

Invest in South Ribble

SUMMER 2015
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Welcome to the South Ribble Business Newsletter

South Ribble offers:

A great location for business

Good value for money for investors

A great choice of highly accessible business premises

Skills to meet business needs

Contact Jennifer to find out more
01772 625567 / info@businessinsouthribble.com

Delivering Success: Waitrose and Leyland Trucks Join Forces

Waitrose's decision to base a £35m regional distribution centre (RDC) in the heart of South Ribble has led to a business relationship between the supermarket chain and commercial vehicle manufacturing giant, Leyland Trucks.

Chosen for its close proximity to the national motorway network, the RDC caters for 57 Waitrose branches in the north of England and Scotland, with capacity for growth. The DAF vehicles, manufactured by Leyland Trucks, service all of the deliveries, reaching from Helensborough in Scotland to Market Harborough in Leicestershire.

The hugely positive venture has boosted the local economy by creating hundreds of new jobs and driven investment in surrounding businesses.

Julie Thornhill, general manager of Waitrose's Leyland RDC, said: "Our partnership with Leyland Trucks has continued to develop over the past decade, and as our operation has grown the relationship has gone from strength to strength."



South Ribble Named as an Economic Powerhouse

South Ribble has been crowned as the top district in the North West for job creation in a report by international auditors, Grant Thornton.

The economic growth is on an impressive scale, with 10,677 new posts created over an eight year period - more than Manchester and Liverpool combined.

The success, which places South Ribble in 16th place out of the country's 324 regions, has been attributed to the growth of several business parks including Walton Summit, Moss Side and South Rings.

Major employers, such as Dr Oetker, which moved its production line to Leyland, have also had a positive impact on the local economy and jobs market.

Babs Murphy, chief executive of the North and Western Lancashire Chamber of Commerce, said: "Some of our South Ribble businesses read like a who's who of the business community. We are extremely fortunate that visionary work on advanced manufacturing is now not only a national but an international focus for the translation of cutting-edge research and production. Education, skills and training are of the highest quality, which underpin this growth."



Cuerden Masterplan Mapped Out

The vision to generate investment and create thousands of jobs at a 65-hectare site in South Ribble is a step closer, following approval of the masterplan for the Cuerden Strategic Site during a meeting on 22nd April.

With the potential to create 2,500 jobs, the major site will be developed for high quality employment through a mix of commercial, industrial and leisure use. The masterplan reveals six 'zones' for the park, heritage features and flexible space to accommodate 'pop up' events such as farmers markets have also been incorporated.

The masterplan and other documents are available to view at: www.southribble.gov.uk/cuerden

Skills

Upskilling The Future



Representatives from Preston's College, South Ribble Borough Council and Leyland Leisure Centre

Pioneering Partnership Boosts Employability

South Ribble Borough Council has teamed up with Preston's College to develop a bespoke project-based learning programme that will enable 18 school leavers from the area to pursue a career in fitness and leisure.

The courses, which begin in September 2015, combine on-site training and academic teaching to help gain nationally-recognised qualifications in Activity Leadership, Leisure Operations and Gym Instructor.

Peter Dodd, chairman of South Ribble community leisure, which oversees the running of the leisure centres in the area, said: "We have some fantastic leisure facilities in the area to accommodate the community and this programme will give the young learners more exposure and experience of the world of work for when they finish their course, which is fantastic."

For more information and to apply, please visit www.preston.ac.uk

Leadership Skills at the Forefront

Future-proofing is a key concern for South Ribble businesses, with one major employer taking steps to invest in the skills and talent of their workforce.

Leyland Trucks selected Runshaw Business Centre to advance the managerial skills of more than 60 members of its workforce. The employees, which are from across the business, embarked on ILM Level 2 and Level 3 and CMI Level 4 training courses, which are due for completion in September 2015.



A Euro 6 LF produced by Leyland Trucks



The student's prototype

UCLan Collaborates with Lunar Caravans

Lostock Hall-based Lunar Caravans, specialists in the manufacture of lightweight caravans and motorhomes, is giving design students from the University of Central Lancashire (UCLan) the chance to develop ideas that will make caravanning more appealing to a younger market.

The firm, which has operated for almost 50 years and has a wide international market, provided a prototype micro-caravan to the Preston campus for the students to test out their concepts for multi-functional interior fittings and energy-efficient features.

The project has enabled the students to work on a real-life industry project and potentially see their designs manufactured in the future.

