

insight

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easyJet celebrates its 20th birthday at Liverpool John Lennon Airport

EasyJet, Europe's leading airline, is celebrating twenty years of flying from Liverpool John Lennon Airport (LJLA).

On 27th October 1997, easyJet's first flight landed into Amsterdam from Liverpool. Since then easyJet has carried over 39 million passengers from Liverpool and flown over 300,000 flights. easyJet's combination of affordable fares, commitment to customer service and innovative new technology such as mobile boarding means that over 2.3 million passengers every year fly easyJet from the airport.

To provide a cultural reference, as the very first flight was rolling down the runway 20 years ago, Barbie Girl by Aqua had just knocked Spice Up Your Life off the number one spot in the UK single charts, New Labour was in full swing and across the Atlantic OJ Simpson was getting used to life behind bars. easyJet has grown rapidly since those Brit-pop days and now has an unrivalled network of over 28 routes served from the airport.

Liverpool continues to be a key base for easyJet in connecting the North West and the airline employs 375 pilots and crew at the airport. The airline has confirmed a move to expand at its Liverpool base, with the introduction of an additional Airbus A320 aircraft for next summer - the eighth aircraft to be based in Liverpool. easyJet remains committed to providing easy and affordable connections to and from Liverpool by offering customers low fares and a convenient schedule for both leisure and business travellers. Venice is the latest new route which starts next Tuesday.

Ali Gayward, UK Country Manager said: "We're delighted to be celebrating easyJet's operation over the past two decades from Liverpool today. 20 years ago easyJet changed the way Europe travelled. We challenged the high price monopolies of the legacy airlines and enabled a new

generation of people of all ages, incomes and interests to enjoy Europe.

"We started with fares from Liverpool from £29 - or as we advertised at the time, the same price as a pair of jeans.

A pair of Levis 501s will now set your back £75 while our fares to and from Liverpool start from £23.49.

"I have to thank our fantastic customers who travel to and from

Liverpool for their loyalty and support.

"Although today we're celebrating 20 years of easyJet in Liverpool, we're even more excited about the future. We will continue to challenge conventional thinking and we look forward to where the next two decades could take us."

Paul Winfield, Air Service Development Director for Liverpool John Lennon Airport commented:

"easyJet has been instrumental in taking Liverpool from being an airport with just under 700,000

annual passengers when they first arrived in 1997 to 5 million passengers today. They have helped to give passengers from the Liverpool City Region and the wider North West and beyond, the opportunity to be able to choose to fly from a convenient, hassle free airport, offering great customer service with value for money air fares.

"Their recent decision to base an eighth aircraft here next year, will help to develop our long term partnership further benefiting not just the Airport but the local economy too."



(L to R) Tina Milton, Head of Cabin Services for easyJet, Paul Winfield Air Service Development Director for LJLA, Phil Jones Cabin Services Base Manager for easyJet and Robert Hough Chairman of LJLA with a celebratory cake.

Aspire Computers expand into new premises

ASPIRE Computers Ltd are thrilled to announce a move to larger and improved offices next to Warrington Central Station, due to the expansion of their team and new IT services.

Over the last 18 years, the Aspire team has established a solid reputation for reliable and cost-effective IT support and hardware supply to small businesses in the Warrington area.

They aim to build long term relationships with their clients and in recent years they have also offered data backups and enhanced security, as well as cloud based hosted exchange email and Microsoft Office software.

Now they are able to offer even more to their clients, as they have expanded their IT product portfolio to include provision of digital

marketing, websites and social media support.

The addition of more skilled and experienced staff to their team has ensured early success in this field so far, and they are already rapidly building up a portfolio of completed projects.

MD Geoff Plass said: "Everyone's needs are different and as a small close-knit team we're able to provide a bespoke and responsive service. Some clients just need an hour of social media support while others are looking for full re-branding, website, ongoing social media management, printed brochures and new company stationery."

To arrange a meeting at their new office to discuss your IT or digital marketing requirements call 01925 251143.

For more information on their services visit Aspire website: www.aspire-computers.com



From the Chief Executive

Colin Daniels



Monthly Economic Review November 2017

The first official estimate of UK GDP put growth in the third quarter at 0.4% up slightly on the growth recorded of 0.3% recorded in the previous quarter and stronger than had been expected. UK economic output is now 9.7% above its Q1 2008 pre-recession peak.

Economic growth in Q3 2017 was mostly driven by the services sector output from the services sector which accounts for over three-quarters of the UK's economic output rose by 0.4% in Q3 unchanged from Q2.

Industrial production grew by 1% in Q3 up from a decline of 0.3% in Q2 UK jobs market remains resilient.

In the three months to August 2017, UK employment rose by 94,000 just over half the 175,000 jobs created in the previous three months period (March-May 2017). The unemployment rate remains at a record low of 4.3% with regular pay growth slowing from 2.2% to 2.1% the gap between pay and growth has widened further increasing the squeeze on consumers.

Overall the latest jobs data provides further evidence that the UK jobs market remains resilient with firms still recruiting despite a softening economic picture.

Manufacturing growth accelerates

Our manufacturer are increasingly optimistic that the economy is in recovery mode, hiring staff at their fastest rate in more than three years to increase production.

Growth accelerated in the sector as new orders picked up and exports kept growing. The purchasing manager's index rose to 56.3 for October up from 56.0 in September and beating expectations that it would slip a touch to 55.9.

