

News and views from the South Cheshire Chamber of Commerce & Industry | **Q1 2025**

PAGE 6





SOUTH CHESHIRE CHAMBER 28TH ANNUAL BUSINESS AWARDS



Shine a spotlight on your achievements and be part of South Cheshire's most prestigious business celebrations

AWARD CATEGORIES INCLUDE:

- ★ Ambassador Of The Year
- ★ Apprentice Of The Year
- ★ Contribution To The Community
- ★ Employer Of The Year
- ★ Excellence In Collaboration
- ★ Excellence In Customer Service
- ★ International Trader Of The Year
- ★ Large Business Of The Year
- ★ Small Business Of The Year
- ★ Start-Up Business Of The Year

NOMINATE YOUR BUSINESS



📍 Crewe Hall Hotel & Spa

📅 Friday 14th November 2025

✉️ dominic.hibbert@sccci.co.uk

🌐 sccci.co.uk/business-awards

#SCCBA25

UPCOMING EVENTS



NET WALKING AT QUEENS PARK
09:30 – 11:00 | 06.06.25



CEO MONTHLY UPDATE
12:00 – 13:00 | 12.06.25



**FINAL FRIDAY WITH
MID CHESHIRE HOSPITALS CHARITY**
09:00 – 11:00 | 27.06.25

The next issue of South Cheshire Chamber Business Magazine is due out on July 15th 2025.

Deadline for copy is July 1st 2025.

For advertising Sales and Articles, please contact
Jon Barnes: 01270 445409 or jon.barnes@sccci.co.uk

CONTENTS

New Members	5
Cover Feature	6 - 7
In The Spotlight	8 - 9
Message From President & Chair	10
Community News	12 - 14
Start-up	15
Chamber Patrons	16 - 19
Chamber Premium Members	21
Charity News	23 - 25
Chamber Member News	27 - 31
Expert Eye	32 - 33
Pinboard	34

WHICH SOUTH CHESHIRE CHAMBER MEMBERSHIP IS RIGHT FOR YOU?

SIGNATURE

Our most popular package

- Access to the best attended networking events in South Cheshire
- Promote your business through our marketing channels
- Access to a business support package valued at £1,400+ a year
- Add your business to our online business directory
- Trusted, local business information
- International trade support and discounted export documentation

£39/ Month (inc. VAT)

EXECUTIVE

Maximising your membership

All Signature features plus:

- Access to Executive Insights - our monthly peer-to-peer support group
Topics include: HR Forum, Health & Wellbeing, Digital Edge, Grow Your Business, Meet The CEO
- Develop your young staff with 2 free spaces on our Young Members Network
- One-On-One annual review with our Chamber Management

£85/ Month (inc. VAT)

PREMIUM

Ultimate marketing package

All Executive features plus:

- Your logo on a banner at all of our events
- Send promotional emails to our database of 1,000+ local people
- Get exclusive opportunities to promote your business in our quarterly business magazine (readership ~7,500)
- Place an ad in our weekly newsletter and priority position to promote your news
- Get an exclusive Premium members badge and certificate

£250/ Month (inc. VAT)

ESSENTIALS: ONLINE MEMBERSHIP £18/ MONTH (INC. VAT)

Our Essentials package is an online membership option for organisations that want to be a part of the South Cheshire Chamber community but don't want to attend events or access most of the benefits included in our other packages.

All prices inclusive of VAT, minimum sign up term 12 months and information subject to change.
Check www.sccci.co.uk for updates.

The Chamber, or any of its agents/representatives/staff, cannot accept any legal liability for the accuracy of the news items and articles contained in the magazine, which have been obtained and are reproduced in good faith. The Chamber also reserves the right to edit articles submitted for publication or exclude them completely.



TO JOIN TODAY GO TO WWW.SCCCI.CO.UK



WELCOME

to the Chamber's magazine 'South Cheshire Business'

Crewe is entering a bold new chapter with the launch of One Crewe – a visionary initiative designed to celebrate the town's spirit, drive and achievements. One Crewe is uniting the community plus key local stakeholders from education and business to culture and charity with a shared mission to restore civic pride and transform public perception.

At its core, One Crewe is a movement. Backed by local organisations in the private and public sectors the campaign aims to showcase the good that exists across Crewe and surrounding areas. With a new website and active social media channels, the initiative is already amplifying positive stories and signposting local success, community efforts and events that highlight Crewe as a thriving, connected place to live, work and grow. (Page 6)

This commitment to championing local success is exemplified by Radius Solutions, one of the Chamber's newest Patron members. A longstanding and respected employer in the region, Radius continues to invest in people and innovation while contributing to the wider community. Their elevation to Chamber Patron underlines both their business success and

civic responsibility. In the spotlight feature we interview Lee Everett, Group CEO, Radius Solutions. (Page 8)

As One Crewe takes flight, the Chamber is proud to work alongside forward-thinking patrons like Radius to support the campaign's ethos of "speaking as one." Together, we are building a stronger, more confident Crewe – one story, one connection, one shared vision at a time.

I hope you enjoy this edition of Chamber Business, which highlights remarkable business achievements, outstanding community spirit, and the many ways our business community supports both the town and its residents.

The Chamber continues to grow and adapt to meet the evolving needs of our local businesses. Visit www.sccci.co.uk to discover the wide range of support, networking opportunities, and guidance we offer.

We hope you find this magazine both informative and inspiring. If your business has news to share or you're interested in advertising opportunities, please get in touch with Jon at the Chamber.

Wishing you and your business continued success in the months ahead.

MEET THE CHAMBER TEAM

Paul Colman
Chief Executive
✉ madeleine.abbey@sccci.co.uk

Jon Barnes
Chamber Manager
✉ Jon.barnes@sccci.co.uk

Jake Kennerley
Digital Marketing Manager
✉ Jake.kennerley@sccci.co.uk

Madeleine Abbey
Executive Assistant Policy Officer
✉ Madeleine.abbey@sccci.co.uk

Dominic Hibbert
Events & Marketing Co-ordinator
✉ Dominic.hibbert@sccci.co.uk

Jane Booth
Export Document Administrator
✉ Jane.booth@sccci.co.uk

Courtney Dodd
Events Administrator
✉ Courtney.dodd@sccci.co.uk

Richard Weilding
Business Advisor
✉ Richard.weilding@sccci.co.uk

Anne Xiourouppa
Accounts
✉ Anne.xiourouppa@sccci.co.uk

Dianne Parrish
Business Connector Cheshire Connect

Sarah Emes-Young
Project Manager - Local Skills Improvement
✉ Sarah.emes-young@sccci.co.uk

Paul Colman

Paul Colman Chief Executive ✉ @SCCCI_CEO

SOUTH CHESHIRE CHAMBER PATRONS



WHY SHOULD YOU JOIN A CHAMBER OF COMMERCE?

A chamber of commerce is a collection of local businesses who have come together to further their own interests and those of their community.



PROMOTE YOUR BUSINESS

You gain access to a wealth of promotional opportunities. List your business on our online members directory. Share your successes with our social media audience. Why not showcase your expertise with an article in our magazine or newsletter? If you're hosting an event, promote it on our online members area or even sponsor one of our Chamber events.



NETWORKING IN CHESHIRE

We host a variety of events – both online and offline – throughout the year. Ranging from Final Fridays for an informal networking breakfast to our Annual Awards dinner where we celebrate the hard work and achievements of our community.



BUSINESS SUPPORT

No matter the size or age of your business, everyone needs support at times. Chamber membership offers you support which, for smaller businesses, may not be available in house. You can access 24/7 advice lines covering HR, Legal, Health & Safety and Tax. As well as an online library of 700 documents and templates such as employee handbooks and interview forms.



INTERNATIONAL TRADE

If you're looking to trade internationally, we help local businesses go global. Our experts can guide you through the documentation and latest regulations. Members can receive up to 50% off export documents!

Meet the South Cheshire Chamber of Commerce & Industry NEW MEMBERS

A500 Tech Solutions LTD
sales@a500.co.uk
a500.co.uk
01270 882525

Alstom Engineering and Services Limited
richard.barr@alstomgroup.com
<https://www.alstom.com/>
01270 500333

Apple Safety Services Limited
sales@applesafetyservices.com
07904 491862

Caremark Cheshire Southeast
paul.rogers@caremark.co.uk
caremark.co.uk/cheshire-southeast
01270 385025

Cheshire Booth Company
info@cheshireboothcompany.co.uk
cheshireboothcompany.co.uk
07452 885889

Cheshire Trees Services
cheshiretrees@hotmail.co.uk
07875 010255

Crewe Amateur Musicals Society
creweamscheshire@gmail.com
07875 606531

D & S Electrical Distributors Limited
rich@dandselectrical.com
dandselectrical.co.uk
01270 302009

David Sigley Horticultural Specialists
davidsigleyhs@hotmail.com
davidsigley.co.uk
07852 121037

DTM Legal
georgia.morris@dtmlegal.com
dtmlegal.com
07850 082734

INSUL8 Ltd
info@insul8ltd.co.uk
insul8.co.uk
01270 814145

Jo Thacker Counselling
JoThacker@protonmail.com
jothackercounselling.com
077327 75387

Maintain Independence
info@maintainindependence.co.uk
maintainindependence.co.uk
07359 345125

Modus Personnel
jay@moduspersonnel.com
moduspersonnel.com
03301 748222

Mundo Enterprises
contact@mundoenterprises.co.uk
mundoenterprises.co.uk
07507 126966

Nantwich Agricultural Society
info@nantwichshow.org
nantwichshow.org
07886 633370

NOW Financial Planning
nowceri@sipp.co.uk
nowfinancial.co.uk
07518 077003

PA Today Ltd
pa@patodayuk.co.uk
patodayuk.co.uk
07938 549876

Pink Spaghetti Nantwich & Crewe
rachel.calter@pink-spaghetti.co.uk
pink-spaghetti.co.uk/contact-us/
virtual-assistant-nantwich-crewe/
03333 556625

Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Centre
pushpi@rapecentre.org.uk
rapecentre.org.uk
03303 630063

Reports4 Ltd.
info@reports4.com
reports4.com
01260 711002

State2 Security Ltd
charles@state2security.co.uk
state2security.co.uk
07947 858896

Telecoms Group International Ltd
sales@intellect-comms.co.uk
intellect-comms.com
01270 814814

Warbrook Creative
simon@warbrookcreative.co.uk
warbrookcreative.co.uk
07967 967610

Weaver Dane (Nantwich) Ltd
info@weaverdane.co.uk
weaverdane.co.uk
08000 938516



Linda de Sá
Visyon

MEMBER FEEDBACK

South Cheshire Chamber is a great way for Visyon to not only share our free services with those members who are parents but also for networking with those wishing to support local children and young people with their mental health. An event that I had avoided, due to being nervous, was the Speed Networking! Dom convinced me that it wasn't scary and he was right, it was a very friendly group and an amazing way to meet with lots of people in a short space of time. Not only was the event 'speedy' it also fast-tracked the support that followed as the asks during the event were much more direct than they would be when going to traditional networking events. If you haven't tried it please do!

If you would like to share a testimonial, please send it through to jon.barnes@sccci.co.uk

For further details and dates of forthcoming Chamber events visit my.sccci.co.uk/events.html

» For more information and event listings or if you wish to promote your own event please visit the Chamber Member Portal: www.sccci.co.uk

Our Vision
Inspiring and supporting our vibrant business community.

Our Mission Statement
We support the ambition of our members and help create greater prosperity for South Cheshire.

For more information on how the Chamber can help your business please contact
Manager Jon Barnes on jon.barnes@sccci.co.uk

» We will always strive to help our businesses shape the economy for the better, and you can feedback to us on the issues affecting your business. We report both directly to local government and regional bodies and to central government through the British Chambers of Commerce network, so please get in touch with the team or email us at info@sccci.co.uk

We are all One Crewe



WELCOME TO ONE CREWE

Rich in industrial heritage and home to many great businesses. Perfectly placed for motorway and rail travel yet close to open countryside. Sound like anywhere you know? Yes - we're talking Crewe.

There's no denying the obstacles facing Crewe like many other post-industrial towns. The town centre continues to suffer setbacks with regeneration and the railway infrastructure remains dated and need of investment.

Look beyond that to wider Crewe and the pockets of hardworking local people doing good for their communities.

The major employers and manufacturers of global repute. The small businesses and community organisations all doing their bit to support jobs, wellbeing and livelihoods.

