



Insight

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COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

in association with
VR VALE ROYAL
The heart of Cheshire



Cheshire and Warrington manufacturers to benefit from Made Smarter's new peer network

MADE Smarter North West has launched a new peer-to-peer network to accelerate digital adoption among SME manufacturers in Cheshire and Warrington.

The Digital Champions Network brings together businesses who have engaged with Made Smarter's adoption programme, including graduates of its Leading Digital Transformation and Leading Change for Digital Champions programmes.

The initiative will connect those employees actively engaged in digitalisation, from the top floor to the shop floor, at different stages of technology adoption. In-person and online events will be facilitated throughout the year to enable participants to share learning and experience, forging long-lasting connections.

Commenting on the launch, Ruth Hailwood, Organisation Development Lead for the Made Smarter North West Adoption Programme, said: "The Digital Champions Network is an opportunity to build something sustainable by harnessing what a manufacturer learns as they embark on their digital transformation journey and sharing it with their peers. This approach means every member of the network can benefit from

sharing experiences and new ideas, creating a bigger impact for their own business and for the SME manufacturing community in the region.

"Made Smarter's activity through the Leading Digital Transformation and Leading Change for Digital Champions programmes has already created strong and impactful connections between cohort groups. Many have offered site visits to each other to demonstrate their practices and technologies, which have proved really valuable. The Digital Champions Network is looking to extend these connections across the region to all manufacturers that engage with Made Smarter."

A launch event, at the Manufacturing Technology Centre (MTC) in Liverpool, attracted North West businesses from across industries, including: CNC Robotics; Palace Chemicals; JFM Workwear; Farrat, Gardner Engineering; Majas Switchgear and Beagle Orthopaedic.

It kicked off with a panel discussion about digital transformation featuring Max Barnett, digital champion for CNC Robotics, Made Smarter's technology adoption specialists Will Kinghorn and Claire Scott, and Mark Sutherberry from the MTC.

This was followed by a workshop session, led by Karen Lancaster from the Centre for People-Led Digitalisation, exploring the role of dignity at work and how this can be affected by technology.

The event finished with a tour of the MTC, a demonstrator backed by the High Value Manufacturing Catapult which showcases how advanced manufacturing equipment can be applied to industry to support skills, productivity and growth across UK manufacturing.

Mark Sutherberry, Senior Business Development Manager at the MTC, said: "Made Smarter complements all our thinking and best practice in how to support manufacturers to

adopt technology and skills in a sustainable, high impact way.

"It has been a pleasure hosting the launch of the Digital Champions Network, an initiative which brings together the North West's SME manufacturing community to learn how to approach digital transformation and innovation."

Launched in 2019, Made Smarter has engaged with 2,500 manufacturers, with hundreds receiving support through grant funding, impartial technology advice, leadership, and skills training to help transform their businesses.

To join the Digital Champions Network register at madesmarter.uk



From the Chief Executive

Stephen Fitzsimons



The new government has set its sights on growth in order to fund its future spending plans. I remain sceptical, not for political reasons, but because we've had such underwhelming growth in the last decade or so. Yes, we've had to recover from a global financial crisis and a pandemic, however an average of 0.3% per year is just not good enough.

There are fundamental issues that must be addressed in order to move forward so I do welcome some early announcements. For example, one of our members has a manufacturing site in Cumbria and they have been trying for nearly 15 years to install a wind turbine in a windy and industrial

corner of the north west. It can't be right that just one objection can curtail such an important environmental improvement.

We're not expecting an influx of government funding anytime soon so we need to create the growth ourselves. Three of our local engineering businesses are looking to expand and we are working with Warrington & Vale Royal College to ensure that the future talent pool is in place for them. Despite missing out on £8m revenue post Brexit (customers go straight to their Irish subsidiary), one of these is keen to introduce some assembly to their distribution operation and it's this added value that grows

our economy, with Warrington already one of the strongest in the north of England.

Cheshire & Warrington leaders are in contact with new government ministers to highlight opportunities for growth and what assistance is required to make this happen. Warrington's nuclear cluster is the strongest contributor to this, which is why they have a designated organisation to bring the major companies together. The Northern Nuclear Alliance was born from Birchwood Forum and continues to deliver sector specific events for its membership base. They have just recruited Sarah Melvin as Business Manager to deliver the service more

effectively and we'll be inviting their members to join us at some of our major events. The next one is of course the Warrington Business Conference which will be held at Cineworld on the 11th October.

Enjoy the rest of summer and I'll see you soon.

Stephen

AlphaBiolabs first in the UK to offer blood sample self-collection device for baby gender testing

WARRINGTON testing lab, AlphaBiolabs, is the first in the UK to offer at-home blood sample self-collection for baby gender testing, using the innovative, fuss-free TinyTAP device.

The device, which has never been made available to UK consumers before, makes it possible for expectant parents to collect their own blood sample at home and return it to the laboratory for the purpose of baby gender testing, with no medical appointments required.

Unlike other laboratories that require a venous blood draw, AlphaBiolabs' easy-to-use, pain-free TinyTAP device is simply pressed against the mother's upper arm to collect a small blood sample.

The sample can then be returned to the company's accredited UK laboratory to determine whether the baby is a boy or a girl from as early as 6 weeks into pregnancy, with 99% accuracy.

Rachel Davenport, Director at

AlphaBiolabs, said: "As the UK's most-trusted DNA laboratory with over 20 years' experience providing DNA testing services, we are proud to be the first to offer the convenience of the TinyTAP device for expectant parents looking to find out the sex of their baby.

"We are at the forefront of innovation in our industry, and the benefits of this device are numerous. From removing the need for time-consuming medical appointments, to enabling expectant parents to collect their own sample in the privacy of their home, entirely pain-free, with zero fuss."

How does baby gender testing work?

When the mother is around 6 weeks pregnant, small amounts of the baby's DNA begin circulating in the mother's blood stream, meaning highly sensitive DNA testing methods can then be used to screen the mother's blood sample for the presence of a Y chromosome.

As the Y chromosome is only present in males, its presence in the mother's blood indicates that the baby is a boy. If no Y chromosome is detected, this indicates that the baby is a girl.

The At-home Baby Gender Test from AlphaBiolabs is available for just £89 and can determine a baby's gender from as early as 6 weeks into pregnancy, with 99% accuracy.



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Stephen Fitzsimons, Chief Executive

Local media co-founder made Honorary Freeman

CO-founder of Warrington Worldwide, David Skentelbery, has been made Honorary Freeman of Warrington at the town's Parr Hall last night.

David is a recognised champion of providing free community news for all, across the current local titles of Warrington Worldwide, Lymm Life and Culcheth Life.

David has almost 70 years of local news reporting experience across Warrington. He started his career with the Knutsford Guardian, Warrington Guardian and Lancashire Evening Post, before setting up his own local media organisation, Orbit News, more than 50 years ago.

Equally, David set up Warrington Worldwide, the well-known, borough-wide free publication and website, 25 years ago with son Gary.

Since launching his Warrington-based titles, David has covered hundreds – if not thousands – of community features and stories. His journalism has supported many community and voluntary organisations to receive profile across Warrington.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, Warrington Worldwide also established its Legacy Project, investing grants into local groups and charities – further proof

of David's community-centred approach to work.

