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Magazine

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ISSUE 213 | MAY 2021
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Editor's Comment

THROUGH all the doom and gloom of the COVID-19 pandemic it is pleasing to be able to report some positives in this month's issue.

Firstly the welcome news of the much-needed and long-awaited refurbishment of Culcheth Library and secondly the investment taking place at Culcheth Sports Club with the new Legacy Health & Fitness Club set to open at the end of this month.

While the refurbishment of the library falls short of a brand new facility - the plans appear to involve a major refurbishment which will provide a much-needed boost for the community facility.

It's just a shame it became a bit of a political football in the run-up to the local elections. Everybody should work together for the good of their community and rise above political point scoring when it involves community facilities.

Personally, after one of the most toxic political campaigns I have ever witnessed in more than 40 years of reporting, I will be glad to see the back of the elections and just hope apathy doesn't win the day.

To those of you who get elected please do your best for the local community and rise above politics and if you have to work with people from opposing parties try and do it in a positive way, without wasting energy attacking each other.

I know the vast majority of people I speak to are fed up with

the toxic politics and just want to see hard-working Cllrs representing their community.

It's a well-known fact that working together can deliver better outcomes in most walks of life - but this just doesn't happen in politics with the widening of the political divide.

Finally good luck to Gary Lacey and his team with their new Legacy Health & Fitness Club at Culcheth Sports Club.

From the images I have seen, it looks like it is going to be a fantastic addition to the local community and just what the doctor ordered as we attempt to get our health and fitness back on track after the pandemic.

I look forward to seeing it

opening soon and becoming an integral part of the local community.

With a big question mark hanging over the future of the community leisure facilities at Culcheth High School pending the outcome of public consultation, yet to be announced, the timing of this new leisure facility probably couldn't have been much better.

Deadline for the June issue of Culcheth Life is May 25



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New library will be "next best thing to a complete re-build"

THE new package of improvements to Culcheth Library will amount to a full refurbishment - "the next best thing to a complete re-build."

This is the view of Janet Evans, a member of the Friends of Culcheth Library, who has been playing a leading-role in the work and discussions with Warrington Borough Council and library operators LiveWire.

Funding has been made available to renovate the building and make significant improvements - some of them structural.

Janet said: "Initially it was hoped we would get a completely new library. But these hopes were never fixed in stone and sadly, because of COVID and the national financial issues, these hopes were dashed.

"Fortunately, all was not lost and following talks with the borough council and LiveWire we know

funding has been made available that will ensure that urgent renovations, modernisation and improved facilities can be carried out to improve and upgrade the library.

"In other words, a full refurbishment. The next best thing to a complete re-build."

Friends of Culcheth Library members and library staff are committed to supporting all the needs of the community.

A lot of work has already been done to promote a wide range of activities involving various sections of the Culcheth community. These include clubs for Lego, crafting, jigsaw, reading and wellbeing.

But the newly refurbished library

will become a more comfortable and agreeable place to be. There will be better inside facilities along with a very attractive, usable outdoor area at the front where people will be able to sit, relax, read, chat and generally enjoy being in pleasant surroundings alone or with family and friends.

Over the past four years the Friends of Culcheth Library has received donations, both regular and as one-offs, which have been

much appreciated and have already been used to instigate and enhance community activities within the library.

Janet added: "We want the very best for our village and are aiming high. It may be we don't get all our hopes and aspirations but our refurbished library is going to look completely different, with a re-imagined front, side and inside.

"The ugly duckly is soon going to turn into a graceful swan."



Vandals target Old Rectory

POLICE have stepped up high visibility patrols at The Old Rectory on Lady Lane, Croft, following ongoing issues with youths gathering and vandalising the premises.

Local PCSO Darren Samuel is appealing to parents to encourage their children to avoid the location.

He said: "This is still private property and therefore criminal damage."

A local resident recently tackled three young lads attempting to kick in the back door of the premises before running off across the Battlefield after being challenged.



PCSO Darren Samuel Pictured at the Old Rectory on Lady Lane.



