

THE CHAMBER

THE BUSINESS MAGAZINE FOR EAST CHESHIRE

September 2015 / Issue 47



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WORKING TOGETHER
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YEAR'S CHAMBER
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Meet the Chamber Team



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Chamber Manager



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Vice Chairman



David Gladman
Board Member



Dermot Callinan
Board Member



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Peter Bowers
Board Member



Kevin Cook
Board Member

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EVENTS CALENDAR

Procurement Workshop 22nd September 2015 07.45 am – 11.00 am
Cheshire East Council Riverside, Mountbatten Way, Congleton CW12 1DY

Procurement Workshop 29th September 2015 07.45 am – 11.00 am
Cheshire East Council Riverside, Mountbatten Way, Congleton CW12 1DY

Manufacturing Advisory Service Seminar 30th September 2015
Business Doctors Riverside, Mountbatten Way, Congleton CW12 1DY

Thursday Thirty 1st October 2015 08.30 am – 10.00 am
SAS Daniels The Chappell Centre, Leek Road, Congleton CW12 3HX

Clay Pigeon Shoot 14th October 2015
Cloudside Shooting Ground Red Lane, Congleton CW12 3QG

Ultimate Drive Day 4th November 2015
Blue Bell BMW Crewe Fourth Avenue, Weston Road, Crewe, Cheshire CW1 6XH

Thursday Thirty 12th November 2015 08.30 am – 10.00 am
Reuben 46, Lawton Street, Congleton, CW12 1RS

Christmas Lunch 4th December 2015
Pecks Restaurant Newcastle Road, Moreton, Congleton CW12 4SB

Thursday Thirty 21st January 2016 08.30 am – 10.00 am Details to be confirmed

Events can be found on our website 'Events Page' www.eastcheshirechamber.co.uk
Please email jackie.randles@eastcheshirechamber.co.uk for further details and booking form



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| 1/8 page (83 x 60mm) | £85.00 | £102.00 |
| Inserts (leaflets) per 2000+ distribution | £265.00 | £318.00 |

All prices are subject to VAT at the current rate

Artwork: Please supply Hi-res cmyk PDFs to: jackie.randles@eastcheshirechamber.co.uk



David Watson Comments

Although we have not had a great summer so far this year, the sun did shine for the Chamber Golf Day in June, when 22 teams took part in our annual competition. Once again Vale Royal hosted a marvellous day with the course presented in wonderful condition, catering to a very high standard and wonderful hospitality. A full report can be found on pages 8 and 9.

The next social event for the Chamber Members will be the Clay Pigeon Shoot to be held at Cloudside Shooting Ground and sponsored by Business Doctors.

It is usually a little quieter at the Chamber office once the school holidays start but this has not been the case this year. The flow of export documents is high and I am sure this reflects the continued recovery of the business economy of Cheshire East. Our networking "Thursday Thirties" are also fully booked within a couple of days of being announced.

I was recently asked to present the awards to the winners of the Stepping into Business competition that has been taking place at Mossley School through the summer months and I have to say what a surprise I had when speaking to the competing teams. These young people are in Year 6 and will soon be leaving the school to move on to secondary education and will take with them very good business skills that they have learnt through taking part in the project. I do think that the Pupils, Teachers, Parents and the Managers at Stepping into Business should be very proud of their efforts. Read more about the project on page 21.

If you have any news that you would like to have considered for publication in the Chamber magazine please send it through to us and we will try and use it subject to available space.

David



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Chamber video at
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Welcome to our new members



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Local Business commended in Parliament National Responsible Business Champion Awards

Reliance Medical, based in Congleton, has been commended in the National Responsible Business Champion Awards in Parliament after being nominated by local MP Fiona Bruce.

The Parliamentary judging panel looked at nominations from MPs representing constituencies across the UK.

Andy Pear, Managing Director of Reliance Medical was invited to a reception in Parliament to meet with the judges and Fiona Bruce MP and celebrate the commendation, he said: "We were delighted and honoured to be nominated for this prestigious award by our local MP, Fiona Bruce. Fiona has taken a real interest in our business and our team here in Congleton. She was instrumental in helping us understand the process for a recent NHS/DOE tender, that we

subsequently won. It is a great asset to have such a proactive advocate in parliament for the business community within our town."

Fiona Bruce said "I am consistently impressed by Andy and Reliance Medical who manufacture truly innovative products and offer huge support to our local economy and community. They are highly worthy of this commendation as a **Champion of Responsible Business.**"

The APCRG Responsible Business Champions initiative is being supported by National Grid, one of the first Associate members of the APCRG and Business in the Community's Responsible Business of the Year 2014/15 (<http://www.bitc.org.uk/our-resources/case-studies/national-grid-responsible-business-award>).



Above: Fiona Bruce MP and Andy Pear at the reception in the House of Commons with Award Judges Baroness Greengross and Jonathan Djanogly MP



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This month Neon Freight Ltd are delighted to be taking on their first apprentice to assist the company with continued expansion.

Ian Mallon said "We are thrilled to be working alongside Total People who helped to recruit and will provide the training for the apprenticeship in business and administration.

It is imperative that the next generation of freight forwarders are enticed into the industry to help facilitate global trade - from Congleton to the Congo! We have also passed a recent milestone in completing the Growth Accelerator programme. Which has been delivered by another Chamber member, the Business Doctors, so it's fantastic to finally work with people I've probably met at a Thursday 30 meeting whilst having a bacon sandwich...!"