Mayor of Warrington, Cllr Steve Wright, said: "David has been an exceptional servant to Warrington through decades of dedicated reporting. He has put countless community causes and groups on the map, helping to shine a light on many successes within the borough."

David's son and Warrington Worldwide co-founder, Gary Skentelbery, said: "It is an absolute honour to see my father receive this recognition. He is probably the most modest person I have ever met in my life and will be wondering why he has been given this award for 'doing his job'."

"He has helped to change the face of the media, spending thousands of hours working in the council chambers over many years, ensuring local people knew what was happening in the corridors of power.

"His invaluable support, working behind the scenes, in the engine room, enabled me to get out and about in the community, ensuring the people of Warrington get a free, independent news source, seven days a week, 365 days of the year. None of this would have been possible without my father's dedication and commitment to Warrington."



■ David (right) with son Gary.

More destinations from LJLA as easyJet announce five new routes for winter 2024

EasyJet has announced five new routes from Liverpool John Lennon Airport, starting this winter.

A new route to Prague will begin three times a week from 28 October, twice a week to Marrakech from 13 November, twice a week to Malta from 10 December, twice a week to Berlin from 14 February 2025 and once a week to Fuerteventura from 19 February 2025.

For those looking for winter sun, both Fuerteventura and Malta could be contenders. Famed for its beautiful beaches, Malta is situated in the heart of the Mediterranean and therefore offers crystal clear seas to explore while Fuerteventura provides over 150 km of beaches of white sand and turquoise waters.

Berlin and Prague look set to appeal to those eyeing a short city break or travelling for business, while Marrakech offers something unique and is sure to be popular with those seeking a vibrant and culturally rich experience.

EasyJet now operates seven aircraft from Liverpool, flying around 2 million passengers a year to 32 destinations.

All the latest routes provide an interesting mix of destinations providing customers with even

more choice when planning their summer getaway, whether they want to relax by crystal clear waters or discover some of Europe's most charming cities.

Ali Gayward, easyJet's UK Country Manager, said:

"We are delighted to be adding five new routes from Liverpool John Lennon Airport this winter which all offer something for everyone from exotic winter sun to short city hops, we are providing more choice for customers from across the region who choose us for our unrivalled network, fantastic service and great value fares.

Paul Winfield, Aviation Director for LJLA commented, "We are delighted to welcome 5 new routes this Winter with our largest airline partner, easyJet. Berlin, Prague and Marrakesh become new year-round routes from Liverpool, offering passengers from across the North West and North Wales the opportunity to explore these destinations with the added benefit of flying direct from Liverpool."

We are also delighted to welcome routes to Malta and Fuerteventura with easyJet, where there is clear demand for more services from Liverpool."

easyJet connects Liverpool to major cities across Europe like Paris and Amsterdam, as well as to a range of fantastic leisure destinations such as Spain, Tunisia, Turkey and Egypt, offering value great fares and a convenient schedule for both leisure and business travellers.

Flights on new routes are now available to book at easyJet.com and via the mobile app:

- Liverpool to Fuerteventura flights will operate once a week on Wednesdays from 19 February with fares from £27.99*

- Liverpool to Malta flights will operate twice a week on Tuesdays and Saturdays from 10 December with fares from £32.99*

- Liverpool to Prague flights will operate three times a week on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 28 October with fares from £26.99*

- Liverpool to Marrakech flights will operate twice a week on Wednesdays and Sundays from 13 November with fares from £37.99*



J&K Ross wins five-year PPE contract with Northern Powergrid

WARRINGTON-based family business J&K Ross has secured a prestigious five-year contract to supply Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) to Northern Powergrid. This achievement follows a successful tender process, demonstrating the company's capability and competitiveness against larger national firms.

Northern Powergrid manages the electricity network for over 8 million people across 3.9 million homes and businesses in the Northeast, Yorkshire, and Northern Lincolnshire. The contract will ensure that Northern Powergrid's team is equipped with high-quality PPE including flame retardant high-visibility vests, workwear, safety boots and shoes, helmets, ear defenders and safety spectacles designed for both male and female colleagues.

The new contract complements an

existing agreement covering arc flash protective clothing, which J & K Ross has supplied since 2012. This continuation and expansion of their partnership highlight the trust and reliability that Northern Powergrid places in J&K Ross's products and services.

Chris Ross, Chairman of J&K Ross and account manager for Northern Powergrid, expressed his pride in the achievement: "This win is a direct result of a magnificent effort by our highly skilled team. It is another example of our family-owned business punching above its weight in a competitive market including large national companies. We are truly delighted."

The contract is expected to enhance safety and operational efficiency for Northern Powergrid, ensuring their workforce is well-protected as they maintain and develop the essential infrastructure that powers everyday life across the region.

J&K Ross provides a comprehensive range of personal protective equipment, safety wear and branded corporate wear to ensure the protection and wellbeing of workers across many different industries. From high visibility

jackets, vests and safety footwear to goggles, gloves, branded tabards, polo shirts and workwear. At their retail store in Kerfoot Street they stock leading brands including DeWalt, Leo Workwear and Rockfall.



■ The Northern Powergrid team kitted out in arc protective clothing and PPE supplied by J & K Ross.

Local HR firm wins hat-trick of awards from UK's Best Workplaces

LEADING Warrington HR SaaS company, Talos360, has been awarded UK's Best Medium Workplace for Development 2024 by Great Place to Work.

The award is now the third accolade Talos360 has received in the past year from Great Places to Work.

This comes hot on the heels of their 2024 Best Workplace in the UK award for which they received the number 1 spot. The Great Place to Work survey revealed impressive results for Talos360, with 100% of employees affirming that it is a great place to work, compared to only 54% of employees at a typical UK-based company.

The North West based business has also received #1 Best Workplace in Tech within the last 12 months, making it an impressive year of employee engagement awards for the talent technology firm.

Talos360 owes its success to its extraordinary team members. Passionate and dedicated, they have collectively created a workplace where collaboration thrives, and business success follows. The company's people-centric culture is the driving force behind its recognition as the best workplace in the UK.

Here are a few of the reasons why

Talos360 has been crowned the winner of a plethora of awards in the past year...

- Talos360 places a huge focus on their values of collaboration, create, simplify and success, which their people are enabled to live and breathe, whilst also ensuring their people feel empowered to 'find a better way' each and every day.
- Talos360's focus is on listening to their people. By listening to their team, they understand what is going well and can also understand where their team can see improvements.
- Talos360's commitment to growth and development is evident as an impressive 26% of their people have either been promoted or moved internally in the past 12 months.

Janette Martin, CEO of Talos360 said: "This recognition coming from our own internal teams' feedback means so much to all of us, and personally I love being a part of such a positive and dynamic workplace. I wholeheartedly agree with the stunning feedback from our employees, that Talos360 is 100% a great place to work!"

Talos360's CEO is immensely proud of its achievements, emphasising that these awards were the result of a true team effort. By consistently investing in its people, Talos360

has demonstrated its commitment to their growth and success, as evidenced by the numerous accolades it has received in the last 12 months.

"To receive the top spot in three different categories in the Best Workplaces ratings within the last 12 months has exceeded even our expectations! We're absolutely delighted, investing in our people and creating a positive work environment is something we are incredibly passionate about at Talos360.

Already in 2024, 16% of our people have either had promotions or internal moves, really demonstrating our commitment to supporting and developing our talent and we're proud to be providing exciting opportunities and careers in Tech in the North."