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Eggstra special Easter at St Oswald's Church Winwick

VILLAGERS woke up to an extra special and thoughtful Easter treat over the Bank Holiday weekend – and it's all thanks to the children and families from Winwick CE Primary School's Parents, Teachers and Friends Association.

Focusing on the meaning of Easter and new beginnings, the group invited pupils and families across the historic village to decorate wooden eggs and also encourage people to hang eggs on the Winwick 'Community Easter Tree' that stands in the grounds of St Oswald's Church.

The response was amazing, said organiser and chair of the school's PTFA Sarah Browning: "We wanted to focus on the message and meaning of Easter. Eggs signify new life, resurrection and new beginnings so we invited all of our school, their families and the Winwick community to get

involved."

She added: "The school decorated 20 wooden eggs which we displayed around the Easter Tree. Each year group created their own design and the children have signed and personalised them. This idea has taken off really well. The church is at the heart of our community and the Easter Tree we chose is starting to bud. It is a lovely way to bring the community together."

"In line with Easter and new life, our PTFA sent each school child home with 'magic' jellybeans to see what they will grow for Easter. These included pea seeds and

sunflower seeds to nurture and eat around the time when national lockdown restrictions are set to lift. It's all upbeat and something to look forward to."

The beautiful display remained in place for two weeks.

Following on from the group's successful Christmas 'Winwick to Lapland' fundraiser that raised over £3k, Sarah said that, although the group's focus is on raising funds, the Easter initiative was more about bringing the community together in such difficult times and looking forward to brighter things and she promised of more to come.



Charlotte Nichols MP
Warrington North

If you live in Warrington North and have an issue you need help with or would like to book a surgery appointment, please get in touch.

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Bents announce fund-raising total and new charity of the year

BENTS Garden at Home at Glazebury, has announced their fund-raising total for chosen charity Once Upon a Smile, and also revealed their new charity of the year.

But before fully welcome Solving Kids Cancer as its 2021 charity of the year, it must say a huge thank you to everyone who has helped raise £16,477 for Once Upon a Smile; the charity it has supported for the past two years, during what has been one of the most challenging times for everyone.

For the first time in the initiative's history, and in response to the challenges posed by Covid-19, Bents decided to dedicate two consecutive years to the same cause, helping to boost fundraising for the Manchester-based charity – which provides emotional and practical support for bereaved families.

Matthew Bent, Managing Director at Bents Garden & Home said: "The decision to continue supporting Once Upon a Smile for a second year proved to be a very popular one. Despite the

challenges faced by the Covid crisis fundraising continued and everyone at Bents is delighted with the final total. Our customers have been hugely generous in helping us to raise such a fantastic amount, especially when there are so many other causes to consider during these difficult times."

The money raised by Bents will help fund further improvements and activities at Once Upon a Smile's Sidley House, the charity's specialist bereavement hub, and also support the team as they continue to reach out and support children in their own homes.

And now a new fundraising year begins as Bents welcomes Solving Kids Cancer as its Charity of the Year 2021. The charity, which focuses on childhood cancer neuroblastoma, is a cause very close to the hearts of everyone at Bents, following the loss of the company's Financial Director's

Bents Garden & Home receives

BENTS Garden & Home has received recognition of its high standards of customer care, having been presented with two Covid secure accreditations which it hopes will further help visitors to feel safe and welcome at the family owned and run centre at Glazebury.

The accreditations include the Visit Britain We're Good to Go award and the AA's Covid Safe recognition and both have been secured in time for the opening up of Bents' alfresco dining destinations; providing further peace of mind for customers looking to take advantage of the next step in the Government's Road Map.

Whilst Bents has continued to provide customers with takeaway options throughout the latest lockdown, it can now offer a number of alfresco dining destinations throughout the store, all of which offer a delicious choice of homemade, freshly prepared food.

In addition to the outdoor

seating areas located next to Bents' Alfresco Huts, Pet Café and Jurassic Cove Adventure Golf Course, it has also extended the area around its picturesque lake. Alfresco Lakeside Dining includes an extensive decking area and a covered marquee area, which is open-sided in compliance with Government guidelines, and offers shelter from the elements.

