



Insight

magazine

October / November 2022



The Journal of the

WARRINGTON CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

in association with
VR VALE ROYAL
The heart of Cheshire

Tohealth's new DNA and epigenetics testing venture wins top award



A NEW health screening venture aimed at improving employee wellbeing and reducing workplace absenteeism has won a national accolade.

The DNA and epigenetics testing service launched earlier this year by ToHealth, a division of preventative healthcare specialist PAM Group, was named Wellbeing Initiative of the Year at the Workplace Savings and Benefits Awards.

The awards, now in their 10th year, recognise employer and provider excellence. This year's ceremony took place at the Marriott Grosvenor Square in London.

ToHealth's DNA and epigenetics testing is carried out using one saliva sample, from which 1,000 types of DNA are analysed.

The results show whether a person is prone to developing a host of health conditions, such as diabetes, and how they can tailor their lifestyle to lower their risk as well as their biological age.

A person's DNA holds the essential information about their development, function and growth, and cannot be changed. Epigenetics, however, adds another layer of information, enabling a person to identify how their lifestyle and environment impact the way their genes work, which can increase the risk of illness.

Each test result provided by ToHealth comes with personalised recommendations to support individuals with potential risk areas, including gut and heart health, immunity, injury risk and mental health. All of these help people to understand their biological age versus their chronological age.

The hyper-personalised genetic information and recommendations are accessible via an app, giving individuals an advanced insight into their health at the touch of a button and empowering them to improve their wellbeing and stave off the threat of disease, helping

in turn to reduce workplace absenteeism.

ToHealth managing director Kerry-Dene Ihlenfeldt said: "We are passionate about empowering employees to thrive in the workplace. To be recognised with this award gives great kudos to our amazing team for their tireless work, and to our clients for their willingness to trust us to deliver services that improve the wellbeing of their employees.

"We work in partnership with our clients to ensure we offer a tailored and robust service that enables colleagues to perform at their best. Increasingly, businesses and organisations are focused on finding ways to improve the health and wellbeing of their workforce, and understand that prevention is better than cure.

"Our DNA and epigenetics screening provides a personalised and proactive health solution that enables employees to manage their own physical and mental

wellbeing, reduce the risk of disease and improve longevity.

"Through testing, an employee can learn how to play the cards they have been dealt to their advantage, how their behaviours and their environment impact on them, and what lifestyle changes they need to make.

"We have an industry-leading offering which makes a tangible and positive difference, and we are immensely proud that this has been reflected with this prestigious national honour."

ToHealth is partnering with testing company Muhdo for the offering.

The accolade is the latest for Warrington-based PAM Group, one of the largest occupational health, employee assistance and wellbeing providers in the UK. It offers a range of integrated services to public and private sector clients, supporting more than a million employees at over 1,000 businesses and organisations.

£5k lighting make-over up for grabs for community projects

WARRINGTON-based lighting company, Ansell Lighting is calling on local communities to nominate projects whose facilities would benefit from a top-of-the-range lighting make-over.

Communities across the country are being invited to put their local projects in the spotlight – and win a £5,000 lighting installation to improve their facilities.

The leading lighting manufacturer has launched the Shine a Light campaign to recognise and reward the work of projects and initiatives which have provided vital support and services to local people during the recent challenging times.

Whether it is a grassroots sports club that needs pitch-side lighting to extend its usable

hours, a foodbank that needs better lighting for its storage and distribution areas, or a community village hall that needs smart lighting to suit everything from a toddler group to a counselling session – the Shine a Light campaign is open to all.

The prize will include lighting consultation and design, products and a contribution of up to £2,000 towards installation by an approved electrician.

Nominations are open now, until Friday September 2nd. Judges will then compile a shortlist, which will be out to a public vote, with the winner announced in October.

Mark Abbott, Managing Director at Ansell Lighting, said: "In our 30th birthday year we wanted

to give something back to communities. The last couple of years have been tough on everyone and community projects have done an amazing job in providing support, entertainment and leisure activities to people who needed them.

The prize is intended to help the winning project to transform its premises in order to continue and expand its good work. We're encouraging groups or individuals to nominate local projects and initiatives for the £5,000 lighting installation and in doing so shine a light on some of the fabulous work that goes on in our communities."

Projects and initiatives should be owned, developed and led by the communities they serve.

Nominations can come from the project or initiative itself or from other members of the community. For full details, terms and conditions and to compete a nomination go to <https://shinealight.anselluk.com>



From the Chief Executive

Stephen Fitzsimons



I MUST admit that my political patience has been severely tested over the past few weeks. The UK economy was already in recession (since revised) when the new Chancellor presented his "fiscal event" on the 23rd September.

International markets delivered their verdict soon after and the Bank of England was forced to spend £65 billion on bonds to stabilise the system. In my 30+ years of studying and working in economics, I've never seen anything like it. Frustratingly, there were some positive announcements in there for our members. Raising the stamp duty threshold would have benefitted those in the property market whilst not increasing corporation tax and National Insurance could

give (profitable) companies more money to invest. However, it was all undermined by not providing an Office of Budget Responsibility plan on how the extra borrowing would be repaid.

It will be interesting to hear how the Labour Party would do things differently and there will be an opportunity to do so at the rearranged Warrington Business Conference in October. We had the blue team speak in 2021 so it's the red's turn to take the stage. The theme is "World Class Warrington" because we want local companies to be inspired by what they hear from successful exporters like DriveWorks. This 70-strong Thelwall software provider has won not one, but two Queen's Awards for Exporting. Elsewhere, Verde Spaces have

evolved from refurbishing shipping containers to manufacturing mobile command units for the Canadian military. There continues to be a little piece of Warrington all over the world!

Another event to encourage global thinking is the Rugby League World Cup which comes to Warrington on the 16th October when New Zealand play Lebanon. We have been exploring trading opportunities with the British High Commissioner in Papua New Guinea, the team being hosted by Warrington throughout the tournament. One of PNG's biggest exports is coffee and I met their industry representative who is organising a coffee roasting event before the France v Samoa game on the 30th. We're spoilt for networking in October because

the Cheshire Commonwealth Association will be highlighting trade opportunities at the new University of Chester building on the 25th.

I'll need a lie down after all the activities this month so should have recovered in time for the next edition at Christmas – where has this year gone..?

Take care,
Stephen

Warrington security firm launches new aviation division

WARRINGTON-based security firm CDX Security has announced the launch of a new division, CDX Aviation, in response to soaring demand for airport security services.

The firm, which already has significant experience operating within regional airports, has launched CDX Aviation to further expand its portfolio within the aviation sector as part of wider strategic plans and ambitions for the company.

The new division will assume responsibility for all essential airport security services, providing clearance-ready officers with all CTA and CAA screening paperwork prepared and completed in advance across a range of services including queue management; security ambassadors; airside and landside security officers; and customer service representatives.