EWLF Cements Partnership with Preston's College

The Eric Wright Learning Foundation (EWLF) has joined forces with Preston's College to expand its range of training courses.

The Bamber Bridge-based organisation has provided construction training to schools in South Ribble since 2005, helping more than 1,000 young people to learn practical skills and prepare for further education and employment.

Designed to complement GCSE programmes, courses teach a range of skills, including joinery, bricklaying and painting & decorating.

From September 2015 onwards, learners will be taught at Preston's College in a 'Real Work Environment', sponsored by the EWLF.

Eric Wright, founder of the Eric Wright Learning Foundation, said: "We see this partnership as a way to build on the great work we have done over the past 10 years and will be working together with Preston's College to provide learners with an experience that truly reflects a typical working day."

Events

Aiding Business Growth



South Ribble Business Breakfast

Business Events - Fast-Tracking Growth

More than 80 top businesses gathered at a special Breakfast Brief to hear about new growth opportunities in South Ribble.

Chaired by Ron Augustyn, former managing director of Leyland Trucks, the event provided updates on all new developments in the district, including the Cuerden Strategic Regional Site and the Preston, South Ribble and Lancashire City Deal.

Looking ahead, the next annual Central Lancashire Business Event will take place in South Ribble on 22nd October 2015. The theme is Winning Business and it is part of the year-long programme of business events in the borough.

To reserve your place, contact the South Ribble Economic Development Team on 01772 625441 or email info@businessinsouthribble.com

Recruitment Backing & Legal Advice

South Ribble Borough Council is proud to have provided recruitment support to help fill vacancies created by the new branch of The Range in Leyland and also in response to demand for new employees from Spirit Pub Company.

Working in partnership with Jobcentre Plus, the recruitment collaboration is helping local people to access jobs and is delivering the skills required by businesses investing in the area.

To help new and growing businesses navigate the complexities of employment law, South Ribble Borough Council and legal experts, Aversure, held a free advice event in February 2015. As well as providing information on current employment law, the experts also offered a masterclass on discrimination in the workplace, protecting brands on social media and establishing robust health & safety policies and procedures.

For information on future business advice workshops, please visit: www.businessinsouthribble.com/business-support/business-networks

Promotional Opportunities at Leyland Festival

Saturday 20th June sees the return of the Leyland Festival, which presents a wealth of promotional opportunities for local businesses. Major firms already involved include Leyland Trucks, Ainscough Properties Ltd, Waitrose, Progress Housing Group and Screwfix.

The well-attended annual event, supported by South Ribble Borough Council, attracts media interest each year and is supported by an ongoing marketing campaign which draws crowds from across the North West to enjoy the festival procession, heritage vehicle displays, refreshments and entertainment.

This year's festival has a nostalgic 60s & 70s theme. For information on how to get involved visit www.leylandfestival.co.uk



Leyland Festival 2014

Support

Attracting Fresh Investment

Full Steam Ahead for Matrix Cleaning Systems

Lancashire County Council's Rosebud Finance scheme has enabled the founder of a steam cleaning machine manufacturer to regain full ownership of his business.

By acquiring the shares held by two original investors, Bob Pownall and family now have full control of Matrix Cleaning Systems, securing the jobs of 14 staff and facilitating expansion plans.

Following the deal, the Leyland-based firm plans to target overseas markets with its wide range of machines for domestic, commercial and industrial applications.

Email: rosebud@lancashire.gov.uk / 01772 536651

New Business Information Service Launched

Companies in South Ribble can now access an information service which provides updates on networking opportunities, advice and events, and details about local projects as well as regular copies or e-copies of the Invest in South Ribble newsletter.

Launched in April by South Ribble Borough Council's Economic Development Team, in addition to opening up trading and marketing opportunities, the service will make it even easier to access business support.

To sign up visit www.businessinsouthribble.com or email econdevt@southribble.co.uk



Longton village centre

Government Funding Award for Longton

The village of Longton will benefit from an extensive regeneration programme after receiving £131,700 from a Government Coastal Communities Funding scheme.

The introduction of a business and innovation advisor and the creation of a new incubation zone to provide low cost, fast access working space will build employment and enterprise opportunities in and around Longton.

The grant matches existing council funding in the town which aims to regenerate the centre, including the business and shopping area, and increase transport facilities, parking, signage, footpaths and community amenities.



Businesses Urged to Claim Broadband Vouchers

A Government grant worth up to £3,000 will enable many firms in South Ribble to reap the rewards of faster broadband speeds and improved connectivity.

