



Insight

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The Journal of the
WARRINGTON CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

in association with
VR VALE ROYAL
The heart of Cheshire



New era set to take to the road for electric bus travel

THE future of zero emissions bus travel in Warrington is almost here – with the town's new electric bus – in its bright new colours – officially unveiled.

The unveiling of the bus – at a special ZEBRA event – provides the first opportunity for people to see the new, yellow vehicle which will soon be brightening up the streets of Warrington, providing greener, cleaner transport for everyone.

It marks the final countdown to the arrival of Warrington's all electric bus fleet, with 105 new buses – replacing Warrington's Own Buses' entire fleet of diesel buses – to begin arriving from this summer.

Warrington's deal with Volvo for 105 state-of-the-art BZL Electric vehicles, is one of the biggest orders of electric buses by any town or city in the UK to date.

The council has also signed a deal with EO Charging – a leading provider of electric vehicle (EV) charging solutions for fleets – to supply the chargers at Warrington's new bus depot which will power the new electric vehicles. As part

of the council's commitment to tackling the climate emergency, all the charging will be powered by 100% green energy.

The project is being supported through funding from the Department for Transport's Zero Emission Bus Regional Areas (ZEBRA) scheme, which aims to deliver up to 4,000 zero-emission buses across the country.

Warrington Borough Council Leader and Cabinet Member for highways and transport, Cllr Hans Mundy, said: "These are exciting times for Warrington, with the introduction of our all-electric fleet set to transform bus travel in our borough.

"Our 105 buses will bring massive benefits for passengers, providing safe, quiet and comfortable journeys. These are buses which are truly fit for the future, with zero tailpipe emissions, which will improve air quality and support our work to tackle the climate emergency.

"We've made our ambitions clear, through our Local Transport Plan, to reduce emissions and congestion, increase the share

of journeys made by bus and build sustainable transport into everyday life in Warrington. Our new electric buses will play a massive role in us achieving this.

"At the same time, we've been making enhancing our services across the board. This includes reduced fares – such as the newly announced £1 fare cap for all under 22s and free travel for all care leavers – enhanced timetables, all day concessionary pass use and new and improved bus shelters. Supported by these major improvements, our new electric fleet is set to usher in a bright new era for bus travel in Warrington."

The state-of-the-art Volvo BZL Electric, which will soon be making Warrington its home, provides clean, near-silent, comfortable and efficient public transport. It is built to a high safety standard and complies with the toughest restrictions on emissions and noise.

Launched in 2021, the zero-tailpipe emissions vehicle features low interior noise, making it easier for passengers to talk to others

or listen to music during the ride, with the driver also benefiting from a calm and quiet workspace. The silent propulsion also reduces noise for residents along the route.

Warrington's Own Buses covers 85% of the bus mileage in the borough, and the conversion of its entire fleet to all-electric supports Warrington's ambitions to introduce greener, cleaner and more sustainable transport options throughout the borough.

The council has been working closely with local operators to build a better bus service to support the arrival of the new electric bus fleet, as part of the borough's Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP).

Ben Wakerley, Managing Director of Warrington's Own Buses, said: "Warrington Borough Council have been very forward thinking with their commitment to improving air quality and improving bus journey times in the town.

It is our pleasure to work in partnership with them, the UK government and all those involved in delivering this important project".

From the Chief Executive

— Stephen Fitzsimons —



Spring always brings a welcome hint of brighter days on the horizon and the UK economy is similarly teasing us.

Inflation fell again to 3.4% and is on course to return below the Bank of England's 2% target. The recession is expected to be a shallow one, with increased average earnings (5.6% in January) suggesting that spending power is growing again. However, it doesn't feel like things are better. I ventured into Manchester for St Patrick's Day and had to pay £35 for a taxi because the trains were cancelled. At a recent meeting with the Transport Minister, whilst he acknowledged the issues across the north, he seemed more interested in blaming the situation

on striking train drivers. It's going to take a long time and a growth-funded Budget before I can stop feeling like nothing is working.

That said, I've been meeting a lot of entrepreneurs recently as part of our UK Shared Prosperity Funded Start & Scale Up Club. We've seen some innovative and dynamic individuals who have identified commercial opportunities in a variety of different sectors. A few of these have been in green technologies, which is an exciting area that the UK needs to embrace more passionately. Oxford Economics estimate a current global opportunity of \$10.3 trillion so the prize is huge. The nuclear sector forms an important piece of this clean growth agenda and we

recently supported the Northern Nuclear Alliance with the always popular Meet the Buyer event at Birchwood Park. Have a look out for an Artificial Intelligence forum at the same venue on the 6th June.

We were very saddened to hear about the demise of the Chamber in St Helens and we look forward to seeing business support return quickly for our neighbours. St Helens was very successful in attracting external funding over many years, from the North West Development Agency, European Union and numerous skills agendas. Rest assured that whilst we deliver a couple of services for the Council, our business model is very different to theirs. Indeed, we have an enviable investment

portfolio that will ensure that Warrington Chamber is financially secure for the next 20 years. Of course, we'd not say no if a future government was to recognise the front-line role that all Chambers perform and offered us some money to extend our reach!

Enjoy your spring and I'll see you again when the leaves are back on the trees.

Take care, Stephen

Cheshire's Mix 56 takes local radio by storm

THERE'S something pretty special happening right here in Warrington. It's local, it's lively and it's proudly stirring the airwaves like a good cup of tea – it's us, Cheshire's Mix 56!

We're like that new kid on the block who's got everyone talking. And here's the gist. We aim to bring back the cosy feel of local radio. It's been missing for a while. Feels good to be part of the community, doesn't it?

Now, you might wonder, "Why the buzz?" It's simple. Think of the radio as your favourite old-school diner. Everyone knows your name, and the vibe is just right. That's us. We have a mix of tunes, chatter, and local love.

Paul Smith is steering the ship. He says, "In three years, we went from a small online station in our spare room to the medium of DAB. MIX 56 is bringing back local radio to Cheshire."

The big radio groups have long cut local services to the bone. That's why we are growing our local audience and being out in the community."

But hey, we don't roll solo. We have great partners, including

United Utilities and McDonald's at Lymm Services. Warrington's Own Buses and Lightcliffe Skoda also ride with us.

Catch my drift? Yes, that's local.

As a Community Interest Company (CIC), it's not all about the tunes. It's about knitting with the local purveyors. They are the crafters, bakers, and candlestick makers.