Any score above 50 indicates growth so this improvement shows the sector accelerating.

UK manufacturing made an impressive start to the final quarter of 2017 as increased inflows of new work encouraged firms to ramp up production.

Growth In Almost All UK Region

Growth is on the up across almost the entire country as rising demand and low unemployment boosts the economy.

If hit a nine-month high in October according to Lloyds purchasing managers index, a survey of manufacturing and services businesses.

Nearly every region saw growth levels accelerate, and only in the South East of England, the East Midlands and in Northern Ireland did the rate of business growth actually slow down. However even in these regions have economies that a growing just at a slightly slower pace. The fastest grow came in Wales its PMI score rose to 58.6 its highest level in nine months and well above the 50 level which indicates growth Next was the North West of England at 57.9 then the East of England at 57.3.

Seasons Greetings from everyone at the Warrington Chamber of Commerce & Industry

Brexit

Employers are looking for skilled workers to smooth the transition out of the European Union, increasing the number of professional jobs available in the UK up 7pc in the last three months.

Job volume growth was strongest in supply chain accounting and procurement roles, where the numbers of roles available compared to last year were 15pc and 13pc higher respectively.

Finance, tax and legal jobs were also up during the last three months.

Lungs of the Capital

The Mayor of London has vowed to protect the Green Belt and will safeguard "the lungs of the capital" and has pledged to increase the city's green cover to more than 50pc by 2050.

The plan would also call for a rate of 50pc affordable homes in developments across London.

Within the Mayors planning is the push to improve the quality of the air in the capital.

Perhaps this should be the Warrington approach?

Skills shortage

Britain's skills shortage is starting to bite as businesses are struggling to find the workers they need to meet growing demand at a time of record-low unemployment.

Vacancy levels are at one of the highest levels seen in the past two years.

Shortages are acute across a wide range of sectors, from IT and finance to marketing staff and human resources professionals, nurses and personal assistants to lorry drivers and sales staff.

Bright futures for Warrington and Cheshire

Growing the Cheshire and Warrington economy following last year's referendum was discussed at the first public event to be held at the Warrington Campus of the University of Chester this year.

Philip Cox, Chief Executive of the Cheshire and Warrington Local

Enterprise Partnership (LEP) delivered a free talk on campus on Monday, October 30, at which he spoke about leading the LEP towards its objective of making Cheshire and Warrington a £50 billion economy by 2040 – more than twice its current size. The LEP plans to create 120,000 new

jobs and build up to 127,000 new homes in the region but Cox stressed the importance of getting the fundamentals right: transport, schools, urban housing, leisure opportunities and green spaces.

Cox said that Cheshire and Warrington have bright futures, with

one of the strongest economies in the UK and the second highest gross value-added (GVA) per head in England, outside of London. The region has more graduate-level employees than anywhere in the North, as over 125,000 people come in to the area to work every day.

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Colin Daniels, Chief Executive

How to avoid HR hindrances when it comes to hiring seasonal staff this Christmas

The Christmas season is fast approaching and this time of year means big business for the hospitality sector, with festive parties and lunches taking over bars, restaurants and hotels across the North West and beyond.

Human Resource expert and Founder and Director of PrivilegeHR Peter Waller-Flynn shares industry advice for managing the recruitment process this December.

It is undeniable that during the festive season, the hospitality sector thrives, with customers coming in droves to eat, drink and be merry with friends, family and colleagues. But with this increased demand often comes a whole host of issues for recruiters.

Hotels, restaurants, bars and caterers can experience an unprecedented spike in recruitment during the winter months to meet ever-increasing consumer demands. In 2015, spending in restaurants and bars increased by 8.1% on the previous month and with spending on the rise again, employers often turn to seasonal staff to ensure that operations run smoothly throughout the yuletide period.

This recruitment drive can often

be a huge drain on resources for small to medium sized businesses right through to corporate giants, taking a toll on workforce, time and money. A sudden inflation in job applications can be inundating for a recruiter and finding suitable candidates can be a daunting and tiresome task.

Over a quarter of people employed in the hospitality sector are under the age of 21 and when it comes to hiring seasonal staff, restaurants and bars are often faced with a flurry of young people wanting to build up their experience; however, it is important that employers look for candidates that demonstrate a genuine, hard-working ethos. Temporary staff can often lead to long term employment for the right candidate, saving the hassle of re-recruiting in the future.

There are many reasons that candidates apply for seasonal work. They may be seeking flexibility but often the applicant may be hopeful that the opportunity will transpire

into full time work in the future. To avoid disappointment or confusion, it is important for employers to be clear from the offset, stating the period of employment in the advert and again at interview stage.

Staff recruitment can be a long process and this rings particularly true during the festive season when the volume of applications received by the hospitality sector rises dramatically. Getting positions out to advert out early is one quick fire way to secure additional time to manage the process and utilise resource without straining day to day operations.

Instead of traditional interview methods, employers could consider holding assessment centres or recruitment days, which often see a large number of potential employees attending an interactive session over the course of a full or half day, dependent on the volume of candidates and how vigorous the selection process is. This is a great way to see how candidates work around others, often involving

tasks such as roleplay exercises or team building whilst also allowing the recruiter to see more applicants over a shorter time period.