Speaking of the launch, Operations Director, Elliot Roddy, said: "We're already experienced in providing exemplary security services to regional airports and with the current demand, it made

sense for us to continue to focus on and grow our portfolio in this area through our new division; CDX Aviation.

"With a dedicated and specialist team we're certain this new division will really make a difference to aviation security services."

The launch comes at a pivotal time for the firm, which is also rebranding to become CDX Security Group, as part of the firm's bold ambitions to grow their expertise in new and existing markets to continue its impressive growth trajectory.

Christian Roddy, Commercial Director at CDX Security Group, added: "Rebranding to become CDX Security Group marks a pivotal and exciting moment in our firm's history. CDX Aviation is our first step in making our new strategy a reality and we have more big plans in the pipeline to further expand our service offering and provide our security services in new sectors".

CDX Security Group was founded in 2017 and is a northwest-based security firm providing

premium concierge services, facilities management and security solutions to large-scale businesses, distribution centres, aviation, and the retail sector throughout the UK.

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



WARRINGTON
CHAMBER of
COMMERCE
& INDUSTRY
In association with Vale Royal
Established 1876

Registered in England No. 2964304



Members of Chambers of Commerce North West.

Members of Cheshire Chambers Enterprises Limited

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Stephen Fitzsimons, Chief Executive



CELEBRATING 40 YEARS
Brainwave
Unlocking Children's Potential

Ruby Ball

Celebrating Brainwave's
40th anniversary

*Black tie and red handkerchiefs for men
and cocktail/ball gowns with a
red theme for ladies*

12 November 2022

Ruby Ball

Join us and our Patrons, Lord and Lady Fellowes, for a
fizz drinks reception, three-course dinner, live
entertainment and a fantastic raffle and auction.

Saturday 12 November 2022
Drinks reception at 7:30pm
The Mere Golf Resort and Spa
Carriages for 1am

The money raised at this event will ensure Brainwave
can continue helping children with disabilities achieve
greater independence, by providing their range of
specialist therapies.

**To book a table of 10 for £750,
please contact Joanne Freeman
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Primas Law opens its fourth office as firm continues dynamic growth



CORPORATE and commercial law firm Primas Law has opened the doors to its fourth office as the firm continues to deliver on its expansive strategy for the year.

The eight-year-old firm, established by Managing Partner Adam Kerr, has taken a new office space in the prestigious Royal Liver Building in Liverpool.

With existing offices in Manchester, Cheshire and London, the firm's move to Liverpool underlines its reputation as the North West's leading boutique commercial law firm.

The new office in Liverpool's iconic Liver Building will be home to Primas' full range of commercial services including employment, litigation, construction, insolvency, real estate and mergers and acquisitions.

The announcement comes shortly after a flurry of recent hires for the firm across a variety of departments and seniority levels.

Managing Partner, Adam, said of the announcement: "We're really pleased to have delivered on such an ambitious growth strategy so far this year, with new service

offerings and multiple new team members highlighting the positive momentum we currently have. But we're not stopping there.

"We've got really big ambitions for this coming year, and our new home in Liverpool is key to that. Liverpool has a very dynamic and entrepreneurial business culture which we think we will be a perfect fit for. Some of the team are born and bred Liverpudlians too, so I know we'll feel right at home very quickly!"

The office launch at the Grade I listed building comes as Primas Law's impressive story continues.

Founded in 2014, the boutique firm has since soared to a 50 plus-strong team across a multitude of practices.

The firm is renowned for its no-nonsense approach to delivering legal advice, as well as being focussed on the quality and personable service it provides to its clients.

Adam continued: "We've got an incredibly exciting future ahead of us and we are all really looking forward to being a part of the Liverpool commercial community."

Warrington solicitors raise over £500 for Will Aid

WARRINGTON solicitors DSM Legal raised £580.00 for Will Aid in 2021.

Will Aid is an annual fund raising campaign which supports nine UK Charities including the NSPCC, Age UK, British Red Cross, Save the Children and Christian Aid.

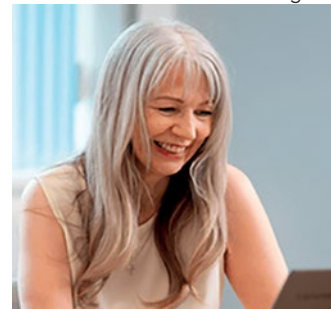
Participating solicitors draw up a basic Will without charging a fee. Instead the solicitor will invite their client to make a voluntary donation to Will Aid.

Diane Massey of DSM Legal Solicitors says: "As well as being a very worthwhile cause the Will Aid annual campaign is a great way to raise awareness of the importance of making a Will.

Starting a business, buying a new home, getting married, starting a family or getting divorced are all good reasons to think about having your Will prepared."

Any Will made under the Will Aid scheme also qualifies for free registration under the National Will Register. This scheme allows beneficiaries to trace the solicitor who wrote the Will, so that the Will can be easily located when needed. The National Will Register usually charges a fee of £25.00 + VAT.

The Will Aid campaign runs every November and further information can be found at www.willaid.org.uk



Goldman Sachs scholarship beckons for Grappenhall entrepreneur

A GRAPPENHALL entrepreneur has won a prestigious national scholarship after completing a 'Help to Grow: Management' programme in Warrington.

Louise Nicholson, 53, has secured a fully funded place on The Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses UK programme, which is run in partnership with the Said Business School at Oxford University.

She begins her studies this month – having been awarded one of only 70 places available each year.

"For the past 16 years, I have felt like a lone wolf – fumbling my way through my business growth journey," explained Louise, who is the owner of Superstars Holiday Club Ltd. "I was too busy being there for everyone else to take time for personal development. After the pandemic, I wanted to be around like-minded business owners who faced similar challenges, so I signed up for the 'Help to Grow: Management' programme – delivered by Manchester Metropolitan University.

"That course lit a fire in me. It made me think consciously about every aspect of Superstars Holiday Club. As I was getting ready to graduate, my programme mentor said I would be a good candidate for the Goldman Sachs course and supported me through the application process. I can hardly believe I have been accepted and will now be receiving a world-class education – both online and in person – from one of the UK's leading universities."

A former prison officer, Louise used to play volleyball with high-profile inmates at HMP Belmarsh. After giving birth to her two sons, she recognised a gap in the market for structured and active sports sessions for under-fives and founded Superstars Holiday Club Ltd in 2006. She now employs 22 full-time staff members and 150 seasonal workers, and holds sessions across the North West for more than 2,000 children aged between four and 14 every day.