– Janette Martin, CEO of Talos360

As it celebrates each of these prestigious awards, Talos360 remains committed to developing careers in Tech and creating an even better workplace for its exceptional people.

Carbon Literacy training for SME's

Climate Change can feel overwhelming and often we do not know the facts from fiction or even where to start on how we can help decarbonise Warrington.

Warrington Brough Council has teamed up with Pure Leapfrog, a sustainability charity to provide FREE Carbon Literacy Training for Warrington small business and local Parish Councils over the summer. Both trainings have been developed to help you understand about the climate emergency in Warrington and how you and your organisation can develop your response.

Carbon Literacy is a term used to describe an awareness of climate change, and the climate impacts of mankind's everyday actions. The term has had occasional use in scientific literature and casual usage but now is exclusively associated with The Carbon Literacy Project.

Carbon Literacy is the knowledge and capacity required to create a positive shift in how mankind lives, works and behaves in response to climate change.

After the training you are invited to make a climate pledge to reduce your organisation's carbon emissions. This will be reviewed by the Carbon Literacy Project against their standard and if successful, you will be individually certified as 'Carbon Literate'.

There are many reasons why Carbon Literacy could be ideal for your organisation. Firstly, it's a globally recognised certification that can boost your reputation as a climate responsible business. Secondly and more importantly, the real value of Carbon Literacy Training is how it empowers you and your team to drive, contribute to and champion all of your other sustainability activities. Lastly, it's not just another meaningless certificate, behavioural changes through Carbon Literacy can lead to significant cost savings.

To date over 96,000 people from over 7500 organisations have completed the training and become 'Carbon Literate'. To join them simply scan the QR code.



Value-for-money hotel chain takes over Warrington hotel

EUROPEAN value-for-money hotel chain, B&B Hotels, has taken a further significant step toward fulfilling its ambitious growth plans in the United Kingdom with the takeover of a Warrington hotel and four others in Birmingham, Ipswich, Derby and Inverness.

The Warrington acquisition is the former Penta Hotel on the Birchwood Business Park at Risley.

All five hotels will undertake a period of light renovations over the coming months to meet B&B specifications but will remain open and operated by current staff, ensuring business continuity.

Having announced its expansion into the United Kingdom in late 2022, the latest additions to the B&B Hotels UK portfolio follow the announcement of their first UK hotel in February at Heathrow Terminal 5 and bring their UK portfolio to six hotels.

Fabrice Collet, president and

chief executive officer of B&B Hotels said: "This latest takeover is an important step in our UK expansion plans – and our global ambition to have 3,000 hotels within 10 years. Our successful growth model and commitment to value for our guests have made us a beloved brand across Europe, and we're excited to bring that same experience to guests in the UK."

Patrick O'Connell, chief executive of B&B Hotels UK said: "Today's announcement represents an exciting step for our UK presence. We look forward to welcoming guests to our hotels as we continue to drive forward our expansion into other towns, cities, tourism and leisure hotspots across the United Kingdom."

The chain has ambitions to grow to 100 hotels in the UK by 2035, and continues to seek partnerships with existing hotel owners, developers, landowners, funds and real estate owners to deliver its expansion plans.



Warringtonfire's £24m Birchwood Park site awarded perfect score

Warringtonfire's upcoming laboratory at Birchwood Park has been recognised with a Considerate Constructors Bronze Award in partnership with main contractor Tilbury Douglas.

Issued by the Considerate Constructors Scheme, the award recognises the efforts of construction sites, organisations, and suppliers who commit to raising both environmental and community social value standards. The Birchwood Park site, which is nearing completion, achieved a perfect 45 out of 45 score.

The report judged the site on three different pillars: Respect for the Community, Care for the Environment, and Value for their Workforce. The site received top marks in all categories, earning an 'excellent' rating for each and individual praise for its environmental and social policies.

Warringtonfire and Tilbury Douglas implemented a series of measures to demonstrate the social value of the site, including an open doors week and hosting a Lighthouse Construction Industry Charity site presentation on mental health, promoting health and wellbeing conversations. The teams also made further charitable donations to Warrington Youth Zone and the Trussell Trust Food Bank, and purchased sanitary products for the workplace via the Hey Girls social enterprise.

The report highly commended Warringtonfire and Tilbury Douglas for the project's environmental pledges, which included a Net Zero 2050 carbon reduction plan, avoiding diesel-powered plant and equipment during the construction, promoting the use of HVO fuel, and planting over 50

trees. Tilbury Douglas' ISO 14001 accreditation, the international standard for environmental management systems, further reinforces the project's commitment to environmental protection and sustainability.

Local students from Warrington Vale and Royal College were also welcomed to the site throughout National Apprenticeship Week, with several offered future work experience placements.

Iwan Lewis, Project Manager of the site for Tilbury Douglas, said: "Investing in the next generation of construction professionals is a key priority for my team and together with Warringtonfire we have actively engaged in educational outreach activities with Warrington and Vale Royal College to address the skills shortage in the construction and fire stopping industries."

Martin Horne, Regional Director at Tilbury Douglas, said: "We are proud of the value created through our partnership, the successful outcomes achieved, and the alignment of goals and values between our organisations."

Phil Shaw, Managing Director at Tilbury Douglas, said: "It's a great result and evidences the team's inherent culture on site driving our sustainability strategy, 'People, Planet, and Performance', or PPP, which sets out to deliver improved social and environmental outcomes for our business, customers, and supply chain."

The 101,000sqft Birchwood Park site is set to be the new hub for Warringtonfire's fire testing services. Due to open its doors in January 2025, it will triple the company's testing capacity. The laboratory will have two vertical furnaces, two horizontal furnaces,

and one indicative furnace ready for test specimens when it launches, with two more furnaces to be added by the end of 2026.

Dafydd Llewelyn-Jones, Project Manager for Element Materials Technology, said: "This award recognises all the hard work put into the project, both from our team and Tilbury Douglas. We're particularly proud of our social value scores, especially our outreach with the local community. Warrington has always been our home, so it is important that we continue to make valuable contributions to both the next generation and the environment."

To learn more about the new site at Birchwood Park, visit www.warringtonfire.com/about-warringtonfire/warrington-site-relocation-and-expansion



Business bank launches market-leading savings bond

AN award-winning specialist business bank has today launched a best-in-class savings bond to boost savers.

The new 1 Year Business Savings Bond with an annual rate of 5.20% AER underscores Redwood Bank's commitment to providing unparalleled value to its business customers.

The Savings Bond offers a robust solution for businesses, as well as clubs and charities, looking to optimise their savings and strengthen their financial foundation. This competitive rate not only ensures higher returns on deposits but also reflects Redwood's dedication to

supporting the financial health and prosperity of its customers.

Jessica Darrah, Savings Senior Product Manager, said: "This latest product release showcases Redwood as a smart choice for SMEs and charities, offering real value to our customers and allowing them to make their money work harder for their business and communities."

"With leading market rates across our product suite, organisations have a choice across a range of products, offering flexibility to suit their savings needs without compromising on return."

Redwood has won the Business

Moneyfacts Best Business Variable Rate Deposit Award for six successive years. Earlier this year, it celebrated a £500m savings milestone as it continues to support SMEs and charities.