Imagine a safe place to harness that drive and enthusiasm and to celebrate all that is great and good about Crewe. A place to 'big' up Crewe and restore civic pride. Introducing One Crewe.

One Crewe is built on core values which epitomise the town and surrounds:

- **People powered:** Crewe has a proud industrial heritage. The people of Crewe built the town from the ground up, creating a place of celebrated businesses across all sectors including manufacturing, digital and creativity.
- **Crewe gets things done:** There's an active and engaged community, ready to roll up its sleeves and embrace change. People care about their green spaces, wellbeing of young people and love to nurture talent in sports.
- **Building connections:** Crewe is a place of potential, building pathways for skills, careers and living. It joins the dots between surrounding towns, ideally positioned to benefit residents, visitors and businesses.
- **Green and leafy:** While well connected for road and rail travel, Crewe has lush countryside on its doorstep. There's a rural vibe.

Who's involved

Many big names are backing the campaign to 'change the narrative' about Crewe and encourage local people to 'take pride' in their town again.

South Cheshire Chamber of Commerce is delighted to be part of One Crewe. Other key stakeholders include Crewe Town Council, Cheshire East Council, Crewe Alexandra FC, Cheshire College South & West, Crewe BID, Crewe Youth Zone, Crewe Lyceum Theatre, Crewe Hall and Her Place Charitable Trust, previously known as Motherwell Cheshire in Crewe.

Jointly the aim is to create a visual identity for Crewe which feels 'inspiring, vibrant and positive' by providing a platform for regular communications supporting the town and neighbouring areas such as Wistaston, Haslington, Sydney, Weston, Shavington and Hough.

One Crewe is determined to shout out about the good and banish negativity.

"There is a genuine need to inform the local community about all the good things that are going on in and around Crewe.

"There is pride and we want to build on that. It's time to reset the balance - Crewe is indeed a great place to live and work" – One Crewe

Paul Colman, Chamber chief executive, added:

"One Crewe has a committed group of local stakeholders who want to share positivity and inspire people to believe and take pride in Crewe again."

"One key change is to provide a central focus for positive news and messaging around investments and developments within Crewe but also all the great news its people generate."

"We have a common goal to drive forward the marketing for Crewe, attract investment and see the town prosper but also to change the perception of Crewe in the hearts of minds of local people."

What's next

One Crewe is developing a website where good news and useful information will be shared – and wants to hear all about your community organisations, events, charitable activities, business news and more. Go to onecrewe.co.uk

**» Want to be part of the One Crewe campaign?
Follow One Crewe on social media and send your news to news@onecrewe.co.uk**

In the Spotlight with...



Lee Everett
Group CEO, Radius



South Cheshire Chamber of Commerce is delighted to welcome Radius as Patrons.

Radius, a major employer of more than 1000 people across multiple sites in Crewe, joins the prestigious ranks of businesses and organisations supporting the Chamber mission to develop the local economy and create greater prosperity for South Cheshire.

Radius keeps the world moving with a wide-range of fleet mobility and connectivity solutions including fuel cards, telematics, vehicle leasing, EV charge points, telematics and telecoms. Here we learn more about Radius and meet Group CEO Lee Everett.

1. Radius began 35 years ago as a truck fuel card business called UK Fuels. The company was set up in a small office above a hairdressing salon in Holmes Chapel and has remained true to its local roots with UK headquarters still on Crewe Business Park. The company has experienced phenomenal growth, now with 55 offices in 19 different countries. What's been the driving force behind that growth?

First let me say how glad we are to become Patrons of the South Cheshire Chamber of Commerce. We're looking forward to working with the other members to keep Crewe and

the surrounding area a vibrant business community. As you say, the Radius journey started in 1990 when UK Fuels was founded. Since then, our ambition to grow year after year has never really wavered and has seen us venture into new markets and stay ahead of market trends. The cornerstone of our business is an organic growth model. We've complemented this with strategic acquisitions in recent years and established new partnerships to create the global business we have today. As we grew, so did the strength of our team, who continue to expand and enhance our offering. We are immensely proud of our heritage, but also looking forward to the exciting future. For Bill Holmes, our Executive Chairman and founder, and myself, the undoubted highlight of the year so far was celebrating the company's 35th Anniversary at the Radius Starball in March. We welcomed 1300 of our colleagues from across the globe to a gala dinner, reflecting together on how much the company has changed from our beginnings as a fuel card reseller to the transport companies in the Northwest of England to where we are now, a multinational mobility services business with a presence in 19 countries serving almost 450,000 business customers.

2. Our Chamber Patrons are ambassadors at the forefront of the South Cheshire business community, helping to shape its future and development. How do you hope to influence change and what do you look forward to as a Patron?

First and foremost, we're looking forward to being part of the community of like-minded business leaders in South Cheshire, regularly communicating and collaborating with them to ensure that this remains a great location for us to invest in as our global headquarters. That requires not only an attractive physical infrastructure for the town, but also supporting and developing our community in and around Crewe. After all, our employees based here are the backbone of the workforce we rely on to drive the business

day in day out. Secondly as you've pointed out, we're proud of the role our business plays in Crewe and we'll continue to be an ambassador for the town as we encourage our partners from around the UK to jump on the train and come and visit us here, see how well connected and convenient the town is, and the state of the art facilities we and other businesses provide their teams.

3. Your fuel offering remains the largest global business unit in the group, with over 1.5 million fuel cards in use across 11 countries. Tell us more about how that works.

Our core fuel card business continues to perform strongly. In the last year we've grown customer numbers in all our markets including established ones such as the UK, Ireland, Germany, Belgium and Italy. Sometimes people I speak to externally are surprised by the continued growth in our biggest business while seeing electrification and the energy transition in the media. We continue to perform well in Fuel cards because we focus on our customer relationships and product development; we have a great supply partner network and are continually increasing the number of forecourts available across Europe to serve our customers, giving them more opportunities to fuel where it's convenient for them. Beyond traditional fuel we have invested in our EV charging partner network for our customers who have made the transition to hybrid or electric vehicles.

4. You've recently also added Energy broking to your portfolio of products which has gained traction as energy prices soar. How does that work?

We acquired an energy broking business called Powerhouse Energy a couple of years ago and have integrated it into our Radius business relatively quickly as we saw a nice overlap of the offering to our customer base and it's fit with the simple core Radius value proposition. Our team are able to quickly search the market and find the best

deal for businesses of all sizes and it's very light touch for customers while offering big potential savings at a time when the cost of doing business is at the forefront of everyone's mind. Some of our bigger clients have saved really eye-opening amounts by switching providers with us, and for many smaller businesses even if we're able to save them a few thousand pounds it's a big help.

5. Radius is trusted by nearly 450,000 businesses all over the world to help them grow and become more productive. Tell us about any new products and services.

A key focus for our business going forward will be telematics. This encompasses vehicle tracking, dash cameras, and asset tracking devices and software. This market is growing fast as more businesses want to be connected to their vehicles and assets, driving efficiency, safety and security. We've doubled down on this as a business in recent years. In fact, our new telematics headquarters, which opened in Arden Square last March, was built for the team of over 300 telematics product developers, software engineers, marketing, sales, installation and customer support staff to work together under one roof. We're encouraged by our progress so far with close to 600,000 connected vehicle which makes us one of the biggest players in Europe and a growing footprint in Asia, Australia, New Zealand, and the United States.

6. Your mission is to help companies of all sizes adapt to market changes and take advantage of the opportunities they bring. One big change is electric vehicles, how are you supporting the transition?

Whilst the continued development of our EV and alternative fuels strategy is a major focus for Radius, to date, the impact of customers transitioning away from conventional fuels remains quite low. Despite this, our investment in this area remains critical for us to support those customers in their future transition. With government announcements

from both the UK and the EU pushing back the end of sales for internal combustion engine (ICE) vehicles by a further 5 years (2035) alongside challenges to charging infrastructure, it has meant that fewer business customers appear to be ready to commit in the short term to an EV commercial vehicle. Looking forward, we remain primed for the EV transition in commercial fleets when it accelerates. We have a full-service EV product solution to provide customers with value and convenience. We can install, manage and provide energy for office charge points, as well as offer a convenient on the road charging network to use. Our vehicle solutions team can provide leasing options both EV vans but also employee cars on 'salary sacrifice' schemes. I'd encourage Chamber members in Crewe with EVs to go and try our new ultra-fast DC charger we've just opened at the Eurocard building on Herald Drive, Crewe.

7. With more than 2,800 team members worldwide, you aim to create an outstanding employee experience. What's your strategy for attracting a high-calibre people?

Our talented team based in Crewe and across the globe continue to be our competitive advantage and are fundamental to driving the business forward. I think the main thing that attracts high calibre talent to Radius is the career opportunities that are available to them in a large growing business at any stage of their career. Our graduate programme, now in its third year, provides new hires with exciting roles in the business from day one. They get real responsibilities from the outset, and then in year two and three they grow further with people and process management experience, often moving internationally as well. We've trained all our team leaders via the gold standard Management Essentials course, providing structure and skills around running successful teams. With the increasing size of Radius and the multiple business units, we can give ambitious future leaders career moves to run different industry sub-sector

teams, learning new skills and taking on the challenge of international assignments.

8. Lee, you have been with Radius for 15 years, rising from Commercial Director for fuel in the UK to Group CEO in 2023. What would you say have been your main achievements and what do you like most about your role?

The continued highlight for me is working with a talented team who've grown the business year on year and built the organisation from 400 employees when I joined in 2010 up to 2800 now in 2025. During that time, I've seen the group expand both geographically and also increase the range of products we offer customers. On a personal level, I've also taken satisfaction from seeing the team grow in their roles and responsibilities over the years, earning promotions and bringing on the next generation of Radius leaders.

9. With offices across five continents, you spend a great deal of time travelling. Is that something you enjoy?

I really enjoy being in the different offices around the world and meeting the teams that are driving the business forward. Each office is different for various reasons; the local culture, their market opportunities and challenges, and it makes every day's approach a little different and keeps me learning continually as we establish a bigger footprint around the world.

10. Finally, you are a father-of-three, how do you strike a work-life balance?

The culture we have at Radius is quite unique. We work hard but respect people's personal time. Holidays and weekends are important for the team to disconnect from work and spend time with their family, friends and pastimes, and I'd like to think we respect this time. Having said that...you may want to ask my wife!

Message from our President



During my time at the Chamber there have been a number of major events such as the financial crash of the 2008, Brexit, Covid in 2019 and more recently the war in Ukraine amongst many others, the fall-out from all of which, at the time, caused economic uncertainty and presented major challenges to businesses globally, nationally and of course locally here in South Cheshire.

At the moment all eyes are on the United States and the extensive Tariffs that have been unleashed by President Trump in an attempt to stabilise and grow the American economy.

Let us hope that by the time this article is published, there has been some moderation in the tariff situation and that a favourable Trade

Deal has been agreed between the UK and the USA which, at the very least would go some way towards easing some of the pressures that businesses are feeling, particularly those involved in exporting.

In the meantime, Businesses in the UK are beginning to come to terms with the reality of the various measures introduced in last years budget which have recently come into effect.

The headlines, of course are the increase in Employers National Insurance and the increase in the minimum wage and it will be interesting to see the knock-on effect of these two measures on jobs and investment.

However it is not just these two cost increases that businesses are facing and there are a number of other areas which have been much less publicised and for some may have gone under the radar. For example, there has been a significant increase in water rates and also for those in the retail, hospitality and leisure sectors there is a large increase in business rates.

I am aware of this from my association with Nantwich Town Football Club where our business rates have nearly doubled because the business rate relief for this year has been reduced from 75% to 40% for this sector.

These are just a few examples of the challenges that the Chamber understands that our members are facing and we are gearing up our services to give help and support wherever we can.

I have repeatedly said that one of the great characteristics of the South Cheshire business community is its resilience and ability to adapt and overcome the various challenges that it is confronted with. I would not expect it to be any different this time and I am sure that we will once again see the evidence of this at our Annual Business Awards later in the year.

Meanwhile on the local political front Cheshire and Warrington have been confirmed as part of the Governments devolution priority programme.

This means that the regions outline plans to set up a Combined Authority and hold Mayoral elections in May 2026 have been accepted in principle by Government.