They are woven into the fabric of our work. If you're stirring

up something exciting in the community, we're here to broadcast it loud and proud.

Because, at the end of the day, we're more than a radio station. We're a merry band of broadcasters, locals, and businesses. We're excited to broadcast radio from Cheshire instead of a London postcode. We want to make it a vibrant community chorus.

So, whether you're off to work,

lounging back at home, or just living up the local life, flip us on. Welcome to Mix 56 – where we're keeping it real, keeping it local, and definitely not keeping quiet.

We're excited to work with local businesses and share your stories and successes.

Catch all the action and more at mix56.co.uk. Because Cheshire, we're here, and we're just getting started.



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Suite 111, The Base
Dallam Lane, Warrington
WA2 7NG

Tel: 01925 715150 • Fax: 01925 715159

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

President: Nigel Schofield
Chief Executive: Stephen Fitzsimons
International Trade Advisor: Tricia Francis
Office Manager: Gail McGough
Administration: Carolyne Kasangwa
Editor / Group PR: Gary Skentelbery
Design / Production: James Bryan

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Stephen Fitzsimons, Chief Executive

PAM Group takes a leap forward with new training academy

OCCUPATIONAL health and corporate health services provider PAM Group has opened a dedicated training academy to enhance the learning and development of its workforce.

The PAM Academy is based on the ground floor of a two-storey building at Mandarin Court in Warrington.

The 4,000sq ft building houses client services teams for PAM's Wellness Solutions division on the first floor alongside the group's IT support staff.

PAM Group founder and chief executive James Murphy said the academy fulfils a long-held ambition to create a bespoke training centre for clinical and non-clinical staff. It features a series of fully-equipped replica clinics and an audio booth where PAM Group specialists can train in a realistic setting.

The academy space will also be used to stage training courses and sessions for clients, covering topics such as mental health awareness, neurodiversity and health and wellbeing in the workplace.

PAM Wellness Solutions' client services teams have relocated from the group's corporate headquarters in Warrington and other sites, bringing together under one roof those running the group's employee assistance programme, physiotherapy and occupational health advisory services. The open-plan upper floor can accommodate 50 staff.

James said: "I'm passionate that PAM becomes the employer of choice for people wishing to start or develop their careers in the fields in which we operate, and the academy is a leap forward for this.

"It's common, for example, for people from the nursing profession to join us to start their journeys as occupation health professionals.

"We are developing a new career path framework for our colleagues, branded as the Elevate Programme. This will enhance routes for career development across the group, and the facilities at the new academy provide an effective and engaging space to host the learning opportunities on offer through the programme, in a bespoke environment."

He added: "It's a very versatile building where we can also hold departmental and inter-departmental meetings, planning sessions and workshops.

"In terms of the client services teams, the building provides a tremendous space to bring people together and improve efficiency by inspiring greater collaboration, engagement and

teamwork in a stimulating working environment."

The Mandarin Court site is a high-spec office building which PAM Group has fitted out to include a breakout area and meeting rooms as well as office space and training facilities. It has parking for 20 vehicles.

PAM Group is a major provider of occupational health, health screening and wellbeing services across the UK and Ireland. 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.

Its services include psychological support, corporate health assessments, ergonomic and assistive technology products, mobile health screening, drug and alcohol screening and a pathology laboratory. The group operates a network of 25 clinics. It also has a retail arm which supplies fitness, exercise and rehabilitation equipment to consumers, sports clubs and sports and physiotherapy professionals.

PAM, which employs more than 750 people, posted revenues of £53m for 2023 and is on track to reach £68m this year. PAM is looking to grow turnover to £90m over the next few years through continued organic expansion and further acquisitions.

The group is backed by private equity firm LDC to support its growth and the launch of new products and services.



■ James Murphy.

Health and wellbeing during Stress Awareness Month

WE all deserve to enjoy life and feel good about ourselves but sometimes life can be tough! Maintaining good mental health can be a challenge and sometimes we need to rely upon support networks and coping strategies to help us through. In Warrington, our Health and Wellbeing survey highlighted that 30% of respondents reported low emotional wellbeing and 22% were experiencing three or more causes of frequent or constant stress.

There are a couple of national campaigns such as "Stress Awareness Month" in April and "Mental Health Awareness Week" from 13 to 20 May, which will help to highlight the

importance of good mental health but also raise awareness of local offers for those struggling.

Happy? Ok? Sad? is a resource embedded within the Warrington Borough Council website as a mental health support hub and directory. The site provides links and resources from over 120 providers both locally and nationally ranging from crisis support to online journaling, all of which have been approved and meet EQIS standards to ensure all providers promoted are quality assured and reliable.

Visit, www.warrington.gov.uk/happy-ok-sad for information, help and guidance.





Bents crowned best garden centre for second consecutive year

BENTS Garden & Home has been announced as Best Destination Garden Centre in the UK for the second year in a run, and 8th in total, that the Garden Centre Association has awarded Bents.

The annual GCA Awards are presented following a rigorous annual inspection which covers 230 different quality checks and extensive quality audit which is carried out without warning at all 204 member centres. Scores from the audit are collated to reveal regional winners, all of whom are revisited and re-audited,

resulting in this fantastic national achievement for the team at Bents.

The annual audit is a requirement of all members of the GCA and is based purely on quality standards throughout the centre, not only of products and departments, but also people and service.

Matthew Bent, Managing Director at Bents said: "We have a great team here at Bents, many of whom have been with us for over 20 years with some over 40, and all of whom work extremely hard to ensure standards remain high

throughout the Centre.

"Retail in general is experiencing challenging times but we do our very best to look after our colleagues and it is thanks to them that we can achieve these standards which are so loved by our customers. This award is dedicated to our team and is a great way to say thank you for their hard work and continued dedication."

Bents has also been recognised as a GCA Garden Centre of Excellence, one of only 10 in the country.

The annual inspection and audit process was one of the first initiatives to be introduced when the GCA was established more than 50 years ago. Every member is required to meet the highest retail standards and participate in the annual inspection to ensure these standards are maintained and improved. The results of the annual inspection are revealed every year, covering several different categories and culminating in the overall winners for Best Destination Garden Centre and Best Garden Centre.

Alcedo Care Group arrives in Warrington

FAST-growing, independently-owned and family run home care specialist, Alcedo Care Group, has arrived in Warrington, opening a new branch at Trident Business Park in Birchwood.