The 1 Year Business Savings Bond is easy to open and manage, making it an ideal choice for businesses of all sizes. The Bank's commitment to customer service ensures that businesses will receive the support needed to make the most of their investments.

Towards the end of last year, it was announced that Redwood Bank's parent company, Redwood Financial Partners Ltd (RFPL), had signed Heads of Terms for the

reverse takeover of R8 Capital Investments plc (R8), a company listed on the London Stock Exchange, in 2024.



New events and festival category for 2025 Marketing Cheshire Tourism Awards

Organisers of the Marketing Cheshire Tourism Awards unveiled a new Best Event or Festival category for 2025 as they launched their annual search for the region's tourism superstars.

The prestigious awards celebrate the wide range of visitor economy businesses in Cheshire and Warrington's and recognise the brilliant people behind them. Tourism contributes £3.41bn to the region's economy, employs around 35,000 people and attracts more than 50 million visitors every year.

From family attractions, wedding venues and holiday parks to accommodation providers, pubs and restaurants, Marketing Cheshire today issued a rallying call for entries for the 2025 awards which are adopting hashtag #MCTA25.

The new Best Event or Festival Award is now one of 17 widespread categories. Its inclusion follows feedback from businesses and from the desire of Marketing Cheshire to celebrate the region's incredible track record of hosting events ranging from royal weddings to world-class music festivals.

Organisers are hoping for another bumper year of entries following a record number of submissions in 2024 – up 29% on the previous year.

The 2024 winners included major attractions Chester Zoo, BeWILDerwood and Jodrell Bank, alongside independent operators and individuals who make the Cheshire and Warrington visitor economy one of the best in the country. They were crowned by host and TV actress Lucy-Jo Hudson during a glittering ceremony in front of 300 guests at Chester Cathedral in March.

The deadline to enter the 2025 awards, which also include categories for accessible and inclusive tourism and ethical, responsible and sustainable tourism, is August 30. The winners

will be announced at a ceremony in March next year.

Qualifying winners are then automatically entered into the national VisitEngland Awards for Excellence to compete against the best in the country.

To enter the 2025 awards and to see the hall of fame of previous winners go to: Marketing Cheshire Tourism Awards 2025 – Cheshire and Warrington

Encouraging businesses and individuals to enter the awards, Trevor Brocklebank, Chair of Marketing Cheshire said: "The awards celebrate the trailblazing businesses and individuals behind Cheshire and Warrington's visitor economy which attracts 50 million visitors a year.

"The awards continue to evolve, and it is fantastic that we have added the Best Event or Festival Award given the region's prowess and pedigree in this area. I expect this will be a strongly contested award.

"The fact businesses are suggesting award categories is testament to just how much of an impact the awards have made. As well as the prestige, previous entrants have told us that taking part has increased bookings, generated PR, and boosted staff morale and recruitment."

Some of last year's winners also revealed what the awards meant to them

Lydia Downey, Head of Marketing and Media at BeWILDerwood which took the Best Tourism Marketing Project of the Year Award for its Make a Sploosh at BeWILDerwood summer promotional campaign said: "If you're thinking of entering the awards, do it! We've been lucky enough to win a few times over the years, winning best newcomer and large visitor attraction a few years back which really helped establish us in the area, as well as winning best marketing project of the year last year. Both awards have been brilliant for staff morale, and we

will continue to enter."

Charlotte Edwards, general manager of The Bear's Paw which was named Small Serviced Accommodation Provider of the Year said: "The Marketing Cheshire Tourism Awards are hugely significant to our business. Not only did the awards dinner itself provide a fantastic opportunity for the team to come together and celebrate their hard work and group achievements, but the application process and mystery visitor experience allows us to reflect on our successes and areas of improvement as a business. This has proved invaluable in helping us to maintain our high standards. Ending the process with a win was a great honour."

On behalf of Walton Hall and Gardens, Cllr Tony Higgins, Warrington Borough Council's cabinet member for communities, culture and leisure, said: "Winning Wedding Venue of the Year has been incredible for us at Walton Hall and Gardens.

"We're a smaller scale venue, operated by a small team, so to have their hard work recognised by Marketing Cheshire has been invaluable for morale, as well as future marketing of the estate. Winning the award this year has been a significant boost to our visibility and reputation as a top wedding venue and tourism destination, not only in Warrington but across the region.

"We can't recommend entering the Marketing Cheshire Tourism Awards enough, the benefits from being recognised as part of the wider Cheshire tourism and attractions economy are brilliant for smaller scale businesses such as our own."

Full list of categories at the 2024/25 Marketing Cheshire Awards:

- Accessible and Inclusive Tourism Award
- Best Event or Festival Award – new category for 2025
- Best Tourism Marketing Project of the Year
- Business Events Venue of the Year
- Camping, Glamping and Holiday Park of the Year
- Ethical, Responsible and Sustainable Tourism Award
- Experience of the Year
- Large Hotel of the Year
- New Tourism Business of the Year
- Pub of the Year
- Self-Catering Accommodation of the Year
- Small Serviced Accommodation Provider of the Year
- Taste of Cheshire Award
- Team of the Year
- Unsung Hero Award
- Visitor Attraction of the Year
- Wedding Venue of the Year



Specialist training provider opens £800,000 facility in Warrington

A leading training provider, whose roots in the Northwest go back to 1908, is set to create up to 6 new jobs in Warrington thanks to the opening of a new £800,000 training facility.

MRS Training & Rescue is a longstanding health and safety training organisation with more than 120 years of experience. This six-figure investment sees the company expand its presence in the UK by opening its ninth centre and its first in the region. The new state-of-the-art facility at 5 Cinnamon Park, Crab Lane, Fearnhead has been specifically designed to support the safety and welfare of businesses in the Northwest, offering bespoke training for Working at Height and Confined Spaces – as well as a range of other health and safety training including First Aid and IOSH courses. The principal contractor for the refurbishment of the centre was locally based Freemont Building Ltd and they also fitted out the confined space training galleries. They were further supported by supported by local business KW Scaffolding who built the work at height training facilities, and Warrington based Signs Unlimited provided all the new signage for both in and outside the building.

This investment follows a record year for the business, which recorded an average 10% growth over the last 7 years and a 22% increase in staff numbers since 2021. John Mowbray, Operations Manager, MRS Training & Rescue in Warrington said: "We have been at the forefront of innovation since our inception over 120 years ago. From our beginnings as a Mines Rescue Station in Howe Bridge, we have developed and diversified to meet the operational needs of industry to become the nation's premier provider of specialist Working at Height and Confined Spaces training. This new facility will provide a much-needed presence in the Northwest to help deliver the very best training solutions for a number of mission critical sectors." "What's more, as a business we have allowed ourselves a budget of £1 million of investment over the next 5 years to explore new technologies and opportunities to further develop our training services."

