

BUSINESS NEWSLETTER OF



Invest in South Ribble

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Waitrose opens £35m distribution centre in Leyland



Distribution centre on its official opening in September

Supermarket chain
Waitrose has opened a new £35m regional distribution centre in Leyland.

Located on Matrix Park in Buckshaw Village, the new site comprises a 360,000 sq ft warehouse, 50,000 sq ft office space and a vehicle maintenance unit.

The centre has created jobs for 300 staff and will service 44 branches of the supermarket across the north of England and Scotland by the end of the year. When running at full capacity, the distribution centre will generate up to 300 additional jobs and service up to around 100 branches.

Helping to expand its portfolio of stores over the next five to 10 years, the distribution centre has helped to provide a welcome jobs boost within Lancashire.

David Jones, supply chain director, said: "We've got a highly-skilled workforce that will ensure we can efficiently service 44 stores within just six months.

"Waitrose is in its biggest ever period of expansion and this centre will play a key role in ensuring that can continue.

"We've made a significant investment in Lancashire and are here for the long-term."



The Mayor of South Ribble, Councillor Dorothy Gardner and other dignitaries enjoy and admire the eye-catching sculpture

New South Ribble HQ for North West Projects

North West Projects, a firm that provides mechanical and CE&I engineering design services for the nuclear and chemical industries, has unveiled an eye-catching sculpture as the showpiece of its new flagship headquarters at Matrix Park, Buckshaw Village.

Created by internationally-renowned sculptor, Charles Hadcock, the 18-tonne structure, known as 'Verticil', has been brought back to Lancashire from London after spending a year both at Canary Wharf and Hanover Square.

Designed in 2011 at the artist's studio in Samlesbury, the striking structure, which is three metres in diameter, was cast at the Coupe Foundry in Higher Walton and is just one of 24 pieces of the sculptor's art on display across Europe. Mounted on stone and cast in iron, the sculpture is a semi-spherical arrangement twisting around a central axis.

Speaking at the unveiling attended by the Mayor of South Ribble, Councillor Dorothy Gardner, Charles, who sits on the national board of the Royal Society of British Sculptors, said: "I am delighted that North West Projects has brought one of my pieces home to Lancashire, especially to the very borough in which it was created. The sculpture makes a bold statement and is a fitting marker for such a prestigious building."

Frank Dalton, managing director at North West Projects, said: "Charles's sculpture provides a wonderful focal point at the centre of the building. We are extremely pleased to have been able to source such an iconic piece of art locally which will be enjoyed by our staff, clients and passers-by for many years to come."

North West Projects has moved into the flagship headquarters in order to facilitate ambitious growth plans, improve their overall business environment and have access to key motorway networks. The 30,000 sq ft building comprises state-of-the-art IT and security systems, a café, conference facilities, a gym and meeting spaces.

Fresh Investment for South Ribble

Funds Invest £750k in Roofing Firm



Centaur Technologies has attracted £750k investment from the North West Fund for Venture Capital and Lancashire's Rosebud fund, both of which are managed by Enterprise Ventures.

The Leyland-based company has produced a range of innovative systems for treating both new and existing roofs, offering significant benefits over readily available products including greater usability, lower cost and reduced environmental impact.

Paul Taberner, investment director from Enterprise Ventures, said: *"We are privileged to be able to support this exciting new company in Lancashire. The Centaur Technologies management team has played a leading role in this industry for 30 years. This new venture will introduce a new generation of roofing membrane technology and has huge potential."*

(L-R) Phil Richardson, Jeremy Gorick, Paul Taberner of Enterprise Ventures and the late Bob Stanfield

Sweet Smell of Success for Leyland Manufacturer

Leyland manufacturing company, Expac Ltd, has recruited more staff as a result of receiving a Government grant to create a new filling facility.

The company currently specialises in manufacturing toiletry and personal care products such as shower gels, body lotions and talcum powder but is soon to expand its offering to the production of ethanol based products including aftershave, room sprays and fine fragrances.

The funding was secured through the accelerating business growth programme, run by Regenerate Pennine Lancashire, which is providing £16.5m in grants to Lancashire businesses through the Government's Regional Growth Fund.