"Sometimes in business, you don't feel like you are in the boat with other people," said Louise. "That's why I've carried on meeting up with the three other business owners I did group work with on the 'Help to Grow: Management' programme. We've stuck together – having each found the camaraderie we were looking for. If you go into it with an open mind, you have everything to gain and nothing to lose from applying."

Delivered by small business and enterprise experts from Manchester Metropolitan University, the 'Help to Grow: Management' programme aims to help Warrington business leaders develop a tailored growth plan.

The programme consists of seven online sessions and five in-person

workshops, which will take place at the Halliwell Jones Stadium. Eight one-to-one mentoring sessions are also available, as well as access to the university's alumni network.

Eligible businesses must have been in operation for at least one year and have a workforce of between five and 249 employees. The individual taking part must be a senior decision-maker in the business (businesses with 10 to 249 employees can put forward two members of staff). Ninety percent of the programme is government-funded and eligible businesses pay £750 once they have been accepted.

The deadline for applications for the next cohort is Tuesday, 4 October.

To register interest, visit www.mmu.ac.uk/business-school/business/sme-support/help-to-grow/



Gulliver's scoops two gongs at national theme park awards

GULLIVER'S Theme Park resorts has walked away with two prestigious awards from the UK Theme Park Awards 2022.

For the third year, the British public were able to vote for their favourite theme parks in these national awards recognising the best rides and attractions, shows and events.

Gulliver's, which owns Gulliver's World in Warrington, Gulliver's Kingdom in Matlock Bath, Gulliver's Land in Milton Keynes and Gulliver's Valley in Rotherham, won Gold for the Best Theme Park for Families (Small) and Silver in the Best Value category.

The awards were organised by ThemeParks-UK.com, an independent consumer guide to UK theme parks, and were presented in association with AttractionTickets.com.

Julie Dalton, managing director of Gulliver's Theme Park Resorts, said: "Everyone here at Gulliver's is thrilled to win these prestigious UK Theme Park Awards 2022.

"The winners are selected from a public vote, so it really means a lot to be recognised in this way. As a family-company, the Gulliver's team from across our four parks work so hard to make memories and provide families and young people with fun-filled experiences so this is credit to them and all their efforts. We'd like to thank everyone for their support."



■ Hannah Marsden, resort manager at Gulliver's Kingdom, with a national theme park award for Gulliver's.

Air ambulance charity takes off with £1,000 donation from housebuilder

WARRINGTON-based developer David Wilson Homes has donated £1,000 to the services of the North West Air Ambulance Charity.

The donation from the leading housebuilder has gone towards the charity's essential missions to ensure those in need in the region can have access to urgent medical assistance.

It was made as part of the Barratt Developments Plc Charitable Foundation, which is designed to support national and local charities, large and small, across the UK to leave a legacy in the communities in which the housebuilder operates.

In 2021 alone, the North West Air Ambulance Charity, based in Knowsley, was called out to 2,630 missions across the counties of Cheshire, Merseyside, Greater Manchester, Lancashire and Cumbria, with each trip costing an average of £3,500.

Danny Daynes, Regional Fundraiser for the North West Air Ambulance Charity, said: "Our charity receives no NHS or government funding, so we're completely reliant on public and corporate donations to keep our services operational and help to save lives.

"With our doctors and critical care paramedics, we can take those highly-skilled medical staff along with enhanced medical equipment and make a big impact. We are often told by ex-patients who have now become our supporters that the North West Air Ambulance Charity saved their life.

"It's vital that local charities and organisations are supported. It's often the case that they make a bigger impact and help more of the local community. We wouldn't be able to do what we do without our supporters across the North West."

The North West Air Ambulance Charity's helicopters and response vehicles operate 365 days a year. Its highly-skilled specialist doctors and Helicopter Emergency Medical Service (HEMS) paramedics provide enhanced pre-hospital care and hospital transfers to patients across the entire region each year – an area covering 5,500 square miles and over eight million people.

Crews working for the charity, like

other healthcare professionals, had to adapt since the beginning of the pandemic and wear additional respiratory protection and over suits, shoes and gloves. The charity, which operates 11 stores that provide much needed income and community profile, also had to be closed for long periods of time.

Rob Holbrook, Managing Director at David Wilson Homes North West, said: "The North West Air Ambulance Charity provides an essential service for so many people across the region.

"We're delighted to be able to offer our support to help keep the helicopters in the sky, and ensure that emergency response teams can continue to make a huge

difference in the community by protecting and the saving lives of local people."

To find out more about the North West Air Ambulance Charity and the services it offers, visit the website at www.nwairambulance.org.uk/.

This donation was made through the developer's North West Community Fund initiative, which aims to support local community projects and organisations throughout the North West. To apply for funding, visit <https://northwestcommunityfund.co.uk/>.

For further information about David Wilson Homes, visit www.dwh.co.uk



Data services provider Qbase rebrands and moves to new premises

WARRINGTON-based QBASE, one of the UK's leading DataOps and analytics providers, has ushered in a new era by rebranding to Euler and moving to new headquarters.

Inspired by 18th century mathematician, Leonhard Euler, the rebrand comes at a time where expectations and demands on customer data continue to grow.

The company, which has 44 staff, is moving from its current location on Bold Street in Warrington to a purpose-designed space located at The Gateway in Warrington. Part of Euler's five-year growth strategy, the rebrand and office move follow a management buy-out in 2019 and are a key component of the plans to grow revenues 20% YOY.

Euler's new premises have been custom fitted to enable collaborative working and accommodate its growing team. The space includes hot desks, collaborative areas, quiet focus areas, zoom-pods, and breakout spaces for socialising.

Rob Jones, CEO of Euler, says, "Our expansion in the dynamic customer data market needed a name and brand that represented our vision. As one of our key services is analysing historic customer data to predict the future, it seemed apt to take a name from the past to represent our future."

But it's more than that. Euler epitomises our core values of being curious, resourceful, and progressive, which underpin how we mobilise data to fuel sales, build loyalty and transform customer experiences for all our clients. We're excited to kickstart our new chapter with a new identity, and our new headquarters make it easier to meet our clients' needs."

Known for adopting and adapting existing techniques to pioneer new branches of maths and thinking, Leonhard Euler's contributions to analytics, logistics, and engineering, are as extensive as they are impressive. Just as the mathematician pushed boundaries and took ideas to new

limits, as an organisation Euler aims to build upon best practice techniques, utilising, integrating, and analysing data to drive positive change.

Euler's services will centre around DataOps and analytics, and with its new identity, Euler intends

for customers, partners, and potential customers to see clearer messaging across the business and services. Clients' needs still lie at the heart of Euler's operations and resources (including whitepapers and eGuides) will still be available to download free of charge.



£6.1m funding boost to accelerate digitalisation among Warrington manufacturers

A TRAILBLAZING programme that has backed Warrington manufacturers to adopt new digital technology and skills to create growth and jobs has secured £6.1m funding to continue for three more years.