About the New Facility

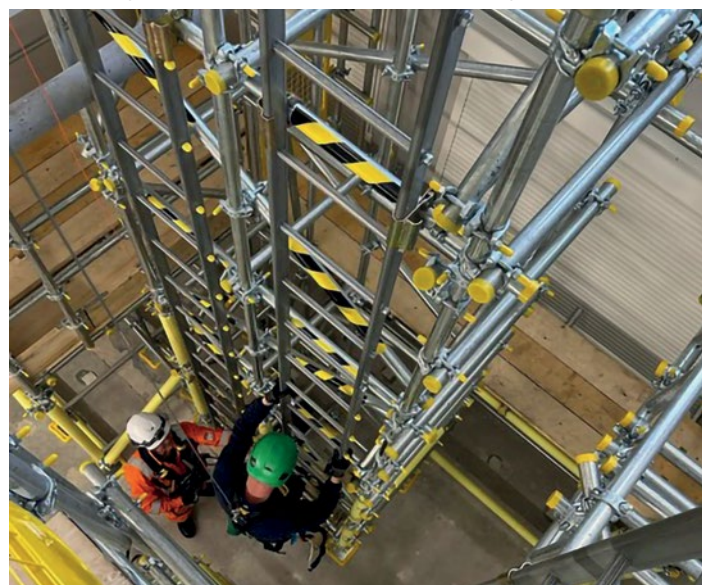
Purpose-built indoor training delivering an ultra-realistic practical training environment

5,000 sq ft / 464 m² footprint (complete with five fully equipped training rooms to accommodate both large and small groups for training) Confined space chamber equipped with crawl spaces, multiple entry points, and the option to fill with artificial smoke to recreate poor visibility conditions - simulating a variety of real-life confined space scenarios Expansive 7m tall indoor scaffold access system (supported by local business KW Scaffolding) designed to simulate variety of industry scenarios for Working at Height rescue and training drills with key features including ladders, trap doors, gates and hatches. This enables the simulation of most working at height scenarios and allows us to deliver hands-on training in a safe and controlled environment.

its roots back in the Northwest to 1908, when the Mines Rescue Station in Howe Bridge opened. With a gradual decline of the coal mines over many years, culminating in the closure of the last deep coal mine in the UK in December 2015, the company has expanded and diversified to meet the needs of today's health and safety market. Using their many years of expertise in underground mining they now provide unique rescue services, specialist equipment, consultancy and a comprehensive range of accredited health and safety related products, training and services to a wide range of industries, including utilities, civil engineering, construction and manufacturing throughout the UK.

For more information about MRS Training & Rescue please visit: <https://www.mrsl.co.uk/training-centre/warrington>

MRS Training & Rescue can trace



Access fully funded business support with Digital Cheshire

The Digital Cheshire programme offers businesses access to fully funded digital support through the methods of virtual events and specialist masterclasses hosted in venues local to the area. Warrington Borough Council are one of the four strategic partners making up the Digital Cheshire programme, alongside Halton and Cheshire based Councils.

Digital Cheshire have already supported several businesses in Warrington over the years with upskilling and empowering the adoption of digital within their business. Digital productivity, digital marketing and online accountancy are just some of the subject matters covered which will help businesses to grow online.

Over the coming months, Digital Cheshire will be hosting an intermediate virtual masterclass focusing on 'Strategies for Social Media', later followed by a full

day beginner masterclass focusing on 'LinkedIn and Social Media Insights' at The Park Royal on 12th September with more events being published later this year.

A recent business based in Warrington who attended the Digital Cheshire masterclass said: "All my questions were answered, and everything was applied to each of our personal businesses, learning so much more than on any other course I have been on."

The support on offer is fully funded to eligible small to medium enterprises based in Warrington, Halton or Cheshire, and we encourage you to visit www.digital-cheshire.co.uk to explore their events and sign up today.

Digital Cheshire programme also supports communities and businesses with improvement to local fibre connectivity through government backed projects.





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Taylor Rose MW announces Warrington office relocation

TAYLOR Rose MW has relocated its Warrington office to The White House, Greenalls Ave, Warrington. This move represents a significant milestone in the relationship between FDR Law (formerly Forshaws Davies Ridgway) and Taylor Rose MW.

The White House is a prestigious location that is home to numerous businesses serving the Warrington community. This Grade II listed building retains its characterful features but now offers a vibrant, contemporary workspace whilst fostering innovation, collaboration, and client-centric solutions – all aligning perfectly with Taylor Rose MW's vision of providing a smart and modern approach to law.

From their new location, Taylor Rose MW will continue to deliver a comprehensive range of legal services, including Corporate, Commercial, Litigation, Property, and Private Client services.

Lee Adams, Commercial Director for Direct Services at Taylor Rose MW commented "Our Warrington office plays a key role in servicing some well-known companies as well as individual consumers. I am excited that we are continuing to invest in the success of our team by taking modern space in a prestigious part of town."

Annemarie Pye, Chief Operating Officer at Taylor Rose MW added "Our Warrington office is a key part of our organisational structure and the office move is more than just changing our address, it is stepping into a brighter future, a transition to new possibilities and fresh perspectives. The location signifies our continued evolution and commitment to collective success. I am confident the move will not only enhance our working environment but also elevate our ability to deliver exceptional results for our clients and stakeholders."

The Warrington office is strategically positioned to build on their national offerings, providing clients with clear and concise legal advice. The Corporate Commercial team at Taylor Rose MW is particularly strengthened by the recent appointments of Phil Parkinson and Nicholas Johnson, who will be supporting the Warrington team from locations across the UK and bringing a wealth of experience and expertise to their clients. Their addition to the team highlights their ongoing commitment to attracting and retaining leading legal professionals, ensuring they deliver the highest standards of service and support to their clients.

John King, Partner at Taylor Rose

MW said "The move to the White House together with the recent high level recruitment of Phil Parkinson and Nicholas Johnson to strengthen the Commercial team illustrates Taylor Rose MW's ongoing commitment to provide comprehensive legal support to both the local and regional business communities."

Phil Parkinson commented "I am excited to have joined the strong and comprehensive Taylor Rose MW team, to support and develop the commercial law and data protection offering in the area."

Phil specialises in assisting SMEs and owner-managed businesses with their non-contentious commercial contracts and data protection needs. His expertise

includes drafting a range of contractual documents, from terms and conditions to large service agreements, collaboration agreements and bespoke IT contracts.

Nicholas Johnson says "I am delighted to join such a modern and forward-thinking law firm. My colleagues in the team are a pleasure to work with."

Nicholas specialises in corporate, commercial, and banking and finance law. Nicholas enjoys assisting entrepreneurs and owner/managers with selling their business and providing ongoing legal assistance such as complex share issues, buyback of shares, or commercial contracts.



What is a Legal Audit and does my business need one?

As part of Taylor Rose MW's commitment to supporting business success, John King, Partner & Commercial Solicitor, is offering free legal audit services. These services aim to help business owners identify potential issues that could pose future risks.

Safeguarding your business is crucial, and one effective way to do this is through a legal audit. Legal audits are designed to identify areas of concern within a business's legal framework, ensuring compliance with relevant laws, regulations, and internal policies.

As part of Taylor Rose MW's commitment to supporting business success, John King, Partner & Commercial Solicitor, is offering free legal audit services. These services aim to help business owners identify potential issues that could pose future risks. The initial audit is completely free of charge, with no obligation to continue using our services.

John King, based in our Warrington office, has built a solid reputation throughout the northwest. With over 35 years of experience in commercial law, John is well-equipped to guide your business through any legal challenges you may encounter.