In readiness to respond to these new arrangements, discussions have already started, under the auspices of our recently formed company, the South and North Cheshire Chamber of Commerce about how we can enhance and improve the role of our Business Council by combining the strength the South Cheshire and Macclesfield business communities as a strong voice and advocate for our local economy.

It is important that there is proper opportunity for the business voice to be heard at the highest possible level and therefore these discussions will continue over the coming months and we will keep you informed of progress.

John Dunning
President

Message from our Chair



Business Challenges and Opportunities: A Chairman's Update for South Cheshire Chamber of Commerce

As I sit down to write this in late April, the sun is shining, yet the business world continues to present both challenges and opportunities. Since my last update, we've all had to adjust to a number of pressing issues. One of the biggest

changes has been the reality of last autumn's budget. The significant increase in wage bills—driven by the rise in national insurance and the minimum wage—is now being felt across the board. Here at the Marina, as I'm sure is the case for many businesses, we're looking at ways to streamline our operations, with greater emphasis on technology to maintain efficiency and keep headcount costs under control. However, there's no avoiding the fact that this is a real and persistent increase in fixed costs.

More recently, the turbulence caused by events in America has added another layer of uncertainty. I've attended two tariff-related webinars, including a fantastic one led by the British Chamber of Commerce, and while none of the news feels optimistic, there is a silver lining. Much like the post-Covid consumer reaction, we are seeing a "turn off the news and carry on regardless" mentality. In my leisure sector, customers are still spending, and that's a positive sign.

Locally, the South Cheshire Chamber continues to support businesses, working

behind the scenes to represent our interests and create a vibrant business community. We recently hosted a successful Netwalking event, and there's more to come from our collaborations with the North Cheshire Chamber—watch this space.

At Aqueduct Marina, we've been making strides of our own. We've installed solar panels, benefiting from both the sunshine and a grant from Cheshire East. After a brief planning delay, we're also thrilled to have received permission for new lodges.

As always, I remain optimistic. The challenges are real, but so are the opportunities, and together, we will continue to thrive. And on a final note—let's hope we see some rain soon; the canals don't work without it!

Robert Parton
Chair



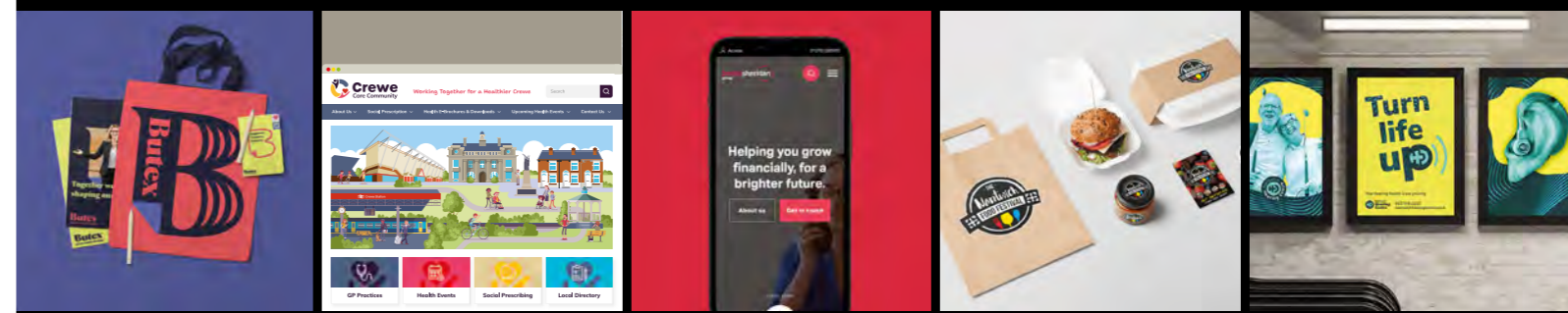
TRCREATIVE

SINCE 2009

An agency for good, working with brands to benefit people and the planet

STRATEGY | BRAND | MARKETING | WEB

Let us fuel your brand's potential



AWARDS AND FEATURES



TRCREATIVE.CO.UK

TRCREATIVE, RIVERSIDE, 3 FIRST WOOD STREET, NANTWICH, CHESHIRE, CW5 5EG



Renowned street artist unveils photorealistic mural for Crewe Art Trail



'Making Crewe' Mural by AKSE P19 based on a historic image taken in April 1913 on the day of the Royal visit. The image shows the view of the Iron Bridge and Chester Line that would have been in this location prior to the creation of Deviation Works. The original image the design is based on belongs to the LNWR Society. Credit: Akse P19.

The artwork (named 'Making Crewe') has been completed by renowned artist Akse P19, who based his street art design upon a historic image taken in 1913 (during the Royal Visit) of the Iron Bridge and Chester Line that would have been in the same location 112 years ago. The mural has been created on the side of the Crewe Town Council building on Forge Street and is the fourth public art commission for the Crewe Art Trail.

Akse P19 has been painting murals since 1992 and specialises in photorealistic portraits.

The Crewe Art Trail officially launched in February of this year, with an activity-packed programme of free community events based on the new artworks featured in the Art Trail. Four new artworks in total were commissioned for the Crewe Art Trail from artists across the UK, including:

'Re-Making Crewe' mural (2024) High Street

'Stitching Together: Women of Crewe' embroidered duster artwork installation (2024) (will be installed at Crewe Heritage Centre)

'We Make Crewe' ceramic mural (2025) located on the side of the Market Shopping Centre

The Crewe Art Trail

Crewe Town Council was awarded central government UKSPF funding to deliver an Arts Development Project, consolidating the Town Council's commitment to developing arts and culture within the town. The 'Making Crewe' street art mural is an extension by Crewe Town Council to the initial UKSPF funded project.

A spokesperson for Crewe Town Council said:

"We are delighted to feature the work of Akse P19 in the trail alongside other renowned artists. The mural design developed by the artist in consultation with local people, including the Heritage Group, pays tribute to Crewe's heritage while giving passers by a window into the past."

» www.crewetowncouncil.gov.uk/whats-on-events/crewe-arts-development-programme/



A close-up image of the Akse P19 street art mural 'Making Crewe'. Credit: Peter Robinson.



A close-up image of the Akse P19 street art mural 'Making Crewe'. Credit: Peter Robinson.



Mosaic tile mural 'We Make Crewe' by artist Carrie Reichardt, YMCA, Cheshire Buddies and Crewe community featuring handcrafted tiles and heritage imagery. Credit: Peter Robinson.



'Re-Making Crewe' mural on High Street, Crewe by artist Cherie Grist, YMCA, Cheshire College – South and West, Visyon Creative Connections programme at the Lyceum Theatre, Cheshire East Youth Justice team and Cheshire Buddies. Credit: Crewe Town Council.

Young Enterprise Empowers Crewe's Future Workforce with Bentley Funding



YOUNG ENTERPRISE

PROGRAMMES AND SERVICES 2024/25

YOUNG enterprise
A Member of JA Worldwide

www.young-enterprise.org.uk

Young Enterprise (YE) is thrilled to announce its continued success in empowering young people in Crewe, thanks to a third year of grant from Bentley's Advancing Life Chances Fund through the Cheshire Community Foundation. This funding has been instrumental in preparing learners for the future world of work, equipping them with vital financial capabilities and enterprising mindsets.

Over the past three years, students from Cheshire College South and West (Crewe campus), Sir William Stanier School, The Oaks Academy, and Crewe Engineering and Design UTC have participated in a range of transformative YE programmes. These include:

- Company Programme: YE's flagship entrepreneurial experience, where teams of young people set up and run their own trading business over an academic year.
- Launchpad: A dynamic one-day enterprise challenge, where students work in teams to launch a fledgling business.
- Employability Masterclass: A comprehensive workshop guiding learners through job hunting, applications, and interviews.

As we enter 2025, YE is committed to sustaining the momentum achieved and continuing to provide opportunities for Crewe's young people. By developing skills,

confidence, and financial capability, we aim to ensure that every learner is prepared to thrive in an ever-changing world.

We are also grateful for the South Cheshire Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCCI) for sharing our vision and helping us spread the word through their magazine. Whether you're an educator, employer, parent, or potential volunteer, we'd love to hear from you!

» **Together, we can extend our reach and impact in Crewe. Contact us today to learn more and join the mission to build a brighter future for Crewe's young talent.**

Viv Couche, Senior Relationship Manager viv.couche@y-e.org.uk



"We work directly with young people, teachers, parents, and businesses to help build a successful and sustainable future for all young people and society at large."



TO JOIN TODAY GO TO WWW.SCCCI.CO.UK

Krazy Races returns to Crewe in 2025



The fantastic free-to-attend Krazy Races event will return to Crewe on Sunday 25th May 2025!

Krazy Races took Crewe by storm last July, with over 15,000 spectators cheering on the wacky soapbox creations designed, built and raced by more than 30 local teams. Due to overwhelming public demand, the popular event—run by Sarah Belcher Events—has been invited back again by Crewe Town Council, who are responsible for introducing the Krazy Races experience to Crewe.

As the UK's largest free-to-attend soapbox derby event, Krazy Races has attracted over 250,000 attendees across the country and raised more than £150,000 for local charities, including £10,000 for Crewe and Cheshire-based organisations, and the organisers are hoping to raise even more in 2025.

The search is now on for up to 40 local teams from businesses, schools, colleges, charities, and groups of friends and families to take part.

Teams brave enough to take on the Krazy Races challenge will race downhill starting from Ford Lane, making a sharp turn onto Broad Street, and zooming past Brooklands to the finish line just before Badger Avenue. Organisers are expecting a crowd of up to 20,000 spectators to line the streets, cheering the teams on.

Within Brooklands, an event village will be created, featuring local food traders, family entertainment, and a large screen for families to enjoy picnics, whilst watching the action unfold.



More than 30 local teams participated in Crewe Krazy Races 2024 – applications are now open for the 2025 event! Credit: Peter Robinson.



An event village will be created on Brooklands, featuring food and street traders and live entertainment. Credit: Peter Robinson

In addition to the races, Krazy Races is inviting local sponsors and businesses to join the fun, with plans for local entertainment, food stalls, and more to create a day to remember – all while showcasing the best of Crewe.

A spokesperson from Crewe Town Council commented:

“The first free-to-attend Krazy Races event in July was a great success with the Crewe community and generated a huge buzz in the town! It was clear that there was a strong demand for Krazy Races to return and we have been exploring how we can make that happen with the organisers. We are delighted that the event will be visiting Crewe again in May 2025 and excited to see a new group of soapbox creations compete, all whilst raising money for local charitable causes.”

Danny Scoffin, Head of Brand & Strategic Development for Krazy Races, said:

Blue Peter presenters Shini Muthukrishnan and Joel Mawhinney took part in the Crewe 2024 Krazy Races with soapbox cars created with local schools. Credit: Peter Robinson.



“Living in Crewe myself, it was such a special day seeing so many people enjoying our event. We had fantastic teams representing some of Crewe's most iconic businesses and charities. From the moment the event finished in July, we've been inundated with messages asking us to bring it back. A huge thank you to our event partners, Crewe Town Council, for their continued support. We can't wait to bring another day of Krazy fun to Crewe!”

Applications for teams to enter are now open, with organisers seeking 20-40 teams to participate in a knockout-style competition featuring multiple trophies.

Participating teams and spectators are encouraged to raise funds for charity, with the headline charity for the event recently announced as New Life – the Charity for Disabled Children. New Life has supported multiple families in Crewe over recent years, all of whom have received specialist equipment for their disabled children through the charity.

There will also be an opportunity for other attending charities to fundraise at the event in May.

» For more information, visit the Krazy Races website: www.krazyraces.co.uk

The Journey of Daniel Matthias Architecture

DMA DANIEL MATTHIAS ARCHITECTURE



In 2011, as a seasoned architectural technologist, with almost two decades of experience in the architecture and construction industry, I decided to take the bold step of establishing Architectural Drafting Services (ADS) in Alsager, Cheshire. My vision was to provide bespoke architectural solutions that catered to the unique needs of each client.

Over time, ADS grew as it earned a reputation for high-quality, creative designs. Recognising the need for expansion and a stronger brand presence, ADS was rebranded as Daniel Matthias Architecture Ltd (DMA) in 2021. This transformation coincided with our relocation to Betchton, Cheshire, and an expansion of the team, reflecting the firm's growth and ambition.

Today, DMA specialises in residential architecture, offering creative solutions for new builds, extensions, and interior remodels. The company also handles commercial properties, listed buildings, and conservation projects, showcasing its versatility. By 2024, we celebrated working with our 1,000th client, marking a major milestone in our journey.