The new branch represents a £225,000 investment for the home care provider and brings the Group's total number of offices across the North of England and Wales to 21.

The first in Warrington, the new branch will create approximately 100 local jobs, with the new team providing up to 2,000 hours of care per week for individuals looking to remain in the comfort of their own homes.

Managed by experienced Alcedo home care professional Mel Lyon, the new branch and its dedicated team of 30 carers will deliver an outstanding portfolio of high quality home care services

including personal care, nursing, nurse-led complex care and support and companionship to those looking to remain independent in their own homes across Warrington and the surrounding areas.

It will also offer a range of more specialised services including live-in care, children's complex care and mental health support.

Managing director of Alcedo Care Group, Andy Boardman, says: "It's great to have opened a branch in Warrington, strengthening our presence in Cheshire. I'd like to wish Mel and her team well as they establish the new branch and welcome clients from across Warrington.

"Our expansion across the North of England and Wales is continuing at pace; it's wonderful to see growth in key strategic areas and support this with job creation,

with the new branch Warrington a perfect example."

Rated one of the Top 20 Large Home Care Groups for four years running, Alcedo Care Group is on track to meet its target of owning and operating 30 branches across the North of England and Wales by the end of 2025.

Alongside its geographical expansion plans, the family-owned Group is also on a mission to continually expand its portfolio of quality home care services with a particular emphasis on complex care, live-in care, children's services and young persons crisis management residential homes. For further information, please visit www.alcedocare.co.uk





Bank CEO says thank you for 'amazing work' of brokers

THE CEO of a specialist business bank paid tribute to the 'amazing work' carried out by its broker network at an annual awards night.

Gary Wilkinson, CEO and co-founder of Redwood Bank, reflected on a successful year as he hailed the 'strong relationships' built with its intermediary network.

In his speech at Redwood's Broker Awards, he said: "This evening is a highlight of the Redwood Bank calendar, giving us the chance to recognise the amazing work you all do. We are proud of the strong relationships we have within our broker network, and it is a privilege to be able to recognise some individual achievements.

"We have started 2024 on a high

and we are looking forward to further increasing our loan volumes and be even more successful this year. And you all have a big part to play in this. A large part of our lending success last year was because we listened to you, our partners.

"We will never stop listening to you."

Real Property Finance, from Sheffield, took away the new Lifetime Achievement award with Nantwich-based Watts Commercial Finance doing the double, picking up Commercial Broker of the Year for the second successive time, and the overall Broker of the Year.

Alan Laslett, director of Real Property Finance said: "Thank you to Redwood Bank for the award, and for supporting our clients with tailored mortgage facilities to support the growth of their businesses. We have enjoyed working with Redwood and their team who have become a trusted partner in providing funding solutions since they launched in 2017."

The full list of winners was:

- Largest Deal – Funding Friends
- Quickest Deal – GPS Financial
- Most Complex Deal – White Rose Finance Group
- The Credit Award – BH Financial Services
- Best Newcomer – City Finance Brokers
- Commercial Broker of the Year – Watts Commercial Finance
- Residential Broker of the Year – Funding Friends

- Broker of the Year – Watts Commercial Finance

- Lifetime Achievement – Real Property Finance

Darren Byrne, regional director of Watts Commercial Finance, said: "Winning both the Commercial Broker of the Year and the overall Broker of the Year awards at the Redwood Bank awards is a tremendous honour for Watts Commercial Finance. It is a testament to the dedication of our team and the strong partnership we've built with Redwood Bank over the past seven years."

The awards evening at the Village Hotel, Solihull, was preceded by a panel session when brokers had the opportunity to put questions to Gary and other members of his leadership team.

Redwood started hosting these annual awards in 2020, as a thank you to and to recognise the contributions and successes of the brokers it has worked with over the previous 12 months.

Founded in 2017, Redwood Bank was launched to offer secured SME lending products to owner-occupied businesses, as well as to experienced commercial and residential property investors.

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.

'A Good Thing' for businesses

A Good Thing matches wonderful UK charities with businesses that have things to donate: helping charities while providing businesses with an ethical means of disposing of unwanted goods. The non-profit online platform connects organisations of all sizes and types with charities right across the country – many of whom are in greater need than ever before.

Literally anything can be donated via A Good Thing. All sorts of weird and wonderful items have been already saved from landfill via the platform – from theatre props, T shirts and stationery

to aluminium cans, laptops and candles.

Greetings cards have gone to a project for women in prison. Gorgeous organic blankets have gone to vulnerable new mums. Furniture and paint have gone to a community space. Babygros have gone to families of people affected by substance misuse. Bamboo poles have gone to a beautiful community garden.

It takes just 30 seconds to create an account at www.agoodthing.org.uk/signup, and then a business can begin listing items straightaway – just like you would on a site like eBay.



From redundancy to a six-figure financial advisory company

AN ENTREPRENEUR turned hardship into happiness after he was made redundant, as he now owns a successful six-figure financial advisory company in Warrington.

Jonathan Causey aged 42, was made redundant by NatWest in 2016 where he worked as a Commercial Specialist Financial Advice Manager with a team of Business, Commercial and Corporate Relationship Managers.

Jonathan's main responsibility was to offer appropriate financial advice to commercial customers with turnovers of up to £20 million.

Having been a Financial Advisor since August 2007, the father-of-one channelled his energy into embarking on owning his own business – Willows Financial Planning Ltd – which was part of a wider network.

Spending some years building up his clientele, Jonathan wanted to rapidly grow his business and eyed an opportunity. Thomas Turner, owner of Blithe House which was established in April 2014, was retiring and hoping to sell the company.

Jonathan bought Blithe House Financial Management in September 2021 and became directly authorised by the Financial Conduct Authority as an independent company, doubling the turnover so that Blithe House now manages over £50 million in funds on behalf of his clients.

Now working with 250 clients across the UK, Blithe House is based in Stockton Heath and specialises in Pensions, Investments, Mortgages, Inheritance Tax Planning, Life Cover, Corporate Financial Advice, Business Loans and Asset Finance.

Since September 2021, Jonathan has worked tirelessly to provide a 360 approach for his clients at Blithe House. His personable and professional style of service has seen the business enjoy exponential growth, solely through word-of-mouth recommendations.

The growth has seen Jonathan take on eight full-time employees and he's also recently achieved chartered status, with Blithe House soon to be a Chartered Financial Advisory company.