In order to meet customs guidelines for the production of the new alcohol-based, flammable products, the firm has been given funding for a high-tech blending and filling hall complete with specialist machinery at its operation on Tomlinson Road.

Mark Langtree, managing director of Expac, said: *"By creating this facility, we have already gained two new clients and employed several new members of staff."*

"Without a doubt, the assistance from Accelerating Business Growth has helped to secure our company's future. It is very reassuring to receive funding from local investment, keeping Lancashire's manufacturing sector alive."

This new facility will enable the company to grow by 20 per cent whilst also allowing the business to open up to international export markets.



Dean Ellwood, Facilities Manager at the brewery, the Mayor of South Ribble, Councillor Dorothy Gardner

South Ribble Brewery Celebrates Production of its 20 Billionth Pint

Samlesbury brewery, AB InBev, produces premium beers such as Stella Artois and Budweiser and has been operational for more than 40 years. This year the brewery is celebrating the production of its 20 billionth pint.

The firm has more than 260 employees on site and operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to produce 3.5m bottles, 1.7m cans and 17,000 kegs in a single day.

Neil Nersesian, manager of AB InBev's Samlesbury brewery, said: *"Producing our 20 billionth pint is a great milestone for the whole brewery team and is a testament to their hard work and commitment."*

The brewery team also created a special 20 billionth Stella Artois keg, which will remain on display in the brewery.

Superfast Lancashire Launches New Business Support Centre

Superfast Lancashire, based at Lancashire Business Park, launched a state-of-the-art business support centre in Leyland this summer, to help businesses to get the most from superfast broadband. The new high-tech business support centre is a significant milestone in the roll-out of the £130m Superfast Lancashire project.

A series of free business seminars have started running from the centre covering topics such as cloud computing, digital marketing, video conferencing and social media. These seminars form part of the Business Support Programme, designed to show Lancashire's SMEs how to get the very best out of superfast broadband.

Mark Chamberlain, who runs the business support centre, said: *"Superfast broadband gives your business the means to take up services that can have a very real impact on your bottom line, from cutting out costly investments in IT systems to reaching new customers."*

Location, Location, Location

Moving on Up



Linda Williams - owner of Stonehouse Childcare

Leyland Nursery Benefits from Extension

Stonehouse Childcare, based in Leyland, is benefiting from a purpose-built extension that enhances the existing facilities and has created new jobs.

The nursery, owned by former teacher Linda Williams, first opened its doors in 1989 and is registered for 109 children and employs 33 members of staff.

Since the building project completed, Linda has been on the lookout for additional staff including two new apprentices.

Previously housed in two adjacent buildings, the new extension has brought everyone under one roof and now incorporates extra facilities for under twos, additional office space and a staff training room.

Linda Williams, owner of Stonehouse Childcare, said: *"All of our parents, children and staff are delighted with the extension and having the extra capacity has allowed us to create new facilities and challenging learning environments for both staff and children."*

Funds Pave Way for Restaurant Refurbishment



Mezzo Restaurant, Samlesbury

Mezzo restaurant, based in Samlesbury, has been fully refurbished after receiving funding from the Royal Bank of Scotland.

The refurbishment has enabled the family-run restaurant to increase its size and also extend the outdoor seating area with the addition of a large roof terrace.

Lynda Atzeni who runs the restaurant with her Italian husband, said: *"We wanted to extend the services that we provide for our customers and the refurbishment will allow us to be more flexible in providing facilities for weddings and special occasions."*

After spending twenty years in the hospitality industry, Lynda initially thought about leaving the business but instead she joined forces with her son, who is a chef and her daughter, who works with her in the office.

In agreeing the deal through RBS, the family was also able to benefit from the Funding for Lending Scheme.

Sadie Sharples, senior relationship manager at RBS, said: *"We were delighted to support Lynda and her family in expanding the restaurant."*

Industrial Scheme Rises from Ashes

Lancashire County Council has successfully completed the construction of two new industrial units spanning 168,000 sq ft at Lancashire Business Park, Leyland, after a substantial building on the site was destroyed by fire in December 2011.