My story tells a tale of vision, resilience, determination, and the ability to adapt—qualities that are essential for anyone looking to start a business.

My Top Tips for Starting a Business

Starting a business requires careful planning, dedication, and resilience. Here are some essential tips for aspiring entrepreneurs:

1. Identify Your Niche and Unique Selling Point (USP)

I recognised a gap in high-quality, client-focused architecture and built my business around it. Find what sets you apart from competitors and make it the core of your brand.

2. Start Small, Scale Gradually

DMA began as a small drafting service before expanding. Avoid overextending too soon—start with manageable projects, build credibility, and grow strategically.

3. Prioritise Customer Experience

A satisfied client is your best marketing tool. Personalised service, attention to detail, and reliability were key to DMA's success, helping me gain repeat business and referrals.

4. Embrace Branding and Online Presence

Rebranding from ADS to DMA helped establish a stronger identity. Invest in a professional website, social media, and local marketing to build credibility and attract clients.

5. Stay Adaptable and Keep Learning

The business world is ever-changing. Stay ahead by upgrading skills, keeping up with industry trends, and embracing new technologies—just as DMA evolved to meet modern architectural demands.

The Benefits and Pitfalls of Entrepreneurship

Benefits of Starting Your Own Business

- **Independence & Creative Freedom** – You make the decisions and shape your company's vision.
- **Financial Potential** – If successful, you can earn more than in a traditional job.
- **Personal Growth** – Running a business enhances leadership, problem-solving, and resilience.
- **Flexibility** – You can set your own schedule and work on projects you're passionate about.

Pitfalls to Watch Out For

- **Financial Risk** – Startups often face cash flow challenges. Budget wisely and have a financial cushion.
- **Work-Life Balance** – Business owners often work longer hours than employees. Time management is key.
- **Uncertainty & Stress** – The pressure of decision-making, competition, and economic shifts can be overwhelming.
- **Legal & Administrative Challenges** – Compliance, taxes, and permits can be complex. Seek professional guidance when needed.

» **Daniel Matthias**
contact@architecture-dma.co.uk
 Tel: 01270 346033

Assurant steps up for local charity and earns Best Workplace recognition

Assurant has once again demonstrated its commitment to the South Cheshire community, stepping in to support My CWA (Cheshire Without Abuse) at a critical time. The domestic abuse charity, one of Britain's longest serving, is facing the devastating prospect of closing its vital support centre and survivor services following confirmation that local council funding will cease beyond April 2025.

In response, Assurant held a fundraising day at its European head office, bringing employees together to raise awareness and much-needed funds. To further support this crucial cause, the company has also made a \$10,000 donation through the Assurant Foundation, helping My CWA continue providing essential services. Assurant employees have actively contributed through skill-sharing, fundraising, and donation drives.

In addition to making an impact in the local community, Assurant is also celebrating a major milestone as a workplace. The company has been named on the Great Place to Work UK Best Workplaces list for 2025 in the large organisation category, achieving its highest-ever ranking at number

17. This recognition reflects Assurant's dedication to fostering a culture of trust, inclusivity, and employee engagement. The company's ongoing commitment to creating an outstanding workplace experience continues to set it apart as an employer of choice.

With strong roots in South Cheshire, Assurant remains dedicated to both supporting local causes and leading the way in workplace culture. Want to join the team? Visit [Assurant.co.uk](https://www.assurant.co.uk) to learn more.



Bentley Motors becomes Founder Patron of The Dome



Bentley Motors has become a Founder Patron of The Dome Youth Zone, further strengthening its commitment to the local Crewe community.

The company has donated £25,000 to The Dome Youth Zone, with plans to continue supporting the initiative through annual donations over four years. This investment will help provide state-of-the-art facilities, dedicated youth work support, and fresh opportunities for thousands of young people in Crewe.

To mark the occasion, Sally Hepton, Director of Government Relations and Sustainable Luxury, and Abbie Brown, Community

Investment Manager at Bentley, presented a handcrafted plaque to the Crewe Youth Zone team. Meticulously created using Bentley's world-renowned veneer techniques, the plaque serves as a symbol of the long-term partnership.

Sally Hepton said: "At Bentley, we are passionate about inspiring and investing in future generations. Becoming a Founder Patron of The Dome Youth Zone is a natural extension of our commitment to empowering young people in our community. We believe that access to high-quality spaces, guidance, and opportunities can transform lives, and we are proud to support The Dome in making that a reality."

Stuart Manifold, CEO at Crewe Youth Zone, added:

"To have a prestigious brand like Bentley supporting The Dome is wonderful. Their generosity will help ensure Crewe's young people get the opportunity to explore their passion and potential."

Community engagement is a core element of Bentley's global mission and is embedded within its Beyond100+ strategy. With a proud history of collaboration, Bentley has supported local communities for decades, particularly in Crewe and the surrounding Cheshire area. This commitment includes partnerships with educational institutions such as the Crewe Engineering & Design University Technical College (UTC).

In recent years, Bentley has significantly expanded its charitable contributions across the UK. In 2023, Bentley supported over 320 charitable donations and projects and by 2024, this number had grown to 450 charitable initiatives, benefiting around 40,000 people nationwide.



Region's top apprentices and employers recognised at Cheshire College's Apprenticeship Awards



Cheshire College – South & West concluded National Apprenticeship Week with a prestigious 2025 Apprenticeship Awards ceremony at its Crewe Campus. The event celebrated outstanding apprentices and employers dedicated to developing skilled professionals.

Guests enjoyed a vibrant drinks reception, a two-course meal from the College's Academy Restaurant, and an inspiring awards ceremony

Keynote speaker Sonnaz Nooranvary, entrepreneur and craftswoman from The Repair Shop, shared her personal apprenticeship journey, emphasising their impact on careers.

She said, "Apprenticeships are a vital part of our economy - and something that I'm passionate about supporting."

The awards recognised apprentices from fields such as Engineering, Health, Education, Business, and Retail, with special commendations for exceptional progress and contributions. Employers demonstrating

outstanding support for apprenticeships were also honored.

Award winner Christina Fletcher, an Early Years Practitioner Apprentice commented: "I still can't believe I've actually won, I feel quite humble, and I really appreciate being selected as a winner."

Jasbir Dhesi OBE, Principal and CEO of Cheshire College, praised the winners:

"These apprentices represent the future of the region's workforce."

"These awards highlight the hard work of our apprentices and the vital role of the employers who invest in their growth and development. Together, they are building a stronger, more skilled workforce for Cheshire and beyond."

Sonnaz added "It was a brilliant opportunity to shine a spotlight on the importance of apprenticeships for our economy, businesses and people for whom a more traditional academic pathway isn't quite right."

The evening shone a light on the importance of apprenticeships in building a skilled and resilient workforce, reinforcing Cheshire College's commitment to training and development for both apprentices and employers.

Mornflake shows its Might with support of Crewe's young people



Mornflake is marking its 350th anniversary supporting The Dome Youth Zone project in Crewe



Breakfast giant Mornflake Mighty Oats is celebrating its 350th anniversary in style – by showing its support of Crewe's young people and becoming a Founder Patron of The Dome Youth Zone.

The long-standing family business joins a growing group of other businesses and philanthropists contributing to the charity's annual running costs.

Funding provided by Founder Patrons will make The Dome Youth Zone a fantastic place for young people, offering state-of-the-art facilities, new opportunities, and support from dedicated youth workers for the young people of Crewe.

Set to open in 2026, The Dome Youth Zone will be an independent charity with a private sector-led board. It will become part of the expanding OnSide Network of 15 Youth Zones nationwide, supporting over 50,000 young people every year.

Youth Zones are open to young people aged between eight and 19 (and up to 25 for those with additional needs), seven days a week, for just £5 annual membership and 50p a visit. They will have access to an indoor climbing wall, four court sports hall, training kitchen, music room with a recording studio, fully equipped gym, boxing suite, dance and drama studio, 3G kick pitch, arts and crafts room, and enterprise and employability suite.

As well as supporting young people with their generous donation towards the running costs of The Dome, Mornflake has supported specially selected local charities with £350 donations and plans to plant 350 trees across Cheshire.

Managing director James Lea, said: "We are delighted to be part of this exciting new development in the heart of Crewe during our 350th anniversary year. The Dome will have a lasting impact, providing young people with a safe space to learn, grow and connect."

"Supporting the project is a way to give back to Crewe and Mornflake employees who live locally with their families. We're looking forward to seeing The Dome take shape over the next few months."

Stuart Manifold, The Dome Youth Zone CEO, said: "Having local brands with such a long, important history truly shows the depth of support for Crewe's young people in our community. Mornflake's commitment to supporting The Dome will have a lasting impact."

The Dome Youth Zone Chair, Graham Ramsbottom, added: "It is my pleasure to welcome Mornflake, a family owned business and prominent employer in the local Crewe area, as a Founder Patron. It is fantastic to see their commitment to their local community and Crewe's young people as they celebrate their 350th anniversary. I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude for their support and generosity."

» For more information, visit: [mornflake.com](https://www.mornflake.com)

Fast growing Radius mark anniversary milestone



Radius celebrated its 35th anniversary in style with a Starball event at Manchester Central in March.

Over 1200 colleagues from across the globe travelled to the event which was hosted by founder and Executive Chairman Bill Holmes and compere Dermot O'Leary.

The evening featured performances from talented Radius musicians who competed



in a Battle of the Bands contest as well as entertainment from other guest acts including the Rick Parfitt Jr Band and DJ Craig Charles.

Lee Everett, Radius Group CEO, commented:

"Nights like the Starball remind me what a special company Radius is to work for. It was great to see friends and colleagues celebrating and enjoying the experience in recognition of their hard work and dedication."

"I want to thank our team that put on the event for making it so memorable for everyone attending from across the Radius world."

Meanwhile Radius continues to expand its footprint with new offices in the UK and abroad. The latest addition was Lille in France which opened in April.

Radius first launched in France in 2014 with a fuel card offering. Since then, it has added a range of telematics and electronic toll devices to the product portfolio and has grown to supply almost 3,500 customers.

Lee Everett added: "It was great to spend time with our French colleagues in our new Lille office. This new office opening marks an exciting new chapter as we continue to grow and strengthen our presence in Europe."

Also this year Radius has opened a new offices Essen, Germany, and in Auckland, New Zealand.

Meanwhile Radius' own brand UK Fuels network has exceeded over 4,300 fuel stations – stretching from Penzance to Wick with further expansion plans in the pipeline.

South Cheshire Chamber of Commerce is delighted to welcome Radius onboard as Patrons.

» **For more information visit:**
radius.com/en-gb

Shaping the future of agri-food at Reaseheath

The agri-food industry is evolving, and Reaseheath College and University Centre is at the forefront of preparing the next generation of professionals to drive this change.

The Nantwich-based institution equips its students with the technical skills and hands-on experience needed to thrive in the dynamic world of farming and rural careers. With leading-edge facilities and an innovative approach to education, students gain the skills and expertise that employers demand.

From September, students will train with some of the most advanced technology in the industry, including the Lely Astronaut A5 Robotic Milking System and Lely Vector Smart Feeding System for precision nutrition.

Reaseheath has recently welcomed Ayrshire cattle from the world's oldest herd, marking the breed's return to the farm after 50 years. These cattle join a growing collection of livestock, including pedigree Holsteins, Welsh and Cheviot mules, Suffolk ewes, and Oxford Sandy and Black pigs.

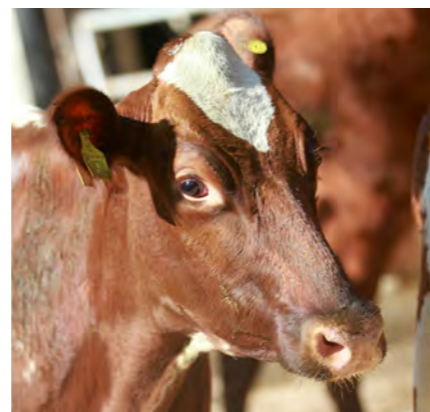
Beyond the farm, specialist growing facilities, such as glasshouses and a vertical farm, enable students to explore sustainable techniques, while the industry-leading Reaseheath Food Centre provides hands-on experience in food production and research, offering insight into the entire agri-food supply chain.

