently the Deputy Vice-Chancellor at Nottingham Trent University (NTU), where she leads the Academic and Student Affairs directorate, encompassing the student journey from primary school through university to graduate employment. Her leadership has been instrumental in creating an outstanding student experience at NTU, recognised with three successive 'University of the Year' titles; a Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) Gold award; and a rise up The Guardian University Guide league table to 12th in the 2020 rankings.

Professor Simmons (Eunice) gained an Honours degree in Biology at the University of Manchester and PGCE at Roehampton Institute. She taught secondary school science before obtaining a scholarship to the University of Kent for an MSc. This was followed by a research post with the University of London and the Forestry Commission, surveying sites throughout England and Wales, leading to a PhD in forest ecology and conservation in 1992. Her Professorship in Sustainable Environments was awarded for research and teaching in landuse and environmental habitats, ranging from Malaysian rainforest to Kent downland.



Eunice has worked in five diverse institutions including two in the North West: University of London's Wye and Imperial Colleges; UCLan; University of Cumbria and at Nottingham Trent since 2010. Her academic leadership roles have included Course Leader, MSc Director, Head of School, Dean and Pro Vice-Chancellor and she has significant experience as a residential warden. Eunice has managed many professional service teams supporting the student experience – several of which have been recognised with national awards.

As the recipient of a 'Green Gown' award for leadership, Eunice has led many community and environmental projects including chairing the North West's regional forestry framework steering group. She is committed

to broadening access to university and the types of course on offer and has championed the development of online and degree apprenticeship portfolios, working with hundreds of companies.

Eunice is a trustee and board member of Advance HE, the Environmental Association of Universities and Colleges (EAUC), and the new Transforming Access and Student Outcomes Centre (TASO-HE). As a member of Southwell Cathedral Council she has strengthened links between the Minster and NTU's students through ceremonial events, heritage projects and sharing of expertise.

She is married with two sons at university and is a keen gardener, ecologist and walker in her spare time.

She said: "I am thrilled to be taking up the role of Vice-Chancellor of the University of Chester in 2020 and am very much looking forward to visiting all the University sites and meeting students, staff and partner organisations. Chester's values and its educational heritage and ambition resonate strongly with me and I am eager to help the University grow its offer to students and increase its impact in the region and beyond."

Canon Dr Jeff Turnbull, President of University Council and Pro-Chancellor, said: "On behalf of the University Council, I am delighted to announce the appointment of the

new Vice-Chancellor, who will start in post on January 1, 2020. We are looking forward to working with her in taking the University into the next stage, continuing to strive for the best for our students and staff."

Professor Tim Wheeler, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Chester, said: "I am delighted that someone of Eunice's immense talent and experience is taking on the role of Vice-Chancellor of the University. As she takes on the stewardship of this wonderful institution, she will undoubtedly bring her flair and energy in taking it still further in meeting the needs of students and the communities we serve. I wish her every success and will be working with her to ensure a smooth transition."

Dr Gyles Brandreth, Chancellor of the University of Chester, said: "The University of Chester is a very special University, so it's exciting to welcome someone with the special gifts and experience of Eunice Simmons as our new Vice-Chancellor. She is going to be stepping in to big shoes – Professor Tim Wheeler's contribution as the University's first Vice-Chancellor has been unique – but Professor Simmons has all the qualities, qualifications and experience for the job. I am looking forward hugely to working with her as she leads the University in the challenging and exciting years that lie ahead."

LJLA awarded UK's only 5 star airport rating for flight punctuality

Liverpool John Lennon Airport has been awarded the UK's only 5-star airport rating by the world's leading air travel intelligence company, OAG for flight punctuality, confirming its status as the UK's faster, easier, friendlier airport.

With an on-time performance of 84.6% of flights running on time, the 5-star ranking represents excellent performance over a rolling 12-month period.

Out of 18 UK airports, Liverpool is the only one to receive a 5 star rating and one of only 6 in Western Europe to achieve this highest award. Globally, Liverpool is listed in the top 10% of Airports.

Paul Staples, LJLA's Operations Director commented, "Liverpool has developed an excellent reputation for operational efficiency in recent years. Whilst continuing to grow passenger numbers over the past 12 months we continue to maintain the highest standards of operational performance and are particularly pleased to see that we now lead the way in the UK when it comes to on time performance.

This is really important both for our airline partners and for our passengers who choose to travel from here. This 5 star rating is recognition for all the hard work by staff from the

Airport, airlines, handling agents and other companies working together to help flights operate on time. We truly are the UK's faster, easier friendlier Airport."

The full ratings from the OAG's 2019 On-time Performance Star Ratings, can be viewed online at www.oag.com/on-time-performance-airline-airport-star-ratings.



From the Chief Executive

Colin Daniels



Jobs miracle

THE recent labour market boom is down to the older generations Long Term trends suggest that Britons are not only living far longer but a higher proportions are working into their golden years.

Some experts now warn that older workers will be vital to growing shortages of labour.

The labour market has moved on to pass records in 2019, some 33m people have jobs in the UK an all-time high and the proportion of people in work has never been higher at 76pc according to the Office for National Statistics.

Around 357,000 job were added to the economy in the 12 months to April but the jobs boom has largely

been driven by the 50-64 age group and even the over 65s.

Of those jobs 304,000 were given to workers above the age of 50.

In 1999 60pc of the 50 to 64 group and just 5pc of the over 65s were in jobs. The figure has risen to 73pc and doubled to 11pc respectively today.

Modest return to growth

Britain's economy may have avoided a recession at the start of the year after a modest return to growth in May.

Output rose by 0.3pc in the three months to May according to the

Office for National Statistics.

Manufacturing rebounded by 1.4pc in May compared to a 4.2pc drop the previous month. Economists believe this modest recovery may be enough to see off an overall

contraction for the April to June period this year.

That would reduce the chance of a recession which requires two consecutive of negative growth.

What is air pollution doing to our brains?

With the continuing problems with the road network and the threat of more traffic in Warrington, plus the problems of the motorways and the swinging of the Ship Canal Bridges the following would be appropriate to seriously consider.

"The cocktail of chemicals in the air

could be affecting everything from dementia to our childrens health says Harry de Quelteville"

Particles known as PM2.5 – the tiny, invisible, sooty bits of combustion that are key culprits in the air pollution health crises. Produced by diesel and petrol fumes, PM2.5s

are small enough to make it deep into the lungs and from there into the bloodstream.