Jonathan explained: "When I was made redundant, I felt like my world was falling apart. So many people go through the same experience and it creates an incredibly worrying situation as we all rely on our salaries for our bills, families and lifestyles.

"Looking back, the redundancy made me into the entrepreneur that I am today. I had always wanted to lead my own Financial Advisory company but having my job taken away from me gave me the nudge I needed to go ahead and take the plunge."

Jonathan and his team at Blithe House are currently increasing

their clientele, and will be managing over 350 clients in total by Q3 of 2024.

He added: "At Blithe House, we provide a complete 360 approach for our clients and are trusted in managing millions of pounds of funds on their behalf. As we

continue to grow, it'll be our priority to uphold the same level of service that we're known and chosen for. 2024 will be a pivotal year for Blithe House and I'm very excited to continue building this exciting company alongside my trusted and talented employees."



Warrington firm wades into Wessex Water flooring challenge

WARRINGTON-based Kemtile, a division of Stonhard, has recently completed the installation of a new hard-wearing and chemically resistant flooring solution for Wessex Water at their Food Hall Facility.

The regional water and sewerage business – which serves 2.9 million customers across the south-west of England – had recruited Kemtile to provide a suitable flooring solution for their "food to power" facility in Avonmouth.

Corrosive elements contained in the domestic waste treated on-site by Wessex had attacked the concrete floor surface to leave it "pitted" and uneven. A subsequent "overlayment" installed to combat the problem had also failed within a short period of time leaving the floor needing a complete rethink in terms of a solution.

Kemtile visited the site over 18 months and undertook testing works of the existing finishes and structural slab by taking "cores" and having these examined by a concrete testing laboratory. Kemtile assisted by Sean McIntyre, Stonhard Coatings and Lining Manager developed a specification that included the removal of all the existing finishes

back down to the structural slab and the installation of a new fit-for-purpose floor. This included – a new concrete overlay to "falls", new surface drainage and a chemically resistant, hard-wearing floor finish capable of withstanding the movement and "scaping" from a 25-tonne mechanical loader.

Kemtile installed Stonhard's Stonclad UT – a high-impact polyurethane-based floor screed which exhibits excellent abrasion, thermal shock, thermal cycling and chemical-resistant characteristics. Stonclad UT was installed at 12mm thick, it incorporated a "unique" wear-indicating layer that shows if maintenance is required given the extremes of use in this facility. The system was further reinforced with a layer of Stonhard's Stonchem 601 chemical-resistant lining system to further enhance its chemical-resistant properties.

A proactive approach to health and safety was maintained throughout the installation with the installation teams complying with the site CDM regs which included the mandatory use of gas monitors at all times.

Dan Owen, Project Engineer of GENco/Wessex Water Enterprises, said: "Kemtile brought great

expertise to the table from day one dealing with a significant level of deterioration and providing immediate support – as well as supplying the final flooring fix over the 18 months that we worked together. I commend them on seamless delivery with minimum disruption to the rest of the plant which remained in operation throughout."

Kemtile's David Priest commented:

"This was a significant project for us – in a sector with huge potential – involving a number of external stakeholders for sign-off including the original structural engineers.

"We drew on expertise from across the Stonhard group globally working with colleagues based in Canada and Portugal who had completed similar projects and had an excellent understanding of the requirements of the industry."



Standing Tall Foundation on a high with B-engineering Group's backing

A CHARITY led by a former soldier who is a triple amputee has received a major boost from Warrington-based building services company B-engineering Group.

The Standing Tall Foundation in St Helens is converting a four-bedroom terraced property in the town into a house of multiple occupation for armed forces veterans in need.

B-engineering Group is providing equipment including a boiler, bathrooms, showers and solar panels to help refurbish the house after choosing Standing Tall as one of its charities of the year and signing up to be an affiliate partner.

The company is pledging further support for the charity during the course of 2024, including undertaking fundraising.

Managing director Rob Ditchfield said: "As a company we've signed the Armed Forces Covenant and we like to support veterans and their families whenever we can.

"We have a number of veterans in our team, and they have all been welcome additions to the staff due

to their great attitude and work ethic.

"Some of our team know Andy and he's an inspirational person, so when the opportunity arose to support Standing Tall, it seemed a really good fit for us. We're really pleased to be able to support the charity in its work."

The charity, founded in 2020 by Andy and John Tabern, offers support and programmes for veterans and disadvantaged community groups to promote mental health and wellbeing. Its services include mental health counselling, addiction support, physical activity sessions and holistic therapies such as meditation, hypnotherapy and auricular acupuncture.

It also helps people with accommodation or employment needs and those in financial hardship, including the homeless, via the provision of grants, items and services.

In 2009, Andy was serving in Helmand Province in Afghanistan as a corporal in the 3rd Battalion The Yorkshire Regiment when he stood on an improvised explosive device while on patrol. He lost his

legs and right arm in the blast.

Andy, who holds an MBE for his charity work, said: "It's fantastic to receive the support from B-engineering Group, whose backing means we can provide a much-needed house in St Helens to support veterans.

"We're delighted to have the company on board as an affiliate partner of the Standing Tall Foundation. It will be a great asset to our current partner stable, and the services it provides are invaluable for what we are trying to achieve with our accommodation."

B-engineering Group is a family business which was founded in 1990 by Rob's father Bernard. It employs more than 50 staff.

The company designs, installs and maintains heating, ventilation, air-conditioning, electrical and energy systems and solar PV panels in premises across sectors ranging from education, healthcare, leisure and hospitality to manufacturing, retailing, construction and nuclear. It is a specialist in decarbonising commercial properties and estates.

Under its B-Kind initiative, the company has helped numerous charities over the years by raising thousands of pounds, donating items and providing hundreds of employee hours of assistance.

Last year, it supported a range of good causes, including St Rocco's Hospice in Warrington, sports teams and food banks.

Rob said: "We are a purpose-led business and like to do our bit to help make the world a better place."

Charlotte Howard, senior events manager at St Rocco's, said: "St Rocco's Hospice is a local charity and we rely on the generosity of the Warrington community for most of our funding.

"The support from B-engineering Group during our recent Christmas Tree Collection event was invaluable. Staff gave up their time to help us collect and recycle over 2,600 trees from homes across Warrington.

"With their support, we were able to raise over £40,000 for the hospice which will go straight to caring for patients and their loved ones."