Students can begin their journey with a T Level in Agriculture, Food Science, and Horticulture, featuring a 45-day industry placement, or progress to a Foundation degree in Sustainable Agriculture, specialising in Dairy Herd, Crop, or Livestock Management.

» **Visit www.reaseheath.ac.uk or book onto the next Open Day to learn more about the range of agri-food courses and career opportunities available at Reaseheath.**



Students also explore sustainable growing techniques in Reaseheath's specialist facilities, including a vertical farm.



Reaseheath College has welcomed Ayrshire cattle from the world's oldest herd to its working farm.

A Technological Leap Forward for Crewe Business

Crewe-based SG World has unveiled its most comprehensive software update in three years, launching the 5D Software upgrade across Europe and North America. This major advancement, set to launch in the UK on April 1st, and across Europe during May, is a significant investment in industry-leading technology and solidifies SG World's position as a leader in digital safety and compliance solutions.

The platform, widely used in both commercial and educational environments, streamlines essential safety and compliance processes such as visitor and contractor management, asset tracking, and accident & incident reporting, helping businesses maintain regulatory standards across all sectors.

This significant update delivers a suite of powerful enhancements designed to streamline operations and enhance user experience, including:

- **Customisable Inductions:** Tailor visitor and contractor inductions for site-specific safety.
- **Automated Workflows:** Streamline processes and enhance user experience.
- **Expanded Language Support:** Facilitate seamless international operations.
- **Proactive Compliance:** Automate contractor documentation and renewal notifications.
- **Flexible Permit Management:** Design custom permits or use standard templates.



- **Simplified Authorisation:** Accelerate contractor onboarding.
- **Job-Specific Requests:** Manage contractor RAMS and other requirements.
- **Robust Cloud Infrastructure:** Ensure scalable and reliable performance.

This continues to demonstrate SG World's dedication to meeting the evolving needs of its clients and providing cutting-edge safety and compliance solutions.

"This technology is incredible," said Dan Tooth, Head of Technology. "We've focused on delivering a platform that not only meets, but exceeds our customers' expectations. By prioritising user feedback and embracing cloud-based innovation, we've taken the platform to a whole new level of functionality and performance."

Mark Haase, SG World CEO, highlighted the significance of the update: "This launch represents a substantial investment in our digital future and demonstrates our commitment to providing industry-leading technology. I want to express my sincere gratitude to Steve Holly, Dan Tooth, Paul Stringer and Jordan Berrisford together with the entire development team for their exceptional work in bringing this vision to fruition."

This launch not only strengthens SG World's market position but also showcases Crewe's growing reputation as a hub for technological innovation. By investing in and developing advanced digital platforms, SG World continues to contribute to the region's economic growth and technological advancement.

» **For more information visit:** sgworld.com

You didn't start your business to feel stuck, lonely or burned out.

But here you are — doing everything, carrying the weight, second-guessing your next move.

IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE THIS WAY.

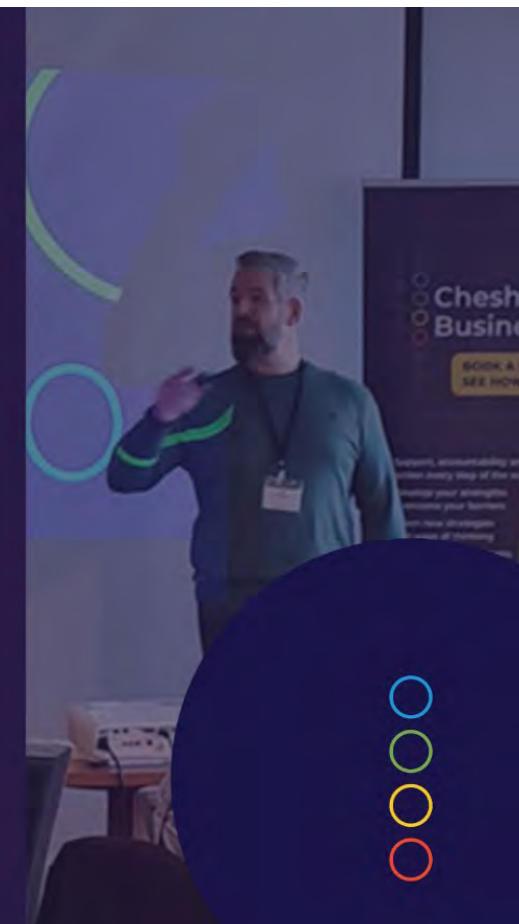
REAL SUPPORT. HONEST STRATEGY. COACHING THAT GETS YOU AND YOUR BUSINESS.

Cheshire Business Coaching — for small business owners ready to grow without losing themselves.

Cheshire Business Coaching

A BETTER BUSINESS TOMORROW STARTS WITH YOU TODAY

1:1 coaching | Business Buddies | Growth without the fluff |
www.cheshirebusinesscoaching.com





SOLD

4 Hospital Street, Nantwich 645 sq ft
Ground floor unit in excellent location



LET

21a Pillory Street, Nantwich 320 sq ft
Prominent ground floor retail unit



SOLD

31 Pepper Street, Nantwich 838 sq ft
Retail premises suitable for a variety of uses



TO LET

5 Hospital Street, Nantwich 490 sq ft
Prominent ground floor retail unit



FOR SALE / TO LET

8 Pepper Street, Nantwich 3,799 sq ft
Large retail premises suitable for a variety of uses



TO LET

2 Chatterton House, Nantwich 1,800 sq ft
Ground floor unit suitable for a variety of uses



TO LET

3 Chatterton House, Nantwich 730 sq ft
Ground floor retail unit on Church Lane



TO LET

10 Swine Market, Nantwich 720-2260 sq ft
Refurbished ground floor retail space

All enquiries for the above opportunities should be made to Andy or Harriet. For any building surveying enquiries please contact Sam.



Andy Butler BSc (Hons) MRICS
andybutler@legatowen.co.uk
01270 621006
07768 880944



Harriet Cope BSc (Hons) MRICS
harriette@legatowen.co.uk
01270 621005
07548 845167



Sam Davis BSc (Hons) MRICS
samdavis@legatowen.co.uk
01270 621001
07973 762193

Legat Owen, Nantwich Court, Hospital Street, Nantwich, CW5 5RH

CONSTRUCTION
One Company
One Solution



YOUR LOCAL FACILITIES PROFESSIONALS SINCE 2004

WITH OVER 20 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE

We could not be Driven, Dynamic, and Dependable without collaboration from our employees, skilled contractors, and professional businesses we partner with to deliver the ultimate customer experience.

The construction industry is well known for having hundreds of different trades, skills, and services which can be a minefield to choose from a customer's point of view. Our customer testimonials, reviews, and feedback, commonly tell us about our **One Company - One Solution** being the backbone and USP to why they chose us in the first place.

So, whenever you have a job requiring tradesmen to attend, look no further than Construction Link as our friendly staff are on hand to assist with anything your property requires.

GET
IN
TOUCH

Construction Link Ltd
Email: info@constructionlink.co.uk
Tel: 01270 848700
www.constructionlink.co.uk
Unit 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100

NEED A PREFERRED CONTRACTOR FOR YOUR WORKPLACE?

Our 20 years of experience and wide variety of work includes responsive repairs, planned maintenance work, and refurbishments. From drainage problems to blocked gutters and roof repairs to faulty electrics, we have you covered.



- Brickwork
- Joinery
- Flooring
- Plumbing
- Draining
- Painting & Decorating
- Landscaping
- Roofing

We can confidently ensure that all our work is carried out efficiently, safely, and with minimal disturbance to your working environment.

Are you looking to remain on top of your property maintenance?

Our Handyman Service offers a flexible approach to scheduled maintenance. You provide us with the tasks that require attention around your workplace. We then set a date that suits you to attend and complete these works. Together onsite we will prioritise and communicate planned works, identified issues, and future visits.



Industrial Opportunities Remain Limited



A feeling of déjà vu has just washed over me. I have written about the Crewe Commercial Sector on a number of occasions over the last 4 to 5 years and there is a repeating theme. The Town is limited in commercial building opportunities, especially in the industrial sector.

The former XT site on Weston Road is nearing completion offering a unit of circa 300,000 sq ft. That is a big building but it will end up being home to just one occupier. We need more land and stock to satisfy the organic growth of the smaller existing businesses in the area, attract new operators and also to support the single operator that will end up taking the large unit offered on

the XT plot. However, Crewe does not have the capacity or opportunities, hence areas such as Winsford, Middlewich and Wardle are benefiting from a slow migration of businesses seeking to take advantage of the possibilities that these locations currently offer.

Cheshire Green Industrial Estate at Wardle is within the Cheshire East boundaries and is profiting from the migration away from Crewe. In the last 24 months we have seen Cobalt Systems, Quelfire, Martin Systems and Fabulosa all take new facilities on the Estate. These were businesses who were either based in Crewe or were keen to gain a foothold in the town. However, lack of opportunity has led to their move "out of town". This will continue to happen and we

are already in detailed dialogue with two operators wanting to lease a combined area of 50,000 sq ft on Cheshire Green.

We are fortunate that the private sector and a visionary landowner in Phillip Posnett pushed for the allocation of the land at Cheshire Green to support the business that Crewe itself is missing out upon homing. The allocated land of Cheshire Green will soon be developed and we will then be looking for the next release of land. Let's hope this happens soon or my feeling of déjà vu will once more be upon me.

» **Matt Pochin, Director, Legat Owen**
legatowen.co.uk
01270 621001

MADE IN THE UK SOLD TO THE WORLD

Whether you're interested in selling internationally for the first time, or you're an experienced exporter, support from the UK Government's Department for Business and Trade (DBT) can help your business to grow in new markets.

i DBT's export support

Export training offer

The UK Export Academy is a free, comprehensive training offer featuring a foundation course, masterclasses and market-specific seminars for you to complete in your own time. Register at great.gov.uk/exportacademy

Events

Find events relevant to you and register for seminars, workshops and trade shows at events.great.gov.uk

Trade finance for exporters

UK Export Finance is the UK's export credit agency. It provides finance and insurance to help you win contracts, fulfil orders and get paid. Find out more at great.gov.uk/trade-finance

Report a trade barrier

If a trade barrier is affecting your exports or investment from the UK, please let us know at great.gov.uk/report-trade-barrier

International Trade Adviser (ITA) Service

Depending on your circumstances, you may be eligible for tailored, one-to-one support from our experts in the UK and around the world. Our local team provides free, practical advice – in person – through International Trade Advisers who enable you to maximise your potential. Contact us to find out more.



Visit great.gov.uk to:

- Create an export plan tailored to your business
- Identify high-potential markets for your products and services
- Work through learning modules to build your knowledge of how to sell internationally
- Search and apply for live export opportunities
- Learn about online marketplaces and access specially negotiated deals
- Explore and enquire about finance and insurance support

For more information and to register scan below



Follow us on

@biztradegovuk

@Department for Business and Trade

Contact us on

+44(0) 20 4566 5206

dbtnorth@businessandtrade.gov.uk

International Women's Day proves another success for newly-named Her-Place Charitable Trust



Charity founder Kate Blakemore (centre) and Her-Place Charitable Trust team members in their newly-branded tops

International Women's Day proved another crowd-puller drawing hundreds of people to a fun-packed event organised by Her-Place Charitable Trust, the new name for Motherwell Cheshire.

The health and wellbeing charity, which celebrates its 10th anniversary this month, has rebranded as part of its campaign to empower more women and girls across Cheshire.

For a decade it has been behind International Women's Day celebrations in Crewe and this year's event, staged at Cheshire College South & West, proved another big success.

The event shone the spotlight on music and dance talent from across South Cheshire as well as many businesses led by women.

Admission was free and visitors enjoyed entertainment from Lyceum Choir, Baker Street Belles, Crewe Liners, Fox Dance Academy, Springfield School Choir, Nantwich Voices, Frasers School of Irish Dance, Nightingales Choir and Gone Country Trio.

Visitors browsed more than 50 stalls including charity organisations, clothes, handbags and handmade crafts.

Cheshire East Mayor Marilyn Houston and Crewe Town Mayor Dawn Clark carried out the opening ceremony, each praising the charity for its wide-range of services.

Announcing the rebrand founder Kate Blakemore said: "Her-Place Charitable Trust reflects our commitment to supporting not just mothers but all women and girls in our community.

"Since our founding, we have been dedicated to empowering and uplifting women through tailored wellbeing services, advocacy and community support."