Whilst prior booking is required for Alfresco Lakeside Dining, which can be made online at bents.co.uk or in store on the day, Bents additional outdoor dining options are all open on a take away or walk-in basis.

Matthew Bent, Managing Director at Bents Garden & Home said: "We are so pleased to be able to widen our food offering with these alfresco dining options. Food is one of our huge passions so it is great to be welcoming guests again and hope they enjoy dining with us over the coming weeks.

"The two accreditations we

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Fund-raising total of the year

great-niece, 6-year-old Jossie Leaver who bravely battled with neuroblastoma.

Jossie was one of around 100 children who each year are diagnosed with this rare, aggressive and often deadly, childhood cancer, most of whom

are under the age of 5.

Solving Kids Cancer is a charity that fights for a future where no child dies of neuroblastoma or suffers from its treatment and Bents hopes its 2021 fundraising campaign will help towards this incredible campaign.



two Covid secure accreditations

have received from Visit Britain and the AA mean a great deal to us. They are two hugely respected organisations so we hope the

awards will help provide even more confidence for our customers as we continue to navigate the Covid roadmap."



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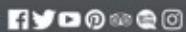
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Simon Bax,
 Plant Area Specialist

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- Remove flowers that have finished to ensure a continuity of bloom - this stops the plant wasting energy in producing seeds that are unwanted

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New Health & Fitness Club helps secure future of Culcheth Sports Club

THE future of Culcheth Sports Club has been secured thanks to new investment including a state-of-the-art Legacy & Health Fitness leisure club which is expected to be open at the end of May.

It follows fears last December that the club had only a 50-50 chance of survival following the impact of the pandemic.

But with tennis and football continuing to thrive with investment in their section, along with investment from Northern Starr Dance and Legacy Health & Fitness, the future of the former Daten Club, now looks secure.

Club secretary Stuart Nightingale and Gary Lacey, who is delivering the new state of the art Legacy Health & Fitness facility at the premises said in a joint statement: "Last year Culcheth Sports Club was in a perilous position with the reality of potentially having to close the doors forever looming over our heads.

"Whilst the club has been closed for many months due to the pandemic, we have been working very hard behind the scenes to do everything within our power to try and save the club, sometimes having to make some unpopular decisions in the short term, for the long-term benefit of the club and the local community.

"We have previously communicated about older sections of the club which were closing because of section membership falling so we have been looking to introduce new sections which reflected modern living and what people were looking for from a local sports facility."

They added: "Snooker, Table tennis, bowls, chess, photography, wine circle, badminton have all left for different reasons ranging from lack of participation, lack of

finance, Covid, or a mixture of all of the above.

"However Tennis and Football continue to thrive with continued investment in growing their sections.

Croquet returns and whilst the club has gone through a substantial refurbishment other sections are also preparing to return.

"We have a popular yoga section along with day room hire enquiries beginning again. We welcome back bums and turns and karate from a long and difficult 12 months."

In addition, the club has been very busy and is pleased to welcome 2 new sections to help guarantee the future of the club and aim to grow the memberships with the local community.

- Northern Starr dance offers a range of dance/fitness instruction for all ages and genders along with yoga and a yoga trapeze studio.

- Legacy Health & Fitness will offer group personal training and group exercise classes in modern refurbished studios. They will have a varied range of classes to focus on improving physical and mental wellbeing.