Due to the nature of hospitality work, around 86% of employees are paid by the hour which equates to more paperwork for the employer. With advancements in HR, there are numerous payroll solutions that can offer a cost-effective way to ensure that payments are received on time and sick pay and holidays are dealt with accordingly.

PrivilegeHR works closely with businesses in the hospitality sector and is familiar with the issues that companies face year on year. Human Resource issues are often not at the forefront of an employer's mind amidst such a hectic season but a thought-out HR strategy and the implementation of effective systems can save thousands of pounds and make the recruitment process more enjoyable for both the recruiter and the employee.

For more information visit www.privilegehr.co.uk

Young musicians catch a glimpse of the future

ONE of the world's leading manufacturers has asked students from Priestley College for feedback on their next piece of technology.

Two representatives from Yamaha brought the new instrument to college to get the opinions of those on the Music and Music Technology courses.

"We are not allowed to say anything about the piece of equipment, but I can say it was different to anything I've seen before and used the latest technology," said Priestley Tutor Michael Grainger.

Yamaha Senior Planning Specialist Kevin MacManus was joined at Priestley by Nozomu Fujiwara who had flown in from Japan to work on the development of the new instrument.

Around 50 students gave their thoughts including David Hindle, who studies BTEC Music Technology.

"It was an eye-opening experience," said the former Birchwood High pupil. "It felt like they really wanted to listen to what we had to say and there could even be a chance we could see some of our ideas in the final design."

Priestley was chosen to take part due to its connections with Steinberg – a leading producer of music recording, arranging and editing software.

Egypt Ministry of Supply Decree 217/2017

Egypt's Minister of Supply has issued a decree obliging all food companies to print a price label on all their products in clear.

Here are the highlights, in brief:

- The decision, which was published in the state's official gazette on Tuesday 24th of October 2017, includes companies that produce food products locally as well as those that package imported products.
- The decree also prohibits dealing with un-priced products anywhere down the line; whether in retail, packing or distribution.
- The supply ministry has given a deadline of 31 December for dealers to sell any unlabelled products, which should also have set prices prior to the end of the deadline.
- The decree also imposes penalties on those who violate the law with one to five years in prison and a fine between EGP 300 and EGP 1,000, in accordance with Article 9 of the compulsory pricing and profit regulation law.

However, updates or amendments of the decree may come out soon, we will keep you up to date.

Radio 1 is not in tune with us, say students



A BROADCAST journalist quizzed Warrington students about their radio listening habits in the wake of the falling popularity of Radio 1.

BBC Broadcast journalist Phil Pegum asked students at Priestley College about how they consume music and their answers will not have made easy listening for radio bosses.

They appeared to back up recent findings that showed Radio 1's flagship programme, helmed by Nick Grimshaw, had slumped to its lowest level on record.

Only one of more than 20 students was a regular listener to Radio 1 and many had never heard of Grimshaw.

Alex Highcock, a former Wade Deacon pupil who studies BTEC Music and the Extended Project said: "We tend to listen to our music through Spotify and YouTube."

"We like to listen to our own playlists and the problem with Radio 1 is they play the same songs all the time."

The Priestley students' comments are due to be used on Radio 4's Feedback show.

The Breakfast Show with Nick Grimshaw pulled in 4.93 million listeners a week in the third quarter of 2017, down from 5.5 million in the second quarter and 5.25 million in the same period in 2016, according to the latest figures released by audience research body Rajar.

When asked how they discover new music Priestley's students said they did so through recommendations from the likes of Spotify. The majority also opted out of listening to radio because they had no interest in hearing from a DJ.

Abigail Bamford, a former pupil at St Peter & Paul Catholic College who is studying BTEC Music and A-Level English Language and Literature at Priestley said: "I prefer to listen to songs and not people talking."

"Radio 1 doesn't stray from the charts and we all have a wider interest in music than that."

New Restaurant Manager at The Park Royal

THE Park Royal Hotel at Stretton has a new restaurant manager.

Before Dan Tipping started working in catering he had his first taste of the hotel life whilst working overseas 10 years ago.

Dan said: "I started off in the smaller hotels in Marmaris Turkey and my final season in Hersonissos Crete. After a very successful first season I got my dream destination of Sharm El Shiekh in Egypt and the much grander 4/5 star properties.

"When returning home I started working for Whitbread as a bar team member and remembered those experiences I gained whilst living abroad. I progressed quickly, becoming waiter, then host, supervisor, chef, assistant manager and finally holding general manager in the 5 years I worked for the company.

"Whilst working for Whitbread I was also able to volunteer as a special constable for Merseyside Police in my spare time and enjoyed the face to face interaction with the general public. Just as I do in catering, I experienced a real joy from making peoples day, listening to their day to day queries and generally being able to go above expectations to assist.

"My love of food eventually led me

to become the Restaurant Manager of a 3 AA Rosette restaurant, lounge and private dining rooms with in Cheshire. My team and I were proud to be achieving 'Outstanding service' delivery, as a

Michelin inspector commented on earlier this year. Something I am extremely proud of."

When the opportunity arose at The Park Royal, already known for quality food and service, it represented a great opportunity for Dan to further his career and join Andrew Richards, Executive Chef.

Dan added: "We both share a passion for food and service excellence. My desire is to ensure a fantastic experience is had by everyone who visits The Park Royal and with our new autumn menu launching in September 2017, I know our guests will not be disappointed by their experience.