They have been linked to diseases ranging from Cancer to High Blood Pressure and as the World Health Organisation (WHO) puts it "increased mortality or morbidity"

University of Chester - Professor Tim Wheeler

Dr Gyles Brandreth Chancellor of the University of Chester said "The University of Chester is a very special University so its exciting to welcome someone with the special gifts and experience as Professor Eunice Simmons as our new

vice-chancellor.

She is going to be stepping into big shoes – Professor Tim Wheeler's contribution as the University's first vice-chancellor has been unique, but Professor Simmons has all

the qualities, qualifications and experience for the job.

I am looking forward hugely to working with her as she leads the University in the challenging and exciting years that lie ahead".

D-Day Anniversary — A Monk & Co Ltd

I watched with great interest the events of the anniversary of the D-Day invasion as my late father was involved and my other interest was regarding the Mulberry Harbour Units at Arromanche because one of the contractors selected to build the units was Arthur Monk & Co from Warrington who successfully built various units on a temporary site off the River Thames which were then towed down the River Thames and stored on the sea bed at Selsey Bill until invasion day and then towed by tugs across the English Channel and as a result all manner of vehicles, equipment and men were landed at Arromanche, the two harbours created one for the Americans and one for the British were the size of Dover harbour.

I currently give a talk on "Mulberry harbours the Warrington connection".

Members presentation

Pictured at the Member Presentation at the Holiday Inn in June are guest speakers Ben Wakerley – Warrington's Own Buses and Keith Robertson – Harrington Robertson with Colin Daniels – Warrington Chamber of Commerce.



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Colin Daniels, Chief Executive

Professional drone photography with Blue Whale Media

At Blue Whale Media Ltd, we specialise in creating bespoke, high end and multimedia websites for a multitude of different clients. Our talented team of creators work tirelessly to develop exceptional work for all of our clients and ensure that

we are delivering a personalised and exceptional service. We are proud to work closely and collaboratively with all of our customers and are based in Birchwood Park, Warrington.

As part of our comprehensive service, we offer our clients the

opportunity to incorporate drone captured footage into their websites. This service allows our customers to show their business in a new light and highlight what is most important to them. Perfectly shot and professionally edited, our aerial photography can help you showcase your business at it's best.

Our CAA (Civil Aviation Authority) licensed drone pilots are fully trained and qualified to manoeuvre our 2 high spec drones to capture exceptional footage. The CAA regulates all manner of civil aviation within the UK and ensure that all commercially operating flights, of any type of aircraft, is carried out by a trained professional and adheres to all laws and regulations. All of our drone pilots have been granted special permission and have PfCo licences (Permission for Commercial Operation) in place before any flight is carried out. Our pilots are extremely conscious of the laws surrounding drone operations and flights.

When our team are given a new project to work on, they will organise to meet with their client and work out a flight and shot schedule. Once this is in place, and they have scouted out the area within which they will be working, shooting can begin!

When the footage is in hand, our in house team of editors will create a bespoke gallery of work for your approval. Our stunningly shot, 4K

video footage is always a great way for businesses and brands to stand out from the crowd and demonstrate the best qualities of your business.

Drone footage and photography has exploded in popularity in recent years and is an excellent way for brands to stand out from their competition and offer their customers something new and exciting. A multitude of different businesses can benefit from our professionally captured drone footage, from agriculture and industrial workers to real estate and sporting events. We cater our approach to each project to ensure that our customers receive a personalised and bespoke service and walk away with professionally edited, fully branded work that showcases their business in the perfect way.

Our team at Blue Whale Media can capture stunning aerial footage to suit any business or brand. Not only do we offer exceptionally shot drone footage, but can be your one stop shop for all of your bespoke website needs. Our professional, in house team of web designers, social media experts and content creators can structure your new website to allow your company to shine. We are constantly evolving and creating new and interesting web designs for our customers, and our whole team is looking forward to what the future holds.



Alzheimer's Research - Cupcake Day

The Blue Whale Media team are always ready for a challenge.

We've climbed mountains, ran marathons and now we're facing possibly the most testing challenge ever; baking cupcakes! In the week prior, our team buzzed around the office with ideas and recipes in the days leading up to our cupcake day, all excited to share their creations.

Even though we're not professional bakers, we take part in cupcake day to raise funds and awareness in aid of Alzheimer's Research. 2017 research by Alzheimer's Research UK showed that in the UK, an estimated 850,000 people are affected by dementia. Unfortunately, that number is only rising and to every four cancer researchers there is only one dementia researcher. Every penny counts towards advancing Alzheimer's research as statistics show that 537,097 people in the UK are diagnosed with dementia every year. With that number predicted to rise over 1 million in 2025, research and funding has never been so important.

The team at Blue Whale Media wanted to do our part by taking part in cupcake day. 6 members of our team took up their whisks and created 6 different flavours of cupcakes, producing over 40 cupcakes in total! The office meeting table was covered with a selection

of Blue Whale's finest baked goods, from chocolate chip and Galaxy to banoffee, Kinder Bueno and popping candy. With plenty of delectable treats to choose from, our team dug in.

After 2-3 cupcakes each and feeling a little giddy from all of the sugar, a few members of the team boxed up the remaining cupcakes and went out into Birchwood Park to offer them to the neighbouring businesses. The rain certainly didn't dampen our spirits as we trotted around the business park with 4 boxes of cakes and a collection tin. Within 20 minutes, we had managed to sell all of our remaining cupcakes and even got a few extra donations (we like to think that our charm and customer service definitely helped).

Overall, we raised £48 to be donated towards dementia research. This money can go towards funding vital drug research and testing. Alzheimer's Research UK statistics reported that only 0.02% of newly researched compounds and drugs receive Regulatory

Authority approval and since 1980, there have only been 4 drugs approved to treat Alzheimer's disease. Dementia treatment and prevention research still has a long way to go, and every little bit of fundraising helps us get closer to beating this awful disease.

We'd like to say a huge thank you to everyone that participated and took the time to bake cupcakes and also to everybody who bought a cake and gave money to Alzheimer's

Research UK. The whole Blue Whale Media team enjoyed participating in cupcake day and we're looking forward to seeing what we'll raise next year.