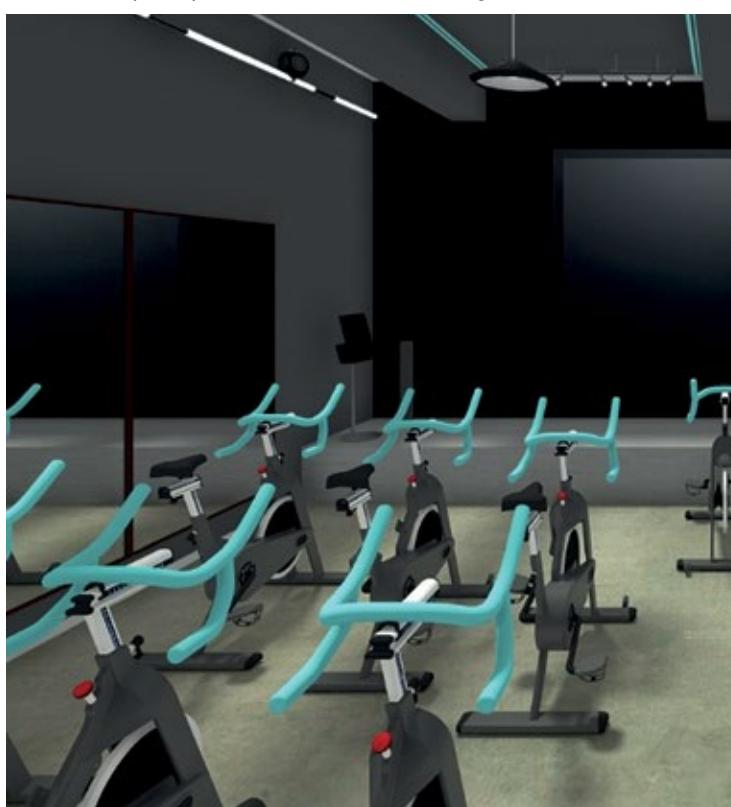
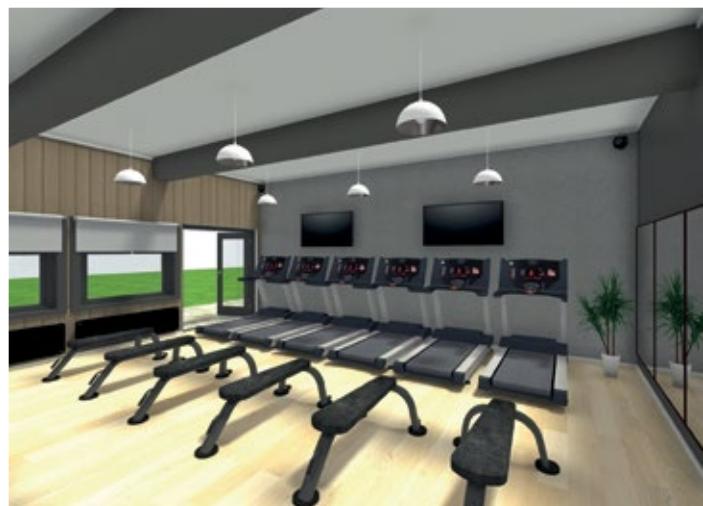
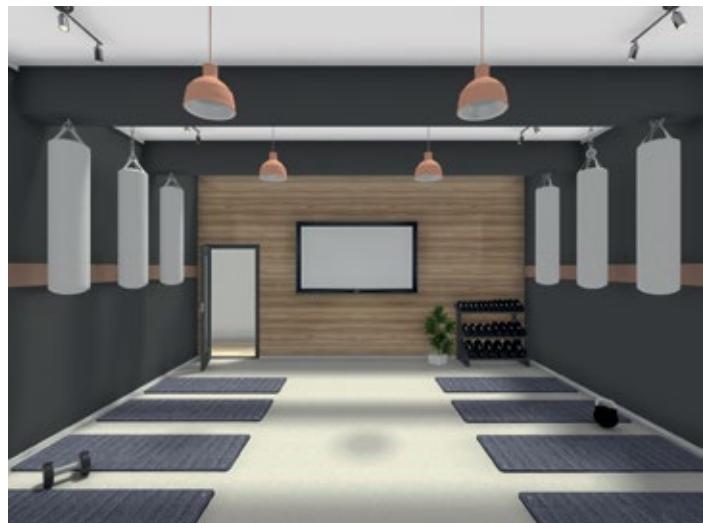
All delivered in state-of-the-art Indoor Cycling studio, Combat studio, HIIT training studio, wellbeing studio and outdoor exercise areas. Or come along and relax with a coffee or nutritious smoothie in the new refuel social area.

This will complement the existing facilities at the club with Sky and BT sports shown on 7 large screen TVs throughout the club. Safe

enclosed family beer garden and with planning for a state of the art 4G sports facility, and a wonderful newly refurbished tennis section social room.

