

Chamberlink Magazine

ISSUE NO.22
SPRING 2024



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CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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Chamber members

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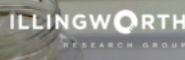
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SPRING 2024

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items for the next issue of Chamberlink should be sent to
reception@northcheshirechamber.co.uk by 23rd AUGUST 2024

(please mark Chamberlink magazine)

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NORTH CHESHIRE
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Chamber patrons



WELCOME FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Welcome to the Spring Edition of Chamberlink Magazine!

The weather may not have improved yet but, at long last we can see some green shoots of recovery in the economy as business confidence grows and our prospects improve. We all hope this will continue and whilst there are always likely to be bumps (or potholes) in the road, after the last 3-4 years, we really need a period of stability and growth.

Our calendar has a whole host of events designed to help businesses engage and grow and to foster connections, inspire collaboration, and enrich knowledge. Whether you're a seasoned member of our Chamber or a newcomer, we invite you to take part in our diverse lineup of events, most of which are open to members and non-members alike. From networking to professional development

workshops (and a member's summer social), there's something for everyone to engage in and derive value from. If you would like to be a guest speaker at one of our events or you could deliver a masterclass or workshop, please do let us know.



With local elections upon us and the prospect of a General Election later this year, there is likely to be plenty of change ahead but what I see on a day-to-day basis is an industrious, innovative, diverse and resilient business landscape with businesses ready to face those challenges and continue to drive the north Cheshire and wider north west economy forward. I am excited to be part of it!

Terry Hayward
Chief Executive

UPCOMING EVENTS

Brand Brilliance with Lyfe Studio

Date: 9th May from 08:30-1:00

Location: Glasshouse, Alderley Park, SK10 4TG

Breakfast Networking at Wilmslow Youth

Date: 14th May from 08:30-10.00

Location: Wilmslow Youth, Chapel Lane, SK9 1PR

Spotlight Networking at One London Road

Date: 23rd May from 08:30-10:00

Location: One London Rd, Alderley Edge, SK9 7JU

Net-Walking in Macclesfield Forest

Date: 5th June from 09:30-11.30

Location: Macclesfield Forest (maybe Tegg's Nose), SK11 OAP

Network Knutsford

Dates: 12th June & 10th July (2nd Weds of each month) from 08:30-10:00

Location: the Tea Room, 73 King St, Knutsford, WA16 6DX

The Business Club

Date: 19th June from 11:45-2.30

Location: The Hollin House Hotel, Bollington, SK10 5BG

Networking Breakfast at Manchester Airport, Aerozone

Date: 25th June from 08:00-10:30

Location: Manchester Airport Aerozone, M90 1QX

Members Social and Padel Tournament

Date: 18th July from 5:30pm

Location: Pure Padel & The Churchill Tree, Alderley Park, SK10 4TG

Visit www.northcheshirechamber.co.uk/events for further information about all NCCOC events and how to make a booking or contact reception@northcheshirechamber.co.uk

Spring Budget

Child benefit changes

By Chris Bentley - Director at Harts



Do you have children? Do you or your significant other have taxable income over £50,000? Or if not, would you like your income to be in excess of £50,000? If the answer to the first and either the second or the third questions is “yes”, then you need to be aware of changes to child benefit entitlement from this April.

A change for the better?

For many years, a tax charge has been imposed on child benefit received where either half of a couple has an income in excess of £50,000. And the tax charge would be equal to the child benefit if income is in excess of £60,000. This meant a household with two earners each on £50,000 (household income £100,000) received full child benefit, whereas another household with one earner and household income of £60,000 received no child benefit.

In addition, because of the rate at which child benefit is taxed, families with the higher earner having an income of between £50,000 and £60,000 faced a very high effective tax rate. The rate was nearly 65% for those with two children and close to 75% for those with three children. If the individual was still paying off a student loan, an increasingly common situation, the effective tax rates were higher still. And with recent inflation, an income of £50,000 is not particularly high these days.

Changes for families

In the March Budget, the government recognised some of the unfairness in the regime and that it was increasingly driving what might otherwise be considered perverse behaviours such as the higher earner in a household reducing their hours to keep earnings below £50,000. Is it worth working on Fridays if the government takes three quarters of it in tax? Three changes were made, all effective from April 2024:

- The threshold at which child benefit starts to be taxed is increased from £50,000 to £60,000
- The threshold at the tax charge is equal to the benefit received is increased from £60,000 to £80,000
- The rate at which the benefit is taxed is halved, so reducing some of those extremely high effective tax rates

The government's stated hope is that the changes will mean that more middle earners conclude it is worth their while increasing working hours (and paying taxes) rather than actively reducing hours to keep their child benefit entitlement.

Changes for business owners

For business owners, and indeed employees, with children, these changes need to be considered:

- If you have restricted drawings and so taxable income to £50,000 historically, there is now an opportunity to take out a further £10,000 a year, potentially each, while keeping full entitlement to child benefit. Any income over £50,270 will still be subject to higher rate tax though.
- If you are not currently claiming child benefit, it would be advisable to review whether a claim should be made or restarted in the light of the new thresholds.
- If child benefit is not currently being received it is important to review swiftly as **claims can only be backdated three months**.
- It should be noted that claiming child benefit, even if it is repaid through the tax system, also provides national insurance credits (ie state pension entitlement) for those with children under 12. And that making a claim (at any point) is also the mechanism through which your son or daughter will receive a national insurance number when they turn 16.

And finally

The government has also proposed that from April 2026 the child benefit tax charge should be based on household rather than the higher earner's income. Doing so would make the system much more equitable. However it remains to see whether this or the next government will be able to achieve this proposal as it will be very complicated given that the UK's tax system is based wholly on individuals.

In the meantime, we would recommend those with children review whether they should be claiming child benefit, and indeed whether the increased threshold provide scope for a welcome increase in drawings from the business. For those to whom it is relevant these changes will have a far bigger impact than the National Insurance cut which was the focus of media attention.

If you need any further help, please do get in touch below.

