

IN THIS ISSUE:

Leyland Trucks training develops workforce for the future
Leyland Trucks reaps the benefits of unique employee training scheme

Business blooming at InLeaf

South Ribble firm InLeaf has secured major investment to help business growth

Award recognises world class leading service

Group 55 add to list of accolades after claiming Red Rose award

Yummy delights at Taste Leyland

Hundreds fill the streets of Leyland to sample delicious treats

INVEST IN SOUTH RIBBLE

The Business Magazine of



Autumn 2018

Powering our future workforce



Find out more



businessinsouthribble.com



Call 01772 625567

INVEST IN SOUTH RIBBLE

Welcome to the South Ribble Business Magazine

South Ribble offers:



LOCATION

A great place to do business



VALUE

Fantastic value for money for investors



CHOICE

A great choice of highly accessible business premises



SKILLS

Access to a range of specialist skills to meet your business needs

TO FIND OUT MORE CONTACT OUR INVESTMENT & SKILLS TEAM.

T: 01772 625567

E: info@businessinsouthribble.com

W: businessinsouthribble.com

INVESTING IN SKILLS

Apprentice factory proves to be a real hit

The South Ribble Apprentice Factory (SRAF) has been praised following its launch.



David Holgate

South Ribble Borough Council's Human Resources and Economic Development teams have created the new initiative to bring together businesses and would be apprentices.

Offering guidance and support it is hoped that the project will increase the number of apprentices working in the borough.

The SRAF gathers all the information about apprenticeships and makes it accessible in one place.

Councillor Mary Green, leader of South Ribble Borough Council, said:

"We're immensely proud to be one of the North West's leading lights when it comes to apprenticeship support and provision.

"It's something we believe in firmly – employing several apprentices ourselves so we don't just encourage it; we actively champion it.

"We've got such a fantastic, experienced, knowledgeable team here – ready to help as much as they can, and as many people as they can.

"I'm thrilled that so many residents and businesses stand to gain from our excellent Apprentice Factory.

"It's about growing skills; having an educated and innovative workforce who are continually developing their abilities in order to make a real difference to South Ribble businesses.

"We also want to dispel all the myths and misconceptions people have about apprenticeships: for example, they can encompass all kinds of careers across the board, and are open to all ages.

"Apprenticeships also allow people to gain qualifications right up to postgraduate level, so they're a massive opportunity for the people of South Ribble."

The council says it recognises the importance of apprentices to the borough's future economic growth and it has also included it as a key part of the new Corporate Plan which runs from 2018-23.

With an already proven track record of championing apprenticeships with its own successful training programme available to current staff and annual recruitment of new apprentices, the council's SRAF has also proven a real hit with David Holgate.

David joined the programme combining work experience at the council and studying at Runshaw College. After achieving his level four qualification in Business Administration, this enabled him to progress to a higher apprenticeship studying for a Chartered Management degree qualification at UCLan.

Now, David has gone from strength-to-strength successfully completing his first year at university and has gained full-time permanent employment within the council's audit department.



Powering our future workforce



Leyland Trucks training develops workforce for the future

Leyland Trucks is reaping the benefits of a unique employee training scheme designed to harness the talents and enthusiasm of existing employees and encourage them into engineering.

The "Career Pathway" scheme was first introduced at the company's Lancashire manufacturing facility in 2015, offering employees full-time training across a broad range of roles, to improve their skillset and widen career options. The scheme initially focussed on engineering but is now expanding to provide opportunities in other business areas.

The two-year scheme allows employees to dedicate 100% of their time to learning, leaving their current role, and embarking on structured rotations in assembly engineering, supplier quality assurance and design engineering. In addition, participants are encouraged to

complete further education in engineering related courses, to expand the applied learning gained on each rotation.

Josh Little and Sean Winstanley were the first two employees to complete the scheme and are one year into their roles as Commodity Manager in purchasing and Design Engineer respectively.

Leyland Trucks created the programme in 2015 to make sure the talent fostered in its apprentice scheme was fully nurtured, and to give its locally-based work force additional opportunities to further their professional education.

HR Director, Ivan Shearer at Leyland Trucks said: "The scheme aims to build upon base knowledge and supplement with learned experience in other technical departments. It helps the business develop the skills and knowledge required for the future."

Creating Engineers of the future

British Aerospace's £20m Academy for Skills and Knowledge (ASK) is continuing to go from strength to strength.