Made Smarter has helped 2,500 small and medium-sized companies across the region start their digital journey by providing them with specialist advice and a digital roadmap to help them select the right approach, level of investment and tools for their business.

More than 250 of them, supported by matched funding, have invested in new technology, ranging from software and sensors to robotics and extended reality, to become more efficient, build resilience, increase their productivity and grow sustainably.

As a result, these manufacturers are set to create 1,250 new jobs, upskill almost 2,300 existing roles, deliver an additional £176 million in gross value added to the region, and help the UK meet its net zero target by 2050.

Now with a further £6.1m funding from the government, Made Smarter can accelerate its drive to support hundreds more SME manufacturers in Warrington to embrace the industry 4.0 movement.

Meanwhile, as a result of the trailblazing work in the North West, the national roll out of the Made Smarter adoption programme has continued, and now includes the West of England and East Midlands. They join the North East, Yorkshire and the Humber, and the West Midlands regions.

Alain Dilworth, Programme Manager for the Made Smarter Adoption Programme in the North West, said: "I am delighted that the Government has recognised the extraordinary impact that Made

Smarter's adoption programme is having on digitalisation of SME businesses and the adoption of Industry 4.0 technologies in the North West whilst continuing to fund our work for the next three years.

While UK manufacturing navigated the pandemic and is working towards recovery, it is also bracing for further challenging times and economic bumps in the road ahead. Our rallying call to manufacturers is that digital technologies offer businesses opportunities to build resilience, innovate and transform. Digital tools can help manufacturers make marginal savings, set themselves apart from competitors in a volatile time, and make products quicker, affordable and more efficiently.

This new funding means we can renew our ambition to reach out to the region's SME manufacturers to connect them to the tools that will make an everyday difference to their businesses, build resilience and enable them to keep up with a fast-moving industry."

Made Smarter's simple and straightforward approach gets quickly to the heart of a business's challenges and supports them to take that first step in their digital transformation.

Registration takes five minutes and is followed up with a digital transformation workshop to identify core challenges and provide a bespoke digital manufacturing roadmap.

Made Smarter's team of expert advisors then pinpoint other ways that the programme can support a company's digitalisation including skills and leadership development, and recommending the correct technology to invest in.

For more information visit www.madesmarter.uk



Jacobs awarded £250million Sellafield asset care framework

GLOBAL technology giant Jacobs, which has offices in Warrington, has been selected to deliver Sellafield Ltd's new Integrated Asset Care (IAC) framework as a 50/50 partner in the OneAIM joint venture with Mitie.

IAC covers core construction and asset care services at Sellafield, the U.K.'s most complex nuclear site, replacing the existing Operation Site Works (OSW) framework which has reached its maximum term.

Sellafield Ltd has estimated the value of the IAC framework at \$310 million (£250 million) over a maximum five-year term, describing it as a key delivery vehicle.

"This important win provides continuity for our skilled and dedicated OneAIM team, whose great work on OSW has been

recognized by our successful bid for the replacement framework," said Jacobs Energy, Security and Technology Senior Vice President Karen Wiemelt. "Collaborating with other suppliers and frameworks improves project delivery and helps achieve Sellafield's purpose of creating a clean and safe environment for future generations."

The IAC scope of work includes, among others, civil, mechanical and electrical engineering, with OneAIM responsible for: project implementation, including installation, modifications, commissioning, dismantling and removal of plant and equipment; asset care and support activities; coordination and collaboration with existing Sellafield Ltd frameworks; programmatic delivery; and integrated project controls and project management.



Tackling business opportunities in the Commonwealth

The Commonwealth of Nations comprises 54 countries, offering vast opportunities for businesses in Cheshire to work together with Commonwealth nations and create a lasting business relationship.

On 25th October 2022 the Cheshire Commonwealth Association will host its next in-person event: 'Tackling Business Opportunities in the Commonwealth' at the University of Chester, University Centre Warrington, WA1 2NT.

The Cheshire Commonwealth Association (CCA) was established under the guidance of David Briggs, CVO, MBE KStJ and retired Lord-Lieutenant of Cheshire, to encourage awareness of the Commonwealth throughout Cheshire.

With a blend of informative speakers to engage with, and networking opportunities to share over a cup of Papua New Guinea coffee and buffet lunch, you can bring your export journey to life.

Join us and try your luck at winning a pair of tickets for the evening PNG v Cook Islands Rugby League World Cup game at the Halliwell Jones Stadium.

Visit <https://tinyurl.com/yc3w7kx8> to register.

BGEN acquires Radway Control Systems to strengthen its industrial automation offering

WARRINGTON-headquartered BGEN, a specialist, multi-discipline engineering solutions business, has acquired Radway Control Systems to strengthen its industrial automation offering.

The purchase of the business, which includes the trading and certain assets of the company, will support BGEN's growth ambitions in sectors including renewables and steel, and increase its presence in the automation aftermarket/service arena.

"When we rebranded to BGEN we stated we wanted to be recognised as an independent market leader in the provision of world class multi-disciplinary engineering solutions for UK and international customers," says Robin Whitehead, chief executive at BGEN. "Strategic acquisitions were part of that realising that vision, and the addition of Radway Control Systems provides excellent synergies with our existing technology team and exciting growth opportunities."

Radway Control Systems specialises in the design and implementation of automation, control and information systems

for a wide range of industries including automotive, chemicals, metals, renewables and water. It has a high degree of expertise in computer, PLC and drive application software, with a 24/7 breakdown cover and after sales service offering. Radway Control System is an ABB Drives Value Provider and Siemens Solution Partner.

As part of the acquisition, approximately thirty employees, including the senior management team, will join BGEN Technology, and Radway Control Systems' headquarters in Stoke will become part of BGEN's network of UK regional offices. The transition of the company into BGEN's operations will be overseen by Ian Oliver, managing director – technology at BGEN, and it is expected to be completed by Q2 2023.

"The acquisition of the business supports our growth ambitions and it's great that the senior management team (Jon Taylor and Andrew Stainsby) have joined BGEN Technology," said Ian Oliver, managing director – technology. "Radway Control Systems has some great experience in

the industrial automation and digitalisation space, and we're looking forward to integrating the team into our operations."

For further information about BGEN Technology, visit Industrial Systems Integration Company | BGEN Ltd (b-gen.co.uk)



■ Ian Oliver, managing director – technology.

Miller Homes announces restructure to North West senior team in Warrington

MILLER Homes, one of the UK's largest homebuilders, has announced a restructure within its North West team based at Birchwood Park in Warrington.

After five years at the helm, Ian Smith has recently retired from his position as Managing Director of the region and will be succeeded by a restructured senior team.