Why Consider a Legal Audit:

There are several reasons why a

company may conduct a legal audit:

- **Risk Management:** Identify potential legal risks and liabilities that your company may be exposed to.
- **Compliance Assurance:** Companies are subject to a wide range of laws and regulations. The audit ensures adherence to a broad range of laws and regulations, from employment to data privacy. This will help avoid any non-regulatory penalties.
- **Contract Review:** Many companies have entered into numerous agreements and contracts. The audit will evaluate these with employees, suppliers, customers, and other parties to ensure they are legally sound and protect your company's interests.
- **Intellectual Property Protection:** Safeguard your patents, trademarks, copyrights, and trade secrets.
- **Preparation for Sale:** Streamline the process of selling your business by anticipating and addressing potential legal issues, ensuring transparency for prospective buyers.
- **HR/Employment Review:** Ensure that your employment practices and policies comply with current

laws and regulations.

- **Future Planning:** Establish a baseline for your legal position to support a successful and compliant organisation.

Areas Covered in a Legal Audit:

- Business Structure
- Company Compliance
- Insurance
- Terms and Conditions
- People and Employment
- Property
- Data Protection
- Intellectual Property
- Debt Recovery
- Operational Licenses
- Personal Affairs
- Legal Documentation

What Are The Next Steps:

John King will conduct an initial meeting, either virtually or in person, to discuss the audit process and provide you with a form to complete. After reviewing your responses, John will arrange a follow-up meeting to discuss potential risks and provide initial advice on mitigating these threats. This initial consultation is non-chargeable as part of Taylor Rose

MW's commitment to helping businesses succeed.

Any work beyond the initial advice would be chargeable, with no obligation to continue with our services. John is dedicated to offering thoroughly researched, informed advice and fostering lasting relationships with clients.

To safeguard your business and take advantage of our free legal audit services, click the contact button below or email John directly at john.king@taylor-rose.co.uk. Don't wait to protect your business – reach out now to ensure a secure and compliant future.



Dine Contract Catering makes key senior hires under new MD

DINE Contract Catering, one of the UK's leading workplace caterers, has bolstered its senior leadership team following the appointment of Managing Director Nick Haynes.

Nick has put together an exceptional leadership team, appointing Linda McAra as Head of Operations, Gemma Evans-Hurley as Head of Culinary and Sophie Beavon as Marketing Manager.

The appointments follow a relaunch of the brand, putting food, flavour and a promise to be a force for good at the heart of the business, as the company seeks to increase its market share by 30%.

Nick brings with him a strong pedigree in contract catering, having spent the last nine years at Eurest.

His influence is already being felt with the creation of a new roles and new appointments at the top of the business.

He said: "We felt it was important to strengthen our operations team and culinary support to take the business to the next level.

"Gemma's is a completely new role and we are delighted to have her on board. Her appointment reflects our desire to maximise our heritage in food, as well as bringing nutrition, health and wellbeing into the mix.

"Her history of championing women in food is outstanding, and I'm proud this is an exciting and diverse leadership team.

"Linda's role, as a third head of operations, is also newly created and she brings extensive experience to the business.

"Sophie, meanwhile, has seven years of experience inside Compass Group, starting her career on the Graduate Development Programme before specialising in Marketing and most recently Digital Engagement. These are appointments that strengthen the business and put us on course to achieve our goals."

Dine, a business and industry specialist caterer, is based in Warrington but operates nationally with contracts from Scotland to Wales and the south of England.

It focuses on food quality, with an independent approach and feel –with the ability to offer bespoke solutions to clients, creating seamless dining experiences.

Gemma Evans-Hurley, an award-winning chef with more than 20 years of experience who recently won Chef of the Year at the 2023 Foodservice Cateys, is positive about the future.

She said: "This is an incredibly exciting time not only in my own career, but for Dine Contact Catering, too. The business has recently undergone a re-brand and has ambitious growth targets for the next three years. I'm looking forward to applying my learnings from the past two decades to help support these goals.

"We'll be introducing new dishes, as well as putting a fresh spin on existing menus to take our food offer to the next level, improving taste, nutrition and optimising ingredients from local suppliers.

"I'll be leading a new steering group of foodie fanatics from all areas of the business, not just chefs, to collaborate and facilitate the exchange of ideas."

As part of its rebrand, Dine, which is part of Compass Group UK & Ireland, is underlining its commitment to achieving Net Zero by 2030.

Nick said: "Our focus is on food, on doing the right thing for our clients and the right thing for the planet, too."



VP and co-founder recognized for services to manufacturing with an MBE

Warrington-based DriveWorks VP & Co-Founder, Maria Sarkar, has been honored by His Majesty the King as a Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE).

The 2024 King's Birthday Honours List, published in June, announced that Maria had been awarded an MBE for services to Manufacturing.

Maria said: "I am absolutely thrilled and so very proud to receive this MBE.

The fact that the award is for services in and around manufacturing is very significant. It is less common for women to work in a CAD / 3D technology environment, so I have enjoyed the challenge of demonstrating the power of combining great technology with great communication.

The opportunity to visit manufacturing sites in many

countries around the world has given me a valuable perspective on so many different industries, technologies, and practices. At DriveWorks we are sensitive to cultural differences and understand the power of great relationships. We have built a strong Channel Management strategy to sell and support our technology.

I will continue my commitment to giving back to our community as a business leader and being a Department for Business & Trade (DBT) Export Champion, through STEM, networking, and learning initiatives."

Maria Sarkar and her DriveWorks Co-Founder, Glen Smith, launched DriveWorks, from their HQ in Thelwall, in 2001. DriveWorks started as a design automation software tool to automate Solidworks. DriveWorks technology has evolved as a result of market research, listening to

users, and understanding the challenges of the evolving world of manufacturing. DriveWorks software is used by manufacturers worldwide for design automation, 3D product configuration, business process automation, and as a CPQ sales configurator solution.

In 2019, DriveWorks received

Double Queen's Awards for both Innovation and International Trade. The Awards are the most prestigious awards for UK businesses, with companies from across the UK recognized for their contribution in four categories: international trade, innovation, sustainable development, and promoting opportunity.





Award-Winning law firm arrives in Warrington...

AWARD-Winning law firm, Bell Lamb & Joynson have celebrated the re-launch of their Warrington Office.

A warm welcome was on offer with a champagne reception, delicious cupcakes and plenty of buzz around the newly refurbished premises. The legal team celebrated the re-opening of their office with local property professionals, clients and staff from their various office locations in the North West.

The Warrington office is a listed

building in the central location of Sankey Street, near The Golden Gates and beautiful green open spaces, Bank Park and Palmyra Square. The progressive law firm have been in the building for a number of years, however it was primarily used as a convenient place for colleagues to work from if they were attending court in Warrington and to see clients by appointment. It was not readily accessible to the public, properly launched or used to its potential.

After a period of growth, 2024 felt like the right time to maximise

on the new opportunities that the Warrington Office could bring. After substantial refurbishment to increase capacity and create a welcoming space for clients to attend meetings, the office was fitted out with a new kitchen, reception, interview rooms and a modern workspace for the growing team.

Commenting on the launch event, Managing Partner, Mike Leeman said: "As the number 1 rated firm in Warrington on ReivewSolicitors, it made sense to re-launch the office and open the doors to the

local community, who can access our award-winning legal services in the local area. There was a great vibe in the office for our launch party, thank you to everyone who attended and helped us celebrate".

Warrington marks the fourth refurbished office location for leading law firm, Bell Lamb & Joynson. They have well-established offices in Liverpool, Maghull and Runcorn, where their team of 75 legal professionals work across multiple areas of law.