Annie Brown, General Manager, said: "We are delighted to have a Restaurant Manager with Dan's depth of experience join our team. We share Dan's passion for excellence at Park Royal and look forward to his personal touches with the launch of our new Autumn menu."



The Park Royal launches winter sale with 40% off short breaks



The Park Royal Hotel at Stretton has launched its winter sale, offering major discounts for couples, families and friends booking a short break or longer staycation in 2018.

The hotel, which is part of the QHotels group, now managed by RedefineBDL Hotels (RBH), is offering 40% off breaks of two or more nights, up until the end of 2018.

The winter offer is applicable across all 26 QHotels, including city and shopping breaks in Manchester, Leeds and Oxford as well as rural countryside retreats in the likes of Kent, Cheshire and Northumberland.

As part of the sale a two night stay at one of QHotels' four-star properties starts from as little as £110.

The offer includes access to hotels' on-site restaurants and health

club facilities, including gyms and indoor swimming pools. The sale also extends to spa and golf with QHotels offering 20% off spa and golf facilities across the group.

Park Royal General Manager Annie Brown said: "The winter season is a popular time for our guests to plan and book quality time away with family, friends or partners.

"With this in mind, we're helping guests with a substantial 40% off at a time when most of us are counting the pennies in the run up to Christmas. A two-night stay at The Park Royal, for example, starts at just £111.60 per stay."

QHotels' winter offer applies to two-night breaks, including breakfast, until 23 December 2018. Guests can also upgrade their break to include dinner.

Book direct with QHotels by 31 January 2018 to receive 40% at: QHotels.co.uk/wintersale

School Lettings Solutions appoints accountancy firm Mitchell Charlesworth

School Lettings Solutions (SLS) has appointed Manchester-based accountancy firm, Mitchell Charlesworth, to provide a range of financial and business advice services.

The firm will support SLS, one of the fastest growing sport and leisure companies, with accounts, payroll, corporate tax and personal tax services, as well as forecasting and financial management advice. Its corporate finance arm, MC Vanguard, will offer SLS additional guidance on achieving its growth strategy.

The appointment comes as part of SLS' ambitious growth plans, after the company secured a six-figure investment to support its expansion, with the help of MC Vanguard.

The Greater Manchester Loan Fund (GMLF) invested £440,000 in SLS, which offers schools, academies and colleges management services for hiring out their facilities to the local community during evenings, weekends and school holidays. The funding boost will support SLS' continued expansion into new schools across the UK, enabling the business to meet the demand of its sales pipeline and develop a proprietary facilities booking system. The investment will also safeguard approximately 55 jobs, with an additional ten to 20 roles forecast to be created over the next two years.

Founded in 2012 by directors Scott Warrington and Paul Andrews, Bolton-based SLS

manages the process that enables schools and colleges to generate income from hiring out facilities such as sports halls, playing fields and swimming pools to communities, providing access to education and leisure facilities.

SLS currently manages lettings on behalf of more than 150 individual schools and facility owners and is in discussions with over 100 additional schools to bring them on board.

Scott Warrington, director at School Lettings Solutions, said: "We are the largest school lettings provider in the country and our staff, customers and partner schools deserve the best when it comes to our services. By working in partnership with Mitchell Charlesworth, we feel we can achieve this and continue our growth towards 200 schools and beyond over the next 12 months. The expertise, practices and support Mitchell Charlesworth provides us with will give us strong foundations to achieve success and we've been hugely impressed with their team so far."

Mitchell Charlesworth partner Alison Buckley, who will be advising SLS, said: "SLS is a progressive and ambitious company and, as a full-service accountancy firm, we can offer it a wide range of compliance and advisory services which fully support its growth plans. We look forward to working closely with Scott Warrington and Paul Andrews on achieving their business aims."

Students leave positive lasting impression

IT was supposed to be a trip to inspire their creativity, but in the end it was the students who inspired others.

More than 30 Art Foundation students from Warrington's Priestley College stayed at the Boggle Hole Youth Hostel in North Yorkshire and left a lasting impression on hostel managers Andy and Peta Nugent.

They wrote to Youth Hostel Association chiefs and to Priestley principal Matthew Grant to praise their visitors' character and achievements.

In his letter, Andy wrote: "We get so many young people staying with us, but these were incredible. Not only were they very talented but had so much passion and were just so nice."

"We get so tied up in our job sometimes we forget why we do it. It was a real pleasure to be reminded of this by your students and colleagues."

Andy said it was only the third time in 20 years he had felt compelled to write after a visit.

As a thank you for the hostel's hospitality, students Jessica Morris and Olivia Kubiak gave Andy and Peta pieces of artwork they had

created during the stay.

It wasn't just the hostel managers who were inspired by the young people from Warrington.

Primary school children also benefitted from time spent with the teenagers who volunteered to help them with a project.