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We are currently seeking compassionate and dedicated support workers for our residential facilities, as well as enthusiastic and caring education assistants. As a support worker, you will play a crucial role in providing care, guidance, and support to our residents, promoting wellbeing and independence.

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MEEL GROUP - 6 DECADES OF INNOVATION



Celebrating Six Decades of Innovation and Excellence; for Northwest Mechanical and Electrical Engineers, Meel Group

In the heart of Macclesfield, stands Meel Group, a beacon of innovation and excellence in mechanical and electrical engineering. As we commemorate our diamond jubilee in 2024, we reflect not only on the journey of the past sixty years but also on the path ahead, illuminated by the glow of our accomplishments and fuelled by our unwavering commitment to progress.

We have transitioned into our new premises, at Snape Road, Macclesfield, signifying not just a change of address, but a significant milestone in our legacy and growth, optimising our commitment to progress and unwavering dedication to providing the highest quality services to our clients.

At the heart of Meel Group lies our exceptional team of professionals, 65FTE and growing, whose

dedication and expertise have been instrumental in our success. We believe in nurturing talent and empowering our staff to reach their full potential, evident in our robust apprenticeship programme, which continues to shape the next generation of mechanical and electrical engineers and leaders.

Looking to the future, our commitment to integrity, innovation, and excellence remains steadfast. We embrace the evolving landscape of our industry, pioneering new solutions and technologies that not only meet but exceed the expectations of our clients and workforce alike.

As we celebrate this milestone, we extend our deepest gratitude to all who have been part of our journey. With unwavering dedication and a renewed sense of purpose, Meel Group will continue to shape the landscape of mechanical and electrical engineering for generations to come.



WELCOME TO NEW CHAMBER MEMBERS



LYFE STUDIO

Macclesfield

www.lyfestudio.co.uk

Lyfe Studio is a dynamic agency that helps companies grow by creating meaningful brand experiences. We believe every brand has the power to make a big impact. Our focus is on helping ambitious companies use their brand to tell their story and connect with new and existing customers.



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www.helenjonesnutrition.com

Helen is a registered Nutritional Therapist and Wellbeing Coach providing Workplace Wellness solutions for SMEs across the UK. Helen also runs a private clinical practice, offering clients personalised nutrition, lifestyle and mindset coaching.



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MEEL GROUP

Macclesfield

www.meelgroup.co.uk

The Meel Group consists of three mechanical and electrical service divisions; Projects, Building Services and Sustainability Solutions. As either principal or sub-contractor, we see M&E projects of all sizes from conception to completion - from design, build and installation to full building services maintenance and service contracts along with specialist experience in commercial solutions for solar, batteries and EV charging.



MAGIC FRANK

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Entertains guests at social functions with magic and mind-reading. This breaks the ice, adds energy to any lulls (eg waiting for meals to be served at a banquet) and makes the whole event more memorable.

BEXLEY BEAUMONT CELEBRATES NATIONAL LAW AWARD TRIUMPH

BEXLEY BEAUMONT

Bexley Beaumont has capped another year of success by winning a prestigious national law award.

Despite being the youngest of five firms on the shortlist, it was named Law Firm of the Year at the Modern Law Awards.

It is the second notable prize claimed by Bexley Beaumont in the space of a year, following its being named Boutique Law Firm of the Year at the inaugural Legal 500 Northern Powerhouse Awards.

The firm has made significant strides over the course of the last 12 months, including topping a ranking of the fastest growing top 200 law firms.

Chief Executive Karen Bexley has described how the latest award win was an indication how those outside the firm recognised the impact which it had generated.

"It is a huge honour to win this prestigious national award especially within 5 years of inception, it's an incredible achievement and thanks goes to everyone who has supported the Bexley Beaumont journey.

"In the last year, we have welcomed new partners, extended our service offering, further developed our London presence and, therefore, are able to provide clients with even more capable support.

"We are particularly thrilled, however, that the Modern Law Awards' judges identified how we had developed right across the business and not solely in terms of partner growth.

"In addition, we have established new initiatives - BBCollaborate and BBElevate - to encourage the cross-referral of work across different specialisms and help our lawyers enhance their individual practices, we have also launched BBFoundation, as a platform for our CSR initiatives.

"Furthermore, we have refined our values in order to reflect the progress which we have made but remain in keeping with our original vision.

"As an overall strategy, we are confident that it amounts to a recipe for future success and cannot wait to see what it brings."

To get in touch with Bexley Beaumont email: BB@bexleybeaumont.com



Chief Executive Karen Bexley and Director Anna Beaumont

Brought to you by

FREE EVENT

the 1261 Festival & Parade Day
in Macclesfield Town Centre

Named for the town's charter year, the 1261 Festival plans to be a celebration of Macclesfield's creativity and community. We'll be offering live music, workshops, exhibitions, activities, street theatre, walking tours and loads more.

As part of the festival weekend, on Saturday 29th June we'll have the One World Parade heading through town. Co-ordinated by Macclesfield Community ArtSpace the parade will be showcasing community groups from every corner of Macc. Catch it heading off from the Town Hall at 11am.

We're working with Choose Macc to bring you a range of amazing live music over the weekend as part of our 1261: After Party programme and don't forget to head to Treacle Market on Sunday to enjoy their massive range of stalls; whether its a recovery breakfast or a memento of a great weekend you'll definitely find what you're looking for!

From Treacle to Silk, Pandas to Potatoes, and Mayall to Curtis we've got a lot that makes us Macclesfield - so let's put on a bit of a show.

Friday 28th June
Saturday 29th June
Sunday 30th June

POWERED BY
LEVELLING UP

Funded by
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1261

brought to you by

FREE EVENT

DO SOMETHING SUMMER!

DO SOMETHING DIFFERENT THIS SUMMER!
WE'RE WORKING WITH OUR FRIENDS ALL AROUND MACCLESFIELD TOWN CENTRE TO BRING FUN, FREE ACTIVITIES FOR EVERYONE DURING THE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS. FROM COMICS TO CLIMBING THERE'S SOMETHING FOR YOU IN MACCLESFIELD THIS SUMMER!