Those applying before the end of March 2016 can benefit from the scheme, which is part of the Government's broadband transformation plans to help the UK create and attract new jobs and investment.

The scheme invites smaller companies to submit the quote they have been given by broadband providers, which considers the application before handing out vouchers of up to £3,000.

Businesses can check their eligibility at www.southribble.gov.uk/superfastbroadband

High Achievers



Celebrating the deal

Staying Local is Key to Building Success

Leyland-based building products supplier, C & W Berry Limited, is celebrating the extension of its partnering arrangement with Wainhomes North West Limited.

As part of the deal, C & W Berry supplies all 20 Wainhomes developments throughout the North West with a variety of building products including bricks, blocks, timbers packs, UPVC and staircases. The partnering agreement will continue until the end of 2015.

Both businesses favour a policy of staying local for their materials and workforce, supporting employment in the area and retaining investment in the region. C & W Berry, which employs 200 staff, was established in 1954 and is now Wainhomes' largest single supplier.

Commenting on the trading agreement Peter Jones, C & W Berry company director, said: *"We are delighted with the expansion of our trading relationship with Wainhomes, which has been an important customer of ours over a long period of time. We are already a significant employer in the town and an important contributor to the local economy."*

10ofThose on a Mission

A rapidly growing £1m Christian resources company has outgrown its premises at Centurion Court in Farington, Leyland and has moved into large new warehouse and office buildings on the Tomlinson Road Industrial Estate.

10ofThose's sole aim is to help local churches and Christian organisations by distributing bible-centered resources across the world and required extra space to accommodate growing national and global interests.

The business, after settling in Lancashire, grew from the founder selling Christian books and resources from a garage in Whittle-le-Woods and is now an internationally respected organisation with a reputation for personal service and quality products.

Expansion Plans in the Fast Lane

Rapidly growing haulage and logistics firm, FDC Holdings, is on track for future expansion after acquiring major new commercial premises at Four Oaks Road, Walton Summit.

The company, which handles palletised distribution, storage and fulfilment for some of the UK's largest brands, secured Unit 330 in a multi-million pound deal. The large-scale building will serve as an additional warehousing and distribution centre, whilst extra space on the site is set to be leased to other businesses to create a thriving hub.

Through this new purchase, the company aims to create new jobs and capitalise on extra capacity to service new customers.

Peter Allen, managing director of FDC, said: *"We have doubled our turnover and staff numbers in the last two years by making significant investment in the business and reaping the rewards of that investment with new contract wins. We're planning to create another 20 jobs in the next three to six months."*

Chutney Firm Relishes Expansion Challenge

Popular chutney firm, Fatjax, is achieving huge growth following a move to new premises in Leyland.

The rapidly-expanding venture was established by chefs Robert Weekes and Paul Ainscough who have more than 50 years' combined culinary experience. The pair developed the range in their spare time whilst working together at Eaves Hall in Clitheroe.

The firm's move to larger premises was in response to growing demand for the handmade range of bold chutneys, relishes, dressings and sauces. The company also recently launched a new 'Some Like it Hot' range, which includes a spicy peri peri and chipotle sauce, chutney and dried chillies.



Growing Potential

Flexcrete Hailed as Export Champion

For the third year running, UK Trade & Investment (UKTI) has named Leyland-based mortar manufacturer, Flexcrete Technologies Limited, as one of the North West's leading Export Champions.

The thriving business, which manufactures technical mortars and high performance coatings for the construction industry and other sectors, distributes to 65 countries, with export sales accounting for 50 per cent of its revenues.

The role of Export Champions is to offer peer-to-peer support in relation to the range of individually tailored professional services available from the UKTI team, as well as promoting exports generally.

Graham James OBE, director of Flexcrete Technologies Limited, said: *"We're delighted to be declared Export Champions once again. We have been trading in export markets for some 30 years now and we firmly believe that our business is in good shape because we have invested in new product development, not just in the UK, but with global markets in mind."*

Flexcrete HQ



Breath of Fresh Air for Leyland Firm

Clean Air Power, which specialises in natural gas engine systems for HGVs, has secured a significant contract extension with a global truck manufacturer.

The new deal, to deliver a demonstration vehicle, extends the agreement to commence the first phase of a production development programme for a MicroPilot compression-ignited natural gas engine for the South East Asian and other markets.