THOUSANDS of people visited another highly successful Warrington Disability Awareness Day at Walton Hall & Gardens which was celebrating its 28th anniversary.

Founded by Warrington Disability Partnership's Chief Executive and founder Dave Thompson OBE, the annual event once again attracted huge crowds on the back of a week long of activities promoting disability awareness.

Dave said: "I would like to thank all our amazing volunteers and our sponsors, without whom this event would not be possible."

During the event Lord-lieutenant of Cheshire David Briggs presented a special Queen's Award for Voluntary Service to the Ella Performing Group who have been entertaining crowds at the event for many years.

Town Crier Peter Powell helped start proceedings as crowds flocked to a tented village in the grounds of Walton Hall.

With around 250 exhibitors there was something for everyone as the event was blessed with warm dry weather.

DAD is the the biggest non-profit disability exhibition led by volunteers in Europe, if not the world.

The event aims to raise awareness to the voluntary, statutory and private services available to people with disabilities, allowing them to be more independent.

Many of the exhibitors demonstrated equipment showing what disabled people are capable of achieving in the home, work place, sports, arts and entertainment.

Huge crowds for another successful Disability Awareness Day



8 top tips for a successful R&D tax claim

The government is actively pushing UK companies to claim R&D tax relief, given they have a commitment to spend 2.4% of national wealth on R&D by 2027.

However, it is believed that only 5% of qualifying companies for R&D tax relief are making claims.

Given that an average R&D claim can be worth c£47,000 to a company Phil Hartley, tax manager at North West accountancy firm Mitchell Charlesworth, has 8 top tips for R&D tax relief for all companies to consider.

1. Don't think it's just for white coats

There is a lot of misconceptions within businesses that this tax relief is only available to high tech businesses and ground-breaking scientific research. This is simply not the case. Companies across various sectors have and continue to make R&D tax claims.

2. Understand what qualifies

The guidelines that govern what does and doesn't qualify for R&D tax relief are very general and do not provide specific industry examples. The basis for the claim needs to be that something innovative has been achieved by overcoming an uncertainty in the project.

3. "This is what we do on a day to day basis"

When discussing R&D tax relief with clients many will state the above statement to me when talking about overcoming problems. Although this is the case, this won't stop a company from claiming R&D tax relief and could form the basis for a claim.

4. Ensure you provide as much technical information as possible

With an R&D claim, the more information that you can provide to HMRC about the project, the better. To support the claim, a technical report is required to be

submitted to HMRC demonstrating the company R&D activities. This isn't for every project the company has undertaken in the year, rather a flavor of the work carried out. But the more information provided on these projects, the more likely it is that HMRC are going to accept the claim.

5. Claim the right costs

What is clear from HMRC is what costs do and don't qualify for R&D tax relief. A big 'no, no' from HMRC is to claim a cost that doesn't qualify for the relief, for example rent, and in turn can significantly delay the R&D process. It is therefore, important to understand what can be claimed for and ensure that the costs claimed are maximised.

6. Don't just claim for current work

The claim periods for R&D tax relief are based on the Corporation Tax accounting periods. Therefore, it is possible to submit amended earlier tax returns for an R&D claim that hadn't been considered earlier. For example, if your next year end was 31 December 2019 then initially you can look at the 2017 and 2018 year end, which could result in a tax refund.

7. Remember that losses can be exchanged for cash

It isn't uncommon that, for tax purposes, a loss is created from the R&D claim. This loss can be carried forward and used against future profits or it can be exchanged for a 14.5% cash credit. Although this is at a lower rate than the current Corporation Tax rate, it does provide the certainty of receiving cash now that can be invested back into the company.

8. Use an expert to assist with your claim

Ensure that the claim is maximised and that all the qualifying criteria are met by using an expert in R&D claims which will help to reassure HMRC that the claim has been dealt with appropriately. This is where we can assist and provide guidance. We are happy to have a no obligation



conversation to assess if you qualify for R&D tax relief.

For advice and guidance on R&D tax relief and if it is applicable

to your business, please contact Phil Hartley on 0161 817 6100 or email phil.hartley@mitchellcharlesworth.co.uk

Road safety events launched

WARRINGTON Borough Council has organised some special road safety events aimed at those who drive to work.

45% of all fatal road traffic collisions that happen on Warrington roads involve people who drive as part of their job.

Reduce

A part of the Councils' Road Safety Plan is to reduce road casualties amongst people who drive for work, including commuters. The way in which the Road Safety Team wish to help reduce these casualties is by engaging with drivers at their place of work.

The Road Safety Team will be running a series of events during October and November 2019 at the workplace. During these interactive events, members of staff will be able to pick up useful road safety tips and advice on the following: Winter Driving, Tyre Safety and Impaired Driving.

Free

The sessions are free of charge, and free safety items will be given out to staff.

If you would like to book a place for one of these events, or would like more information, then please contact the Road Safety Team by Email: roadsafety@warrington.gov.uk

New flights to Tenerife

LJLA is delighted to announced a new service to Tenerife with prices starting from just £49.99*

The service with easyJet operating a twice-weekly service to the largest of the Canary Islands.

Expect dramatic scenery, beautiful beaches and splash-tastic attractions including Siam Park - voted the world's best water park by TripAdvisor. Flights are on Wednesdays and Saturdays.




Northern Powerhouse trade mission to Food Hotel China 11 - 15 November 2019

Join this Northern Powerhouse-led mission to Food Hotel China (FHC) 2019 to explore the variety of export opportunities in the largest grocery market in the world. This week-long programme focuses on the food and drink market in Eastern China and the key cities of the Yangtze River Delta.

Why attend?
China is the largest grocery market in the world. UK food and drink products are recognised for their provenance, heritage, quality and safety, a primary concern for Chinese consumers.

With a growing middle class willing to spend more money on quality food from trusted sources, as well as a growing trend to buy imported food and drink products as gifts for Chinese festivals, now is the time to investigate how to export to this exciting market. The FHC show runs alongside ProWine China, visitors to these show will gain access to all halls and be able to move freely between them.

What are the benefits?