"Over the years, our work has expanded beyond maternal support, encompassing a wider range of initiatives that address the

diverse needs of women and girls at different life stages.

"Our new name, Her-Place Charitable Trust, embodies this broader vision while staying true to our core values of inclusivity, empowerment, and community-driven support."

All the projects led by Motherwell Cheshire over the years will continue under the new banner Her-Place Charitable Trust including Believe, a service supporting mums with children at risk of being removed from their care.

A specially commissioned film was shown in the college theatre highlighting the injustices faced by women and children in the UK family court system.

Another film highlighted Her Spaces, a research project into creating safe spaces for girls in Crewe and later visitors enjoyed a live drama telling the story of Crewe suffragist Ada Nield Chew.

Crewe mum Kate also introduced her new book 'The Motherwell Journey – Championing Women, Changing Lives' which explores the current state of gender equality for women and girls in areas such as work, education, leadership, health and mental wellbeing.

She added: "International Women's Day is our flagship event and again we were thrilled to see the college buzzing with visitors keen to support our campaigns and recognise the amazing things women do each day."

International Women's Day Crewe was supported by Afford Bond, Crewe Town Council, Cheshire College, Cheshire First Aid, Fifteen Group, Guinness Partnership, Hall Smith Whittingham, New Vic Theatre and Radius Crewe.

» For more on Her-Place Charitable Trust and its various initiatives including counselling, free period products, infant loss support, menopause cafes, health screening and school uniform recycling from its base in Wistaston see social media or the website www.her-place.co.uk



Fashions from around the world were on display



Baker Street Belles from Crewe were among the singers to perform



Visitors were updated on Her Spaces, a research project into creating safe spaces for girls in Crewe



There were dance displays throughout the day including a surprise performance



The Domestic Dusters project challenges gender bias towards domestic chores



Dee's journey to a Smoke-Free Life: A success story from the One You Cheshire East Be Smoke Free Service

ONE YOU CHESHIRE EAST



Dee, a One You Cheshire East Be Smoke Free member alongside Karolina Ayers Health and Wellbeing Coach Manager at One You Cheshire East

The One You Cheshire East, Be Smoke Free programme is proud to share the inspiring story of Dee, a former heavy smoker who has successfully quit smoking and significantly improved her health. Dee's journey is a testament to the effectiveness of the free 12 week Be Smoke Free programme.

"I was smoking 30 to 40 cigarettes a day, and persistently wheezing and having recurring problems with my chest. I have been suffering with COPD for a long time and I have constantly been using a blue and green inhaler," Dee shared.

In November 2024, Dee decided to take a crucial step towards a healthier life by joining the Be Smoke Free programme. It was there, she met her dedicated Stop Smoking Advisor in person and began her stop smoking treatment just a few days later. The programme provided Dee with a combination of nicotine patches and a vape (temporary measures to support the process of quitting), both free of charge, along with regular support from her advisor.

Dee continues "Since I stopped smoking over 2 months ago, I hardly have to use my COPD inhalers and feel much healthier now. Thank you again so much, I'm now smoke free."

Dee's story highlights the transformative impact of the Be Smoke Free programme support and treatment. Her success is an inspiration for others who might be looking for support available locally to help with stopping smoking.

Did you know, there is free support and treatment available to help you be smoke free? The best way of stopping smoking and we are here to help whenever you're ready.

One You Cheshire East free 12-week programme provides:

- Tailored support to meet your specific needs
- Expert guidance and personalised support, you will gain the tools and confidence to quit
- One You Cheshire East provide up to 12-weeks' worth of products to ease withdrawal symptoms, ensuring you have everything you need to succeed.

The programme includes one-to-one support with qualified Stop Smoking Advisors, either face-to-face, online or by telephone at a range of times and venues to suit you, meaning you can access the support you need with ease.

» **To find out more information about the Be Smoke Free programme please visit, www.oneyoucheshireeast.org/smoke-free/ or call 0300 123 5026 or email OneYouCE@everybody.org.uk**

Dine for a cause at The Sunshine Café



Located in the quaint village of Wrenbury, The Sunshine Café at The Wingate Centre offers more than meals—it's a place with purpose. The café is a lifeline for individuals with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) by providing essential skills, social interaction, and community support.

As part of The Wingate Centre, an independent charity, every meal served at the café contributes to support inclusive residential, sport and recreational facilities at the centre. The café began as a dining hall for residential stays and evolved into

a community hub for carers, clients, and parents of the SEND community. After refurbishment, it now proudly offers supported internships and training for individuals with SEND. These internships, designed for young people aged 16 to 24, help participants gain the skills and experience needed for sustainable, paid employment. For example, our newly refurbished café counter provides opportunities to develop skills in customer service, cash handling, food serving, and teamwork—paving the way for brighter futures.

Additionally, the café serves as a social hub where carers, families, and clients can gather for a nutritious meal in an inclusive

environment. It is perfect for events and meetings, offering a versatile and welcoming venue. The café is open to everyone and welcomes all, creating space for the entire local community.

Future plans for the café include expanding the outdoor seating area, and Phil Keogh and his team, builders from Crewe, happily volunteered to clear the outdoor space and grass. For further enhancement, they would be installing a fence. Their generosity has saved the charity thousands of pounds, and The Wingate Centre is deeply grateful for his invaluable support. We rely on support from local businesses to sustain our independent charity. If you can support us, please email fundraising@thewingatecentre.co.uk.

Supporting The Sunshine Café means supporting change. Every meal, every donation, and every act of kindness brings hope and opportunity to the SEND community. Together, we can brighten the lives.

» **For more details or to lend support, visit www.thewingatecentre.co.uk/SunshineCafe.**

Young people are the workforce of the future...



New sign funded by Crewe Town Council

South Cheshire Chamber members Visyon and Cheshire Business Coaching have teamed up in a charity of the year partnership to raise funds and awareness in support of local children's mental health.

Dave from Cheshire Business Coaching explains why this is such an important cause for him to support.

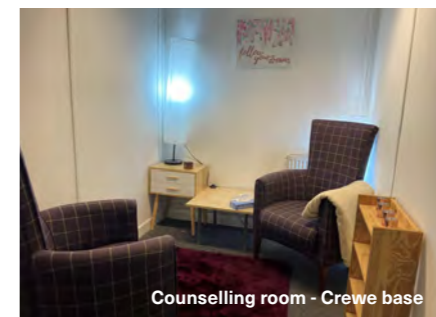
"I've often thought back to my teenage years and the challenges I faced, and it's clear to me now just how much I could have benefitted from the support Visyon Charity offers. From the age of 13, I found myself in a position I never imagined. My mum was in and out of hospital, and I became the main breadwinner in my family. Balancing school with five jobs and taking care of my younger sister, I had to grow up quickly. By the time I was 21, I had lost both of them—my mum and my sister—and was left alone, with no guidance, no one to turn to, and no idea how to properly grieve."

I really needed support during those times—help to guide me through the overwhelming responsibilities and emotions I was dealing with. But I didn't have it. I had no outlet, no support system, and, in hindsight, I can see I made many decisions that weren't the best. I was lost, feeling isolated, and trying to make the best out of a very tough situation. If there had been someone there to help me navigate those painful years, things could have turned out very differently for me.

"Then, one day, someone saw my pain before I even recognised it myself. They offered me a glimmer of light, showing me that there was a different path, full of compassion and options that I hadn't even considered. For the first time, I was allowed to exhale, be heard, and feel truly understood. That experience was life-changing, and it set me on a course to help others facing similar struggles."

This is why I am so passionate about working with Visyon. Their mission to provide mental health support for children and young people, offering them a safe space to talk and heal, is incredibly close to my heart. What they do is essential. It's not just about providing services—it's about offering compassion, understanding, and a chance to navigate through the hardest times in life with guidance and care. I wish I had this support when I was younger, and I am honoured to help raise awareness of the vital work they do. Visyon is more than just a charity; they're a lifeline for so many, and I want to help others find the hope and support I once so desperately needed—both during those tough times and in the years after.

From a business perspective, I see a strong synergy between my work and the mission of Visyon. Young people are the workforce



Counselling room - Crewe base



Dave Christie & Linda

of the future, and fostering resilience in them is key to helping them achieve their full potential.

Linda, Fundraising and Marketing Manager shares Visyon's thanks.

"We're so grateful that Dave has chosen to support Visyon and share his personal story to inspire other businesses too. Dave is raising funds and awareness through a number of fundraising initiatives, including Charity Wise Up Wednesday. All of the profits from this initiative will come directly to the charity, ensuring we have the resources to continue our vital work."

In addition to this, Dave is participating in a Snowdon Night Trek, a challenging yet rewarding event where he'll hike to the summit of Snowdon in the dark.

Visyon has been at the forefront of delivering early intervention mental health services for over 30 years. Ensuring vulnerable children aged 11-19 are heard and have access to the information and support they need to talk openly. Issues can stem from factors including bereavement, illness, bullying, family challenges and the impacts of poverty. Visyon provides free, friendly and inclusive safe spaces for counselling, mentoring and workshops for both the young person and their parent/carer across Central and South Cheshire East.

» **To find out more about Visyon services and how you can get involved visit www.visyon.org.uk.**



Mental Health Skills for Managers

It has never been more important to invest in the mental health and wellbeing of your people. Research from Deloitte found that 61% of UK employees that had left their job or planned to leave said that this was because of poor mental health. To create mentally healthy workplaces it's vital to build supportive relationships between managers and team members.

Delivered by workplace mental health experts, this evidence-based, four-hour training promotes a healthy performance culture. It gives managers the skills and confidence to have conversations about mental health and encourage staff to seek early support.

By investing in the course you will:

- Encourage your people to thrive.
- Increase talent retention.
- Reduce the impact of presenteeism and long-term sickness absence.

Your managers will learn to:

- Feel confident having open conversations about mental health with their team members.
- Identify if an employee may be experiencing poor mental health.
- Appropriately signpost to available support.
- Role model good self-care practice and know where to go for support and guidance for themselves.

Why choose MHFA England® training?

- ★ MHFA England are the workplace mental health experts.
- 🏠 Evidence-based courses grounded in research, rigorously tested, and developed with input from clinical experts and those with lived experience of poor mental health.
- 🔍 Research shows our courses make a lasting impact in people's knowledge and confidence around mental health.
- ✅ MHFA England Instructor Members attend a training programme accredited by Royal Society of Public Health (RSPH), ensuring a quality assured and consistent training experience knowledge and confidence.

Find out more

Get in touch today to provide your managers with a consistent approach to mental health and wellbeing, and promote healthy performance across the whole organisation.

To learn more or book onto an upcoming Mental Health Skills for Managers course, please contact:

Michelle Carter
Mental Health England Workplace Specialist Adult and Youth Instructor

E: applesafetyservices@outlook.com
T: 07904 491 862

The Crown Group: From local beginnings to continued growth



The team at The Crown Group is moving from strength to strength!

For over a decade, The Crown Group have been making a major contribution to the railway industry, consistently striving for excellence and gaining a trusted reputation by providing outstanding rail support services across the UK.

Expanding The Crown Group

The railway industry is notorious for leading the way in innovation, sustainability and connectivity, which have been key drivers at The Crown Group, especially during the company's admirable expansion. In recent years, The Crown Group's growth has been truly inspiring, as almost 500 people are employed, demonstrating an impressive increase of nearly 450 employees since 2021. This expansion is potentially leading to another new premises for staff, to accommodate the successful growth of the business, that The Crown Group plans to expand even further in 2025.

Awarded SILVER NSAR Audit

The Crown Group has a strong commitment to success, and in recent months, proudly achieved the prestigious SILVER NSAR Audit award, reflecting the highest standards being upheld in operations across all employees. This milestone not only highlights The Crown Group's current accomplishments but additionally sets a strong foundation for future growth and success in the upcoming years.

Supporting the community

To support the local community, The Crown Group are actively involved with several charities, such as: Save the Children, Cheshire Without Abuse and The Lighthouse Construction Industry Charity. To raise money for Save the Children, in December, The Crown Group participated in Christmas Jumper Day, enjoying a day filled with fun, treats, and most importantly, giving back!