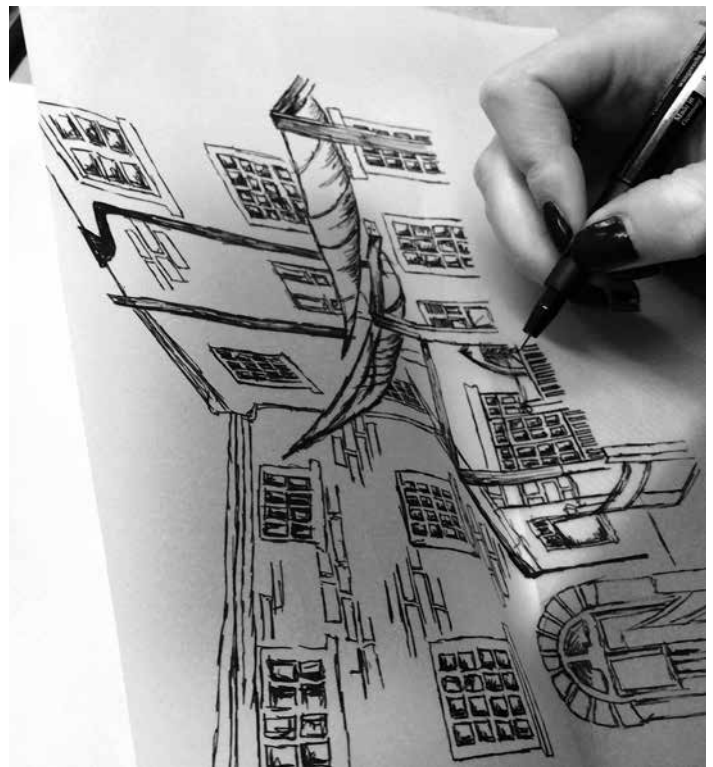
"They really inspired the small primary school we had in, so much so they plan to return at the same time next year and do an activity together. a very rare and beautiful thing," wrote Andy.

The Art Foundation residential had been organised by Priestley College as an affordable trip to give students the chance to draw inspiration from the landscapes around Whitby.

They produced some great art including some pieces using materials collected from the beach.

"I didn't want to leave," said Alex Mooney.

"At times it was raining and our paper was getting wet, but that just added to what we were doing and became part of the overall effect."



Rules of origin and origin declaration - for information

Chambers of Commerce are engaging with the Department for Exiting the EU on Rules of Origin and origin declaration as well as the steps that need to be taken to provide continuity for businesses that currently use Certificate of Origin, in light of the new trading arrangements with the EU and other countries.

We will keep you informed on these ongoing discussions, clearly if companies that currently export to EC countries are required to provide Certificates of Origin, training can be organised by the Chamber.

Bus company launches discounted "£1.70 to Westy" scheme

NETWORK Warrington has revealed its latest discounted route, offering a cheaper service for passengers travelling to and from the interchange via Knutsford Road.

The number 2 and 12 buses now running into the town centre, and the number 1 and 11 services that run from the town centre back to Westy, are all subject to the new, cheaper ticketing scheme.

The discounted fares – £1.70 for a single and £3 return – which apply to all Network Warrington services along Knutsford Road, include stops like the cenotaph, Victoria Park, Kingsway South and Whitley Avenue.

Ben Wakerley, managing director at Network Warrington, said: "I'm pleased to announce another discounted route for our customers.

"We have listened again to our passengers who have asked for us to review our fares and I'm delighted that we've been able to

reduce the ticket costs for those travelling along Knutsford Road.

"The new ticketing structure comes into effect on a trial basis, but if passengers continue to use these discounted bus routes and support a truly multi-modal Cheshire, we

will be able to maintain the cheaper fares.

"We've had success introducing lower fares on the 'Dallam Discount' and 'the Pops', so I'm equally hopeful that the new '£1.70 to Westy' scheme will prove a

success for our customers too."

For more information about the fare reductions, please visit networkwarrington.co.uk, follow Network Warrington on Twitter @WarringtonBuses or speak to any Network Warrington driver.



Street sweeping council chief named as 'face of a vibrant economy'

WARRINGTON Council's Chief Executive has been chosen for a national exhibition, celebrating inspiring leaders, innovators and those who contribute to communities.

Professor Steven Broomhead's work to support the ongoing growth of Warrington – and his commitment to making the borough a great place to live, work and visit – has seen him chosen as one of the 'Faces of a Vibrant Economy'.

The London exhibition – featuring 100 public, private and third sectors

figures who are delivering growth, innovation and social purpose – has been curated by professional services firm, Grant Thornton.

Steven takes his place in the exhibition alongside leading entrepreneurs, technologists, policymakers and business visionaries – drawn from across the UK.



He is praised for helping Warrington people 'live their best lives', through leading a range of activity, including finding ways for the council to do more with less; managing opportunity and risk, delivering new educational facilities and driving forward the borough's regeneration.

Steven said: "My priority is to ensure that, as a council, we deliver the best possible services for Warrington. On a personal level, it's always nice to receive recognition for doing a job you are so passionate about.

"However, what delights me most about this accolade is that it really represents Warrington's growing profile as a place of innovation. I'm delighted that the work that is going on here to ensure that our borough continues to thrive is receiving this national recognition."

Steven's portrait features in the 'Faces' exhibition, along with his profile and the message he would give to his younger self: "Take time to sniff the flowers, rather than always trying to rearrange them."

Meanwhile Steven has also hit the

streets to play his part in cleaning up the town centre.

He donned his hi-vis uniform picked up a broom and joined the council's town centre wardens for a special clean-up operation.

It is part of his commitment to 'get on the shop floor', spend time with staff and learn more about the work they are doing on a day-to-day basis.

Steven said: "It's really important to me to see at first hand the excellent work our staff are doing, and how they are going the extra mile to provide high quality services for our residents during these challenging times for local authorities.