Worth approximately \$1m in additional revenue for Clean Air Power, the contract extension includes both engine and vehicle system development. The firm's patented MicroPilot and Dual-Fuel technology enables engines to run on natural gas mixed with diesel or any suitable combustible fuel.

Speaking of the win, John Pettitt, Clean Air Power chief executive, said: *"This new contract is another step forward in our ambition to be the design, development and delivery partner of choice for compression-ignited natural gas systems."*

Teen Harry Delivers

Age is no barrier to success for 15-year-old St Michael's High School student, Harry Longworth, who has set up a successful leaflet distribution business in Buckshaw Village.

The young entrepreneur is helping other businesses to grow by personally delivering around 20,000 flyers to more than 3,000 homes in the area each month.

The entrepreneurial idea came when Harry realised that expansion of Buckshaw Village presented a gap in the market for new local businesses to promote their products and services. On the back of the success, Harry hopes to expand his enterprise after leaving school by launching a local business magazine.



In brief...

Late Starter Artist Gains Recognition

Tony Bartley, a Leyland-based artist who only discovered his passion for art mid-life, is gaining recognition for his work, including a best painting award in an open art exhibition at the Harris Museum.

Family Activity Centre Gets Go-Ahead

A new large family play centre has opened in Leyland. The Play Pad in Tomlinson Road Industrial Estate will include go-karting, laser tag, a climbing wall, football space and a café.

Solar Plans Approved at BAE Systems

A proposal to install 10,000 solar panels at the Samlesbury military aircraft manufacturing site has been approved, which will provide up to 25 per cent of the site's peak demand for electricity. The site is next to the Lancashire Enterprise Zone.

Commercial Property Investment

Building Success

News Update

The Central Lancashire Business Event 2015 will be held on the 22nd October 2015. See www.centrallancashirebusinessevents.co.uk for more information.

Nuclear Specialist Relocates to Bamber Bridge

James Fisher Nuclear has moved to Gordon House, a 30,000 sq ft three-storey building in Bamber Bridge, on a five year lease agreed with landlord, AMEY. The relocation to the impressive building is part of the firm's expansion plans

Jonathan Baucher of commercial real estate brokers, Cushman & Wakefield, said: *"This was a significant letting for the region and represents one of the largest deals of its kind to be completed in the local market over the last decade."*



Wayne Jones, head of ROV site teams

Summit Foods Expands at Walton Summit

Prospering frozen foods manufacturer, Summit Foods Ltd, has bought additional premises within Walton Summit Business Park.

Increasing capacity by 10,992 sq ft, the firm is set to expand and capitalise further on the strategic transport benefits of the location, situated close to the M6, M61 and M65 motorways.

The family-owned business, which produces cooked foods and snack-based products across the retail, food service and food manufacturing sectors, already operates a 26,000 sq ft facility and employs more than 150 staff.

Momentum Business Centre



Roundhouse Properties Gain Momentum

The success of the Momentum Business Development at Buckshaw Village has led property developer, Roundhouse Properties, to repeat the formula at South Rings.

Planning permission has been granted for the 2.3 acre site to develop 43 business units, offering flexible office and industrial space specifically designed for small to medium-sized businesses.

Jeremy Lefton, director of Roundhouse Properties, said: *"Lancashire has tremendous opportunities for growth and development and the new business centre provides an excellent location with immediate access to the main motorway networks, linking the region's largest cities and towns."*

In brief...

Leyland Trucks Expansion Underway

Conlon Construction is currently working on a Cassidy + Ashton -designed scheme to create additional office accommodation and a visitor centre at Leyland Trucks' headquarters, along with an additional floor on top of the company's existing two-storey space.

Jobs Boost from Matrix Point Development

Seddon Developments is set to start work on its £4m Matrix Point project. The speculative 19-unit development is part of the highly-successful Buckshaw Village scheme and is aimed at SMEs. The development, which will be built by Seddon Construction, is expected to complete within seven months and the units range from 800 sq ft to 5,400 sq ft.

Fish Insurance Nets Sceptre Point Lease

The former Apollo Cinema headquarters at Sceptre Point has been leased by Fish Insurance which will occupy the 4,800 sq ft space following the 10 year agreement.

Supporting South Ribble Businesses

We are pleased to introduce our support for your business in South Ribble.

Jennifer Clough (Economic Development) 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.

We can offer:

Details of local commercial sites and premises

Business networking opportunities

Information on support for business growth

Local training & recruitment provider details

To find out more please contact Jennifer on 01772 625567 or email info@businessinsouthribble.com or visit www.businessinsouthribble.com