RETURNING JULY 24TH 2024

FOR A FULL LIST OF WHAT'S ON SCAN THE QR CODE

To celebrate the return of Do Something Summer we've got free buses running on selected routes every Wednesday from 24th July - 28th August. No need to buy a ticket, just hop on and off all day!

D&G Bus Routes: 3, 10, 19 & 19A - High Peak Bus Routes: 14, 14A

South Park Pavilion

Sponsorship Opportunities

There are many avenues for investing in the future of South Park.

Macclesfield's beautiful new pavilion will be a valuable resource for the community today and for future generations. We have several investment tiers available, each offering the opportunity to be an integral part of this exciting and ambitious project.

Treacle

Donation level: £1000 - £5000

Benefits for Treacle level supporters include:

- Bronze style plaque on the supporters wall in the new pavilion
- Invitation to the Opening Ceremony
- Use of the event space for training, team away days or business events one day per year for one year
- Ongoing publicity via the Town Councils channels for one year, including a half page advert in the 'Macc Update' Council newsletter

Silk

Donation level: £5001 - £10,000

Benefits for Silk level supporters include:

- Silver style plaque on the supporters wall in the new pavilion
- Invitation to the Opening Ceremony
- Use of the event space for training, team away days or business events one day per year for two years
- Ongoing publicity via the Town Councils channels for two years, including a half page advert in the 'Macc Update' Council newsletter

Tunncliffe

Donation level: £10,001 - £20,000

Benefits for Tunncliffe level supporters include:

- Gold style plaque on the supporters wall in the new pavilion
- Invitation to the Opening Ceremony
- Use of the event space for training, team away days or business events one day per year for three years
- Ongoing publicity via the Town Councils channels for three years, including a half page advert in the 'Macc Update' Council newsletter

Charles Roe

Donation level: £20,001 +

Benefits for Charles Roe level supporters include:

- Platinum style plaque on the supporters wall in the new pavilion
- Invitation to the Opening Ceremony
- Use of event space for training, team away days or business events one day per year for four years
- Ongoing publicity via the Town Councils channels for four years, including a half page advert in the 'Macc Update' Council newsletter
- 10 exclusive South Park Pavilion branded hoodies

For more information about investing, including the William Frost Legacy level please go to macclesfield-tc.gov.uk/SPPsponsor



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COMMUNITY EVENTS AT [ONE] LONDON RD



[ONE] LONDON RD, a flexible working and event space in Alderley Edge has had a busy start to the year hosting a series of local events.



An Evening with Nick Bishop

Nick Bishop hosted a truly inspirational event at [ONE] LONDON RD in February.

Nick a local runner and leadership coach shared his story about a group of seven talented yet impoverished athletes from Iten, The Home of Champions, high up in the rift valleys of Kenya. Nick first visited in October 2021 and is now on the brink of developing an athlete to run a sub 60 minute half marathon! The athletes Nick works with are very talented with a hunger to succeed but lack so much of what we take for granted. The prize money from any event is a small fortune to them and for one of them provided sufficient funding to feed a whole village from planting a field of maize.

Pam Graves, General Manager of [ONE] LONDON RD, said all who attended were thoroughly amazed by Nick's story. Pam has also had the privilege of meeting Dennis, one of the athletes.

Creative Connecting in Cheshire

An all ladies group from Cheshire congregated at [ONE] LONDON RD for the Creative Connecting in Cheshire January meeting hosted by Sue France. The Edge played host to a wonderful morning of collaboration and networking with guest speakers. Being Human at Partner & Community Day



Sheep herding, a fitness workout & breathing techniques formed part of a community day at [ONE] LONDON RD, which was hosted by their co-workers, Paul Porter & Carolyn Hobdey, co-founders of Being Human at. The event saw a range of local, influential partners attending, showcasing bespoke immersive experiences tailored for business leaders.

During the day, the venue was transformed to host a variety of events for all the partners and community members to get involved in, including a breathwork session from 'The Ice Warrior' Angela Bentley on the terrace, a lunchtime fitness workout in the ground floor café by Nicky's Bootcamp Live, LinkedIn training by Mr LinkedIn, Mark Williams, in The Edge and a chocolate workshop by Oli the Choc. It was a delight to see so many local businesses join forces for an exceptional day in the heart of Alderley Edge!

Interested in hosting an event at [ONE] LONDON RD? Call 01625 836666. For the latest news and events at [ONE] LONDON RD, sign up to the newsletter at onelrd.com



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THE
CYBER
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CENTRE
FOR THE NORTH WEST

The King's School's sell-out production of **Guys and Dolls** was a fabulous celebration of the very best of 20th Century musical theatre. Eye catching, ear tingling, slick and superb, Frank Loesser's classic adaptation of Damon Runyon's New York yarns won riotous standing ovations.



It wasn't just family and friends in the audiences that numbered over 1000 over its three-night run, but local music lovers who know a special treat always awaits them.



Pictured standing are Emilia Ross and Emily Allmand-Smith. Seated from left to right are Matthew Gass, Robb Thomas and Dylan Hodgson.

King's Maths teacher Gareth Robinson, who organises King's entry in the UK Maths Challenges, said: "The Gold Award is a very high standard and, as the name suggests, the Kangaroo Challenges are a leap even further forwards. These pupils have shown fantastic ability to learn new processes and apply that logic in different applications."

The King's School's trampoline team are once again flying high, lifting four team titles in the national championships.

A total of four teams won Gold medals, claiming the title of National Champions, with a further five teams taking the Silver medals. The brilliant King's Year 1 to 6 novice team - who were 'honoured and excited' to be competing in the same event as Princess Charlotte - were Gracie Russell, Sophia Shaw, Eva Tarplee and Ava Greenway, and they were delighted to take first place.

Held at the Telford international Centre it was another bumper day for the young men and women in blue coached by the ever-inspiring Rachael Burrows. Coach Rachael Burrows said: "It was an incredibly successful and enjoyable day with so many highs. As well as the success in the sport, I was also proud of the way our pupils conducted themselves with a coach from another school commenting on their kindness. That's the sort of squad I want to lead."