Following Smith's retirement to spend time with his family and to travel, David Brackley, who has also been with the business for five years, has been promoted to Regional Operations Director from Technical Director.

Sales Director for the North West, Clare Noakes is taking on wider responsibilities to support Brackley and the management team in addition to her core role. In order to ensure the sales team maintain their successful track record, Leanne Feeley has been promoted to Head of Sales and will be responsible for the day-to-day management of the sales teams, whilst still working under Noakes' leadership.

Nikki Burns has been with the homebuilder for two years and has been promoted to Technical Director taking on Brackley's previous role.

Stewart Lynes, Chief Executive

Officer at Miller Homes said: "I'd like to thank Ian for the energy, effort and enthusiasm he has instilled across the region during his tenure. I'm also delighted to see David, Clare, Leanne and Nikki step into their new roles and take our North West office into its next chapter of growth."

The restructure comes as Miller Homes goes from strength to strength in the region, adding

developments in Ashton-in-Makerfield and Oldham to its portfolio most recently. The builder also recently celebrated surpassing 100 reservations for the year at its flagship development in Stretford, Novus, alongside selling out at Blackfield Green, a 160-home Lancashire development in Warton, after just three years.

Further to these successes, the homebuilder has recently launched

its exciting flagship development, Varsity Quarter in Northenden, transforming the old Manchester College site into new homes. The sales centre at the site is expected to launch in October 2022 with show homes to follow.

To find out more about Miller Homes' properties in the North West, head to its website at: www.millerhomes.co.uk/locations/north-west-of-england



■ Nikki Burns, David Brackley, Leanne Feeley and Clare Noakes.

Positive influence on business, growth and regeneration recognised in Knowledge Exchange Framework

THE University of Chester has been recognised nationally for its hugely positive impact on business, local growth and regeneration, as well as its commitment to public and community engagement, in the Knowledge Exchange Framework (KEF2) benchmarking exercise.

The results of the second Knowledge Exchange Framework (KEF2) have been published today – Tuesday 27 September 2022, with the University in the top 20% for Research Partnerships, Working with Business, and Local Growth and Regeneration, as compared against its peers.

It also placed the University of Chester in the top 40% for Continuing Professional Development (CPD) and Graduate Start-ups against its peers, making the institution above average in 4 of the 7 perspectives in KEF2.

The aim of the KEF2 is to increase efficiency and effectiveness in the use of public funding for knowledge exchange and to further a culture of continuous improvement in universities. It enables institutions to have better understanding of their own performance, as well as providing businesses and other users with more information to help them to access the world-class knowledge and expertise that exists in English universities. An example of knowledge exchange is when universities take the leading research and understanding they are recognised for and translate

it into impact that benefits the economy and society more generally.

Pro Vice Chancellor of Research and Innovation at the University of Chester, Professor Paul Bissell, said: "We are delighted with the outstanding outcomes of KEF2, following the clear and consistent improvements in both the volume of quality of research in REF2021 earlier in the year. We are encouraged to see world leading and internationally excellent research produced at University of Chester being used to deliver benefits to our region and beyond. As the quality of our research improves, we are also seeing real impacts on the communities we serve, which is great to see."

The University of Chester offers its knowledge, skills and facilities to promote innovation and growth in businesses and organisations in the region and beyond.

Recent successes include the work of University of Chester Director, Joseph McArdle, and partners, which was shortlisted for a trio of national awards. The West Mercia Rural 5G (WMR5G) initiative operated in the rural area where the counties of Shropshire and Worcestershire meet. From 2020 to this year, it looked at solutions to the infrastructure issues when planning, building and operating a rural 5G network; and how 5G has the potential to transform services for the benefit of residents, particularly researching 5G-enabled health and social care applications and the impact on

staff.

Starting this October, a new, unique course designed by the University of Chester with employers in Shropshire, Cheshire and Warrington is being offered by Chester Business School. The Gateway Certificate in Professional Education has been established to provide the skills that employers outline as the top priority for today's, and the emerging, workplace. Focusing on real-life challenges in each workplace and finding solutions to them, the short course has been developed along with Chambers of Commerce and the Federation of Small Business.

The University is involved in growth and regeneration in numerous ways, and its Citizen Students are encouraged to take a five-week work-based learning opportunity. Since 2011 the Venture Programme has supported over 1,000 students to explore their entrepreneurial potential. It has been awarded over £46,000 to help grow new ventures through the Excellence in Enterprise and Entrepreneurship Scholarship and the Santander Entrepreneurship Fund, courtesy of Santander Universities UK.

The University's community and public engagement includes lectures, exhibitions, partnerships, specialist provision and projects through centres and institutes, Continuing Professional Development (CPD) and professional advisory services. It shares knowledge with the public

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

A Graduate Peer Mentoring scheme was piloted this year, which invited Chester graduates to give back to those just beginning their journeys; supporting mentees during their transition out of University and into their graduate careers, all whilst gaining beneficial experience for themselves.

Over the last year, the University has invested in developing its networks and partnerships, always with a focus on creating opportunities for students and graduates. In addition to ongoing work with the business community, this year the University signed a partnership agreement with Cheshire West and Chester Council – a public commitment to achieving shared goals and introduced a community newsletter to better connect with the local community.

For more information, email businessgrowth@chester.ac.uk



Langtree sees profits double as occupancy and rents rise

WARRINGTON-based commercial property company Langtree has seen profits double with occupancy and rents both rising in the last financial year.

The firm's joint venture with Warrington Borough Council, called Wire Regeneration, also stepped up a gear with confirmation of the creation of a new digital hub at St James Business Centre, commencement of construction of the new bus depot in the town centre to free up further development land on Wilderspool Causeway, and finalisation of the funding for the Bevan Mews housing development.

In its results for the year 2021/22, company Chairman Tim Johnston highlights a 130 per cent increase in profit before tax to £5.3m and a 45 per cent increase in net asset value to £16.4m, but says the firm needs to be 'ever vigilant,' given current economic headwinds.

The company, which specialises in joint ventures and partnerships with local authorities as well as providing asset management services to institutional landlords, has more than 3m square feet of property under ownership or management, covering more than 600 tenants within the group portfolio. The estate currently enjoys 92 per cent occupancy, delivers an annual rent roll of £23m and is valued at £530m. The company's estate covers sites across the north west, Yorkshire, the midlands, and the south west.

The current gross development value of the assets under its control exceeds £1bn for the first time.

"This is a very strong set of results delivered by an exceptional team in every part of the business," said chairman Tim Johnston.

Many of our office and laboratory tenants work in collaborative industries where their teams value immediate access to colleagues so we found much less of the 'voluntary absenteeism' that affected other managed estates during and after the pandemic and so we have not been materially affected by the anticipated impact on commercial real estate of increased home working.