The high-bay units are being marketed by Jones Lang LaSalle and Lambert Smith Hampton and have been designed as warehouse and distribution units.

Both units were designed so that they can be split to form smaller units of 75,000 sq ft and can also be combined to create a 332,000 sq ft unit, making it one of the only available new build units of its size in the region.

Andrew Aherne, director at Lambert Smith Hampton, said: *"Lancashire Business Park has many advantages for businesses looking to move to the area. Not only is it in a strategic location with easy access*

to North West industrial hubs such as Preston, Warrington, Manchester and Liverpool, but also offers a high quality environment from which to operate.

"The new buildings are fitted with lighting and sprinklers significantly reducing fit-out costs. This, combined with the competitive terms and immediate availability, makes it a unique offer in the market."

Dan Burn, director at Jones Lang LaSalle, said: *"We are also able to offer built-to-suit development at Lancashire Business Park, where businesses can benefit from a first-class environment, ample parking and 24-hour security."*

The business park is owned by Lancashire County Council Developments Limited and the units have been built by both Conlon Construction and Keepmoat.

Industrial units at Lancashire Business Park



Location, Location, Location

South Ribble Welcomes New Faces

Local Kit Maker Strikes Games Deal

Lancashire sportswear manufacturer, Kukri Sports, based at Walton Summit is proud to have been named England's Official Kit Supplier at the Commonwealth Games England.

The company will supply all the national team's delegation and competition-wear for the Games in Glasgow next summer and will also produce a range of replica products to be worn by supporters.

Five former fashion graduates from the University of Central Lancashire (UCLan), who work for Kukri Sports in Preston, are currently working on plans for 15 different sports kits from athletics to shooting and have met some of England's most elite sports stars to gauge their opinions.

Phil Morris, managing director at Kukri, said: *"We are incredibly proud to have been selected to provide the kit for the England teams. As an upcoming sportswear brand headquartered in South Ribble, providing their kit shows just how far we have come since we started in 1999."*

The company supplies kits for more than 76 sports including the county cricket clubs of Lancashire and Somerset, the England netball team and rugby union giants, the London Wasps.



SOLFEX Launches Specialist Training and Innovation Centre

SOLFEX Energy Systems Ltd, a leading distributor of renewable energy systems, has launched a new training and innovation centre in Bamber Bridge.

Based at Charnley Fold Industrial Estate, the new space aims to provide customers with up-to-date training on the latest renewable products the company has to offer.

The centre will provide information on solar, thermal and underfloor heating systems, photovoltaics, which is a method of generating electrical power by converting solar radiation into direct current, as well as air and water heat pumps.

Chris Higgs, national heat pump division sales and technical manager, said: *"Much more emphasis and value needs to be placed on ensuring that installers are equipped with the manufacturer's skills required to correctly specify and install air source heat pumps."*

"Our heat pump area of the centre is fully Samsung EHS endorsed and comprises two individual working areas and a fully equipped seminar room and live installation area."

Mad Science Director Scoops Award

Dr Caroline Chesworth, director of Mad Science, has scooped the Business Woman of the Year award at the star-studded BIBAs (Be Inspired Business Awards) ceremony, held at Blackpool Tower.

More than 900 members of Lancashire's business community packed into the ballroom for the North and Western Chamber of Commerce annual event, with TV presenter Eamonn Holmes and former X Factor winner Matt Cardle providing entertainment.

Mad Science, based on Walton Summit, is the North West's largest fun science provider and offers a range of after-school programmes, in-school workshops, special events and holiday camps across the region.

Caroline, who was recognised for her contribution to the programme said: *"I am delighted to have received this award and it is great to be involved in an initiative that actively gets children involved in fun science activities, encouraging them to become the scientists of the future."*

Celebrating Success

Networking Group Enjoys Double Celebration

Business networking group, BB4B (Business Before Breakfast) has enjoyed a double celebration after their second anniversary coincided with the 100th issue of Leyland Leader, the business directory which forms the backbone of the group.