■ B-engineering Group's central services director Victoria Ditchfield, Andy Reid and B-engineering Group's managing director Rob Ditchfield.

A local training and consultancy company meets growth demand with new department and previous student joining the team

SL Procurement Solutions Limited, offers Procurement and Supply chain (CIPS) training for professionals, along with Consultancy based procurement and procurement activity services to any sector.

The CIPS approved Study Centre's planned growth in the region has come from supporting businesses and professionals locally, with procurement and supply chain development. Growth has surpassed initial forecasts for 2024 already, and the company have responded with a new recruit - who was a former student with the training company.

Newly appointed Business Development Manager, Eddie Fisher says he is delighted to be part of the team - to develop the new department that will manage continued growth in the area.

"When I studied with the SLPS Team to gain my MCIPS qualification I

was blown away with their training processes, their knowledge of the CIPS programme and the plethora of skills they had on hand to deliver such amazing content," said Eddie.

"I gained my qualification with them, and, after graduation got back in touch with the company to express my thanks in helping me gain my qualification. My previous employment and new qualification and knowledge of the region lead to me being offered the role," said Eddie.

As part of the first quarter growth plans the company continue to serve the local community and businesses and its professionals with all elements of procurement and supply chain services. "The idea is that we continue to grow this department in the region as part of our growth strategy. We are always working hard with our clients locally, in many different procurement provisions and the development of

this new team, in place now, can ensure we are more responsive than ever to our client's needs" said SL Procurement Director Stephen Lovatt.

"We are delighted to continue to work in the local area with

private and public sector clients all with complex procurement and management need, and we continue with our quest for adding value to those supply chains and value to overall business, it's an exciting time to be working in the area" Stephen added.



Business Development Manager, Eddie Fisher.

Birchwood Park nuclear engineering consultancy expands into Wales

BIRCHWOOD Park-based specialist nuclear engineering consultancy firm, Tenet Consultants, has embarked on an exciting strategic move into Wales.

Expanding beyond its current offices in Birchwood Park, Warrington and Westlakes Science Park, Cumbria, this decision reflects the growing prominence of Wales as an emerging hub within the nuclear industry. With its rich potential and promising opportunities, Wales presents an ideal landscape for Tenet to further establish its presence and contribute to the thriving nuclear sector in the region.

Located on Anglesey, Tenet's new offices within the M-SParc community serves as a strategic move to harness the region's untapped potential. With a

focus on recruiting top talent in EC&I and Mechanical Design Engineering, Tenet is committed to building a skilled workforce that reflects the diversity and innovation inherent in Wales. By establishing its presence at M-SParc, Tenet aims to cultivate a collaborative environment with local talent and resources, where ideas flourish, solutions emerge, and individuals thrive.

Tenet's move into Wales represents a strategic and promising development for both the company and the region's nuclear industry. By joining forces with organizations like M-SParc and tapping into the local talent pool, Tenet is poised to make significant contributions to innovation, growth, and sustainability within the Welsh nuclear sector, fostering a mutually beneficial partnership for years to come.



DSM Legal completes move to 'heart of the legal community'

Warrington solicitors DSM Legal, who specialise in drafting Wills and Lasting Powers of Attorney as well as HR and employment law for both employers and employees, have completed their move into new offices in Bold Street, in the town centre.

Although the firm has been based in Warrington since 2008, Diane Massey, solicitor and director at DSM, says: "Our new office being centrally located and in the heart of the legal community is easily accessible by road or rail making it much more convenient for our clients.

We have always supported local businesses and the local community and the new premises, being larger, will enable us to expand and recruit additional members of staff drawn from the Warrington area."





Levidian and United Utilities shine a light on biogas to hydrogen pilot

REPRESENTATIVES from the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) visited Levidian's Technology Centre in Cambridge recently, to learn more about the world-first hydrogen project with United Utilities.

Levidian and United Utilities are working to decarbonise wastewater treatment by deploying Levidian's patented LOOP technology to capture carbon and produce graphene and hydrogen from biogas as a fully sustainable feedstock.

In a major breakthrough for the water industry, the project will help address two key issues facing the sector – how to process wastewater in a way that reduces emissions while minimising the

financial burden of wastewater treatment.

The visit comes as stakeholders from across the UK join forces to celebrate and promote the role of hydrogen in reaching net zero.

Dr Mike Lloyd, Research and Innovation Funding Manager for Levidian, said: "This is only the second year running for the UK's Hydrogen Week, but the sector is already making great strides in its journey to net zero. We're proud to be working with one of the country's leading water companies to play our part in decarbonising this critical industry."

Levidian's LOOP technology will enable United Utilities to produce their own on-site hydrogen for use in its fleet of heavy-duty vehicles.

The companies will also be exploring potential use cases for the graphene, which can be used to enhance a variety of products including batteries, construction materials and coatings.

This pioneering project has received £3 million of funding from DESNZ's Hydrogen BECCS Innovation Programme, which supports technologies that can produce hydrogen from biogenic feedstocks and be combined with carbon capture.

Lisa Mansell, Chief Engineer (Innovation) at United Utilities said: "This is a hugely exciting project for us, and the wider water sector, transforming something that has previously been a waste product into two high value products in the form of hydrogen

and graphene. We're looking forward to running our trial at our Manchester Bioresources Centre in order to prove the potential of the technology. If successful, we could then look to apply it at wastewater treatment sites across the North West."

The unit is expected to save the emission of almost 50 tonnes of methane and produce around 10 tonnes of hydrogen each year.

Liverpool John Moores University will assess the potential usage of hydrogen within the Liverpool City Region as part of this project, and engineering service company Jacobs will provide expertise in carbon lifecycle assessment, social value analysis, and commercialisation.

Tilia Homes Northern announces collaboration to support buyers with lower-rate mortgages

WARRINGTON-headquartered housebuilder, Tilia Homes Northern, has announced its partnership with 'Own New' to offer lower-rate mortgages across its developments.

The 'Rate Reducer' mortgage will provide first-time buyers and those with existing homes alike with access to lower interest rates and reduced monthly payments.

The initiative will be available across all of Tilia Homes Northern's developments, including those in the North West at Darwin, Leyland, and Longridge and Easingwold and Stokesley in North Yorkshire.

Emily Horn, sales and marketing director for Tilia Homes Northern, comments: "Our partnership with Own New sits perfectly with our own ethos of supporting as many buyers as possible to realise their dreams of getting onto and moving up the property ladder.