"It was great to get out on the streets of Warrington, actively take part in the clean-up and talk to the team about the work they do."

Steven plans to join other teams across the council in the near future to gain more experience and understanding of the work they do and the challenges they face. He has previously spent time with the waste collection team and has also acted as a "lollipop person".

Success for Cresta Travel at Chamber Awards

AFTER another successful year Cresta World Travel in Altrincham are delighted to have received the award for Best Leisure and Tourism Business at the recent Sale and Altrincham Chamber Award ceremony.

Company Director Denise Fraser, Sue Wall, Manager of Cresta World Travel, and Lorraine Deeny, Client Relationship Manager for our Business Travel division, were on hand to collect the award.

Established in 1969, Cresta World Travel has, like the town itself, survived the many challenges of a changing world but their knowledge, experience and very personal service ensures they are able to provide a choice of wonderful destinations with the security and peace of mind that means your holiday is in safe hands.

They offer a choice of worldwide destinations and experiences which include a weekend break in

the UK or Europe, a Safari in Africa, a cruise to the Baltic cities or a relaxing break in the Maldives.

Their fantastic and award winning team of experts, led by Sue Wall, Manager of the Cresta World Travel Lounge, can plan it all for you.

Contact Sue and the team on sales@crestaworldtravel.co.uk or call us on 0161 927 7177.

If you travel for business or someone you know handles the company travel, please also consider Cresta Business Travel.

They provide a cost effective, convenient and safe service which we know is your priority. They are so confident that we can save you time and money that we would like to extend the offer of a two month free trial so you can see for yourselves.

Please call Kirsty Nicholson, Cresta Business Development Manager directly on 07803 874684.



Blue Air announce latest new route from LJLA

Blue Air has announced their latest new route to operate from Liverpool John Lennon Airport (LJLA), with flights to Palma de Mallorca for Summer 2018.

Flights will commence on 2nd June 2018, with twice weekly departures on Wednesdays and Saturdays through to the end of September 2018. Reservations are now available via www.blueairweb.com, with fares from just £68.10 one-way, included taxes.

Liverpool became Blue Air's eighth European base earlier this year with the basing of one of the airline's 189 seat Boeing 737-700 aircraft at LJLA and this new destination for the airline complements their existing six flights from Liverpool to Milan, Rome and Alicante and three destinations in Romania.



NEW MEMBERS

Ansell Lighting Products Ltd
Nick Prince – International Sales
Unit 6B, Stonecross Industrial Park, Yew Tree Way, Warrington, WA3 3JD
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Web: www.anselluk.com
Description: *Lighting Manufacturer*

Aspire Computers Limited
Geoff Plass – Director
Suite 2, Central House, Central Way, Winwick Street, Warrington, WA2 7TT
Tel: 01925-251143
Web: www.aspire-computers.com
Description: *Supplier of IT equipment and services / websites & social media.*

Warrington Entrepreneur launches R&D Tax refund business to help local firms claim what's theirs

Entrepreneur, Pamela Cunliffe, has launched her own business, RnD Tax Refunds Limited to provide a dedicated service to firms across Warrington and the North, in claiming tax relief from HMRC for research and development activity carried out within their business – and many businesses aren't aware is available to them.

Fresh off the back of being selected as a Finalist at the 2017 Enterprise Vision Awards for her commitment to the Financial Services industry,

and having been shortlisted at the Warrington Business Awards last year, Pamela took the initiative to set up her own consultancy



following 2 years as Director of the Northern branch of a Midland's based R&D firm. She has worked extensively in the professional sector across the North West in a variety of roles from archivist to manager, and is now dedicated to supporting SMEs through the R&D tax claim process from The Base in Warrington.

The government backed scheme was designed to reward innovation and provide companies with the opportunity to further develop their products and processes, as well as help businesses exploring new products and niche markets. Shockingly, billions of pounds of R&D tax credits are unclaimed every year by UK businesses, so Pamela is committed to growing awareness across the North and supporting business owners throughout each stage of claiming back tax that is rightfully theirs, starting with the launch of her new website www.rndtaxrefunds.co.uk.

Armed with the ideal business model, RnD Tax Refunds takes businesses through 6 simple steps to claiming back all-important

funds they once spent on Research and Development – all on a no win, no fee basis.

The launch of the business has been driven by the desire to eradicate the misconceptions that:

- Small businesses can't claim
- Only businesses within the manufacturing industry are eligible
- R&D tax can only be claimed if the project was successful
- The process is time consuming and too good to be true

Commenting on her new venture, Pamela said: "There's nothing more rewarding than helping SMEs to grow, and with the average R&D tax claim being around £48,000 those funds received into the bank account can have such a huge impact in propelling businesses to the next level. With a personal approach being at the forefront of everything I do, I'm excited to start meeting with and raising awareness to SMEs across the region and putting money back in their pockets – watch this space!"

Mitchell Charlesworth climbs the ranks in Accountancy Age Top 50 + 50

Mitchell Charlesworth has been ranked as the 61st largest accountancy firm in the UK in a top 100 league table compiled by Accountancy Age; jumping up 3 places from last year.

The Top 50 + 50 is published each year and ranks UK accountancy firms by total UK fee income. Mitchell Charlesworth increased fee income to £9.2m in 2016-17, the highest since the firm began in 1885.