...Meanwhile, leading ladies announced as dynamic new partners

Continuing their commitment to excellence and client service, the firm has promoted two of its outstanding lawyers.

Jessica Flaherty and Rachael McClean have both made significant contributions to the firm's success and will now play pivotal roles in shaping its future as they step up to their new positions as equity partners.

The promotion of Jessica and Rachael underscores Bell Lamb & Joynson's commitment to recognising and advancing talent within the firm. Their invitation to join the partnership also highlights the firm's dedication to fostering a diverse and inclusive workforce, where exceptional women in law can thrive and lead the way. This promotion moves the needle, creating a partnership which is 62% female, and the senior leadership team becomes 66% female.

Commenting on the news, which follows the law firm's successful year end, Managing Partner, Mike Leeman said: "Jessica and Rachael exemplify the qualities we value most as a firm; excellence, dedication to client service and a positive attitude to support those

around them. We are proud to welcome them as Partners and know that they will continue to make a positive impact on the firm, taking us to new heights in 2024/25 and beyond."

Jessica Flaherty joined Bell Lamb & Joynson in 2022 to head up the Private Client department. Jessica has been instrumental in developing and growing the department. By introducing new technologies, new ways of working and investing in training for the team, Jessica has grown the department by 459% and has increased the turnover significantly. Jessica is shortlisted for the Lawyer of the Year – Wills & Probate award at the Modern Law Awards on 4 July.

"I am absolutely thrilled to join the partnership at Bell Lamb & Joynson. This promotion is not just a personal achievement, but a reflection of the hard work and dedication of the entire private client team. I am excited to step into this new role and continue to build on our success." Commented Jessica Flaherty, Partner, Solicitor and Head of Private Client.

Rachael McClean has consistently been one of the firm's leading

fee-earners with an impeccable reputation. She has a phenomenal attitude and approach to client care, earning herself 180 5-star client reviews on Reivew Solicitors in just over 2 years of being with the firm. Rachael has headed up the new Maghull office since it opened in April 2023 and has transformed it into a successful community hub, surpassing the vision that was set out to achieve. Rachael was awarded 'highly commended' for the Conveyancer of the Year award at the Modern Law Conveyancing awards earlier this year.

"I am deeply honoured to be promoted to Partner. This

milestone is a reflection of the support, incredible mentorship and encouragement that I have received during my time at the firm. I am thrilled to take on this new challenge and continue to drive Bell Lamb & Joynson forward as a leading, award-winning law firm who value and elevate their people." Commented Rachael McClean, Partner and Residential Property Solicitor.

The firm are delighted to celebrate the end of a successful financial year, topped off with the promotion of two leading ladies who have each made their own personal impacts on the firm.



Former Wolves player who built a multi-million pound business gives back to the charity that helped him

A FORMER Warrington Wolves player who built a multi-million-pound business after receiving a loan from The Prince's Trust is now an official mentor for the youth charity.

Jamie Boyd borrowed £3,000 from The Prince's Trust to start a same-day courier business after a devastating injury ended his professional rugby career in 2005.

Almost two decades later, Today Team now operates nationwide out of Taylor Business Park in Risley – and is on track to turn over £3m this financial year.

"The Prince's Trust offered me a lifeline after the lowest moment in my career," said Jamie, 43, who grew up in Great Sankey and attended St. Gregory's Catholic High School. "I was 24 years old with a busted knee and no money in the bank. I used the loan to lease a van and put in 60-hour weeks to build a business that now has top-tier clients all over the UK.

"I am delighted to have now deepened my commitment to The Prince's Trust by becoming an official mentor. Being able to give back to the charity and help young people, who are setting up their first enterprise, is a great 'full circle' moment."

At The Prince's Trust, mentoring is defined as the provision of personal support, assistance, encouragement and inspiration to young people during and following the charity's programmes – usually at a time of transition and over a

sustained period.

The charity has designed a Personal Development Plan to allow the mentee and mentor to set goals and measure progress during their regular check-ins.

"I started my playing career with Crosfields ARLFC – and Rugby League taught me an awful lot," said Jamie, who now sponsors the team. "Coming from a single-parent family, I benefited from having the coaches and other players' parents around me.

"Having been brought up in that supportive environment, I am a big believer in the learning that can come from someone who has more experience and is willing to share it. Over the years, I've built up a strong network that allows me to do just that whenever I hit a roadblock in business, and I'm finding it very fulfilling to now be that person for the young people I mentor."

The Prince's Trust approached Jamie about becoming a mentor after he shared his inspiring story at an enterprise day, held at Beehive Mill in Ancoats, last year. His engaging talk, '10 Things I Wish I'd Known on Day One', became the catalyst for his official involvement.

"The charity knew I was interested in mentoring, they thankfully opened the door for me – and the rest is history," added Jamie. "I'm proud that I've gone from being a 'one man and his van' operator

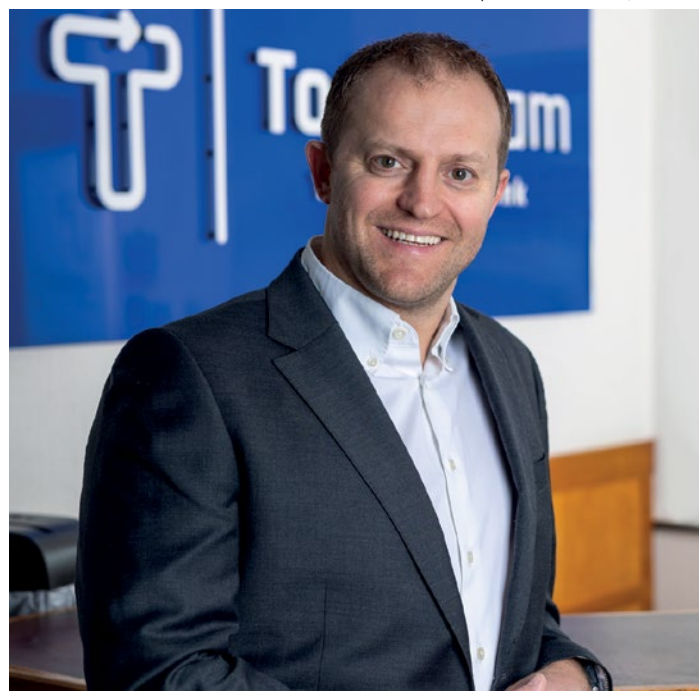
to a nationwide business, helping up to 70 delivery partners earn a living every day. With Today Team growing, I am happy and grateful

to now be able to invest time in building mentorship relationships that help young people whose shoes I was once in."

Helen Galloway, youth development lead at The Prince's Trust, said: "It is wonderful to have

Jamie on board as one of our volunteer business mentors. His business has gone from strength to strength since first being supported by The Trust almost 20 years ago. It's great that he is now using his experience and expertise to help the next generation of entrepreneurs."

To find out more about mentoring opportunities with The Prince's Trust, visit princes-trust.org.uk



Engineering firm looking to recruit more than 100 skilled people

WARRINGTON-based BGEN, one of the UK's largest engineering firms supporting the energy transition, is looking to recruit more than 100 skilled craftspeople and engineers across its UK operations.

The recruitment drive at the business, which is headquartered at Centre Park in Warrington, follows a number of new contract wins in the industrial space with opportunities across the UK including England, Northern Ireland and Scotland.