"Whilst it is unfortunate that the club couldn't keep everyone happy all of the time, we have managed to ensure that the club has a future,

and we will be able to provide health, fitness and social activities for the local community at a time when it is most needed! We look forward to opening the doors to all existing members and welcoming new members of all ages from across the community in the very near future."



Campaigners expecting decision on historic Raven Inn within weeks

CAMPAINERS battling to save the historic Raven Inn at Glazebury, are expecting a decision on a planning application to demolish the premises within the next few weeks.

The proposals submitted to Warrington Borough Council involve demolition of the Raven Inn and replacing it with a small housing development.

Campaign spokesman Peter Sturman said: "We continue to make enquiries of the council and have been informed there should be a decision 'within a few weeks.'

"We are ready to recommence negotiations with the owners, in the event of a planning refusal, as indeed we remain equally determined to fight off any future developers, should that be the case.

"The support from the community

to save the Raven Inn continues to grow.

Mr Sturman added: "We are steadfast in our determination to save the Raven and bring it back to its former glory, this time as a community pub.

"There are so many exciting and positive ideas from our community. We must breathe new life into our iconic Raven."

Campaigners have previously been successful in having the pub listed as a community asset and offered to buy it off the owners to run it as a community interest company.



An artists impression of the proposed houses.



Campaigners pictured at The Raven Inn pre-pandemic.

Workshops plan for farm are approved

BOROUGH planning chiefs have given the go ahead for proposals to change the use of a former poultry shed to create six workshops or storage units at a Rixton farm.

The development, at Clevelands Farm, Moss Side Lane, was opposed by Rixton-with-Glazebrook Parish Council.

Members of the borough's development management committee were told the scheme involved changing the use of agricultural buildings formerly used as chicken sheds to six workshop/storage units, including re-cladding the building in a green box-profile cladding system.

The parish council had objected on parking and traffic issues, drainage concerns, ecology and a lack of information about the type of businesses expected to use the units.

Two nearby residents had also objected on parking and traffic grounds, pedestrian safety and concerns about industrial uses being introduced into the area.

But planning officers recommended the scheme be approved.

They argued that the principle of development was acceptable, there were no highway safety concerns and that the amenity of nearby residents would be protected from serious harm.



Discount food retailer opens at Birchwood creating 16 new jobs

DISCOUNT food retailer **OOPS!** has opened a brand new store in Birchwood Shopping Centre creating 16 new jobs.

The store, situated in the popular shopping centre, will become the fourth store for OOPS! in the North West in nine months, standing at 7,500sqft and situated in the unit previously occupied by Peacocks.

The OOPS! store has over 800 lines of low-price items, including a mixture of frozen, fresh and dry food. Along with an ever-growing range of soft drinks, cleaning products and toiletries with the team adding 63 new lines in the past four weeks alone – making it a one-stop-shop.

OOPS! is a brand-new concept in food retail, offering knockdown prices for hundreds of items. The retailer prevents products from being wasted by repurposing them, items may have ended up in the clearance section for a number of reasons, such as over-production, packaging errors, or the goods being the wrong shape. OOPS! has its own purpose-built manufacturing site in Liverpool where it repackages all items.

Food that was set to be surplus – but is more than safe to eat – is repackaged and stocked on the aisles for customers to purchase.

All products go through a strict testing process to ensure they are still perfect to serve as a tasty meal for family or friends.

Area Manager Darran O'Hara said: "We're confident that OOPS! will be a great addition to Birchwood and the Warrington community – we've had great success since opening our other three stores, even in a pandemic! We believe the store will be fantastic for the local community and we look forward to welcoming customers through the doors.

"At OOPS! we save food that would usually become surplus but is perfectly safe to eat, as well as many other items on your weekly shopping list. We see this as a sustainable business model offering quality items at unbeatable prices at a time when pennies are being stretched more than ever.

"We plan to open 30-40 stores over the next year and welcome many more team members across the North West, and we look forward to growing the OOPS! brand across the region."



Top ten finish as Iain races back into action

MOTORSPORT is back and local tyre specialist Iain Cameron from Culcheth Tyres has teamed up with Landsail Tyres to take on the MX-5 Cup.