- Pre mission briefing
- Access to webinars
- Companies are encouraged to have product samples available for tasting on the Northern Powerhouse stand
- Company profile in the Northern Powerhouse promotional brochure
- Accompanied by an experienced Mission Manager
- In-market expertise and support
- Meet the Chinese buyer reception

Dates
11 - 15 November 2019

Location
Shanghai, China

For more information please contact
Paul Yuan, Mission Coordinator
E: events@tradenw.org
T: 0333 320 0392

Registration
To register interest please visit:
<http://bit.ly/2KzVGdo>

Cost
£500.00 inc VAT to showcase products on shared NPH stand. £240.00 inc VAT to visit as part of the NPH mission. Companies will need to meet their own travel/accommodation costs.

Eligibility
Eligible SMEs from the region may apply for an NPH travel grant or local European Regional Development funding. Applications are made via your local International Trade team.

Register your interest

This support is delivered by the Northern Powerhouse-led trade mission under the Enhancing SME's International Trade Performance project funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and Department for International Trade (DIT).

Supported by:








ERDF Trade Mission to Food and Drink Business Europe, Dublin

Enhancing SME's International Trade Performance

Specialist advice, events and financial support to enhance your international trade strategy.

Mission Date & Location
5 September 2019
City West, Dublin, Ireland

For more information
July Moss
T: 07789 954456
E: events@tradenw.org

Register via: <http://bit.ly/ERDF-Dublin>

This support is delivered by the North West International Trade Team under the Enhancing SME's International Trade Performance project funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and Department for International Trade (DIT).

Supported by:






North West ERDF Trade Mission to Tokyo Games Show 2019

Enhancing SME's International Trade Performance

Specialist advice, events and financial support to enhance your international trade strategy.

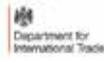
Mission Date & Location
10 - 15 September 2019
Tokyo, Japan

For more information
Miho Hatakeyama
T: 07789 954 422
E: events@tradenw.org

Register via: http://bit.ly/ERDF_Tokyo19

This support is delivered by the North West International Trade Team under the Enhancing SME's International Trade Performance project funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and Department for International Trade (DIT).

Supported by:





Northern Powerhouse Mission to SEMA, Las Vegas 5 - 8 November 2019

Enhancing SME's International Trade Performance

Specialist advice, events and financial support to enhance your international trade strategy.

Mission Date & Location
5 - 8 November 2019
Las Vegas, USA

For more information
E: northeast@tradenw.org
T: +44 (0)345 130 0369

Express your interest:
www.exportingisgreat.com/semamission

Funding:
Eligible SMEs may qualify for financial support towards the cost of flights and accommodation - please speak to your local DIT team for information on the financial support that may be available.

Eligibility:
Companies must be from the Northern Powerhouse region.

Click here to register your interest

This support is delivered by the Northern Powerhouse-led trade mission under the Enhancing SME's International Trade Performance project funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and Department for International Trade (DIT).

Supported by:





Ofsted praise for Priestley College



PRIESTLEY College has been praised by Ofsted for its high pass rates and how it prepares young people in Warrington for their next steps in life.

In a report about the college – which this year celebrates 40 years of excellence in the town – inspectors said pass rates at Priestley were consistently high and above the national average.

It went on: “Students who are targeted to ‘aspire high’ nearly all got a place at prestigious universities including the University of Cambridge. A high proportion go to Russell Group universities.”

Principal Matthew Grant said: “It was a positive endorsement of the work we do as a college and the inclusive nature of Priestley.

“The inspection has demonstrated we meet the needs of young people in Warrington and the surrounding

areas.

“We know there are things to improve, but are pleased that Ofsted acknowledged we had already identified these issues and are taking action to improve upon them.”

Ofsted spent three days at Priestley College meeting students, tutors, governors and parents as well as spending time in classrooms.

They found that ‘teachers ensure students develop the skills and knowledge they need to be successful in their qualifications and in their working life’.

“A high proportion of students, many of whom do not have a family history of higher education, go to university,” said the report.

Students benefit from a nurturing and inclusive culture with effective pastoral support.

The college was deemed good across the board with inspectors also finding areas of excellence during their visit. In particular the Art and Design, Performing Arts, Music and Sport departments were acknowledged for their very high standards.

Inspectors praised the behaviour of students who they said were ‘polite and highly respectful of their peers, staff and visitors’.

“The report told us something we already knew, that our students’ behaviour and the respect they show in college is excellent,” said Matthew.

It was the first time Priestley had been assessed under the latest Ofsted framework and since it became an academy.

Inspectors noted that ‘the proportion of students remain on their course is high in all subjects.

‘The number of students who progress to a second year of study is high, particularly on A-Level courses.’

The findings demonstrated that a ‘very high proportion of students achieve their qualifications’ and also have the chance to be involved with ‘interesting and worthwhile additional activities that help them develop their personal, social and communication skills’.

“Our mission at Priestley is to inspire, challenge and support our students and this Ofsted report shows we are achieving that goal,” said Matthew.

“I am very proud of all our staff, students, parents and governors who together make Priestley a wonderful community in which to work and learn.”

**Exclusive
deal for
Chamber
members**

Portal Business Centres is delighted to offer Chamber Members an exclusive deal on office space at its Dallam Court, Warrington centre. Any Chamber member who takes an office at Dallam Court will benefit from the first month **COMPLETELY RENT FREE**. This offer is available on any office within the centre (subject to availability), on a minimum 12 month licence agreement, and the agreement must be signed before 31st August 2019. Dallam Court offers a range of serviced offices, from a one person office up to space for 20 people. Please contact Lisa Knapman on 01925 422907 or email lisa@portalbusinesscentres.co.uk for more information, quoting **WARRINGTON CHAMBER OFFER**.

Further information on Portal Business Centres and the services offered can be found at www.portalbusinesscentres.co.uk

Entrepreneurial students fly the flag for the UK at European finals

A pair of entrepreneurial students who represented the UK in the European finals of a major European business competition said the experience will stay with them for the rest of their lives.

Jessica Kelly, 21, from Delamere and Ayoup Jarrai, 26, originally from Morocco, flew to Oslo to pitch for the judges in the European Finals of the Young Enterprise Start-up Challenge, after beating stiff competition to win the UK finals.

They came second place in Europe in the Value for Society Award, impressing the judges with their company, The Goat Tree, a co-operative in Morocco producing 100% pure argan oil, which they import and bottle.