Chief Executive Robin Whitehead said: "The business has grown significantly over the past 12 months as we continue to secure opportunities in our core market sectors including chemicals, energy, pharmaceutical and utilities.

"We have opportunities across the business at all levels, with a particular need for skilled mechanical and electrical craftspeople, as we support our clients on a number of live opportunities, including energy

efficiency, energy transition and energy security projects."

BGEN's electrical business unit has an immediate requirement for upwards of 60 JIB approved electricians as well as 10 supervisors, while in its mechanical team, the business requires time-served pipefitters, riggers and welders alongside planning and quality assurance (QA) engineers. The company's technology team is recruiting for systems integration (SI) PLC/SCADA engineers and low-voltage (LV) design engineers.

Alongside a competitive package, successful candidates will get the opportunity to work on a range of interesting projects, across a number of industrial sectors, helping to deliver critical infrastructure initiatives. In addition, candidates will get the opportunity to work with a range of innovative technologies to deliver high quality work.

A second wave of recruitment is set to take place in the autumn as the company looks to deliver projects in 2025 and beyond.



■ Robin Whitehead.

New plans launched for a healthier Warrington

Warrington Borough Councils public health and growth team, along with partners (NHS, Voluntary sector, local residents) have launched two new strategies aimed at creating a happier, healthier, more active future for local people.

The Eat Well, Feel Well strategy aims to make Warrington a place where the healthier choice is the easier choice, so people can stay at or get to a healthy weight. It shows how the council, GP surgeries, pharmacies, hospitals, voluntary organisations and schools can work together to support people to eat healthier food and be more active where possible. To support this, Warrington has joined dozens of other councils in adopting the 'Healthy Weight Declaration'.

The Move More, More Often strategy's vision is for Warrington to be a place where being physically active and moving more is normal for all. Regardless of age, gender, sexuality, disability, ethnicity, or income. It will focus on building inclusive activity opportunities into communities, health and social care and education settings and workplaces.

Both strategies are key to helping Warrington become a place which enables and supports healthier communities.

Workplaces and local businesses can support both strategies through:

- Promoting active travel to and from the workplace
- Developing healthy catering

guidelines for meetings and events

- Promoting 'Active Soles' across the workplace, wearing comfortable shoes to work to encourage physical activity throughout the day

- Provide access to fresh drinking water and encourage re-usable bottle refills

For further information, visit warrington.gov.uk/eat-well-feel-well-and-move-more-often-warrington







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World Suicide Prevention Day

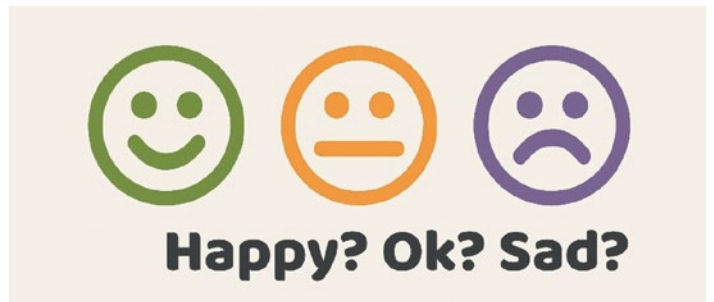
World Suicide Prevention Day takes place on 10 September each year. Every year, organisations and communities around the world come together to raise awareness of how we can create a world where fewer people die by suicide. The theme identified for the next three years (2024-2026) is 'Changing the Narrative on Suicide' with an associated call to action of 'Start the Conversation'.

Changing the narrative on suicide is about transforming how we perceive this complex issue. It's about shifting from a culture of silence and lack of understanding to one of openness, empathy, and support. Changing the narrative on suicide aims to inspire governments, individuals, communities, businesses and organisations to engage in open

and honest discussions about suicide and suicidal behaviour. By initiating these vital conversations, we can break down barriers, raise awareness, and create better cultures of understanding and support.

If you or someone you know is struggling with their mental health please visit Warrington's mental health website - Happy? OK? Sad? warrington.gov.uk/happy-ok-sad.

The site includes information about how to look after your mental wellbeing, symptoms of common mental health problems, services that can offer information, advice, support or treatment and what to do if you/someone you know can't cope and needs help right away. The site also includes a page for frontline workers with links to free resources and training.



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September 18th 2024

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

info@warrington-chamber.co.uk

Significant milestones at Lymm's MLP Law

Lymm's award-winning, privately owned MLP Law is celebrating two significant milestones; its 35th anniversary and 10 years under the ownership of managing partner Stephen Attree.

As the only law firm to be a member of the Greater Manchester Good Employment Charter to date, MLP Law is leading the way under Stephen, who acquired the firm in 2014 from the last remaining founding partner, Michael Lister

With a determination to transform the direction of MLP Law and its operations, Stephen has, over the course of the last 10 years, achieved a great deal, notably developing a team of legal experts and creating a law firm with a genuine difference.

During the last decade, Stephen has grown the business significantly, opening the office in Lymm in 2017 following the acquisition of WH Lill & Co, to complement the Altrincham office. Offices in Leeds and Manchester city centre followed in 2021 and 2022 respectively, with the ultimate aim of becoming the leading provider of legal services in the North West.

In the last year alone, the firm has handled 1,718 client matters. Profits are up and continue to increase year on year, with MLP Law reporting a turnover of £2m in 2022 and £2.3m in 2023. This year

the forecast turnover is £2.5m.

The firm's team has also grown, with more than 30 professionals now employed servicing the core areas of the business and delivering the firm's ethos of enhancing the client journey by investing in the client's experience.

Commenting on the milestones and his accomplishments, Stephen says: "I grew up with an entrepreneurial spirit, investing my savings in shares as a teenager and maintaining an interest in business alongside law. When I was presented with the opportunity to acquire MLP Law I seized the chance to merge my legal expertise with my passion for business ownership.

"I had clear plans for the direction of the firm and wanted to implement a fresh approach to practising law, with clients at the forefront. For me, it has always been about the client; how best I serve them and not just the law, but by always doing the right thing, both delivering results and exceeding expectations.

"The last 10 years have been incredible, and I am supported by a talented team, who not only share my vision, but work hard everyday to deliver on it.

"There is more to do yet! We will continue to work on reducing carbon emissions, with the ultimate aim of achieving net zero. Further

growth is in the pipeline too, from enhancing the marketing team and expanding the corporate, commercial and real estate teams to internal development with organic progression a real focus. And of course we want to continue to attract new clients, establishing long-standing working relationships with them."

MLP Law was established in 1989 by Ronnie Myers, Gillian Price and Michael Lister. Stephen joined in 2011, following a move from Lawson, Coppock & Hart (now part of Brabners) where he was an equity partner.

Today, MLP Law employs a strong team of legal experts across its four offices, providing

a comprehensive range of legal services for businesses, business owners and individuals.

Stephen concludes: "It was a privilege to join MLP Law in January 2011 as a partner, as it was such a well-established and highly regarded law firm. When I acquired the firm three years later, I always wanted to build on its legacy and will continue to do so during the next decade. The company's 35th birthday not only marks a celebration of longevity, but also reflects the confidence clients have placed in the team over the years."

For further information regarding MLP Law, call 0161 926 9969 or visit www.mlplaw.co.uk



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