Over the past year, the academy based at Samlesbury has welcomed 50,000 visitors, delivered more than 250,000 learning hours and welcomed more than 1,000 schoolchildren in its first year.

ASK officially opened its doors in December 2016 to train the aerospace and defence group's future workforce and provide life-long learning for its employees. It has 26 modern, light and airy classroom facilities and was built utilising the knowledge and experience of the company's training staff to provide the very best modern learning environment.

So far more than 550 apprentices, graduates, industrial placement and interns have been through the academy whilst also welcoming visitors from countries such as India, Turkey, Malaysia, Belgium, the United Arab Emirates, USA and Australia as well as trainees from Saudi Arabia.

The academy is working with schools and teachers to help get children aged as young as five interested in engineering and ASK's Principal Nigel Davies, said: "We are trying to inspire the next generation of engineers."

Eric Wright's apprentice commitment

Eric Wright Construction has pledged to increase its number of trainees over the next five years.

Part of the 5% Club, Eric Wright, aims to raise the number of apprentices, sponsored students and graduates on formal programmes to five per cent of its total workforce over the next five years.

The scheme is an industry-led initiative that works with UK employers of both public and private companies to inspire, educate and retain a growing body of people into 'earn and learn' placements.

The campaign aims to tackle both the chronic skills shortage and youth unemployment in Britain and help the country remain at the forefront of innovation. It also asks members to publicly report their progress in their Annual Report.

John Wilson, Managing Director of Eric Wright Construction, said: "Some of our workforce are currently studying for an apprenticeship or completing a formal graduate programme, so joining the 5% Club reaffirms Eric Wright Construction's commitment to address the skills shortage in the industry."

NEW DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Thousands of new jobs and new homes three years into City Deal

Across the Preston, South Ribble and Lancashire City Deal area, people are already seeing improvements where they live.

In the past three years, City Deal has already helped to create more than 11,489 jobs and to deliver more than 2,614 new homes.

Since the City Deal agreement was signed three years ago, nearly £46m of public and private sector capital has been invested across Preston and South Ribble, to help deliver these once-in-a-generation changes.

Over the next three years, it's anticipated more than £145m of investment will be made in infrastructure schemes, supporting the completion of 4,000 new homes and over 112,000 square metres of commercial and leisure floor space including developments in Preston City Centre and at Cuerden.



Lancashire Central presents major opportunity for businesses

Work is continuing on one of the North West's biggest industrial and retail developments, the Lancashire Central Scheme.

Lancashire Central is a 65 hectare mixed use site, situated in a prime position where the M65 begins and joins the A582, minutes from the M6 and the M61. It has the potential to generate significant economic and employment benefits for the region.

It is predicted the new scheme could create around 4,500 jobs and Lancashire County Council are currently looking for major retailers and companies who will be interested in taking premises on the new development.

Lancashire Central is one of Preston, South Ribble and Lancashire City Deal's major projects and it is being implemented in conjunction with partners Eric Wright Group and Brookhouse Group.

It is hoped the final project will see the creation of 80,000 sq. m of new industrial space, a further 26,000 sq. m of office and business space, plus a new 120 bedroom hotel and up to 210 new homes.

Executive Director for Growth, Environment, Transport and Community Services at Lancashire County Council, Stephen Young, said: "Good progress has already been made on preparing the site for development.

"Later this month we'll be starting work on some measures to secure the site and protect the site preparation work that we've already done. This could take a few months to carry out, with the majority of the activity taking place within the area of the previous temporary work.

"This continues to be a key development site that could bring a significant number of jobs to the area."



Work is now underway transforming playing fields surrounding Penwortham Bypass

Penwortham bypass forges ahead within City Deal

Work on the multi-million pound Penwortham bypass project is progressing well.

A major scheme which will eventually connect the A59 at Liverpool Road to Golden Way and the A582, is expected to be completed and open before January 2020.

Work will cost £17.5m and the bypass has seen the first stone foundation laid and Lancashire County Council is preparing to construct 'bunds' on either side of the

road which will screen the bypass from the surrounding environment.

Funding for the Penwortham Bypass comes from the City Deal and the Leader of the County Council, Councillor Geoff Driver said: "This is a huge step forward in delivering this new road, which has been talked about for many years. Local people have put up with congestion for too long through the town, and I'm pleased that construction is underway.