Both Directors have connections in Morocco and 20% of profits go to fund the education of Berber women, who are working in the co-operative, most of whom cannot read or write. The Fairtrade co-operative will produce sustainably sourced 100% argan oil with no additives. Their idea is to re-invest profits back into the farm where the argan kernels are cold-pressed by a stone mill. With donkeys being the main mode of transport in Morocco, Jessica and Ayoup are looking to plough profits from the business back into the animals' wellbeing and improving the lives of members of the co-operative in Morocco.

Jess and Ayoup took part in the two day event at Norway's Business Institute and Oslo Science Park, competing against some of the leading entrepreneurial institutions in Europe. The awards evening took place at the stunning Oslo City Hall, where the Nobel Peace Prize is awarded; followed by a celebration in the grounds of a beautiful hillside villa.

While the home country of Norway

won the European competition, The Goat Tree received high praise from the judges, including a special mention from Johan H. Andersen, a leading businessman and Chair of the Council for Ethics for the Norwegian Government, who told an audience of Europe's brightest new and established entrepreneurs that if there was an award for the best Social Enterprise at the European final they would win it. The judges were impressed that their business would benefit those much less fortunate, in a country other than their own, to ensure fairness and equity in the production and supply chain.

Jess said: "Representing the United Kingdom and the University of Chester at the European Final has been an experience that we'll carry for the rest of our lives.

"Having the opportunity to share our story, our ambition and amazing product with a wide range of entrepreneurial experts from all over the world has been amazing for us in achieving our ambition of initiating social change. As a result of taking part in the competition we have been given the opportunity to connect and network with European teams with a parallel entrepreneurial mindset. While we did not win the prize, we were credited for our passion and determination to make a mark on society which we both greatly appreciated.

"The next step of our journey will take us all around the world from the Moroccan embassy in London to Morocco and potentially China.

"We could not have achieved this without all our tutors support here at the University. We are a small cooperative with a big vision and can't wait for the next step of our journey."

Ayoup added: "Representing the United Kingdom and the University of Chester at the European Final



Ayoup and Jess.

has been an experience that will stay with me for the rest of my life.

"Having the opportunity to share our story, our ambition and amazing product with a wide range of entrepreneurial experts from all over the world, it was so much more than we could expect from our first year as entrepreneurs.

"This experience gave the chance to make friendships with members of the other European teams with an incredible entrepreneurial mind, learning a lot from them, inspiring me even more to continue to drive The Goat Tree to succeed in the luxury cosmetics sector."

Dr Connie Hancock, Associate Professor and Head of the Department of Business and Finance at the University's Business School <https://www1.chester.ac.uk/chester-business-school>, said: "Jess and Ayoup were absolutely outstanding in all elements of the competition. All of us at the University of Chester Business School are immensely proud of their achievement in reaching the European Finals.

"They are inspirational in their approach to conducting sustainable business and the global potential of the business has been recognised

and rewarded and as their tutor, I am so proud of all of their achievements."

Andrew Firr, UK Young Enterprise Start-Up Manager, said: "The Goat Tree from the University of Chester were fantastic representatives at this year's Junior Achievement Europe 2019 Enterprise Challenge. They competed with great effort and no shortage of skill against the very best entrepreneurial university students from around Europe.

"The standard is exceptionally high at European Level but The Goat Tree were competitive in all areas and have been a pleasure to work with. This should be just the beginning and I will watch with interest how the company progresses over the years to come. The University of Chester has been a long standing partner of Young Enterprise, all the way back to 2013 and consistently produce strong teams from small cohorts of students, they are a valued partner and we look forward to growing this relationship.

"Well done The Goat Tree, Young Enterprise is hugely proud and grateful for your efforts over the last 10 months, what a journey, from Internal, Regional, National to ultimately taking part in the European Competition."

easyJet to operate Winter flights to Tenerife from Liverpool

easyJet have announced that they will add another new route to their operations from Liverpool, by operating twice weekly flights to Tenerife commencing on 30th October 2019 for the Winter 2019/20 season.

This will be easyJet's fifth new route from Liverpool in the past 12 months and is the first time that they will have operated flights to Tenerife from Liverpool, complementing their existing Canary Islands flights to Lanzarote and Fuerteventura.

For those passengers looking for more than just return flights from Liverpool, package holidays including accommodation and transfers will also be available on easyJet.com/holidays.

Flights to Tenerife are on sale now from £49.99 one way per person, two flying*

Paul Winfield, LJLA's Director of Aviation Development commented, "We are delighted to secure this latest new route to Tenerife from easyJet for the forthcoming Winter. Holidaymakers from across the North West and North Wales will be able to benefit from this new Winter sun service, travelling from the North West's faster, easier, friendlier airport."

LJLA's Head of Marketing Katie Elliott (far left) joins easyJet cabin crew to celebrate the airline's new Tenerife service from Liverpool.





Delegates at the 10th Chester Forum.

Forum discusses global trade and developing the next generation of businesses and technologies

THE University of Chester hosted its 10th Chester Forum and Marco Polo Initiative at the Queens Park Campus recently - an annual think-tank with 30 distinguished guests from around the world and across the region who gathered to this year focus on the economy and entrepreneurship in the UK, the changing political scene and global trade.

Delegates at the Chester Forum discussed developments in Chester, Warrington and the wider region over the next decade, against a backdrop of a changing international trade landscape as reflected in the less than harmonious relations between China and the US, future trading relationships for the UK and growing moves towards protectionism.

The Chester Forum is organised by the University of Chester's Business Research Institute and China Centre, International Centre for Corporate and Public Affairs and the Faculties of Business and Management and Science and Engineering. It looked at international comparisons and

the real employers and drivers of much of the economy – Small to Medium SME's and Family Business and advances in developing cutting edge international science park collaboration and development. It made critical suggestions with the aim of informing decision makers on economic and societal priorities via dialogue and informed discussion. This year a core initiative has been how to foster a regional support and venture capital network to help support the next generation of businesses

This year the speakers included Jim Hancock, the eminent Broadcaster and Journalist; Rob McKay, Chair Institute of Directors Cheshire; Andrew Lewis, Chief Executive Officer of Cheshire West and Chester Council; John Adlen, Cheshire and Warrington Local Enterprise Partnership; Frederik Ferié, Researcher, Steinbeis University, Berlin; Graham Shapiro, Entrepreneur in Residence at the University of Chester who is an award winning entrepreneur based in Nantwich who developed promotional campaigns for Apple and Samsung

and runs mentoring programmes for budding business students at the University; John Mohin OBE, Commonwealth First, David Pickering and Nick Hodson, the Chester based entrepreneurs, Professor Irene Prete, Digital Marketing specialist from the University of Salento, Italy; Colin Tan, the Director of Operations for TusPark Newcastle,

who are developing a major set of small business and technology centre and parks in the UK linking to Chinese investment as well as other notable guests from industry and academia.