King's School mathematicians were jumping for joy after qualifying for the UKMT's Kangaroo Challenges.

King's had a brilliant six Gold Award winners in the annual UK Intermediate Maths Challenges, with three going forward to the Kangaroo Challenges



The King's School's under-14 netball team have come a superb fourth in the National Schools' Netball Finals. Held at the picturesque Oundle School near Peterborough, the event brought

together the UK's county and regional champions, and just qualifying alone ranked King's in the top 18 schools nationwide.



Ladies in Business organised by Harts Accountants and Anthony Collins Solicitors, held their quarterly event at the newly opened Panadero Lounge in Macclesfield last night. There was plenty of tasty tapas and the odd glass of wine. The Rossendale Trust was presented with a cheque for £600 which had been raised due to the generosity of the ladies that attended our events last year. This years charity is the Smile Group (www.smilegroup.org.uk) which we will be raising much needed funds for at our 2024 events.

Join us for our next event in July*
Contact Nina Harrison at:
nharrison@harts-ltd.com

Venue & date TBC*

Anthony Collins | Incorporating Jobling Gowler

HART'S

OUT AND ABOUT WITH THE CHAMBER

The beginning of 2024 has been a busy time for the Chamber Events Team and it has been great to see so many members at our events.

Here's a reminder of what we've been up to:

'Serving up some nuggets!' Networking Breakfast at Picturedrome, Macclesfield

We began experimenting with a new format for our 1st event of the year at The Picturedrome on the 11th January. One of our members, Andrew Thorp introduced short presentations from 4 pre-arranged volunteers, each of whom delivered some 'nuggets' or insights from within their business.



Strategy & Finance Masterclasses – 30th January

Steven Glicher from Harts Limited was our guest speaker at the beautiful Shrigley Hall in Macclesfield. Steven provided a great insight into key areas that businesses needed to understand. How to grow your business. Document a plan so you have something



to follow, and review it regularly. From analysing current assets and liabilities to understanding long-term financial obligations and capital reserves, Steven shed light on the essential numbers that highlight a successful business.

Sales Club - 'What's Your CURE?' - with Sales Geek James Denny at Sutton Hall

On the 1st of February we visited Sutton Hall in Macclesfield – which has a wealth of history with lots of interesting folk to have either lived or stayed in the hall, one of which is Lord Lucan!

Another interesting character delivering our Sales workshop that day was James Denny who offered up fun and engaging content geared around proven world class sales practices that helped with organisations current approaches and how they could be improved.



Citation Networking Breakfast – 8th February

At our Citation Networking Breakfast, attendees gained invaluable insights from Gill McAteer, Citation's Director of Employment Law. Gill expertly navigated us through recent turbulent times and complex legal changes, providing clarity on the important updates coming into force in April 2024. From changes to holiday rules to the introduction of carers leave, Gill illuminated how these legal shifts impact both workers' rights and employer responsibilities.



Management & Leadership Masterclasses – 13th February

Gilly Thompson from Thompson Training was such a great speaker with so much enthusiasm as she educated us as how to elevate our leadership journey

It was an insightful day of networking, knowledge-sharing, and professional growth as we delved into the dynamic realm of effective leadership strategies. This event was designed for forward-thinking professionals eager to stay ahead in the ever-evolving landscape of management and leadership.



Happy, Healthy Staff Networking Breakfast at Cottons Hotel – 27th February

Helen from Helen Jones Nutrition discussed the role of nutrition in supporting mental and emotional wellbeing, alongside practical nutrition and lifestyle strategies to increase resilience and help you and your employees feel happier and calmer.

Manni Aheer from Westfield Health, a leading provider of wellbeing services to SMEs across the UK, introduced their comprehensive benefits package for employees at affordable prices.



IT & Cyber Crime Workshop at Jodrell Bank – 14th March

We had the opportunity to explore the UNESCO World Heritage site that is Jodrell Bank, visit the exhibition in the First Light Pavilion and even catch a planetarium-style show in the Space Dome.

We had some great and very knowledgeable guest speakers, Dan Giannasi from North West Cyber Resilience Centre, Andy Kevan from Cheshire Police, Rebekah Hamilton from Riskworks Business Services Ltd, and Andrew Rosamond and Robert Gibbons from Cara UK.

I think it's safe to say, that we all came out with a little more awareness, and also understanding the tools we have to protect our businesses from the rising risk of cyber attacks.



The Business Club – 20th March

Our quarterly lunches in collaboration with Harts Chartered Accountants and Orbit Developments took place at Hollin House Hotel

In March the main speaker was Craig Fell from Lyfe



Studio who discussed how to Create meaningful and engaging experiences that increase recognition, reliability, and market share. In essence, the value of brand and how to build and protect it and the mistakes people make.

As with all the Business Club events the room is always full and the food is superb!



HR and Health & Safety Masterclasses – 21st March

This two-part masterclass and workshop on HR and Health and Safety was covered by Katie Hodson of SAS Daniels and Adam Harries of Stockwell Safety.

Our experts covered essential topics such as employee relations, compliance with employment laws, and creating a safe working environment. Participants learnt about best practices for



managing your staff in the office and/or in a hybrid working environment, to ensure workplace safety and legal adherence.

Monthly networking breakfasts in Knutsford with Knutsford Admin at The Tea Room.

In the last 18 months the Chamber has made a real effort to be more representative of business across the North Cheshire region by ensuring a spread of events throughout the area. In collaboration with Knutsford Admin we now run a monthly networking breakfast at the Tea Room in Knutsford on the second Wednesday of each month.



INTRODUCING - THERMMARK ROAD!



Thermmark Ltd are thrilled to unveil Thermmark Road - more than just a brand update, we also have an expanded product range, new website, and (our latest innovation!) the Thermmark App, designed specifically for road markings.