"We know there are housing shortages in the regions where we are building, both for private purchase and affordable homes. Therefore, we want to support

our buyers by giving them every opportunity to buy a home they can call their own.

"We believe in building the right homes in the right places in trying to meet that need and create new communities that can thrive."

Own New works behind the scenes with housebuilders and lenders to reduce the overall cost involved with mortgage loans on new build properties. The reduction is funded by the housebuilders' contributions towards the cost of the mortgage and enables the lender to offer borrowers more competitive interest rates during the initial period of their mortgage.

Lenders will still carry out their affordability assessment and independent financial advice must be sought from a regulated mortgage broker who has completed additional training to access this scheme.

Eliot Darcy, founder of Own New, which aims to create a more open system of lending to make home ownership attainable to more

people, adds: "With the support of our housebuilder partners like Tilia Homes Northern, the Rate Reducer scheme is making it possible for buyers to purchase the home of their dreams.

"The principle behind Rate Reducer is quite straightforward. We wanted

to find a way to introduce a regular mortgage, but with lower monthly payments. Working with our national network of housebuilders, we've made buying a new home more accessible and more affordable for people who might otherwise have given up, especially given the current economic climate."



Cheshire and Warrington LEP secures £2.4m for skills bootcamps to help more than 600 people fast track into jobs

MORE than 600 people will be able to sign up to skills bootcamps to help fast track them into jobs, after Cheshire and Warrington Local Enterprise Partnership managed to secure £2.4m in government funding.

Double than previous year's allocation, delighted LEP officials urged education providers and businesses to come forward to help deliver the bootcamps.

Covering a wide range of areas such as green skills, digital skills, logistics, and skills in the rail sector, these flexible courses of up to 16 weeks give local employers the opportunity to recruit people with the skills they need or develop the skills of their existing staff.

They also give local residents the chance to build up sector-specific skills and fast-track to a guaranteed interview or access new roles and opportunities with their current employer.

To date funding secured by the LEP has allowed 619 people aged 19 or over to attend 34 bootcamps in

a host of specialisms to reflect skills gaps and employer need with the current diverse range of courses including rail track maintenance, event security and 3D printing and digital manufacturing.

And now 640 more people from the region are set to benefit from the bootcamps with Cheshire and Warrington LEP securing £2.4m in Department of Education funding for 2024/25 – doubling the £1.2m it received the previous year.

LEP officials are now reaching out to local employers, colleges and independent training providers to express an interest in running a bootcamp in a host of sectors including green skills, logistics, digital skills and construction.

The new bootcamps could cover subject areas as diverse as cyber security, artificial intelligence, engineering, electric vehicle charging, retrofitting, HGV driver training, lab skills and health and social care.

The LEP is also happy to discuss other potential bootcamp options

with interested parties based on their own identified skills gaps.

The Skills Bootcamps are available for adults aged 19 and over, who either live or work in Cheshire and Warrington, and who have the right to work in the UK, and therefore can be employed, self-employed or unemployed.

They are free for all unemployed or self-employed people and for anyone in a job a small contribution from the employer

will be required.

Clare Hayward MBE, chair of Cheshire and Warrington Local Enterprise Partnership, said: "We welcome this additional funding which is testament to the hard work of all involved to deliver skills bootcamps that are matched against the needs and gaps of employers and to ensure Cheshire and Warrington's workforce can progress and are equipped with the right skills in a fast-changing environment."



■ Clare Hayward MBE.

Ansell Lighting presented with King's Award for Enterprise

The Lord-Lieutenant of Greater Manchester, Diane Hawkins visited Warrington-based lighting manufacturer Ansell Lighting to present it with its King's Award for Enterprise for Innovation.

Ansell, based on Stonecross Industrial Park, was recognised for its patented Panel Pod product in the first King's Award for Enterprise honours in 2023.

The award was presented to Ansell's Managing Director, Mark Abbott, at a ceremony at the company's headquarters, which was also attended by the MP for Leigh, James Grundy, the Mayor of Wigan, Councillor Kevin Anderson, the Deputy Mayor of Warrington, Councillor Carol Benson, and local Warrington Councillors, alongside key members of staff.

The Panel Pod was created in response to an identified industry need, and converts an LED panel light into an emergency light in less than sixty seconds, without needing a conversion kit or additional ceiling fixture to install. Emergency lighting is required by British law and workplace health and safety guidance, so if the lights go out in the case of fire or other incident it stays on for up to three hours.

Since its launch in 2014 almost 500,000 Panel Pods have been sold worldwide.

The King's Awards for Enterprise recognises outstanding UK businesses, with recipients being able to use the esteemed King's Awards Emblem for five years.

Mark Abbott, Managing Director of Ansell Lighting, said: "We were delighted to welcome the Lord-Lieutenant, Deputy Mayor and our local politicians to Ansell. Achieving this award, especially in the first year of the King's Awards, was testament to the hard work and dedication of our innovation team and everyone involved in the business.

"Ansell is an ambitious and growing

business, and the launch of Panel Pod was genuinely transformative for us, and it continues to contribute significantly to our ongoing success. It is fantastic to have been able to celebrate that success with our staff and the business community in the North West."

Established in Belfast in 1992 before expanding North West England in 2001, Ansell Lighting

is a recognised market leader in the design and manufacture of high-quality luminaires for the commercial, domestic, industrial and architectural markets. Headquartered in Warrington, where it has a state-of-the-art showroom, Ansell operates across Europe, with showrooms in Belfast, Dublin and Madrid and employs more than 200 people.



■ Deputy Mayor of Warrington, Councillor Carol Benson; MP for Leigh, Mr James Grundy; Mark Abbott, Managing director of Ansell Lighting; the Lord-Lieutenant of Greater Manchester, Mrs Diane Hawkins; Mayor of Wigan, Councillor Kevin Anderson.

Global inspection specialist arrives at Birchwood Park

BIRCHWOOD Park has announced that Sonomatic has taken up a new, bespoke space on the park, named Sonomatic E2i.

Sonomatic is a global business with many divisions. The E2i division combines a team of highly skilled technicians and engineers that specialise in the design, development and provision of solutions for group, while the Specialised Field Services division is focussed on the application of the equipment for Non-Destructive Testing (NDT) inspections.

Developed as a 'centre of excellence', Sonomatic E2i has been established to accommodate the company's expanding array of tooling and capabilities in creating, modifying, and adapting tools for various applications, both above and below water.