Professor Phil Harris, Executive Director of the Business Research Institute and China Centre at the University of Chester, said: "Key investors and decision makers came together to look at ways in which we build talent, strengthen and develop funding and research and be one of the leading sustainable economies in the UK and make ourselves future proof for a changing global scene. We aim to develop and build the best for all."

New electronic CIPS exam centre for buyers open

A local training company has set up the first of a series of new electronic exam centres for people in the procurement profession taking their professional exams.

Aspire Procurement Training Ltd run the Warrington study centre for the Chartered Institute of Procurement & Supply (CIPS), and deliver a degree level qualification which gives aspiring procurement professionals their licence to practice. The company has set up the first electronic CIPS exam centre in Warrington.

Mark Parker, Director of Aspire

commented, "We have 7 CIPS study centres across the UK, and Warrington is our head office, so was chosen as the first centre to set up electronic CIPS exams. We train people in purchasing, supply chain, contract management, buying and all procurement roles to become professionally qualified, and the nearest CIPS Regional Electronic Exam Centre is in Manchester. Therefore, we decided to invest heavily in IT facilities and infrastructure at our Westbrook office and provide a local electronic exam facility for our clients in Warrington and the

surrounding area. Now that the CIPS Warrington electronic exam centre has run successfully during the July CIPS exam weeks, we will continue our planned expansion and set up similar electronic exam centres in our other UK study centres, with Hull and Carlisle next on our list. Clients do not want to travel too far to sit a 9am exam and we want our clients to have the best experience locally and not be hindered by a rush-hour commute to Manchester, and this client need drove the business case for our new exam centre".

The Chartered Institute of

Procurement & Supply (CIPS) is the global organisation serving the procurement and supply chain profession. Dedicated to promoting best practice, CIPS provides a wide range of courses which enable people working in Procurement to gain globally recognised professional qualifications and their professional license to practice. The courses can be taken in afternoon or evening classroom sessions or by Skype tutorials with a personal tutor.

Bright minds put knowledge to the test

YOUNG scientists from Warrington put their knowledge to the test against students from across the UK.

Some of Priestley College's representatives finished in the top 7% in the competitions which were run by the Royal Societies of Biology and Chemistry and entered by some of the UK's brightest young minds.

Former St Gregory's Catholic School pupil Amelia Rimmer struck gold in both the Chemistry and Biology Olympiads.

Amelia, who studies Maths alongside the two sciences, said: "I wanted to take the paper because it goes beyond what we do in A-Level so I thought if I could do well it would give me confidence for my exams."

The Chemistry Olympiad is one of the leading chemistry competitions for students in the UK. Organisers describe it as a way to challenge students, helping them develop creative thinking.

In Biology, the Olympiad is seen as a way of motivating students by giving them a chance to demonstrate their in-depth knowledge of the subject. The competition consists of two, 45-minute online tests taken in college.

This year a record number of Priestley students took part including 20 biologists and, in Chemistry, a record haul of two gold, six silver and 13 bronze certificates were awarded.

Ethan Baird, who also studies Psychology, achieved a gold in Biology and silver in Chemistry.

"I thought the Olympiad would be a good thing to put on my personal statement as I am looking to go into a career in biotechnology," said the former Lymm High School pupil.

Vincent Chriscoli, who previously studied at St Gregory's, picked up a bronze in the Chemistry Olympiad. He hopes to become a doctor and plans to study Medicine after completing a degree in biochemistry.

"The Olympiad paper challenged us to apply what we have learned to real-life situations and covered everything from fizzy drinks, to biodegradable plastic and how pesticides affect bees," he said.



Warrington – third best place to be a jobseeker

WARRINGTON is the third most job-seeker friendly location in the UK, according to new research.

The research found that 82 per cent of Britons rely on online resources and information to secure a job.

BroadbandChoices.co.uk has created a ranking of the most job-seeker friendly locations in the UK as a result.

The index considers factors such as unemployment, available jobs online and internet speed in each city and town, highlighting the necessity of fast and stable broadband when searching for jobs online.

Crawley topped the chart, followed by Reading, Warrington and Luton.

The bottom of the chart is occupied by the capital, preceded by Southampton, Bradford and Sunderland.

Alongside the ranking, broadbandchoices.co.uk polled 1,342 Brits to find out what their most important resource was during their latest job search.

Results show that 82 per cent relied on online resources and information to secure their current position, while less than one in seven Britons turn to social media for their job hunt. Online job platforms play an important role in finding a job too, with 56 per cent of respondents having a profile on one of them.

Exploring backflush filters with Croft Filters

Keeping an industrial plant running smoothly is no easy feat.

Whether you're in the pharmaceutical, power generation, or food and beverage industry, many parts of your business need to run correctly at all times. If one thing doesn't run properly - even something as small as a filter - it can throw your entire production line off balance. According to research conducted by OneServe, downtime is a serious detriment to productivity in the workplace. Around 3% of all working days are lost each year because of downtime, equating to around £31,000 in lost revenue per incident. Recently, the team at Croft Filters invested in a new state-of-the-art laser cutting system. This new machine means that we can produce customised filters for our clients faster in-house, as well as creating more advanced tools to reduce the impact of downtime.

Many of the filtering solutions that our clients rely upon today use in-and-out technology. This simply means that water and other substances move through the filter, allowing for debris and dirt to be captured by a carefully constructed metal cage. These filters work very well for a time, providing the consistency in results that today's companies need. However, they do eventually need to be removed and cleaned so that the debris captured by the system doesn't clog the operating mechanisms. Unfortunately, it's difficult to predict when a filter needs to be removed and maintained. This means that many plants experience unexpected downtime when their system suddenly stops working due to a clog. Thanks to our investment in a new in-house laser cutting machine, Croft Filters can now produce backwashing filters, which can keep unplanned downtime to a minimum.