"The Penwortham Bypass is a key City Deal project to connect the A59 with the improved A582, which is in the process of being widened to add capacity in this part of South Ribble."



The Penwortham Bypass is starting to take shape

SUPPORTING BUSINESS



Funding boosts worldwide expansion

(L-R) Paul Taberner, Kevin Luxton, Sam Luxton, Cllr Michael Green

Lancashire based QiSOFT, whose quality management software is used by blue chip manufacturers around the world, is set for growth thanks to a £300,000 loan from Lancashire Rosebud Finance, which is managed by Mercia Fund Managers on behalf of Lancashire County Developments Ltd (LCDL)

The funding will allow QiSOFT to develop new mobile applications and the next generation of its software product, supporting the creation of several new jobs to drive expansion.

QiSOFT has been at the forefront of quality management software within the process manufacturing since 1986. QiSOFT is used by customers worldwide for data collection, monitoring and analysis, all aimed at improving efficiencies.

Customers include Unilever, Danone, Jacobs, Douwe Egberts and banknotes producer De La Rue.

County Councillor Michael Green, Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Environment and Planning, said: "This

is a successful business specialising in developing and supplying software for Manufacturing Execution Systems to the worldwide process industry. It's specialised work and I'm proud to say they're operating from here in Lancashire.

"They were founded in Leyland and are still based here. They also have an office in the USA, taking advantage of that market. We're proud that Lancashire's Rosebud Finance is able to support such an interesting company and support their growth ambitions here in the UK."

Business blooming at InLeaf

InLeaf, a company that supplies living plants to businesses across the region has secured a £150,000 boost from the Northern Powerhouse Investment Fund (NPIF).

The firm provides plant displays and living wall installations to offices, hotels, car dealerships and public spaces and is using the funds from NPIF to help its expansion.

The business was initially helped by Growth Lancashire. Since receiving the loan, the business has secured new contracts worth more than £50,000 and taken on an extra member of staff whilst a new fleet of vehicles were also purchased.

The NPIF provides microloans, debt and equity investments ranging from £25,000 to £2m to help a range of small- and medium-sized businesses to start up, scale up or stay ahead. It is overseen by the British Business Bank.



The team at InLeaf

AWARD WINNING BUSINESSES



The Group55 team collecting the firm's Red Rose award

Award recognises world leading service

Group55, the manufacturers of pet cleaning products, have added to their growing list of accolades by winning the 'International Achievement Award' at the prestigious Red Rose Awards 2018, for the second year running – making them the only company to have won the award twice.

Continued investment in people, facilities and innovative product development have allowed the company to provide world leading private label solutions to an increasing number of retailers and brand owners.

Export turnover in 2017 doubled thanks to increased private label business and the international success of Animology, the company's in-house brand that is sold in more than 50 countries.

Group55's Managing Director, Stephen Turner, commented "We are experts in our niche sector providing truly innovative private label solutions to leading retailers and brand owners around the world. I am proud of the Group55 team and it is immensely gratifying that our international achievements have been recognised for a second year running."



The new TeamSport indoor karting centre is now open

Boost to leisure offer with new karting facility

A state-of-the-art go karting track has opened its doors in South Ribble.

The £1.5m track has been brought to Bamber Bridge by TeamSport, the UK's largest indoor karting firm.

The company has transformed a unit on the Walton Summit Centre into a state of the art indoor karting venue that's now a firm favourite with thrill seekers and motor enthusiasts.

Dominic Gaynor, Managing Director of TeamSport Karting said: "We're delighted to have opened our latest centre in Bamber Bridge, it's a great location and is easy to access from both the city and surrounding motorways.

"We've a range of race events that caters for everyone, so whether you're a karting newbie or promising F1 superstar there's a race format perfect for you. We've also

launched our new Cadet Academy which offers tuition for kids aged 8-16 years to help develop them into advanced racers."

Race goers have a choice of not one, but three professionally designed tracks to kart on, as two multi-level circuits cleverly join to create a third awesome 800m circuit. With challenging corners, jaw dropping ramps and insanely quick straights, race goers are guaranteed a fun time.

TeamSport made the investment ensuring the venue can cater for everyone; from meeting rooms for corporate teambuilding days to children's party rooms and comfortable spectator areas.