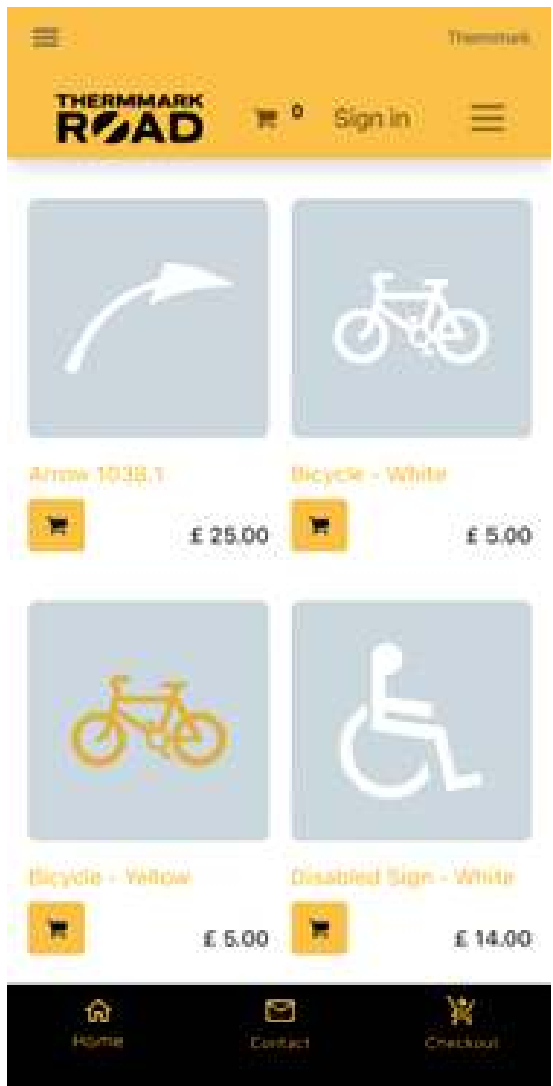
With the new website and app, ordering road markings has never been easier. Our expanded product lines fill in many of the gaps we saw in the market, so whether you're marking new parking spaces, refreshing road lines, require EV charging symbols, or need to implement safety signage, we have everything you could need - and our app streamlines the procurement process. Say goodbye to lots of paperwork and phone calls - now, you can place orders and track progress in real-time, anytime, anywhere!

As fellow chamber members, we understand the importance of supporting local businesses. That's why we've developed this app - to empower small businesses to thrive in a digital era. Visit our website or download our app today and experience the difference for yourself.

And, while most of you may not be working in the road marking industry yourselves, we're so excited about this new direction that we want to offer 10% off a car park refresh for all chamber members. Visit our website at www.thermmarkroadmarkings.co.uk to learn more and use CARPARK10 for 10% off! Or download the app using the QR Code below.

Here's to a future of streamlined operations!

Thermmark Ltd is an award winning supplier of road safety solutions and playground markings based in Congleton. Contact us on 0330 124 2750 or at sales@thermmark.co.uk.



ROSSENDALE TRUST: PAUL'S STORY



Rossendale Trust
Supporting independent futures

Latest figures show that only 4.8% of people with a learning disability are in employment. At the Rossendale Trust we seek to redress that balance with our WorkTaste project. WorkTaste aims to facilitate employment opportunities for those we support, fostering skills, confidence, and independence while benefiting the local community.

Our dedicated WorkTaste coaches provide personalized support, mentoring, and training as participants engage in various tasks. Over time, many individuals have progressed to secure paid employment or volunteer roles.

Collaborating with local organisations and businesses, including Arighi Bianchi, Macclesfield Community Sports Trust, The Kings School, Leek Building Society and Scoop and Scales to name just a few, we have witnessed positive outcomes for both participants and their employers.

Paul's Story

When our tenant Paul, expressed a keen interest in taking up a placement with Arighi Bianchi, they

were only too happy to help out.

With one-to-one support from WorkTaste Coach Julie, Paul began working in their café as a waiter. Paul excelled in the role! In fact, he excelled so much that last year his exceptional service led to a formal employment offer from the company, where he continues to thrive, delighting customers and colleagues alike.

Nick Bianchi comments: "Paul does a magnificent job, is always smiling, and takes great delight in giving fantastic service to our customers. Our staff also get a lot out of working with Paul and really enjoy it when he is with us. I wholeheartedly recommend this scheme (and charity) to all businesses in the area."

With so many success stories to shout about, we couldn't possibly cover them all here, but we invite you to get in touch and find out more. Offering a WorkTaste placement could make a real difference to a person with a learning disability. For information email hello@rossendaletrust.org



Could You Be Our Next Trustee?



Rossendale Trust
Supporting independent futures

The Rossendale Trust are seeking Trustees to join our Board and share our passion to deliver a quality, life-enriching service to adults with complex needs and learning disabilities.

NO previous experience of being a Trustee is necessary, nor is knowledge of our sector. We are seeking a broader business-based knowledge to fill the skills gap on our board.

Our award-winning charity (now in its 51st year) provides a high standard of supported living service to 65 adults, mainly within the Macclesfield area. We also operate a day service known as Oakwood which benefits over 70 users from the wider community.

Our innovative supported employment programme, WorkTaste, works with local employers and community project partners to provide a real employment experience. WorkTaste delivers high levels of support through our Job Coach and mentoring programme which has a positive effect on the general health and wellbeing of our participants.



If you would like to express an interest, or would simply like to have an informal discussion with the Chair of Trustees (with regards to joining as a Trustee or just offering your support), then please get in touch with Adam directly at **adam.schofield@rossendaletrust.org**

"As a board of Trustees, we're looking for business professionals to join the board, or to help support us and fill our skills gap.

We meet 5-6 times a year, so it's not a big commitment on your time and we also offer remote meetings for those that can't always join us in person.

You could help make a real difference to the lives of others in our community"

Adam Schofield, Chair of Trustees.



@RossendaleTrust



@TheRossendaleTrust



@TheRossendaleTrust



@TheRossendaleTrust

www.rossendaletrust.org

WEAR4WORK



Wear4Work Limited sponsors East Cheshire Hospice Local Macclesfield company Wear4Work Limited announced today that it has joined the East Cheshire Hospice 500 Club.