When a filter clogs, usually the only option is to remove the component from its machine and clean it thoroughly. This means shutting

down the entire workflow for a time. For most manufacturers, downtime is the single greatest source of lost production time and income. The biggest expense usually comes from unplanned downtime. Unfortunately, 82% of companies have experienced unexpected disruptions over the last few years. Generally, most companies will know that their filters will eventually need to be cleaned, regardless of their capabilities. However, using our advanced laser cutting service, we can create durable and robust backwashing systems that allow for water to be pumped back through the filter. This form of preventative maintenance shakes up the inside of the filter cage, dislodging clogs, and allowing the machine to operate for longer. The backwashing process means that companies can complete a project before they need to remove and clean the filter. It may even be possible to wait until the end of the production day to perform maintenance, which makes the downtime as inexpensive as possible.

Designing backwash filters

The backwash filters that we're designing at Croft reduce the expensive interruptions that companies encounter when their systems unexpectedly clog and fail. You can extend the longevity of your filter temporarily and schedule your

downtime for a more appropriate period. In the past, we wouldn't have been able to produce backwash filters, as they require exceptional strength and high-level material cutting. However, because we recently invested in our new laser cutting machine, we now have the resources needed to produce state-of-the-art filters that were impossible for us to create before. Our new laser cutting technology allows us to offer high-quality products faster. The investment also means that we can bring more diversity and flexibility to our manufacturing



process, using more robust materials that won't be crushed or damaged by the significant pressure of a backwashing system. Our advanced laser cutter can cut through virtually any material, from the thinnest materials to the most durable alloy. This gives us the freedom we need to continue producing incredible bespoke filters for a range of applications.

In the past, we relied on subcontracting laser cutting so that we could serve our customers. Now, with our new investment, we can produce even the most advanced filter systems in-house. That means that you get the results you need faster, and you can explore a wider range of filtration opportunities too.

In any environment, filters need to be properly maintained, with regular cleaning to remove particulates and debris. However, an effective backwashing filter will allow you to get more time out of your machines and reduce the risk of unplanned downtime. With our help, you can get rid of the costly disruptions that might be hampering your workflow, and make sure that maintenance happens at a time that suits your schedule. To find out more about what Croft filters can do to protect and preserve your machinery with state-of-the-art filters, contact our team today on 01925 766 265

£4.1m energy fund launched

CHESHIRE and Warrington Local Enterprise Partnership has launched a £4.1million Energy Fund, awarding capital grants for projects that can support the objectives of the LEP's Energy and Clean Growth Strategy.

The Strategy sets out longer term aspirations to support Cheshire and Warrington's position as a leading European centre for Low Carbon and Energy Technologies, with an ambition to create the country's first smart, connected net zero-carbon industrial cluster, harnessing expertise and opportunity within the hydrogen, nuclear and other low carbon economies.

The LEP was awarded £4.1million as part of the Local Growth Fund (LGF) with the LEP now inviting applications for capital grant funding. The minimum bid for funding is £250,000 and applications must be submitted before 16th

August 2019.

Split between Industrial Clusters, Nuclear Sector Development and Low Carbon Futures - projects that are strategic and scalable, that will help to reduce carbon emissions, improve profitability of businesses and that are able to secure significant private sector contribution, are encouraged to submit an application.

Minister for the Northern Powerhouse and Local Growth, Jake Berry, said: "We're committed to supporting economic growth across the Northern Powerhouse and rebalancing the economy so that it works for everyone.

"That is why I welcome the £4.1 million award from the Local Growth Fund to Cheshire and Warrington LEP, which will further their ambition to fund businesses and projects to make the

region a leading international centre for low carbon and energy technologies, and a key asset of the Northern Powerhouse."

Christine Gaskell CBE, Chair of Cheshire and Warrington Local Enterprise Partnership said: "The LEP is committed to building a £50bn economy, with Energy and Clean Growth at the heart of our emerging Local Industrial Strategy to ensure as a region we fully exploit the significant expertise and industrial strength that exists here.

"Securing £4.1million - which will be wholly allocated to supporting the industry through capital grant funding - in order to build infrastructure, increase skills levels and accelerate innovation, secures a real opportunity up on which to further build our position as a centre of excellence, and be at the forefront of next generation innovation in the sector."

Regional winners at Student Employee of the Year (SEOTY) Awards

THREE University of Chester students have been recognised at the SEOTY Awards, which are run by the National Association of Student Employment Services (NASES).

The Awards recognise and promote the outstanding contributions and achievements of students who effectively combine part-time work alongside their study commitments.

All three students were previously selected as award winners at an institutional level and subsequently went on to win Student Employee of the Year North West Regional Awards, making this the highest number of winners the University has ever had at a regional level.

Mohammed Hashim Anwar, from Wrexham, a Master's student on the Sport Coaching and Development course at the Warrington Campus, has won the 'Step Up To Leadership - On Campus' category. Mohammed was also announced as the overall Student Employee of the Year 2019 for the University of Chester. Final year Economics with Politics student, Alice Dunford, from Whitchurch, won the Regional Award for 'Commercial Impact - On Campus;' and Kirsten Colley, from Chester, who is a third-year student of Music, achieved her regional win in the category of 'Freelancer' which



Mohammed Anwar

was newly introduced for this year.

Mohammed Anwar was nominated by Jack McKiernan, Fitness Facility Co-ordinator in the Sport and Active Lifestyle Department at the University. Mohammed was chosen by NASES as the North West regional winner in the 'Step Up to Leadership' category for his work as a Fitness Instructor on the Warrington Campus, where he was employed through UniJob. UniJob is a scheme run by the Careers and Employability team within the Student Futures Department at the University of Chester, which provides students with paid employment

opportunities on campus.

Alice Dunford was nominated by Adam Crane, Employer Engagement Co-ordinator within Careers and Employability - Student Futures at the University. Alice was chosen as the North West regional winner in the 'Commercial Impact' category for her work as an Events and Promotions Assistant, working on the delivery and facilitation of the University's TEDx event.