There's also a fully licensed snack bar offering hot and cold drinks and a range of pizzas, perfect for refuelling after a few quick laps out on the track and celebrating the top spot on the podium.

£1M Refurb for Bluebird Inn

The Bluebird Inn at Samlesbury has re-opened following a major £1m refurbishment.

The 20-bedroom hotel was previously called the Boddington Arms before it was acquired by JW Lees from Greene King earlier this year.

It was renamed after Donald Campbell's world-record breaking Bluebird K7 boat whose turbo-jet engine was built at the nearby BAE factory.

Recently, JW Lees has also reorganised to build capacity for more acquisitions, moving away from the traditional model of dividing the business into managed and tenanted pubs in favour of creating a hotel and inn's division and a pub arm.

Record growth funds £550k refurbishment

A South Ribble hotel has undergone extensive refurbishments totalling £550k.

Following an impressive year which saw its highest ever revenue results and an increase in social banqueting, Hallmark Hotel Preston Leyland, part of the independent hotel group, Hallmark Hotels, has invested the money into refreshing the design and infrastructure of its bedrooms and bathrooms.

Formally part of Best Western, the rebrand back in 2017 contributed to a rise in social banqueting events including christenings and weddings which helped spark the decision for further investment.

Thirty one of the hotel's bedrooms and bathrooms have been modernised whilst functionality for the customer has also been improved.

New offices for Group55

Group55 has moved to a new £2m facility in South Ribble.

The move comes in response to continued business growth and future demand for both in-house and private label offerings.

The 22,000 sq. ft. building houses the very latest equipment to maintain the company's position as one of the world's leading providers of products to the animal care sector.

Leyland celebrates 20 years of development with PACCAR

Leyland Trucks is celebrating twenty years of ownership and investment by US-based company PACCAR, a global technology leader in the design and manufacture of premium light, medium and heavy-duty trucks.

Since 1998, PACCAR has grown Leyland's capabilities through strategic investments in technology, products and infrastructure. The Leyland Assembly Plant, which was already one of Europe's most advanced truck manufacturing facilities, has benefited enormously from these investments.

In 1998, the factory manufactured 9,000 trucks per year. Innovative improvements to the facility including a new PACCAR body production line, a robotic paint facility for truck chassis, electronic work instructions with touchscreen monitors, and the consolidation of two production lines into one has seen them enhance production by 72% to over 15,000 trucks per year.

Factory of the future for BAE

BAE Samlesbury engineers will soon benefit from collaborative robots – or 'cobots' – designed to support people with complex manufacturing of combat aircraft by the end of this year.

The cobotic workstation, a key feature of the factory of the future, is fitted with a range of digital technology and is being developed at the Samlesbury site in Lancashire.

The technologies that have been developed – including operator recognition and a sensor-enabled cobotic arm – will be tested on the Typhoon production line by the end of this year, marking the latest step in BAE Systems' strategy to continually invest in

and enhance its manufacturing capabilities to deliver the aircraft of the future.

Dave Holmes, Manufacturing Director at BAE Systems' Air Business, said: "We've only really started to scratch the surface of what automation can do in industry and some really exciting possibilities are emerging as we enter the fourth industrial revolution.

"Cobotics is the next natural step in developing manufacturing technology that will allow for a blending of skilled roles. We envisage that people will make larger, more strategic decisions while delegating the repetitive and intricate aspects of production to a robot."

A virtual image of the collaborative robots



Lunar Caravans sponsor British Touring Car Championship

Lunar Caravans has announced they are supporting Adam Morgan and the Ciceley Motorsport Team in the 2018 Dunlop MSA British Touring Car Championship (BTCC).

The BTCC is one of the country's best-loved motor racing championships, attracting a track-side audience of 384,500, a TV audience of over 17 million and an unprecedented social media following.

With many of the tracks offering campsite facilities, there is a natural synergy between Lunar's growing leisure vehicle portfolio and

motorsport followers looking to experience all the weekend has to offer.

Lunar Caravans Marketing Manager, Lea Lawrence, said: "It is exciting to be embarking on a new partnership in the thrilling world of motorsport.

"Leisure vehicles play an important role in the BTCC championships, both for the teams and the fans. We believe our partnership with Ciceley will energise our brand within the sport and help drive our ambitious growth plans."