Our overall occupancy increased as a result of the strong letting performance of our three speculative office buildings, known as Violet, at Sci-Tech Daresbury,

which are now 86 per cent let and achieving record rents on the campus. It's given us the confidence to push ahead with a further 53,000 square feet of new offices and laboratories," said Mr Johnston.

His report goes on to highlight the continued growth in the company's partnership business with local authorities, noting Langtree's appointment during the year by Halton Borough Council to support the Astmoor Regeneration initiative. This phase will see up to 180,000 square feet of industrial space developed on 20 acres of land following the completion of the Mersey Gateway bridge.

In Oldham, its partnership with Hollinwood with the local authority aims to bring forward the next stage of the consented 100,000 square feet of development whilst at Parkside in Newton-le-Willows final preparations are underway to appoint a contractor to begin to deliver the 1m square foot first phase, with work on the Parkside Link Road, linking the site directly to J22 of the M6 motorway, now well underway. A significant bonus for the project is the site's recent confirmation as the largest of three tax and customs sites for the emerging Liverpool Freeport.

In addition, the next phase of the company's successful Bromsgrove Enterprise Park will see 62,000 square feet of light industrial space delivered across 19 new units. The scheme is now on site.

"Langtree is a solid commercial business which is an ideal platform allowing us to undertake and deliver complex regeneration projects that are both value-creating and which support our local authority partners' social and economic ambitions. We have also strengthened our numbers again this year to ensure that we remain on the front foot and once again the team deserves great credit for their efforts," said Mr Johnston.

Among the new recruits is the addition of a dedicated ESG Manager to provide full-time input to the firm's long-standing focus on delivering social value through its environmentally sustainable developments.

"This has been a shared agenda item between Langtree and its partners for many years and I'm pleased to see it bolstered further," added Tim Johnston.



■ Chairman, Tim Johnston.



Apprentice Alex is a valuable asset

DANTE Group are proud to congratulate Alex Lovett on completing his apprenticeship with the company. Alex has worked hard during his training culminating in him being an apprentice of the year finalist with his College.

David Small (Head of Dante Group's Mechanical and Electrical division) stated. "Alex has been a model apprentice, and is a valuable asset to the M&E Team, we congratulate him on passing his apprenticeship and look forward to more things to come from this dedicated young man".



Redwood Bank steps up its support to SMEs during challenging economic period

A WARRINGTON business bank keen to continue its ongoing support for SMEs has launched its first fixed rate mortgages to help businesses navigate the current challenging economic conditions.

Redwood Bank, which recently has achieved profitability for the first time, by continuing to do business through the pandemic and guarantee survival for a number of its customers, is now offering the assurance of consistent monthly payments over two or three years.

Gary Wilkinson, CEO and Co-Founder of the Bank, said: "The time is right to introduce these new products for our customers, who are facing uncertain times. We want to be able to continue to support them, and one of the ways we can do that is by taking away the anxiety that goes with rising interest rates."

The Bank, which is celebrating its fifth anniversary this year, played a key role in bolstering British business through the COVID-19-

related difficulties.

"We care about the businesses we work with. SMEs are a crucial part of the local economy and it's vital they are given the assistance they need to stay afloat during what has been, and is continuing to prove to be, an extremely difficult period."

"With talk of a winter recession, rising interest rates and an increase in the cost of energy, we are able to take away some of the worry by giving businesses the reassurance of stable mortgage payments."

The new fixed rate mortgages will be available over a two- or three-year fixed period. The Loan to Value (LTV) will be up to 75 per cent for secured residential investment and 70 per cent for secured commercial property loans.

"We want to be able to offer further support to SMEs at a time when they need it. Giving them two or three years of fixed mortgage payments allows them to plan without worrying about

what decisions may come from the Bank of England.

"With so many businesses facing real challenges, we are determined to do everything we

can to be right by their side to provide assistance."

For further information, visit www.redwoodbank.co.uk



Workforce praised for impeccable health and safety record

TMD Friction's customer fulfilment and distribution centre in Warrington has achieved a major health and safety milestone.

The facility at Hardwick Grange, Woolston, has now gone more than four years without a reported accident – and the achievement is being put down to the impeccable attitude to health and safety shown by the workforce and investment in the best equipment.

Logistics manager Colin Andrews is incredibly proud of the site's achievement and believes every single member of the 30-strong workforce should take credit for it.

He said: "Passing the four-year milestone without a single accident reported on site is a fantastic achievement and ultimately is down to the superb work ethic shown by every employee who is

based here.

"Everyone is very good at self-policing, no one takes shortcuts, and they all take real pride in their own work areas, ensuring they are clean and tidy and as safe as they can be."

"We've also benefitted from investment in the best industry equipment and machinery, which is designed to protect the operators and anyone in the immediate area – basically if someone is close by the machine will switch off as a precaution."

"I want to say a big thank you to everyone who has played their part in us surpassing this significant health and safety milestone – it's a team effort and everyone should be rightly proud."

TMD Friction is a global manufacturer of brake pads.



Optionis Group changes hands following acquisition



WARRINGTON based Optionis Group, one of the UK's largest providers of professional services to contractors and small businesses has changed ownership in a landmark takeover deal.

The group which specialises in accountancy, tax, and umbrella employment solutions, is now under the ownership of alternative credit specialist, Alcentra.

The change in ownership unlocks funding that will allow Optionis Group, which operates accountancy brands including SJD Accountancy, Parasol, Brian Alfred and Nixon Williams, to fulfil its bold growth strategy and future ambitions.

Alcentra is one of the largest European credit and private debt managers with \$38 billion in assets under management (AUM) and has an existing relationship with Optionis Group stretching back to 2016.

Doug Crawford, CEO at Optionis Group, said: "This is an exciting

announcement for our business. We have a long-standing relationship with Alcentra and have enjoyed a strong and successful partnership with the firm over many years, so we know that their vision and values align with our own."

"We're now looking forward to accelerating some of our strategic objectives, standing shoulder to shoulder with our new owners to achieve further growth."

Nicolas Besson, Executive Director at Alcentra, said: "We're very pleased to have concluded our takeover of Optionis Group."

"It's a business with a strong foothold in the UK market, but we believe it also has the potential to go even further. There is a solid management structure in place driving the organisation forward and this deal allows the business to focus firmly on the future."

For more information about Optionis Group, visit: <https://optionis.co.uk/>

Digital Infrastructure invests into Warrington training facility in bid to tackle telecoms skills gap

UK Telecommunication infrastructure owner, Digital Infrastructure, has opened a new training facility near Warrington to address the sector's talent shortage.

Its 'Digital Infrastructure Centre of Excellence' [DICE] will provide 100+ people per year with the skills and qualifications needed for a career in the telecoms industry.