The single-make Mazda series pits driver against driver in almost identical machines, leaving the results down to pure driving ability.

You will have no trouble picking Culcheth Tyres owner Iain out as he pilots his striking blue and yellow Landsail-branded MX-5 around the best motor racing tracks in Britain.

In the opening races at Donington Park on Easter Monday Iain secured top-10 finishes & earned Driver of the Day to get his campaign off to a great start.

"I'm thrilled to be racing and I wanted my car to catch the eye," said Iain. "Thanks to Landsail it does exactly that!"

Leigh Melling, brand manager for Landsail Tyres, said the brand was proud to work with Iain on the project.

"Iain knows Landsail Tyres well, he has been a valued dealer for a number of years," said Leigh. "When we spoke about his hopes to return in 2021 we were keen to help. Hopefully we will see it competing at the head of the field this year."

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Rugby boys get on their bikes for charity

WHEN the boys of Culcheth Eagles Under 13 Golds rugby team got back to training after lockdown they decided to help charity as well.

They decided to do a 100-mile sponsored cycle ride during May to raise much-needed funds for Prostate Cancer UK which, like many charities, has been hit hard by the pandemic.

Coach Mick Hodgkiss said: "The boys could have raised money for the team for exciting events during 2021 after a no start 2020 season, but they decided to kick off the season by giving to charity instead.

"It'll be a great event for our kids to do, they all have amazing hearts and are always ready to undertake

challenges on and off the pitch. They like raising money for the team, but they love it when they raise money for charities."

The U13 Golds have done a similar cycling fundraising event in the past to raise money for their team manager who was undergoing cancer treatment.

They have also organised coffee mornings for Macmillan and donating kits to Africa.

Anyone who would like to give to Prostate Cancer UK can do so at <https://prostatecanceruk.org/>

Daughters plan 10k a day for ten days in memory of former Wolves' player and coach Paul Darbyshire

THE daughters of former Warrington 'Wolves' player and coach Paul Darbyshire are set to run 10k a day for ten days to mark the 10th anniversary of their dad's death from Motor Neurone Disease.

Ella and Georgia Darbyshire from Winwick, Warrington are planning to do the charity challenge in June to raise funds for the The Motor Neurone Disease Association (MND).

They also lost their lovely Grandad John to this dreadful disease and miss them both so much.

They are really determined to try and raise as much money and awareness as they can for The MND. The Association focuses on

improving access to care, research and campaigning for those people living with or affected by motor neurone disease in England, Wales and Northern Ireland and hopefully one day will help to find a cure for this disease.

Paul, who died aged just 41, played rugby league for the Wolves for 10 years and stayed with the club in a coaching capacity after his retirement in 1997, before committing to Munster as head of strength and conditioning.

If anyone would like to kindly sponsor Ella & Georgia donations can be made on their just giving page as follows:

www.justgiving.com/fundraising/ellaandgeorgia-darbyshire



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[G12/20]

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[J10/20]

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[J3/21]

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[J12/20]

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[G*]

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[J2/21]

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[G1/21]

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[J9/20]

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[J3/21]

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[J2/21]

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BIG things are coming to Warrington campus this September!



Advanced Construction Training - We are building the future

Further Education colleges in Cheshire and Warrington have received money from the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) to deliver Advanced Construction Training (ACT). The main ACT hub will be situated at our Warrington campus and will feature lots of new specialist equipment.

Visit wvr.ac.uk/act to find out more.

We will be working with employers to deliver enhanced digitalised construction training, adopting digital and automated/ robotic construction techniques such as augmented and virtual reality, digital scanning of land and mass production through digital routers.



AMET is coming to Warrington campus!



Following the success of Winsford campus' Advanced Manufacturing & Engineering Training (AMET) Centre which opened last September, we are excited to announce the launch of a second AMET Centre at our Warrington campus! Our AMET Centres are one of the college's other LEP funded projects and focus on

teaching digital and advanced manufacturing and engineering. The centres house leading equipment to support the skills required for smarter manufacturing techniques and accelerate the adoption and use of Industrial Digital Technologies (IDTs) such as robotics, industrial control and digital intelligence.

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