Speaking about the announcement Richard Woollam Managing Director of Wear4Work Limited said: "As a local organisation, based in Macclesfield we are delighted to support East Cheshire Hospice in both sponsorship and in the provision of our products and services for other activities of the hospice".

At the presentation of the certificate and engraved trophy, Luke Oldham ECH Corporate Fundraiser said, "Since 1988, East Cheshire Hospice has been caring for people living with life-limiting illnesses, putting patients, their carers and families at the centre of everything they do, with expert medical treatment being only the start of the holistic care provided. However, only 17% of our funding is from the government and the remainder is donated by the communities we serve: Buxton, Congleton, High Legh, High Peak, Knutsford, Macclesfield, Poynton, Wilmslow and

everywhere in between."

Woollam went on to say: "We are looking forward to working closely with the hospice on all their sponsorship activities providing logoed team wear and other services relating to raising money for this fantastic cause"



Contact: email: wear4work@btinternet.com
Tel: 07484 106952 Web: www.wear4work.com.

NEW NATURE TRAIL AT SHRIGLEY HALL



Hotel guests along with conference and event delegates now have the option of enjoying a newly opened woodland trail at Shrigley Hall Hotel & Spa in Pott Shrigley. Perfect for break outs, a morning or afternoon activity, early morning jog, or pre-dinner stroll.

Follow the trail, breathe in the fresh forest air, look out for the information boards, and learn about who and what lives in the woods. You can even enjoy a scavenger hunt or relax and find your inner calm via a spot of forest bathing if that is your thing!

The one mile loop starts and ends at the front door of the hotel and can prove a fabulous addition to your event.

Shrigley also features 155 bedrooms, a wide range of meeting spaces, 250 yard event field,



championship golf course, footgolf facility, pitch and putt, and luxurious spa. For enquiries, contact events@shrigleyhallhotelandspa.co.uk

LYFE STUDIO MARKS HALF A DECADE

LYFE

LYFE STUDIO MARKS HALF A DECADE WITH OFFICE MOVE AND TWO APPOINTMENTS

Branding and design agency, [Lyfe Studio](#), which was founded by Craig Fell and Ben Hamman in 2019, has relocated to a new Handforth office to accommodate its growing team.

Formerly situated in Macclesfield, the branding and design agency, which works with start-ups to multi-billion pound businesses, has welcomed two new colleagues to bolster its offering and manage its expansive client portfolio.

Kit Ambage joins Lyfe Studio as a senior designer, bringing 11 years of experience to the role. Specialising in branding and digital design in his former role at Digital Ethos, he will support Lyfe Studios' creative director in the strategic delivery of exceptional creative work. Also new to the team is Ben Holah, an account manager with over an 8-year background most recently at McCann. The team now stands fully equipped for its next phase of growth.

Liberating brands through meaningful experiences has been the agency's bread and butter since day dot, while Lyfe's purposeful approach to branding and design has contributed to its year on year growth.

three months have been the most successful financial quarter in Lyfe Studio's history. This achievement underscores the dedication and hard work of our team, as well as the trust and support of our valued clients. Our sustained growth trajectory is testament to our unwavering commitment to delivering top-notch branding solutions that drive tangible results for our clients."

Fell continued: "For the fourth consecutive year, Lyfe Studio has doubled its profits year on year. This remarkable accomplishment is thanks to us staying true to our strategic vision, unwavering dedication to excellence and the trust placed in us by our clients. As we continue to innovate and evolve, we remain steadfast in our commitment to delivering unparalleled value and results. Our new home and extended team confirm our commitment to our ambitious growth targets - we're really looking forward to seeing what else 2024 brings!"

Lyfe Studio is not restrained to any one sector and chooses to work with all industries offering branding guidance and development. With a broad range of previous clients including those in property, tech, industrial, education and agriculture, it's a truly diverse and capable studio set up to support businesses with big dreams and aspirations through purposeful design.



Cheshire Marketing is pleased to announce the launch of the Small Business Community Facebook group to help businesses grow and nurture success. This is a great group join where we share the highs and the lows, celebrate success as well as support each other. It is also a great opportunity to network and be part of the networking opportunities available.

There are weekly tips, monthly videos, expert speakers, free resources, courses, workshops and so much more to help your business. Businesses are welcome to ask questions, join in with the discussions and there will be separate threads where you can promote your business.

Feel free to join the group on Facebook called Small Business Community or email kerry@cheshire-directory.co.uk with any questions.

We are also hosting an Instagram Reels Workshop on 7th June for 1 hour via Zoom, if you need help to maximise reels for business. Feel free to book on by emailing kerry@cheshire-directory.co.uk

Cheshire Marketing are super pleased to be the Marketing Sponsor for the Wilmslow Community Show taking place on the 7th July in Wilmslow.

Cheshire Marketing are delighted to support local events and community initiatives, and on the day of the event - we shall be handing out Cheshire Business Directory goodie bags, freebies and providing an opportunity for local people to talk to us.

Thank you to all the businesses who support us and recommend us. A big thank you to the Chamber for all their support. www.cheshire-directory.co.uk





WILMSLOW COMMUNITY SHOW

Fun for all the family...



Sunday 7 July 2024
11am-4pm



Wilmslow Carnival Field
SK9 5NG



BOOK NOW:



Fb/ Insta:
wilmslowcommunityshow
www.wilmslowshow.co.uk

WILMSLOW SHINES BRIGHT

With many town centres struggling with closures and vacant stores, Wilmslow seems to be standing out as a beacon of hope. Renowned for its upscale boutiques and discerning clientele, Wilmslow is embracing a retail renaissance. With 5 new stores which opened in 2023 within Orbit Developments' retail spaces, a renewed sense of energy and diversity has been injected into the town's shopping scene.

Tropica Plants arrived first, captivating locals with its eclectic selection of flora and inviting café atmosphere on Manchester Road. Meanwhile, Gails Bakery on Water Lane satisfies cravings with its artisanal bread and delectable pastries, quickly becoming a favourite spot for sweet treats.