Since its launch in 2011, BB4B has met every month and decided to celebrate the anniversary with a special breakfast birthday cake.

BB4B is based at St Andrew's Parish Church, Leyland, on the first Friday of every month and regularly attracts 35 or more guests from many local businesses. The group currently includes a wide variety of professionals and tradespeople along with councillors, high schools and support consultants.

BB4B organiser and owner of Leyland Leader, Keith Bradshaw, said: *"I think we are all surprised at how the group has grown over two years. In that time BB4B has forged a strong collective identity and some fantastic friendships have been made."*

"Solicitors, accountants, estate agents, financial advisors and a wide variety of tradespeople have benefited from attending our networking event and it has become a real focal point for businesses in Leyland and South Ribble."



(L-R) Greg Heath (Derbyshire Booth Financial Management), Keith Bradshaw (Leyland Leader), Claire Hamilton (Birchall Blackburn Solicitors), Mark Croasdale (Haines Watts accountants)



(L-R) new starters Mark Kelly, Stephen Mather and Antony Crawford

Dr. Oetker Creates 50 Jobs in Leyland

The UK's leading frozen pizza manufacturer, Dr. Oetker, has recently completed an ambitious expansion programme at its base on Marathon Way, Leyland, which has resulted in the creation of 65 new jobs.

The company produces the nation's favourite thin and crispy frozen pizza, Dr. Oetker Ristorante, as well as the popular Chicago Town range.

As part of the redevelopment, the manufacturer has been working in partnership with Preston College and Job Centre Plus to create a training academy for any new starters to the business.

Kate Waring, HR manager for Dr. Oetker, said: *"We're committed to nurturing home-grown talent."*

"We look for a can-do attitude in all our new starters; a determination to work, not necessarily qualifications is the key, as these can be gained through training."

David Gorman, spokesperson from Job Centre Plus, said: *"This is a win-win situation for people looking to join a dynamic company."*

"The training breaks down the barriers to entry and helps give new starters valuable new skills."

National Success for Local Accountancy Firm

Leyland-based Haines Watts accountants are celebrating after scooping a national award for the second successive year.

The firm, which specialises in advising and supporting owner-managed businesses, has won Auditor of the Year in the SME category for a second year at the annual Finance Directors Excellence Awards.

The awards recognised service providers that support Britain's finance community using the results of an annual survey, in which 1,380 finance directors and key decision makers recorded their opinion.

The company won the award in 2012 and once again beat off tough competition from other UK firms including Baker Tilly, Crowe Clark Whitehill, Deloitte, RSM Tenon and Saffery Champness.

Andrew Minifie, national managing partner at Haines Watts, commented: *"It's great to see Haines Watts win such a prestigious award for the second year in succession. This type of award really matters to us because it's voted for by business people and not by an academic panel of experts."*

Winning Performances



Clean Air Power Receives Multi-million Pound Investment

Chelsea FC owner, Roman Abramovich, has placed a £5m share in Leyland-based Clean Air Power, which develops dual-fuel engine management software for heavy duty vehicles.

Through his Ervington Investments vehicle, Abramovich has taken a stake of about 1.5 per cent in the AIM-listed company through participation in a £5m share placing, and Zara Shvidler, the wife of a close friend of Mr Abramovich has also bought a similar holding.

The company has developed technology allowing trucks with diesel engines to run on clean and cheap natural gas and will fund marketing and sales in both Russia and the US with money raised from the share placing.

John Pettitt, chief executive of Clean Air Power said: *"We are delighted to have completed a successful fundraising partnership with strong support from existing and new shareholders."*

"The investment by Ervington Investments and Ms Shvidler confirms the huge potential of our Dual-Fuel™ technology and firmly endorses our strategy to develop markets in Europe, US and Russia."

Eric Wright Group Announces £20m Turnover Growth

The Eric Wright Group which encompasses construction, civil engineering, property and facilities management, has announced a £20m spike in turnover.

Based in Bamber Bridge, the company is involved in several major projects across the North West and has reported an increase in net profit to £6.5m during 2012.