In addition to raising funds for Save the Children, in January, The Crown Group have also raised a substantial amount of money for Cheshire Without Abuse. The Crown Group's De-Vegetation Team collected a total of 21 Christmas trees around Crewe, Sandbach, Nantwich, Stoke on Trent and Alsager areas, with all proceedings going to this amazing charity. To further support Cheshire Without Abuse, The Crown Group also hosted a charity bike ride on February 28th and raised £2,395! Employees united to cycle the perimeter of Cheshire, covering the equivalent of 200 miles on a Peloton bike at their office! More recently, The Crown Group partnered with Mercury Lifts to host a spectacular Charity Ball on 29th March at Cranage Hall. The event was a resounding success, raising an impressive £8,024.78 for Cheshire Without Abuse.

The Crown Group also support The Lighthouse Construction Industry Charity monthly, due to wanting to emphasise the importance of seeking the mental health support required among employees when working within the railway and construction industry.

Chris Steele, Managing Director, stated,

“Supporting local charities is extremely important to us. We take great pride in being able to contribute and make a positive impact.”

Goals for the year ahead

The year ahead is filled with exciting opportunities for The Crown Group, particularly with the continued growth of the railway industry. In 2025, we plan to expand into a larger office at Marshfield Bank, Crewe, allowing us to scale our operations and strengthen our supply network. We are also exploring ways to further embed sustainable projects into our work, while maintaining

our commitment to giving back to the community, supporting Cheshire's growth and development as a whole.

» Thank you to everyone who has been a part of The Crown Group's journey so far. Here's to another year of continued growth and success.

For enquiries about the diverse rail support services provided at The Crown Group, call us on 01270 747303 or email us on info@thecrown-group.co.uk



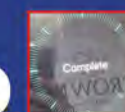
SPONSORED CYCLE WE'VE DONE IT!

At The Crown Group, we are proud to have completed our 200-mile Sponsored Cycle today within 12 hours, raising an incredible £2,395 for Cheshire Without Abuse!

A huge THANK YOU to:

- ✓ Our incredible employees who took on the challenge
- ✓ Everyone who donated and cheered us on

If you'd still like to contribute, donations are still open via the QR code:



Over £20,000 raised for Macmillan as DJH and Wealth Experts conquer the Yorkshire Three Peaks



An incredible 43 individuals from DJH and their partners Wealth Experts laced up their walking boots and took on the formidable Yorkshire Three Peaks Challenge. The team faced three summits of Pen-y-ghent, Wharfedale and Ingleborough, a gruelling 24.5-mile hike with a total ascent of 5,200ft. All to support Macmillan Cancer Support, a charity close to many of the teams' hearts.

This physically demanding challenge pushed everyone to their limits, but the team's determination and camaraderie saw them conquer all three peaks under the 12-hour target. Thanks to their efforts, DJH and partners Wealth Experts are extremely proud to have collectively raised an impressive £20,140 – making this their most successful fundraising event yet.

Macmillan Cancer Support, who provides vital emotional, physical, and financial support to those affected by cancer, was voted as the chosen charity by the team at their annual away day. The funds raised will help Macmillan continue their life-changing work across the UK.

It wasn't just those doing the walk that played their part. The entire DJH community came together, organising a group-wide 'Bake Off Sale' at each of their 11 offices, where everyone showcased their baking talents and sold delicious treats to contribute to the cause.

Meanwhile, participants committed to their own personal training programs and shared their inspiring journeys on social media, raising awareness and rallying support for such a great cause.

James Beardmore, COO, reflected on the achievement, "Completing the Yorkshire

Three Peaks Challenge in our target time and raising over £20,000 for such a meaningful cause is an incredible accomplishment. This challenge demonstrated the power of our values – honesty, ambition, teamwork, passion, and community – and showed what we can achieve when we come together.'

Scott Heath, CEO, also shared his pride in the team, "This event is a testament to the spirit of DJH. From the participants who took on the Three Peaks to the colleagues who organised fundraisers and offered their support, we showed what it means to achieve great things together. Raising £20,140 for Macmillan Cancer Support, a charity close to so many of our hearts, is a record-breaking amount that was certainly one of my highlights of the last year."

A heartfelt thank you goes out to everyone who contributed, baked, walked, donated, and supported this monumental effort. Together, the DJH team would like to share a heartfelt thank you to everyone who contributed. It truly demonstrates that great things are possible when people come together for a shared cause, and the incredible impact it can have.

» For more information about DJH accountants and business advisers, visit www.djh.co.uk

Marina retreats are now available at Aqueduct Marina



Marina Retreats can now be booked in the idyllic surroundings of Aqueduct Marina in the beautiful Cheshire countryside beside the Shropshire Union Canal. Accommodation is available in one of the 10 glamping tents, or, for those who want to use

their own tent, caravan or motorhome, visitors can book a pitch on the 100-acre site.

New for the 2025 season is an improved toilet block equipped with eight shower/toilet rooms. Pot washing facilities have also been added to make stays on the site

as comfortable as possible. But the retreats are not just aimed at providing comfortable accommodation; they also give guests access to new dog walking routes around the site, and for those dogs that need some TLC, the site now has a dog washing facility.

Guests who want to make the most of their stay and experience the enjoyment of a trip on the Shropshire Union Canal two new electric day boats are available for hire. These new boats provide a quiet way to enjoy the tranquility of the nearby canal.

Super Saturday Activities have also been organised, with archery, axe throwing and canoeing on offer for those who want to make the most of their stay. Bushcraft skills will also be on offer. And for those who want to sit back and enjoy a drink or meal from the Galley cafe, there is the added attraction of live music on Saturday afternoons, starting in June, provided by local musicians.

The new Marina Retreats aim to provide something for everyone and to give access to the waterways and the countryside to boaters and non-boaters alike.

» For more information, please visit the new dedicated website: www.marinaretreats.co.uk

Stronger Schools, Stronger Business: Why you should support your employees to be school governors



By Su Turner, CEO of Shaping Governance

As business leaders, we understand the importance of strong leadership, financial acumen, and strategic thinking. But have you ever considered that these same skills are needed in our schools? Encouraging your employees to become school governors is one of the most impactful ways your business can support education while also developing your workforce.

At Shaping Governance, we help businesses like yours connect employees with schools in need of governors. Why? Because the benefits are immense—not just for the schools, but for your employees and your business too.

Governance Builds Better Leaders

Being a school governor offers hands-on experience in leadership, strategic planning, and decision-making. Employees who serve as governors return with enhanced problem-solving skills, financial oversight capabilities, and confidence—skills that directly benefit their roles within your company.

It's Good for Business and the Community

Supporting employees in governance strengthens your company's reputation as a socially responsible business. It fosters goodwill within the local community, aligns with CSR goals, and builds valuable networks with local leaders and educators.

Shaping the Future Workforce

Schools shape the next generation of employees. By getting involved in

governance, businesses help ensure young people develop the skills and knowledge needed to succeed in the workplace.

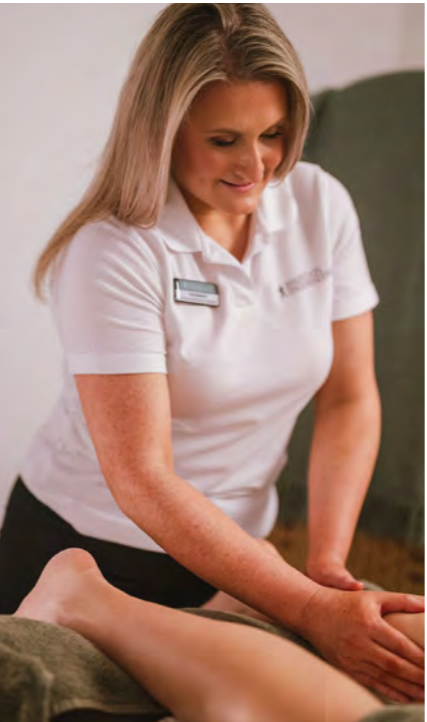
How You Can Get Involved

Encouraging employees to become governors doesn't require major investment—just time and support. Offering flexible working arrangements, recognising governance as professional development, and directly partnering with schools can make a huge difference.

At Shaping Governance, we can help connect your employees to schools in need. Get in touch to find out how your business can help shape the future—one school at a time.

» Join us in making a difference. su@shapinggovernance.co.uk

The Importance of Specialist Rehabilitation in South Cheshire



Maintaining independence is something many take for granted—until injury, illness, or age-related conditions make movement more challenging. Specialist rehabilitation plays a vital role in restoring strength, confidence, and mobility.

As a veteran and founder of Maintain Independence, I've seen first-hand how tailored rehabilitation transforms lives. Whether recovering from injury, managing a neurological condition, or preventing decline, the right approach can make all the difference.

Too often, people seek help only after significant mobility loss. However, proactive intervention—through structured exercise, manual therapy, or rehabilitation programmes—can prevent decline and maintain independence.

I provide home visits, in-clinic treatments, and group exercise classes across Cheshire and Staffordshire, as well as remote rehabilitation

for those unable to attend in person. My work focuses on neurological conditions, older adults at risk of falls, and veteran rehabilitation. Having served in the military, I understand the physical challenges veterans face and the importance of tailored support.

With an ageing population, access to specialist rehabilitation is more crucial than ever. My mission is to help people stay active, mobile, and independent for as long as possible.

If you or someone you know could benefit from expert rehabilitation, I'd love to help. Small, consistent changes today can mean a better quality of life tomorrow.

» For more information visit: www.maintainindependence.co.uk or follow us on social media. — Zoë Robson, Founder & Clinical Rehabilitation Specialist, Maintain Independence Ltd

Mark1 unveils rebrand and AI-Powered updates to Integrated Management System, Titan



Manchester, UK – 05/02/25 – Mark1, a leading ISO consultancy firm based in Manchester & Macclesfield, is excited to announce a comprehensive rebranding and the integration of artificial intelligence (AI) into its popular integrated management system, Titan. With over 20 years of experience serving businesses across the UK, Mark1 is poised for continued growth and innovation in 2025.

A Fresh New Look and Feel

Mark1 has undergone a complete rebranding, reflecting its commitment to precision, efficiency, expertise, and partnership. The new brand identity features a modern,

pixel-based logo, a vibrant colour palette, and a bold graphic style. The company's new strapline, "Precision Unlocks Potential," encapsulates its dedication to meticulous attention to detail, enabling clients to focus on their strategic objectives.

"From the small details to the big picture, we are dedicated to ensuring our clients operate at peak efficiency," says Brandon Nolan, ISO consultant at Mark1. "We're excited to launch our new website and brand and share this news with our current client base. Our goal was to create something that took us to the next level and to appeal to a wider audience. It's something which was long overdue for sure!"

AI-Powered Risk Management with Titan

Mark1 is also proud to announce the integration of AI into Titan, its cutting-edge integrated management system. Used by over 1,500 users, Titan empowers businesses to achieve ISO certification through an internally managed process or as part of Mark1's consultancy service. The secure and user-friendly web application now leverages AI to revolutionise risk management.

Titan's AI capabilities analyse industry-specific data to identify hundreds of potential risks, evaluate their likelihood and impact, and recommend appropriate control measures. This innovative approach

simplifies and streamlines the traditionally time-consuming risk assessment process.

"It's been a brilliant experience seeing how AI technology can have such a positive impact on Titan for the end-user," says Mark Nolan, owner of Mark1. "This advancement empowers our clients to proactively manage risks and achieve their ISO goals more efficiently than ever before."

Looking Ahead to 2025

Mark1 enters 2025 in a position of strength, driven by its investment in a new brand image and cutting-edge advancements in Titan. The company remains committed to providing exceptional ISO consultancy services and empowering businesses to unlock their full potential.

About Mark1:

Mark1 is a leading ISO consultancy firm based in Manchester, UK. With over 20 years of experience, the company helps businesses across the UK achieve ISO certification through expert guidance and its innovative integrated management system, Titan. Mark1 is committed to precision, efficiency, expertise, and partnership, empowering clients to unlock their full potential.

» **Contact: Mark Nolan, Managing Director**
mark@mark1systems.co.uk
0161 359 4329

Business and charity partnerships support the local charity sector



Cheshire Connect and Baywater Healthcare joined forces to co-host the recent South Cheshire Chamber of Commerce Final Friday Networking event. Dianne Parrish Cheshire Connect Business Connector and Adam Sullivan Chief Executive at Baywater, each presented an insightful case study on how businesses, both large and small, can make a huge impact to support local charities, via skill donorship. Adam explained how

Cheshire Connect became the perfect partner to help his business achieve its CSR and ESG aims.