Adam Morgan, Ciceley Motorsport Team and Lea Lawrence, Lunar Caravans Marketing Manager



New tech for Nitecrest

Leyland-based Nitecrest, has invested more than £300,000 in new machine technology, enhancing the company's special finishes range.

Nitecrest has been manufacturing cards for more than 25 years and exporting to in excess of 140 countries.

The new machine, claimed to be one of the first in the UK card industry, changes the way special finishes are added to gift and loyalty cards.

The new technology alleviates alignment issues when overprinting screen print finishes, such as high gloss varnish on logos and text.

Nitecrest can now produce more than five million cards each day, and are a Queen's Award for International Trade winner.

Major investment for packaging firm

Affinity Packaging has invested £250,000 in new folding carton machinery.

The Leyland-firm has purchased a Signature Premier 110 CS folder/gluer machine from ACE Machinery in South Korea, via its Wakefield agent Lloyds Print Services.

The new machinery will see the business' folding carton capacity increase by 50% enabling faster turnaround times whilst meeting exacting quality standards.

Elitetele makes further acquisition

South Ribble communications firm Elitetele, has acquired Support Span Group Ltd, for an undisclosed sum.

Support Span trades as HighSpan and specialises in telephone system solutions particularly in converged voice and data networks, IP Telephony and nationwide support and maintenance services.

The move will enable Elite to bring this knowledge in-house, previously it has subcontracted to companies, including Support Span.

It is Elitetele's 16th acquisition since 2008, the last being Leeds' Nexus Communications 12 months ago.

The combined operation will have more than 180 staff across seven offices, with Support Span accounting for 13 staff.

OUT AND ABOUT IN SOUTH RIBBLE

Yummy delights at Taste of Leyland

A host of delicious dishes graced the streets of Leyland for its third annual food festival.

A number of food stalls offered a variety of traditional and international cuisine.



The event saw more than 300 people attend with Balfour Court and Leyland Market transformed into a food court.

In addition to the food and drink offer there were also a range of activities for children from face painting and recipe ideas to performances from local artists.

Tasty delights were available from local businesses such as The Flying Pig Pizza Company, Beijing Restaurant and much more.

Councillor Cliff Hughes, Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning, Housing and Economic Growth at South Ribble Borough Council, said: "Supporting businesses in Leyland and South Ribble is of paramount importance to us obviously, I know many of these great companies and retailers already, but it's about promoting them to a wider audience, increasing their customer base and attracting people to Leyland town centre and Leyland Market, which is open every Tuesday, Friday and Saturday.



"It's a wonderful feeling to shop locally – why not get to know your local butcher or baker? They have great expertise in their area, can make great suggestions, and will learn exactly what you want and when. I'm delighted that Taste of Leyland was a success, and I wish every food business in Leyland the very best as we approach the busy Christmas period – a brilliant time for sharing and enjoying local food and drink."

Events prove to be extremely popular

Various events across the borough have proved to be a major success.

The ever popular Leyland Festival attracted thousands of people and the festival saw everything from

car and dog shows to live acts. One of the highlights of the show was the annual parade which this year was book themed and saw people of all ages dressed up as characters from their favourite stories.



Members of Worden High School at Leyland Festival

Business Events

South Ribble Borough Council runs a programme of business events during the year.

Working with partners such as Google, Boost and Central Lancashire, the events, which are open to businesses of all sizes, have been arranged to help provide business advice, networking and skills support.

Two of the autumn sessions are part of the Google Digital Garage. The Digital Garage project is part of Google's commitment to provide free digital skills training to entrepreneurs and individuals across the UK.

The events are Digital Marketing Planning and Know Your Business with Data. They will take place from 6:00 – 8:00pm on Wednesday, October 24th and Thursday, November 15th.

To book a place or find out more information on the business events programme, please visit www.businessinsouthribble.com/events

Supporting South Ribble Businesses

The Investment & Skills Team would like to work with your business to make sure that we and our partners provide the services and conditions that you need to thrive. In order to help businesses, South Ribble Borough Council offers a range of help free of charge.



LOCATION
A great place to do business



VALUE
Fantastic value for money for investors



CHOICE
A great choice of highly accessible business premises



SKILLS
Access to a range of specialist skills to meet your business needs

TO FIND OUT MORE CONTACT OUR INVESTMENT & SKILLS TEAM

T: 01772 625567 E: info@businessinsouthribble.com W: businessinsouthribble.com