Managing Partner Paul Wainwright said: "We are thrilled to move up the Accountancy Age league table which is a reflection of the hard work and commitment of our partners and staff who consistently deliver a first rate service to our clients.

"The firm has experienced strong growth over the last year and we have continued to increase our client base in the region. As always, our priority is the success of our clients and we are focused on delivering technical expertise, sector specialisms and a broad range of advisory services for businesses and individuals. Our clients not only want quality accountancy and taxation services but we are seeing increased demand for support in specialist areas such as wealth management, corporate finance and payroll.

"As a member of Kreston

International, we are able to connect with a global network of independent accounting firms to share knowledge, best practice and technical know-how and offer a global service delivery to our clients."

Mitchell Charlesworth is one of the largest independent accountancy practices in the North West with offices in Chester, Liverpool, Manchester, Warrington and Widnes.



Germany drafts outline of EU-UK ties post-Brexit

Worried at the lack of a Brexit plan? Don't panic, the real heads of the EU, Germany's business leaders, are working on it. According to reports in the Bloomberg news service, Germany is working on a "comprehensive free-trade accord" with Britain. It's all part of a pragmatic set of proposals for the European Union's future relations with the UK. The report quoted from a draft of paper prepared by the German government's Foreign Ministry in Berlin.

The document provides the most detailed clarification yet of the German position over future formal negotiations about how the UK's relationship with Europe will change in 2019 as we leave the trading bloc.

The paper implores the EU to avoid a piecemeal approach to talks. Instead it proposes a broad partnership that includes a unified approach to foreign and security policy, fighting terrorism, cooperation on criminal justice, agriculture and fisheries, energy, roads, railways and canals, air transport, research and digital issues.

The four page document concludes by outlining the German Foreign

Ministry's approach to Brexit. "We share the UK's desire to secure a close partnership with the Union after its exit that covers economic and trade relations, begins the concluding statement.

"A verdict on whether any future exit accord should include transition rules can only be reached when the shape of future EU-U.K. relations has become clearer, said Steffen Seibert, German premier Angela Merkel's chief spokesman. Briefing reporters about the consequence of Brexit, he said that Germany is bound to stick to the sequencing of Brexit talks agreed by all other 27 EU members. However, he cautioned that adequate progress on first-phase issues is needed before talks can start on the new relationship.

In its paper, the ministry recommends that the free-trade deal should be "balanced, ambitious and far-reaching, with the degree of access to the EU's single market conditional on the extent to which the UK is prepared to adhere to regulatory norms. Even where the UK agrees to common rules, there can be no "cherry-picking that gives the UK a competitive advantage, it said.

VAT threshold for small businesses remaining at £85,000

Following the recent report from the Office of Tax Simplification there has been concerns that the VAT registration threshold was going to be dropped in the Budget (potentially to £20,000 which is the average threshold in the EU).

As a result the plan to keep the VAT registration threshold at £85,000 will be very welcome to small businesses although the 2 year freeze will inevitably capture a number of businesses who have been hovering under the VAT registration threshold.

VAT: overseas businesses and joint and several liability for online marketplaces

Online marketplaces are already jointly and severally liable for the VAT owed by an overseas seller if they fail to meet their UK requirements. However, in a further attempt to tackle this issue, the joint and several liability is being extended so that the online marketplace is jointly and severally liable for any future VAT that a UK business selling goods via the online marketplace fails to account for after HMRC has issued a notice to the online marketplace (ensuring that all sellers are in scope) and any VAT that a non-UK business selling goods via the online marketplace fails to account for, where the business was not registered for VAT in the UK and that online marketplace knew or should have known that that business should be registered for VAT in the UK. Online marketplaces will also be required to ensure that the VAT numbers displayed by third party sellers on their websites are valid. They will also be required to display a valid VAT number when they are

provided with one by a third party seller operating on their platform. There will be penalties for non compliance.

R&D tax credit rate to be increased to 12%

The government will legislate in Finance Bill 2017-18 to increase the rate of the R&D expenditure

credit ('RDEC') from 11% to 12%, in order to further incentivise business investment in R&D. This will further encourage innovative businesses to continue research and development activities in the UK and help to put the economy at a competitive edge and continue growth. This will affect companies who fall into the RDEC regime (previously the large company scheme), generally being companies with more than 500 staff and a turnover of over €100m or a balance sheet total over €86m. It will also affect SMEs who are acting

in capacity of a subcontractor for large companies, and companies who receive grant funding for their projects who also fall into the RDEC scheme. The change will mean that the effective rate for the payable credit will rise to just over 9.7% of qualifying expenditure (previously 8.8%) for loss making companies, and will provide a tax credit of 12% (previously 11%) for profitable companies.

This change will have effect on and after 1 January 2018.

The Park Royal Hotel get the gold approval

The Park Royal Hotel at Stretton is celebrating a successful third quarter, after receiving VenueVerdict's Gold Standard Accreditation by demonstrating consistently high levels of service and commitment to quality in conferencing and events.

The prestigious Gold Standard Accreditation was awarded by BDRC Continental – the UK's largest independent research agency – and is directly based on event host feedback and how likely they are to recommend a venue for a conference or event.

The latest results mean The Park Royal has held the award for the 6th quarter.

Annie Brown, General Manager at The Park Royal said: "Firstly I would like to congratulate everyone

at The Park Royal on achieving the esteemed accreditation for the 6th quarter. The accolade is testament to the hard work our team delivers every day.