Grove Street welcomed back Card Factory, offering its beloved range of cards, gifts, and party essentials. On Alderley Road, Arlo & Jacob breathed new life into the former Lloyds bank, with their contemporary furniture designs, while

Pinarello on Water Lane caters to cycling enthusiasts with its sleek high-end bicycles.

These exciting openings coincided with the momentum of Wilmslow's Business Improvement District (BID) initiative, launched in 2022 to enhance the town's appeal and support local businesses. With significant investment backing marketing, promotions, and business assistance, the BID is paving the way for Wilmslow's resurgence.

As residents embrace these new establishments and community spirit flourishes, Wilmslow's retail scene is thriving. Whether you're in the mood for greenery, gourmet pastries, or luxury furnishings, Wilmslow's got you covered, making it a must-visit destination for shoppers seeking something special.

For more information on Orbit Developments please visit www.orbit-developments.co.uk



COULD YOUR BUSINESS SUPPORT THE CHRISTIE?



Supporting The Christie at work is a great way to raise awareness and vital funds, at the same time as having fun and boosting morale in the workplace. Support like this ensures we are able to fund life-changing and potentially life-saving projects that will benefit cancer patients, both now and in the future.

How you could get involved:

- Fundraising with colleagues
- Company charity partnership scheme
- Nominate The Christie as your company charity of the year.
- Apply for matched funding from your company
- Payroll giving
- Sponsor one of our events
- Take part in a sporting challenge
- Volunteering



MAGIC FRANK JOINS NCC

Just imagine, looks of amazement on your guests' faces, gasps of astonishment followed by peals of laughter, how you will feel when they thank you for booking me to astound them.

My name is Magic Frank, and I am an award-winning magician and mind-reader. You're organizing an event for your business, such as a staff party or an awards event. You may be planning a private celebration like a wedding or anniversary.

Whatever the event, adding magic to the occasion will have everybody talking about it for a long time to come. Magic is a superb icebreaker; a fantastic way to round off a special meal and is an excellent way to avoid any lulls during an event.

Everyone has seen magic on TV but in real life, especially close up, it makes a tremendous impact. After all, you know it can't be a camera trick.



Why me and not a young magician with a full head of hair? Great question. Rather than tell you myself, watch previous clients tell you all about me here: www.magicrank.co.uk/media

MACCLESFIELD BUSINESS CELEBRATES 30 YEARS

As part of Amtri Veritas 30th anniversary celebrations, local MP, David Rutley visited the Macclesfield based business to see first-hand the innovative work they have done over this period. David met with Ms Eline Beun, Managing Director, and other members of the senior management team to discuss their plans for the future.

Established in 1994, Amtri Veritas employs engineers and project managers, with a high number living in the local area. Amtri Veritas is an approved body for machinery inspections and a certification body for management systems under UKAS accreditation, providing machinery certification services to clients which operate globally.

Ms Beun informed David that Amtri Veritas provides a range of training courses, such as compliance with machinery product safety legislation, Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations and management system standards. The business is committed to excellence and their engineers have high levels of experience in

machinery compliance. As part of their package of support to clients, the company also offers technical support with compliance of machinery, through risk assessments, completing compliance checks and writing instructions.

David was also pleased to hear about the business' commitment to supporting UK based charity, Tools With A Mission. The charity collects unwanted usable tools, refurbishes them and then sends them to Africa, where they have been used for a variety of much-needed projects, such as two projects in Zambia working to set up a new school in Lusaka and supporting the Disabled Care Organisation in Solwezi.

Speaking after the visit, David said "Amtri Veritas are a real asset to Macclesfield and the local community. Their experience and skills have allowed the company to expand for 30 years and it was good to meet with Ms Beun and her team to see their innovative work and hear about the Tools With A Mission initiative. I wish them continued success for the next 30 years."



A background image showing a group of people in a meeting. One person is pointing at a laptop screen, while another is holding a pen over a notepad. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a modern office environment.

Want to make a difference?

Join our Board of Trustees

East Cheshire Housing Consortium, (ECHC), helps over 100 service users with mental health issues across Macclesfield, Congleton, Crewe and Handforth, by providing short or long-term housing and support.

Due to high demand, we're continuing to expand. So, we're now looking for two new directors to join our board and offer support and advice on strategic issues.

“

I find it extremely rewarding being part of an organisation that supports vulnerable people and makes a difference to many lives.

ECHC trustee

You'll need to:

- Have an understanding of business operations, experience within a local authority or commissioning of services
- Be able to attend a bi-monthly board meeting (around 2 hours long) at the ECHC offices in Macclesfield (lunch provided!)

Interested?

Get in touch for an informal chat with Brenda Wright on **01625 500166** or email her on **bwright@echc.org.uk**



www.echc.org.uk

ECHC CONTINUES TO GROW



East Cheshire Housing Consortium, ECHC, has expanded significantly since it was set up in 1991.

Its role is to offer accommodation and support services, primarily for individuals with mental health needs, so they can live within the community. The flats and houses are of high spec and first rate quality.

Over the last thirty years, the organisation has gone from strength to strength. It now employs more than 75 staff, providing services to over 100 users. ECHC also made its mark as a provider of best practice in the sector when it was recognised in a Parliamentary Review.

The organisation took the step of changing its Care Quality Commission (CQC) registration in 2021 so it could cater for 16 year olds and over, whereas previously it had only been able to support those over 18.

ECHC currently has premises in ten different locations across the county in Macclesfield, Congleton, Crewe, with the most recent opening in Handforth last year. This is a ten-bed, mixed age-group facility for those with complex needs.

New initiatives have also included the Weston Centre which offers a wide range of activities, plus a crisis cafe, providing a safe space for people aged 18 and over who are experiencing emotional distress. Brenda Wright, CEO, said, "It's been incredibly rewarding for me and the team to see how the work of the organisation has evolved over the years - and a privilege to support individuals as they find a new pathway for the future."

Due to this exciting time of expansion, the organisation is looking for two more directors to join the board of trustees and provide strategic advice. If interested, contact Brenda Wright on 01625 500166 or email her on bwright@echc.org.uk



JUST DROP-IN



We are a small mental health charity, based in Macclesfield, delivering free counselling and wellbeing services to local young people.