Sonomatic E2i comprises 24,239 sq. ft in total space, including a 20,855 sq. ft warehouse and a first-floor office, providing an expansive opportunity for the development team and specialised units to foster innovation and unlock fresh opportunities for growth.

The flexibility of the large space, combined with the Park's extensive list of collaborative businesses that offer specialist services within the engineering and nuclear sectors, were driving factors behind Sonomatic's move to the Birchwood Park.

James Butterworth, General Manager at Sonomatic E2i, commented, "We are thrilled to have moved into our new, purpose-built facility at Birchwood Park.

"Our new facility serves as a catalyst for realising our vision — not only enhancing our support for specialised field services, but also laying the foundation for the expansion of our commitment to develop a diverse range of solutions for our wider group. The Park's unique office and warehouse spaces have allowed our team to build a bespoke facility right in the heart of the north west."

Martin O'Rourke, Commercial Director at Birchwood Park, added: "We're thrilled to see Sonomatic, a previous occupier of ours, return and open a 'centre of excellence' right here on Birchwood Park.

"Our flexible workspace offering is designed to empower businesses on the Park and support their adapting needs through their growth journey. We're confident that Sonomatic's new space will allow the team to thrive and maintain its position as industry leaders in the field."

Birchwood Park has welcomed a range of new occupiers to Birchwood Park. Over the last 12 months, the Park has welcomed

44 office and warehouse spaces to new and existing companies who expanded their premises.

To find out about the diverse range of office spaces available at Birchwood Park, please head to www.birchwoodpark.co.uk/space-to-let or call the team on 01925 851536.

For further information about Sonomatic, click here: www.sonomatic.com



■ John Farrell – Senior Mechanical Design Engineer, Mohammad Daraei – Manufacture & Maintenance Apprentice, James Butterworth – General Manager E2i

Made Smarter and the Hartree Centre join forces to demystify digital transformation

Made Smarter and the Hartree Centre have joined forces to demystify digital transformation with a new white paper.

'Made Smarter technologies: powering the digital transformation of SME manufacturers' is a practical guide from the government-backed and industry-led technology adoption programme in the North West.

The free-to-download document aims to inform and inspire manufacturers exploring existing technologies such as software, industrial IoT, automation and robotics, 3D printing, and cyber security, while showcasing emerging digital tools like artificial intelligence (AI) and digital twins.

The white paper is backed by industry-leading institutions who work with Made Smarter to demonstrate technology in action to SME manufacturers, including the Hartree Centre at Sci-Tech Daresbury, Cheshire.

The Hartree Centre helps businesses and organisations explore and adopt supercomputing, data science and AI technologies for enhanced productivity, predictive maintenance, data-driven decision-making and economic growth. It is also a leading partner in the Smart Manufacturing Data Hub, supporting SME manufacturers to become more competitive by harnessing the power of their data.

Francis Lee, Business Development Manager at the Hartree Centre, said:

"We are proud to be part of a strong ecosystem alongside Made Smarter, supporting SME manufacturers to explore and adopt technology and the skills needed to apply practical digital solutions to individual and industry-wide challenges for societal and economic benefit."

Others demonstrators across the North West also feature in the white paper, including: The Manufacturing Technology Centre (MTC) in Liverpool, part of the High Value Manufacturing Catapult; the Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre (AMRC) North West, based in Samlesbury, Lancashire; the North of England Robotics Innovation Centre (NERIC), the University of Salford's state-of-the-art for automation and robotics; and PrintCity, Manchester Metropolitan University's 3D printing facility.

The white paper also showcases Made Smarter-supported manufacturers already reaping the rewards of technology adoption, including: Joshua Greaves & Sons, Evertaut, Fylde Fresh and Fabulous, First Play Dietary Foods, GB Engineering, Bloom-in-Box, Storth, JCM Fine Joinery, Fusion Implants, Croft AM, Mackinnon & Saunders, and MSM aerospace fabricators.

Donna Edwards, Director of Made Smarter's North West Adoption Programme, said: "Made Smarter's adoption programme is helping SME manufacturers catch up with the wealth of digital tools and technologies currently available, for them to be ready to fully embrace

the next great technological leap.

"Over the last five years technology has shown its true colours in the form of growth, investment, employment, productivity, and a competitive advantage. The race is now on to fully capitalise on the opportunities that exist, as well as those on the horizon. Business leaders therefore need the skills, knowledge, and experience to respond to this rapid change.

"Demonstrating these technologies in action is vital to Made Smarter's success. We are enabling people to get their hands on these technologies by connecting SME manufacturers with each other and building relationships with leading technology institutes. This way we can ensure we keep a finger on the pulse of emerging technologies to help the sector thrive and be

competitive.

"This new white paper brings all those elements together into a useful and simple to understand guide which business leaders and digital champions can download and share with their teams. We hope it is the starting point for further conversations with the Made Smarter team."

Since 2019, Made Smarter has helped 300 manufacturers invest £22.5m in a range of IDTs and reap a raft of rewards including 1,600 new jobs, 2,850 upskilled roles, all while boosting the economy by £242m.

For more information about Made Smarter and to download the white paper visit www.madesmarter.uk/resources/made-smarter-technologies-how-made-smarter-inspires-digital-transformation



■ Donna Edwards.

Fast-growing corporate law firm launches business crime department

FAST-growing corporate law firm Primas Law, with offices in Warrington, has launched a new business crime and regulation department.

The firm has recruited John Hartley as a partner and to head up the new department, further expand its scope of service offerings and better support its growing client roster.

John, who has more than 20 years' experience working in business and financial crime, has represented both companies and high net worth individuals across a range of legal matters relating to fraud, bribery and corruption, proceeds of crime, sanctions, financial services-related investigations and alleged regulatory breaches.

His skill set will complement Primas' existing departments as he will work closely with all the firm's teams to strengthen the depth and quality of their service offerings to clients.

John can provide expert legal advice and guidance on how businesses can protect themselves in a constantly evolving regulatory

and compliance framework.

The launch of this new service offering marks another milestone in Primas Law's bold expansion plans, with the firm maintaining momentum on its impressive, accelerated growth trajectory to become a full service, leading corporate law firm in the North West.

John Hartley said: "I'm truly delighted about this new and exciting role and am thrilled to be joining the Primas team.