"It is important that we continue to cater to the evolving needs of event hosts and ensure that all of our customers have the best experience with us. The accreditation demonstrates the value of investing in our facilities and our commitment to offering the very best services for guests and we are delighted that this approach has been recognised by the event hosts themselves."

QHotels, which owns The Park Royal, received a record-breaking 12 VenueVerdict Gold Standard Accreditations across the group, its highest number to date.

Earlier this year QHotels was named No.1 Large Group in VenueVerdict's annual awards for the sixth consecutive year.

Natalie Wiseman, Client Services Manager at BDRC Continental said: "QHotels' fantastic achievement this quarter once again demonstrates the group's commitment to its customer offering. It's great to see that drive filtering down into the individual hotels, especially those 12 hotels that received the Gold Standard accreditation in BDRC's most recent announcement of winners."

The Park Royal has a wide range of conference and event facilities, offering complete flexibility, with a focus on providing a personalised service. The hotel has 14 conference and events suites that can cater for meetings from 1-400 delegates.

NEWSLETTER - November 2017

Survey report

ROTENA presents the European Survey Report

Following the project's initial stages, a survey report was developed, which analyses the answers to a web-based survey with questions on robotics and 3D printing. The questions were given to three groups of stakeholders: providers of vocational education and training, small and medium-sized enterprises, and interested individuals.

Conclusions of the survey report

A clear majority of small and medium-sized enterprises plans on implementing robotics in their work processes in the future, which emphasises the need for workers who are skilled in these fields.

It is essential to not only offer traditional kinds of education in the robotics field, but to also venture into online tools and online education.

Online learning will allow for great flexibility in terms of time, curricula, and forms of education.

There is a need to educate not only future workers, but also today's employees.

Some numbers

Some details from the ROTENA report

36% of respondents had no knowledge about robotics in an industrial setting.

45% of respondents use 3D printing in their companies.

83% of the respondents would consider taking a free robotics course if they had the opportunity to do so.

90% of respondents think that knowledge in robotics will give them an advantage in their professional fields in the future.

The detailed survey report examines the current situation of robotics and 3D printing in Europe. It looks at the impact these technologies have on society and on the way people are educated about them.

To get access to the survey report, an executive summary and future ROTENA outcomes, go to the project website: <http://rotena.eu>



Consortium



2016-1-UK01-KA202-024437
This project has been funded with support from the European Commission. This publication [communication] and all its contents reflect the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.

UKTI e-Exporting programme

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

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

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

Winsford factory secures consent

Full consent has been given by Cheshire West & Chester's planning committee for a 242,000 sq ft factory at Road One at Winsford Industrial Estate.

Acting through its property vehicle Baloo Properties, Tiger Trailers lodged an application to deliver a facility including industrial and ancillary office space. Tiger is a truck and van builder that has outgrown its existing site to the south of the currently vacant development plot and intends to grow from employing 190 people to around 500.

The main development site for the scheme comprises 17.4 acres, with additional space for the temporary storage of topsoil and access into the site taking the application to a total of 23.6 acres.

Recommending the scheme for approval, CWAC officers noted that: "The proposal represents a significant investment in a key area east of the borough at Winsford Industrial Estate. The proposal would allow the expansion of an existing business to develop. Also, approximately an additional 300 jobs would be created when the proposal is built out in full.

"The development would provide a sustainable industrial facility which would bring forward major investment. The development would also provide new job opportunities both in construction and operation and within the local supply chain including local services."

The architect for the scheme is AJA while ID Planning submitted the application.



Tiger Trailers' existing factory.

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- Set up on e-marketplaces quickly
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How to Join

Email UKTI's retail team

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

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

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

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The copy deadline for the next edition of Insight magazine is

Monday, January 15

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

info@warrington-chamber.co.uk

Warrington Wolves launch new kit and announce new sponsor

WARRINGTON Wolves have launched their new kit and announced One Energy as its new official club sponsor for the 2018 season.

The kit was launched tonight exclusively for club members.

Meanwhile One Energy, renowned in the industry for organising the provisions of gas and electricity to a variety of businesses across the country, will see its logo emblazoned across the Wire home and away first-team shirts for the 2018 season.

This latest partnership announcement completes the club's kit sponsors for the 2018 season alongside: Peckforton Castle, Protectmyincome.com, Muse Developments, JWS Drylining Ltd, Matrix Networks, Total Steelwork and Fabrication Ltd, Warrington Fabrications and

University of Chester

Adrian Francis, original director and current consultant to One Energy, said: "Working and socialising in Warrington, and home to the majority of my family and friends, I have always believed that if you are able to give to the community then you should do this where your heart is.

"I have always had a keen interest in sport, and am proud to be even the smallest bit connected to the team at Warrington Wolves. As a father of five I think it's most important for the next generation to experience the same level if not exceeding the level of Rugby League that I have enjoyed watching in our

home town. I am more than proud and hugely excited to be supporting Warrington Wolves."

Wolves' chief executive Karl Fitzpatrick added: "I am absolutely delighted to welcome our new official club sponsor One Energy into the Wolves' family of commercial partners. One Energy is another great Warrington commercial success story and as

such is the perfect partner for us - I am sure this marks the beginning of a long and mutually rewarding partnership between our respective organisations.

"On behalf of the club, I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all new and existing kit partners for their support and investment in a new era at the club."



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