We are here to help and support children and young people who are finding life hard. We have a heartfelt commitment to improve their mental health and wellbeing, helping them to find their feet.

For all who drop-in, we seek to: create a safe space, instil a sense of self-worth and hope, relieve their struggles, embrace and develop their strengths, and build their resilience to face the world with renewed self-confidence.

www.justdropin.co.uk

The demand for mental health services for children and young people is at an all-time high (one in ten young people have a diagnosable mental health condition, 25% of children did not return to school after the pandemic and 29% of children are growing up in poverty in the UK)

However, at the same time, finding funding for our charity is becoming increasingly difficult, and we have already seen cuts in our commissioned funding for next year. We run a couple of big fundraising events each year, one of the biggest being the Macclesfield Bikeathon. This event aims to attract between 200 - 500 entries every year and there are 3 different rides available (poster attached)

UPLAND SYSTEMS LTD ANNOUNCE APPOINTMENT OF NEW MANAGING DIRECTOR

Buxton based IT company, Upland Systems Ltd, have announced the appointment of a new Managing Director. Liam Bradshaw will be stepping into the role, having been with the business since joining as an apprentice straight from school.

Upland Systems are a leading provider of [IT solutions](#), dealing with organisations large and small in a wide range of sectors. In over 25 years in business they have established a reputation for providing the very highest levels of customer service and technical solutions.

Announcing the appointment, Upland Systems founder and previous MD, Mark Stow, said "It has always been my intention to transfer the day to day management of the business to someone who would ensure the continuation of it's core values and principles, as well as learning and implementing leading technical solutions that the businesses customers benefit from".

Mark continued, "Liam has always been committed to developing himself, progressing through various levels of training and development. This started with his level 3 Apprenticeship, then Level 4 Microsoft certifications and more recently a Finance and Business Management course, which has helped prepare him for the requirements of his new role".

Mark added, "Whether it is working with customers or assisting colleagues, Liam consistently shows a number of key attributes which will stand him well going forward - knowledge, commitment, patience and dedication".



For Liam, this is obviously a very exciting time; "This is something that I have been working with Mark towards for the past couple of years. He has not only created a very successful business, but also one that values both its staff and its customers highly and this makes it a very special place to work. They are principles that I will ensure are maintained".

Mark Stow is certainly not retiring from the business. He will continue to help Liam to develop the business and to provide clients with the level of service that they have come to expect.

To learn more about how Upland Systems Ltd can elevate your organisation's IT solutions, or to explore partnership opportunities, [contact us today](#). Give us a call on 01298 74780, email info@uplandsys.co.uk or fill out our simple online enquiry form, and a member of our friendly team will be in touch.



AllGood Cycling

MACCLESFIELD BIKEATHON IS BACK!

SATURDAY 11TH MAY 2024

Starting from the Town Hall, Market Place, Macclesfield, SK10 1EA.

3 ROUTES TO SUIT MOST ABILITIES:

Family route: 12 miles
Cheshire Plain: 30 miles
Cheshire Plain: 60 miles

SIGN UP AND FUNDRAISE FOR JUST DROP-IN!

Register
here!



Make it a sponsored
ride here!

A HUGE THANK-YOU TO ALL OUR SPONSORS!





The all-new Audi Q6 SUV e-tron is now here.



The newest member to our fully-electric SUV family takes innovation and user focused design to a whole new level.

Performance at its heart:

With a minimum range on a full charge of 339-381 miles (official test figures)² and zero tailpipe emissions

Ultra-rapid charging:

Charged with up to 270kW⁵ as standard. Meaning you can go from 10-80% charge in as little as 21 minutes or add up to 158 miles in as little as 10 minutes at peak charging capacity⁶.

Smooth and powerful:

The Q6 SUV e-tron quattro produces a powerful 388 PS¹ allowing it to glide smoothly from 0-62mph in just 5.9 seconds.

Room for everyone:

With 5 seats, 3 i-Size child seat mountings and 526 litres of luggage space, the ingenious cabin design makes it the ideal all-rounder.

For more information please contact your Local Business Development Manager Jonathan Cahill-Gee on 07743 976463 or email jonathan.cahill-gee@inchcape.co.uk.

Macclesfield Audi

Star Lane, Macclesfield, Cheshire SK11 7TX
01625 612200
[Inchcape.co.uk/audi](https://www.inchcape.co.uk/audi)

Audi Q6 e-tron quattro: Combined power consumption in kWh/100 km: 19.4 - 17.0 (WLTP); CO2 emissions combined in g/km: 0; CO2-class A Consumption and emission values are only available according to WLTP and not according to NEDC for these vehicles.

¹The power available depends on variable factors such as outside temperature state of charge and conditioning or physical ageing of the high-voltage battery. The available power is displayed in the vehicle's power meter.

²Range dependent on trim and optional equipment. All vehicles are tested according to WLTP technical procedures. Figures shown are official test values for comparability purposes; only compare electric range figures with other vehicles tested to the same technical procedures. These figures may not reflect real life driving results, which will depend upon a number of factors including specification, variations in weather, road and traffic conditions, individual driving styles, vehicle load, vehicle condition, etc Please consult your local Audi Centre for further information.

Battery capacity will reduce over time, with use and charging and may affect performance. For further information on batteries and the Audi 8 year/100,000 mile new car battery warranty, please visit <https://www.audi.co.uk/web/en/electric/faqs/battery.html>. Exclusions and warranty terms apply.

⁵To charge at 270kW, you will need to use a charger in excess of 270kW. The availability of 270kW+ chargers is currently limited to UK motorways and major arterial routes. Not available in NI and most of Scotland. Please see <https://www.zap-map.com/live/> for further details.

⁶Timings based on a 10 to 80% charge using an ultra-rapid DC public charge station at the vehicle's maximum charging capability. For rapid 270 kW charging you will need a charger in excess of 270 kW. Test data under standardised conditions for comparison purposes. Actual charging times will vary depending on various factors, ask your dealer for further information.

⁹Model imagery shown is for illustration purposes only, non-UK specification