"I have always relished new challenges, and the opportunity to establish and grow an entirely new service offering at such a fast-growing firm was one I couldn't turn down. I'm looking forward to collaborating with the other departments and expanding the range of services available to our clients.

"For me, it was clear to see that Primas is a firm committed to offering clients the best service possible and it's really exciting to be part of this journey to becoming a full service law firm."

Managing partner Adam Kerr, added: "Welcoming John to

the Primas team is another significant milestone for the firm as we continue to realise our big ambitions for growth.

"I'm looking forward to drawing on John's years of experience to help launch this new service and am confident that his expertise will add a lot of value to both

our existing clients as well as any prospects, allowing us to advise across an ever broader spectrum of legal matters."

Primas Law has offices on the Wilderspool business park, Warrington, as well as in Manchester, Liverpool and London.



United Utilities and University of Manchester join forces in the hunt for materials of the future

AN ambitious project between Warrington-based United Utilities and the University of Manchester to put green concrete to the test in the water sector has taken an important step forward.

The University of Manchester's Graphene Green Concrete is one of the partners taking part in the water company's latest Innovation Lab – and now the first test pour of the potentially revolutionary material has taken place.

Graphene Green Concrete was developed by a team at the university as a sustainable alternative to standard concrete. Instead of using virgin aggregate material, the concrete uses 100% recycled aggregate combined with tiny amounts of graphene to reduce its overall carbon impact.

With United Utilities set to invest a record £13.7 billion in the biggest ever water infrastructure improvement programme for more than 100 years, Graphene Green Concrete has potential to reduce the environmental impact of construction projects and contribute towards the company's net zero targets.

Kaz Kundi, Principal Carbon Engineer at United Utilities explained: "This is an incredibly exciting opportunity for us to collaborate with academia and push the boundaries of typical concrete mix design. Our upcoming investment programme will see us upgrading and delivering new infrastructure

across the region and that will involve a lot of concrete.

"We're exploring ways to reduce the environmental impact of that, and Graphene Green Concrete could play a key role for United Utilities and other water companies."

Yong Wang, Professor in Structural Engineering, from the Graphene Green Concrete team added: "We are thrilled to be testing this game-changing, graphene-enhanced concrete for use in the utility sector.

"Production of cement for concrete is a leading causes of global carbon dioxide emissions and any reduction in virgin materials will deliver significant environmental benefits. Our knowledge and experience is growing rapidly and being part of United Utilities' Innovation Lab is a huge boost."

Graphene for the testing was provided by two independent producers Levidian and Versarien, and United Utilities' delivery partner Sapphire Utility Solutions provided other materials and managed the concrete pour.

A range of concrete slabs featuring varying concentrations of graphene is now undergoing testing at the University of Manchester to monitor and analyse if they meet the necessary performance requirements.



■ United Utilities' Principal Carbon Engineer Kaz Kundi; Meini Su from the University of Manchester team; Duncan McKinley Bourne, Civil Engineer and United Utilities, and Yong Wang from the University of Manchester.



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Local entrepreneur celebrates business expansion

AN entrepreneur from Warrington is celebrating her successful expansion into larger premises.

Ellie Shackleton-Brown, 29, founded Optimise Spinal Therapy in October 2022.

Her original mission was to provide expert advice and relief for those suffering with back and neck pain, in a welcoming and friendly environment.

Eighteen months into her business journey – having relocated, recruited more staff and introduced new services – Ellie said she is looking forward to the future with optimism.

“I am very proud of how far we have travelled on our business journey to date,” smiled Ellie. “We have overcome some significant challenges along the way – including tackling the increasing overheads of running a small business during the cost-of-living crisis; however, we have much to celebrate too. We have recently exceeded our target of helping 200 of our Protection Plan members achieve their health goals, such as completing a charity 100km Peak District Walk.”

Prior to launching her business venture, Ellie used to provide osteopathy in a large

multidisciplinary clinic. The knowledge and support she gained there made her confident to grow her own business.

From its original base in Grappenhall, Optimise Spinal Therapy relocated to bigger business premises at 28 Walton Road, Stockton Heath within just 12 months. Ellie has since consolidated the move by hiring more team members and expanding on the therapies offered.

“We are so grateful for our loyal customer base, who have helped us to become the business we are today,” added Ellie. “We would especially like to thank all our patients who continuously spread the word about our clinic and recommend us to their friends and families.

“We have many exciting plans in the pipeline – including the hiring of more massage therapists, osteopaths and chiropractors – so our availability matches our ever-growing demand. For now, however, we intend to mark this milestone for our business by celebrating as a team over a lovely meal together.”

According to the Office for National Statistics (ONS), there were 5.6 million small businesses at the start of 2023.

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Mum and daughter duo expand business into Warrington

A MOTHER and daughter team are expanding their business into Warrington, due to ongoing success and a strong reputation.

Founded in Stockport six years ago by mother and daughter duo Jane Prowse and Dannie Roberts, CycleBuddie has gone on to teach almost 6,000 children and adults to ride a bike and are now launching sessions in Warrington at Golden Square Shopping Centre.

Dannie commented: "We first started the business because we noticed there was a gap in the market. Parents were paying for swimming lessons, football lessons, dance lessons, but were struggling to find the time and patience to teach their children to ride a bike, and so lots of children were getting to Years 5 and 6 at school, and unable to participate in their BikeAbility sessions because they couldn't ride their bike confidently".

With both Jane and Dannie having worked with children previously, they made the decision to combine their skillset in order to help children to enjoy the freedom and independence riding a bike brings. The sessions take children 'back to basics' working on confidence and eliminating the fear of falling through activities, and it's been a huge success

across the local community of Heald Green where they first launched.

Jane commented: "We have a really strong understanding of how every child is different and we work at the pace of each individual, so pedals are then introduced once we can see the children are ready. This has enabled us to create a new, bespoke programme which teaches children to ride in just a few sessions - taking the tantrums and the tears out of learning to ride and instead providing a positive and enjoyable experience for the children and their parents".

Dannie concluded: "We absolutely love what we do and would love to have as many children leaving primary school as possible being able to ride a bike. Having recently moved to the area it felt like a perfect opportunity to bring CycleBuddie with me! We have already made a great start on our mission in Heald Green and can't wait to see what impact we can now have on Warrington too".

To find out more about CycleBuddie or to book a session in Warrington at Golden Square Shopping Centre, visit - www.cycle-buddie.co.uk



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