As part of £100m in private funding from Basalt Infrastructure Partners, network provider Digital Infrastructure opened the 360 sqm development on the Sankey Valley Industrial Estate (Newton-le-Willows) on August 31. The space features a large outdoor 'street', mock up, pole field, residential installation room, and four further classrooms.

"We want to empower people to find a job for life," explained Gerard McGill, strategy and enablement director at Digital Infrastructure. "As an employer, it's our responsibility to support the ambitions of those in our sector and beyond, and it's important that we do our bit in addressing the skills gap when it comes to fostering the brightest and best in telecoms talent."

In what will provide a huge boost for the region – in terms of ability and opportunities – the development will also help push the UK towards its full-fibre 'nationwide-by-2028' goals, by addressing a significant resource gap within the sector.

"The Government is aiming to have all UK homes connected to full-fibre

broadband by 2028 – and we want to be a part of that legacy," added CEO of Digital Infrastructure, Charlie Ruddy. "The challenge is, the boom in the telecoms sector has had a knock-on effect whereby there's a significant lack of skilled labour – meaning everyone is chasing the same resource, leading to a bidding war and inflation. Digital Infrastructure's training centre has been created to counteract that.

"We are investing in the future of the UK's connectivity – in terms of infrastructure and ability – and for that there needs to be a much larger talent pool to draw from, across the board. This centre isn't solely for Digital Infrastructure, but for partners, suppliers, and even our competitors. Ultimately, we're

all working towards the same end-goal."

With capacity for up to 32 students per day, and courses lasting between 6 and 12 weeks, programmes will provide vital hands-on experience, dovetailed by academic study provided by training provider Inside Connections..

Digital Infrastructure is also working towards accreditation by City & Guilds, Smart awards, and PIA – and is expected to upskill more than 50 learners by the end of 2022.

The opening brings Digital Infrastructure closer to its ambitions of creating up to 500 engineering and white-collar jobs within the company – and its sister ISP, BeFibre – by the end of 2022.



■ Gerard McGill, strategy and enablement director.



Swan Solutions rebranding as Part Four

SWAN Network Solutions will soon be trading under a new name... Part Four.

Since their acquisition by Tectrix Solutions in April 2021 they have been working hard to amalgamate the products and services offered by both companies into a single entity. Until now they have provisioned telecoms via Tectrix and computing services via Swan Solutions, but were eager bring all of their services into a single entity... therefore all future communications will be branded under the trading name of Part Four.

The rebranded will make it easier for you to better appreciate and understand the range of business technology services and products that they now offer... including IT support, cloud services, telecoms, and cyber security.

NEW WEBSITE

Their new website www.part-four.com provides more information about what they do and how their extended range of services can add value and increased productivity

to your business. They plan to add further content and useful functionality to the site over coming months and would welcome your feedback and suggestions.

Their social media accounts are also being updated with the new branding.

YOU GET MORE

Part Four are also introducing regular free communications, sent to you via email and social media with links to their news and blog articles.

These will be bite-sized messages containing jargon-free help and information on subjects including alerts about the latest scams, advice on using products they offer and various offers.

You can unsubscribe at any time, but they firmly believe that you will find the content relevant and informative.

LEGAL ENTITY & PAYMENTS

At this stage there will be no changes to the legal entity of the

company as Part Four will just be a trading name of Swan Network Solution Ltd.

They are not changing the company number or VAT registration and there's no changes to their staff or service infrastructure.

From the change date all invoices will be sent to you showing the new name and logo, so you may wish to change the company name on your accounts systems to avoid any confusion.

Their bank details and direct debit processes will not change, so there's no need to adjust any bank

details or cancel any scheduled payments.

PLEASE INFORM YOUR STAFF

It would help them if you could communicate this change to your staff to avoid any confusion when they answer the phones and send emails using the new name of Part Four. If you could forward this email or send your own version to staff it would be gratefully appreciated.

If you have any questions or concerns about these changes please contact your account manager and they would be delighted to help.



Technology solutions company builds on impressive growth with hire of Chief Marketing Officer

WARRINGTON-based Talos360, an award-winning leading provider of intelligent talent technology solutions, has announced a further appointment to its senior leadership team with the hire of Rob Townsend as Chief Marketing Officer.

Previously CMO at Shield Safety & Riskproof, Rob brings over 30 years of experience in Marketing from leading brands across the UK.

Having reported over 50% revenue increase for 2021, representing a record-breaking year for the North West based firm, the hire underlines the business' commitment to its significant growth plans as it continues to scale. The appointment brings in a strategic and operational senior executive with a proven track record for growing B2B tech brands by bringing value propositions to life and driving sustained pipeline growth particularly for its software revenue.

This C-level hire follows the appointment of Head of People and Chief Revenue Officer earlier this year and represents

the company's rapid recruitment strategy, with increased headcount of 15% in the first 6 months of 2022 alone.

Commenting on his appointment Rob said: "Talos360 already has had an impressive growth trajectory over the last few years. With my experience of building performance marketing infrastructures, increasing conversion and growth through fresh initiatives, I am confident we can surpass the targets we have set for ourselves in 2022 and beyond."

The business recently hosted round table panel discussion at KPMG's Headquarters in Manchester with some of the region's thought leaders in recruitment including KPMG, TalkTalk, Summize and App Learn to discuss the findings from its Great Renegotiation research report looking into the recruitment challenges facing organisations in today's market.

Janette Martin, CEO at Talos360 said: "We have had a stellar start to 2022 and we are on track to hit our growth targets having just won two national TIARA Tech

Talent Awards. Rob's appointment strongly demonstrates that we are committed to our ongoing growth while using his energy, passion and drive to build upon our winning performance culture."

Talos360 is a market leader

in talent SaaS solutions and online recruitment media. Their proprietary talent technology offers businesses a better way to attract engage and retain the best teams to survive, thrive and grow. For more information visit www.talos360.com



No Brainer continues winning streak with latest industry ranking

WARRINGTON-based digital PR, SEO and content agency, No Brainer, has been ranked amongst the top 20 PR agencies in the north.

The Prolific North Top 50 lists are the region's benchmark ranking for the public relations industry and are compiled based on private data including staff retention, clients and financials as well as publicly available information on Companies House.

Recognised by the organisation as one of this year's 'high climbers', the agency rose eight places from last year's list, entering the top 20 list for the first time at number 18.

Launched in 2015 by co-owners Gary Jenkins and Lee Cullen, the business was also recently shortlisted for The Drum's Best Performing Agency of the Year (up to 49 employees) for the first time, competing alongside well-established agencies across the country.

No Brainer currently holds a clean sweep of industry awards this year including the Chartered Institute of Public Relations (CIPR)'s 'PR Consultancy of the Year' for the north-west, the Public Relations and Communications Association (PRCA)'s 'Medium Consultancy

of the Year' and PR Moment's 'Healthcare Campaign of the Year'.