Jeremy Hartley, group managing director, said: *"Considering the tough conditions that many similar companies are experiencing, the firm has performed broadly in line with our targets."*

"A lot of work has also been going on behind the scenes to ensure the business is adapting to changing markets. The commercial focus is excellent and the board is extremely pleased with progress across all divisions."

During 2012, the group completed work on projects such as Manchester United's Carrington training facility, the 'Bolton One' health, education and leisure centre and Highfield Humanities College in Blackpool.



Conlon Welcomes Strong Financial Figures

South Ribble-based Conlon Construction has reported strong financial results for 2012/13 with a turnover of £36.4m and net profit of £1.7m.

Both figures increased by 7.8 per cent from the previous year and the company said it was pleased to achieve a third successive year of improvement despite the challenging market conditions.

The company has also created two new divisions this year and both have

continued to successfully secure a number of projects to date.

Michael Conlon, chairman at Conlon Construction, said: *"Partnered projects have continued to be the cornerstone of our construction activity and we remain encouraged by work-in-hand and projects in the pipeline."*

"We are pleased that confidence is beginning to return to the market and we are excited about taking the business forward and successfully delivering current projects during 2013/14."

Business Dreams Made Reality for Youngsters

Young entrepreneurs in South Ribble are already benefiting from the support Lancashire Community Finance (LCF) has received from the South Ribble Partnership's Community Bids Fund.

Lancashire Community Finance is a delivery partner for the Government's flagship StartUp Loan scheme which provides a package of advice, mentoring and loans to entrepreneurs who have a viable business idea but are unable to get mainstream bank finance to help them make it a reality.

There are 17 applications in the pipeline from budding entrepreneurs looking for start-up loans and LCF has already made six loans totalling £36,000 to new businesses in the area.

The latest successful entrepreneur, Alam Jalil, who plans to open his new business called 'Seven Stars Barbers' by the end of October has already been helped by the loan and said: *"With the help of Lancashire Community Finance I am able to launch my business without the financial stress."*

It's Happening in South Ribble

Putting South Ribble in the Spotlight



Norma the Fire Engine

Heritage Fire Engine is Unveiled in Leyland

Norma the fire engine is the latest vehicle to be used as a 'Welcome to Leyland' gateway feature and is now placed outside the Best Western Leyland Hotel as a symbol of the town's history.

The 1938 TL fire engine was revealed to the public in a special ceremony and will prove to be an eye-catching feature for both local people and visitors into Leyland.

The vehicle, made by Leyland Motors and used during World War II, has followed the Centurion Tank, located on Flensburg Way, to become the next vehicle to be used in the town's 'Made in Leyland' series.

Flocks of people attended the official opening on Leyland Way to see the Mayor of South Ribble, Councillor Dorothy Gardner, reveal the fire engine which has been placed in a specially-made glass case.

Martin Ainscough, who donated the fire engine to South Ribble Borough Council and Norma White, wife of Tony White who owned the fire engine before it was sold, attended the launch.

Step Into Music Strikes the Right Chord

Leyland-based Step into Music, a non-profit social enterprise aimed at giving individuals the opportunity to express themselves through music and art, has received a £9,740 National Lottery grant to provide new equipment.



The organisation exists to give children and adults the opportunity to access high-quality musical equipment including state-of-the-art guitars, computer and recording equipment.

Kris Johnson, manager of the project which offers various workshops and studio time for youngsters, said: "We are thrilled to have received funding from the National Lottery Awards for All Scheme and we are confident that the equipment will create plenty of opportunities for young people to learn new skills and demonstrate their musical ability."

City Deal to Secure Growth Across Lancashire

An historic City Deal which plans to position South Ribble, Preston and Lancashire as important economic centres outside of London has been signed.

With a detailed plan to support the creation of more than 20,000 new jobs, including 5,000 in the Lancashire Enterprise Zone and 17,420 new homes, the deal is also set to create nearly £1 billion in economic growth over the next decade.

To fund this deal both the local and central Government will establish an Infrastructure Delivery Programme and Investment fund with a combined value of £434m.

Supporting South Ribble Businesses

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

Our Economic Development Team at South Ribble Borough Council 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