Dianne also highlighted the issues currently facing the charity sector. Due to the economic climate and cost of living crisis there is even more demand for services. However, the charity sector is facing huge cuts in funding and much reduced local authority commissioning. It has become more important to help and support our local third sector, and skill donorship is an ideal option.

The South Cheshire Chamber members said:

"The Final Friday event, hosted by Baywater Healthcare and Cheshire Connect, was an excellent experience. Baywater Healthcare's facilities were impressive, and the presentations from each host were both informative and engaging for the attendees. It was truly insightful to learn about the impactful work both organisations do to support the community. Additionally, the opportunity to connect with other professionals was valuable and enriching."

South Cheshire Chamber of Commerce Final Friday network events are held each month and opportunities to host need to be pre-booked well in advance, via the South Cheshire Chamber of Commerce Events Team.

» For more information about Cheshire Connect, please contact the local Business Connector, Dianne Parrish, on 07946639394 or email: dianneparrish@cheshireconnect.org

Grant Funding Opportunity



FUNDING • COACHING • SUPPORT

Crewe-based businesswoman Pam Allen, founder of PA Today Ltd, is committed to helping South Cheshire business owners and their employees access valuable Government funding.

If you or a staff member have a disability, illness, or health condition, including ADHD, Dyslexia, or Long Covid, an Access to Work grant can provide practical support, coaching, specialist equipment, and assistance with travel expenses. A formal diagnosis is not required.

This grant is available to employees, self-employed individuals, and Directors of

Limited Companies, making it accessible to a wide range of people.

The grant offers up to £69,260 worth of flexible, personalised support per person per year. This money does not need to be repaid and will not affect other benefits.

» Book a free, no-obligation video call today with Pam's friendly, experienced team to check your eligibility and learn more about the application process. The Knowing You team will guide you through each step, from understanding the requirements to submitting an application.

www.knowingyou.uk

1 in 7 people in the UK are neurodiverse. You likely have several neurodiverse individuals in your workplace who may also be eligible for support.



The Emergence of a Purpose-Driven Workforce: Why Aligning Purpose with Culture Matters for Staff Retention



The modern workforce is evolving, with purpose now playing a pivotal role in how employees choose their employers. Today's professionals, particularly millennials and Gen Z, are not just looking for a pay check—they seek meaning in their work and the assurance that their efforts contribute to a greater cause. For companies, this shift presents both a challenge and an opportunity: the need to align organisational culture with a clear, compelling purpose.

A purpose-driven workforce is characterised by employees motivated by their organisations mission and values. They seek roles where they can make a positive impact, whether through sustainability initiatives, social responsibility projects, or ethical business practices. For these individuals, work isn't just about corporate goals; it's about contributing to society in meaningful ways.

This trend has major implications for staff retention. Employees who find purpose in their work are more engaged, productive, and likely to stay loyal. In contrast, a disconnect between personal and organisational values can lead to disengagement and high turnover. Companies that fail to align culture with a strong sense of purpose risk losing top talent to competitors who do.

Building a purpose-driven culture starts with leadership. Leaders need to clearly define and communicate the company's mission, ensuring it resonates

across all levels. Purpose should be embedded in daily operations, decision-making, and employee interactions, fostering a sense of shared commitment.

As the purpose-driven workforce grows, companies that align their culture with meaningful values will stand out. They will attract and retain talented individuals who are not only skilled but also passionate about driving positive change. In this new era of work, purpose is not just a nice-to-have; it's a necessity.

» To find out more about how GreenPerks can help you empower your team and build a culture of sustainability reach out to the team via their website www.greenperks.io or contact them directly and help@greenperks.io.



Expert Eye with...



ZEN OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH
Helping you to keep your business healthy

SPRING FORWARD: PRIORITIZING WELLBEING IN THE WORKPLACE

As the days grow longer and nature bursts into bloom, spring is the perfect time for businesses to refresh their approach to workplace wellbeing. Just as we embrace spring cleaning at home, organizations can take this season as an opportunity to renew their commitment to employee wellness. A workplace that prioritizes wellbeing isn't just a nice perk—it's a strategic advantage that leads to increased productivity, engagement, and long-term business success.

The Case for Wellbeing in Business

Employee wellbeing is no longer just a "nice to have"—it's a fundamental business priority. Research consistently shows that companies with strong wellbeing programs enjoy higher employee retention, reduced absenteeism, and greater overall satisfaction. A happy and healthy workforce is more motivated, creative, and resilient, making it easier for businesses to adapt to challenges and thrive in competitive markets.

Spring Wellbeing Strategies for Businesses

Encourage fresh air breaks, Spring's warmer temperatures and longer daylight hours provide the perfect opportunity for employees to get outside. Whether it's walking meetings, outdoor lunch breaks, or even providing green spaces for relaxation, fresh air can boost mental clarity and reduce stress.

Prioritize Mental Health Support

Mental health is just as important as physical health. Businesses can promote wellbeing by offering access to mental health resources, hosting stress management workshops, or implementing "wellbeing days" where employees can take time off for self-care.

Revamp the Office Environment well-designed workspace can have a significant impact on employee

wellness. Consider adding plants to the office, maximizing natural light, or even offering flexible seating arrangements to improve comfort and productivity.

Promote Work-Life Balance encourage employees to disconnect after work hours and take time to recharge. Whether it's flexible scheduling, hybrid work options, or team-building wellness activities, finding ways to support work-life balance can lead to a more engaged and satisfied workforce.

Spring into Action with Wellness Challenges littlefriendlycompetition can be a great motivator! **Businesses can organize spring-themed wellness challenges, such as step-count competitions, hydration goals, or mindfulness challenges, to encourage employees to stay active and engaged.**

The Business Impact of Wellbeing

- A commitment to workplace wellbeing isn't just about making employees happy—it also delivers measurable business benefits. Companies that prioritize wellness see increased productivity, lower healthcare costs, and improved team morale.
- By taking small but meaningful steps, businesses can foster an environment where employees feel valued, supported, and inspired to do their best work.



» **Contact details:**
Karen Mills
Director
karen@zenohltd.co.uk
07766 331418
zenoccupationalhealth.com



ZEN OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH
Helping you to keep your business healthy



Expert Eye with...



INVESTING IN EMPLOYEE WELLBEING: HOW SOUTH CHESHIRE BUSINESSES ARE THRIVING WITH TRUE PHYSIO

Employee wellbeing is no longer a luxury—it's a necessity. Businesses across Cheshire are realising that a healthy, pain-free workforce is the foundation of productivity, engagement, and long-term success. True Physio have been fortunate to partner with local businesses to provide tailored physiotherapy and wellness solutions that not only improve employee health but also enhance workplace morale and reduce absenteeism.

The Growing Need for Workplace Wellbeing

Employee health plays a crucial role in the success of any organisation. Whether it's office-based staff dealing with postural issues, warehouse teams managing physical strain, or care workers handling physically demanding roles, musculoskeletal (MSK) issues are among the leading causes of absenteeism and lost productivity.

A recent report from the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found that MSK disorders accounted for 27% of all work-related ill health cases in the UK, with nearly 7 million working days lost per year. This has a direct impact on businesses, leading to increased costs, reduced efficiency, and decreased staff satisfaction.

By prioritising preventative care and early intervention, businesses in the region have been able to tackle these challenges head-on, ensuring their teams stay fit, healthy, and motivated.

Success Stories: Local Businesses Leading the Way

Over the past year, True Physio has worked with a range of businesses across Cheshire and the north of England in helping employers implement effective corporate wellness programmes.

This has seen organisations like construction companies, leisure centres and local councils benefit in a range of aspects.

Hayley Bonnick, Head of Marketing at True Physio added, "Supporting local people and helping our communities thrive is at the heart of what we do. One of our long-standing business partners saved over £175,000 in

lost working days in 2024 alone by working with us. It's proof that investing in employee health isn't just good for people—it's great for business too."

Tailored Corporate Wellness Solutions

Every business has different needs. True Physio offers three flexible partnership models, allowing businesses to choose the best fit for their workforce and budget:

1. Staff Self-Funded Model

Gives employees access to expert physiotherapy, sports therapy, and massage treatments at a reduced rate—an easy way to enhance workplace wellbeing with no cost to the employer.

2. Company-Funded Model

Allows companies to invest in their team's health with fully covered physiotherapy sessions at an exclusive corporate rate. A simple monthly billing system makes it seamless to manage while boosting productivity and retention.

3. Day 1 Musculoskeletal Physiotherapy Service

For businesses facing high absenteeism due to MSK conditions, our Day 1 Physiotherapy Service offers rapid intervention within 24 hours of reporting an issue. Employees receive expert assessment and advice via telephone consultation, with follow-up treatment available as needed.

- Reduces unnecessary absences
- Provides fast, expert intervention
- Supports HR and occupational health teams

This service has proven particularly effective for construction firms, logistics companies, and manufacturing businesses—sectors where early treatment can prevent long-term injuries and reduce compensation claims.

We create customised wellbeing strategies, helping companies reduce workplace injuries and enhance productivity.

"Our track record speaks for itself—over 95% of employees report feeling improvements after treatment, and our corporate partners see tangible reductions in absenteeism and workplace injuries," added Clinic Manager and Physiotherapist, Ben Ratcliffe.

How Your Business Can Benefit

If your organisation is looking to:

- Reduce sick leave and workplace injuries
- Enhance employee wellbeing and retention
- Improve productivity and job satisfaction

Then a partnership with True Physio could be the perfect solution. Whether you want to offer discounted physiotherapy, invest in fully funded treatment, or implement an Occupational Health MSK programme, we can tailor a plan that works for you.

"At True Physio, our goal is to work as an extension of your business, helping you to keep your workforce in top condition," added Hayley Bonnick. "By offering accessible, high-quality physiotherapy services, we make it easy for companies to support their employees' health while seeing a measurable impact on business performance."

Let's Build a Healthier, More Productive Workforce Together

» **South Cheshire businesses are already seeing the positive impact of investing in their employees' health. Don't let MSK issues affect your workforce—take action today.**
Email: hayley@true.physio
Visit: true.physio
Your employees are your greatest asset. Let's keep them healthy, happy, and performing at their best.





One whole year of keeping business owners in the social media loop with the Social Commuter Podcast! Here's to another year of trends and updates!



Wingate100

Are you ready to be one of our top 100 supporters?

Could you add a touch of sparkle and brighten the lives of individuals with special educational needs and disabilities?

Make us your Charity of the year. Take on a sponsored challenge for us or sponsor an event. Donate a raffle prize or service.

Together, let's celebrate diversity and inclusion and focus on ability not disability. Join the Wingate 100 today and be part of our supporter's community.



What a collaboration for South Cheshire Chambers bringing the local community together for business owners and the Agricultural sector.

**Community
Networking
Expertise**





THE NANTWICH SHOW
CELEBRATING AGRICULTURE IN SOUTH CHESHIRE

WEDNESDAY 30 JULY
Reaseheath College

9,000 attendees
1,000 competition entries
250 trade stands
500 animals

TRADE STANDS
from **£108+vat**

SPONSORSHIP
from **£350+vat**

info@nantwichshow.org 07886 633 370 nantwichshow.org



South Cheshire Chamber

ANNUAL GOLF DAY

Join us for a fun day of team building where trophies and bragging rights are up for grabs!

Tuesday 15th July, 2025

- Crewe Golf Club
- 18 holes of golf
- Refreshments on arrival
- Two-course evening dinner

dominic.hibbert@sccci.co.uk **£ Teams of 4: £340 + VAT**



EXPERT TRAINING FOR YOUNG PROFESSIONALS PERSONAL GROWTH PROGRAMME

UNLOCK YOUR STAFF'S POTENTIAL

For more information or to enrol your staff on the **Personal Growth Programme**, visit our website (www.sccci.co.uk) or scan the QR code



6 Workshops To Empower Your Staff With New Skills



Icebreaker



Mastering
Networking



Confidence In
The Workplace



Supercharge
Your Sales



Leadership &
Collaboration



Presenting
With Impact



The Personal Growth Programme boosted my confidence and gave me the **perfect opportunity to connect with others** who were just starting or growing their careers.

The workshops provided **new skills and insights** that you wouldn't typically get from university or early job experiences. I felt comfortable and supported throughout the sessions, and I **highly recommend** it to anyone looking to build their confidence.

Emily Ellis

Reaseheath College

The Personal Growth Programme is provided by:



SOUTH CHESHIRE
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

As part of:



Young Members Network