Gary Jenkins, managing director and co-founder of No Brainer,

said: "It's such an exciting time for our business. We're pushing boundaries, growing the right way, and working hard to keep our clients and team happy, and to have this recognised by our

peers and leaders of our industry is fantastic."

For more information about No Brainer and its team, visit www.nobrainagency.co.uk



University and employers design new post-pandemic business-boosting course

A NEW, unique course has been designed by the University of Chester with employers in Warrington to help develop a workforce with the right skills in post-pandemic times.

Starting this October, the Gateway Certificate in Professional Education is being offered by the University's Business School to provide the skills that employers outline as the top priority for today's, and emerging, workplace.

Focusing on real-life challenges in each workplace and finding solutions to them, the short course has been developed in collaboration with employers, Chambers of Commerce and the Federation of Small Businesses.

The university-level (level 4) qualification is being launched as the Northern Powerhouse identifies

gaps in workplace-driven education and skills that need be addressed. At the Northern Powerhouse Education and Skills Summit 2022, it was clear that flexible education and reaching a wider audience is vital to filling skills gaps in the economy to 'level up'.

As part of its long-term strategy, the University has undertaken significant engagement with key employment sectors, particularly healthcare and those related to industrial decarbonisation and Net Zero. This work has highlighted that these sectors are evolving rapidly, and so are the skills required to undertake existing and emerging roles, with 80% of the workforce of 2030 already in the workplace.

The course is also meeting the Government's pledge to enable adults to retrain and upskill in later

life. It is eligible for the new tuition fee short course loans along with bursary grants for learners who need help with the cost of study.

Vicky Evans, Senior Lecturer in the Business School's Centre for Professional and Economic Development and Course Leader, said: "This unique, work-based short course has been created in partnership, and with careful consideration, to strengthen skills and businesses in a complex and uncertain global environment.

"While our degrees have professional skills development and experience embedded within them, this is a new option for professionals in the workplace, specifically designed for people who may not have had the opportunity to go to university or would like to return to university-level study. It is also designed to benefit their businesses. Through this Certificate, employees can focus on their professional development and upskill to boost their future career potential, while also bringing an immediate positive change to organisations.

"Each module has been designed to address the specific development and business needs that employers told us were their key concerns in today's workplace. Professionals can choose to study three work-focused modules from the following options: Confidence with Technology and Technological Innovation; Effective Communication for the 21st Century; Building Agility, Resilience and Wellness; and Leadership, Emotional Intelligence and Change."

Vicky added that the course is open to students from a wide range of backgrounds, professions and business sectors, with no formal entry requirements as previous experience at work is taken into account. It is a complete qualification in its own right but the intention is that it could also lead to further valuable study including a full undergraduate degree, as it sits within the University's flexible

work-based learning framework that allows progression on to individually negotiated studies.

Mike Goodall, Federation of Small Businesses (FSB) Development Manager said: "The skills of small business owners and their staff are central to running and growing a successful enterprise. However, smaller firms can be very time constrained, so they need access to flexible, fast and focused training opportunities. This short course offers exactly that, and the Federation of Small Businesses was delighted to be able to help inform its development in collaboration with the University of Chester and other partners."

Stephen Fitzsimons, Chief Executive of Warrington Chamber of Commerce, added: "Whilst there are many challenges currently facing UK businesses, upskilling talent is always near the top of any company wish list. Too much training has focused on the economy of today, rather than in preparation for the future opportunities from the green agenda. This University of Chester course will quickly boost the intellectual capabilities of businesses across Cheshire, Warrington and Shropshire."

The Gateway Certificate is also designed to be flexible and manageable alongside work and family life. Mainly workplace-based but with networking opportunities, each module requires students' attendance for just one day in the classroom as well as half a day of online supported learning. There are no formal examinations as assessment is part of workplace practice, bringing value to the work role, such as a detailed report, research project or presentation. The Gateway Certificate can be completed within six to eight months, with flexibility to take longer if needed.

More details about the course are available at: www.chester.ac.uk/gateway



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November 23rd 2022

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info@warrington-chamber.co.uk

Immersive mobile museum visits Warrington college

HOUSE of Memories – a new mobile museum housing an immersive cinema and activity space created by National Museums Liverpool – visited Warrington & Vale Royal College recently.

Students from the Health & Social Care Academy and Advanced Creative & Digital Skills Centre got the chance to experience the first-ever immersive mobile experience in the UK.

The House of Memories 'On the Road' tour visits communities and invites groups of up to six people at a time to enjoy. The museum creates memorable, interactive experiences for those who are vulnerable, socially isolated

or living with dementia. In a recreation of the sights, sounds and smells of the past through a virtual 'front door', users get to take a real trip down memory lane.

Students studying a health and social care or digital course at Warrington & Vale Royal College were lucky enough to be invited to sample the experience. Those on a digital course gained valuable insight into how digital skills and innovation can be applied across a range of different sectors and settings, while those studying health and social care were exposed to a way of engaging patients that they may not have considered. This collaborative, cross-sector experience was of huge value to the students and has



certainly enriched their studies.

Kathy Heywood, House of Memories Project Facilitator, said: "We have had a great day working with the students at Warrington & Vale Royal College. They have all embraced the project and hopefully the experience will enhance their studies."

Stephanie Doyle, Advanced Creative & Digital Skills (ACDS) Centre Manager at the college, echoed this by saying: "Students have been amazed by the visuals and technology on display. There has been a huge amount of knowledge shared and we would like to thank the House of Memories team for bringing this magical experience to our

college."

Pupils from all across Warrington and its surrounding areas are invited to visit Warrington & Vale Royal College at an upcoming Open Evening, where they can explore the Health & Social Care Academy and ACDS Centre for themselves and get a true feel for college life. The first Open Evening of the academic year is taking place on Monday 3rd October, followed by another on Tuesday 18th October. Visit: wvr.ac.uk/openevenings to view the full list of dates and to register your place.

To find out more about House of Memories, visit: www.houseofmemories.co.uk



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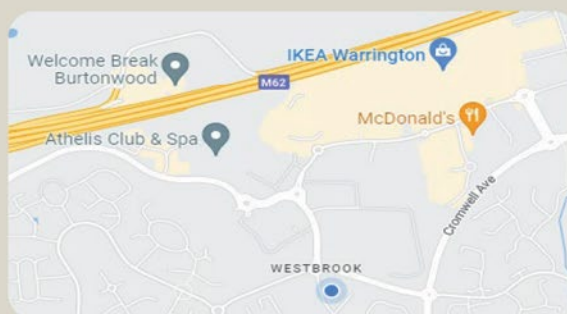
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