Kirsten Colley was nominated by two of her clients, Sally Tyler and Nicola Rook, and was chosen as the North West regional winner in the 'Freelancer' category for her



Kirsten Colley

work as a Dance Instructor with Stay Beautiful Performance. Kirsten is Managing Director and Dance Teacher/ Performer of Stay Beautiful Performance. More about her company can be found at: <http://www.staybeautifulperformance.co.uk>

Diane Appleton, Head of Careers and Employability at the University of Chester, said: "Our congratulations go to all three of our students for such a fantastic achievement – and for our best ever success at the regional Student Employee of the Year Awards rounds.



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Town secure new training facility

WARRINGTON Town have secured Warrington Sports Club at Walton Lea as their new training base.

After months of negotiations between the Northern Premier League Club and WSC, a deal has been struck in time for Paul Carden's side to start their pre-season training at the venue.

Based on Walton Lea Road, the club is home to sports including archery, cricket, hockey, rugby union, squash and tennis, which includes Warrington Cricket Club and Warrington RUFC.

The Yellows had been previously training out of town at JMO in Skelmersdale, due to lack of availability of facilities across Warrington.

It is believed that the grass training pitch will enable the club to attract players that may have otherwise not signed, while Carden rates the set-up as good as at some professional clubs.

Meanwhile the club has launched their new kits and season tickets for the 2019/20 season.

After finishing the season as play-off champions in the Northern Premier League, the Yellows know that the same again this term will earn them promotion to National League North.

The new kits, once again made by Macron, are available via the club's new official website at www.warringtontownfc.co.uk

Season tickets prices have been frozen for adults at £175, with juniors reduced to £30, and a new family ticket introduced at £360. Concessions are £100.

Chairman Toby Macormac said: "The support we experienced both at home and on our travels towards the end of last season was fantastic, and although it didn't end as we all hoped, we want to make sure we can build on that progress and give it a good go this season.

"We also have some exciting initiatives to mark the club's 70th anniversary, which it celebrates this season, and these will be revealed soon."



Left to right: Harry James, Dean Beddall and Karlton Bates.

Rugby League starlets go back to their old school

THREE former students who are now part of the Warrington Wolves RL Academy went back to their old school's sports day celebration ceremony

Sir Thomas Boteler CE High School welcome back Karlton Bates (Class of 2017) and Dean Beddall (Class of 2018) who are now playing for the U19s Wolves team and Harry James (Class of 2018) who is knocking on the door of U19 selection and currently training on the CAT3 programme at Priestley College.

The three talked to current students about their experiences, about success and failure and why it is important to keep believing and working hard.

Boteler's sports day was a great success in terms of participation, competition and enjoyment.

Director of sport and performance Chris Burbidge thanked parents for providing refreshments on the day and also the Bowmen of

Warrington archery club and pupils from Latchford St James CE Primary for helping out on the day.

He said: "Links like these are vital to provide young people with development outside the classroom and they reach different children in ways that other aspects of school

life might not and help to complete a child's educational experiences at school.

"For the third year running, Boteler students smashed school records that have been held for some time – a testament to their hard work and application in PE and Sport."

Flights to Cornwall

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September 18th

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

info@warrington-chamber.co.uk

Home start for Warrington Town

WARRINGTON Town will kick-off the new season with a home game on Saturday August 17.

Newly-promoted Morpeth Town will visit Cantilever Park for the opening game of the season on Saturday August 17 as Paul Carden's side start another tilt at promotion.

They will face another newly-promoted side, Atherton Collieries, in their first away match on Tuesday before the August Bank Holiday double header sees a visit to Gainsborough on Saturday and a home game with Bamber Bridge on the Monday.

Boxing Day will be a home game against Witton Albion, and the reverse fixture will be played on Easter Monday, with a trip to Bamber Bridge on New Year's Day.

FC United will visit Cantilever Park on Tuesday September 24, and a repeat of last year's play-off final at South Shields is scheduled for Saturday December 7.

Relegated Ashton United will be the visitors on the final day of the season in April.

FIXTURE LIST 2019 - 20 SEASON

August

Sat 17 – Morpeth Town (H)
Tue 20 – Atherton Collieries (A)
Sat 24 – Gainsborough Trinity (A)
Mon 26 – Bamber Bridge (H)
Sat 31 – Mickleover Sports (H)

September

Tue 3 – Nantwich Town (A)
Tue 10 – Stafford Rangers (H)
Sat 14 – Radcliffe (A)
Tue 24 – FC United (H)
Sat 28 – Scarborough Athletic (A)

October

Tue 1 – Buxton (A)
Sat 5 – Grantham Town (H)
Tue 8 – Lancaster City (H)
Sat 12 – Whitby Town (A)
Tue 15 – Matlock Town (A)
Sat 19 – Stalybridge Celtic (H)

November

Sat 2 – Hyde United (H)
Sat 16 – Ashton United (A)
Sat 23 – Mickleover Sports (A)
Sat 30 – Nantwich Town (H)

December

Sat 7 – South Shields (A)
Sat 14 – Basford United (H)
Sat 21 – Morpeth Town (A)
Thu 26 – Witton Albion (H)

January

Wed 1 – Bamber Bridge (A)
Sat 4 – Atherton Collieries (H)
Sat 11 – Radcliffe (H)
Sat 18 – Stafford Rangers (A)
Sat 25 – Whitby Town (H)

February

Sat 1 – Lancaster City (A)
Sat 8 – Matlock Town (H)
Sat 15 – Stalybridge Celtic (A)
Sat 22 – Scarborough Athletic (H)
Sat 29 – FC United (A)

March

Sat 14 – Buxton (H)
Sat 21 – Grantham Town (A)
Sat 28 – South Shields (H)

April

Sat 4 – Basford United (A)
Sat 11 – Gainsborough Trinity (H)
Mon 13 – Witton Albion (A)
Sat 18 – Hyde United (A)
Sat 25 – Ashton United (H)



Wire off to Wembley again!

WARRINGTON Wolves held on to beat Hull 22-14 to keep up Steve Price's record of having reached every final since he came to Super League.

In a gripping semi-final at Bolton, Toby King's second half try gave the Wolves just enough of a cushion before Joe Philbin's late try secured the win after they had come from behind to lead at half-time.

Blake Austin stood out on the big occasion to send the Wolves back to Wembley as they look to end a run of six consecutive Challenge Cup and Grand Final defeats.

But it will be a tough task as they face arch rivals and cup favourites St Helens in the final on Bank Holiday Weekend, Saturday August 24th.

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