"I always smile when I read your letter which accompanies the event details in which you hope that this year will be the best ever... well this year I think you achieved exactly that!!!"

Roy Spruce, Picea Designs



Blue Bell



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Chamber Golf Day Report 2015

Vale Royal Abbey was once again the venue for the East Cheshire Chamber Golf Day on Wednesday 24th June.

22 teams turned up on the day to enjoy a wonderful day of golf and networking. The weather was kind with sunshine covering the course for most of the day and the course was in superb condition.

The winning team was the Hammond McNulty team, with second place going to regular contenders Picea Design and in third place was ALPS.

"Nearest the Pin" was won by Matt Westrupp who not only took home a trophy but also received the prize of a "MINI" for the weekend, sponsored by BLUE BELL BMW.

Myers & Co sponsored the putting competition which was won by Phil Wicks of the Handelsbanken Team.

The "Longest Drive" was sponsored by Green Contract Services and the prize went to Tom Hampton of the Hampton Dean Team.



After a delicious roast beef dinner, a raffle and auction took place raising £1,580.00 for the Chamber Charity of the Year, Carers Trust 4 All. The now infamous wooden picture raised £300.00 and as tradition goes, it is now back in the Chamber Office.

We would like to thank everyone involved on the day and look forward to next year's golf day, which is to be held on Wednesday 22nd June 2016 and Vale Royal Abbey will again be our hosts.



Second Place - Picea Design



Winning Team - Hammond McNulty



Nearest the Pin Winner
- Mat Westrup, Genesys International

"David, a really big thank you and well done to yourself, Jackie and the team for a fantastic Golf day yesterday at Vale Royal Abbey. Everything went really well, was well organised and the setting was fitting to your efforts."
Phil Brown, Blue Bell Crewe



Third Place - ALPS



The Longest Drive Winner
- Tom Hampton, Hampton Dean



Winner of the Putting Competition
- Phil Wicks, Handelsbanken



Best Ladies Individual Score
- Kate Green, Hampton Dean



EMPLOYEES: YOUR GREATEST ASSET BUT POTENTIALLY BIGGEST RISK

At the heart of good business management is the strength of relationships that you build with your employees. Creating an environment of mutual trust, inspiration and respect is key to delivering business success. Yet for many business owners managing staff is the one role that they're least qualified to deliver.

For small businesses the issue of staff management is even more challenging since founders are generally focused on the day to day running of the business and that doesn't leave much time to develop staff. Handled badly however, employee relations can soon diminish and have a huge impact on productivity.

To get employment off to the best start, business owners and managers need to ensure that they have the basics in place. Before they begin to consider the need for annual performance reviews, objective setting and training programmes, employers need to make sure that the legal platform and basis for employment is as sound as it can be.

At a minimum employers must have the correct employment contracts in place by the time employment commences. Don't leave it and add it in as an afterthought since the law certainly won't treat it that way. Failure to provide your employees with a contract of employment within eight weeks of their start date, for example, can have far reaching financial implications if you found yourself in court or at a tribunal. If the employee was successful in any element of their claim, then the judge will take into consideration the failure to provide a contract of employment and make an additional award of between two to four weeks pay.

While many are tempted to download generic contracts from the internet, be warned the law will consider certain clauses, such as restrictive covenants, unenforceable if the contract hasn't been tailored specifically for the employee or group of employees.

For an employment contract to be enforceable it must be compliant, up to date, and effective. I've seen employers that have recently issued a contract of employment that makes reference to the Contract of Employment Act 1972 that ceased to exist in 1996! Needless to say the contract was defective and didn't protect the business at all!

A good employment contract is worth its weight in gold. It can protect your business from fraudulent activity by employees and contractually bind them to prevent trade secrets and intellectual property being shared or stolen. The contract can also look to restrict employee activities after they've left the company if that is likely to cause conflict. Restrictive covenant clauses can prevent employees moving directly to a competitor and taking business information, such as new business target lists or even business plans with them. They can also restrict employees' ability to set up on their own by taking existing clients with them. Non dealing clauses can go as far as preventing ex-employees for courting potential clients.

And it's not just employment contracts that are vital in the day to day management of staff. Employers must also consider the importance of the policies and procedures that need to be in place to protect staff and the business from everything from health and safety threats, to equal opportunities and discrimination.

While the benefits are undeniable, we understand that ensuring that your employment processes are effective is an administrative burden and a challenge to most employers' resources. That's why we launched SAS Protect and HR Solutions to help businesses manage their legal employment requirements more easily.

The service, already used by over 200 businesses in the region, provides employers with unlimited legal employment advice as well as unlimited on site support at disciplinary, grievances and appeals all at a fixed fee. We've found that it saves clients on average around £10,000 per year against the cost of managing employee issues.



James Heath, Associate at SAS Daniels

Under SAS Protect, our specialist team of employment lawyers can offer guidance on procedures to follow, regular updates and seminars, as well as comprehensive 'start to finish' advice if a business finds itself faced by a tribunal claim.

We've also recently launched an extension to these services called SAS Protect Online. This online software platform allows businesses and employees to access their employment contracts, policies and procedures whenever and wherever they want. Both employees and employers are given their own login account where HR documents, procedures and contracts can be hosted. The platform also lets employers manage necessary processes reducing the time taken to complete them. For example, employees can sign their contracts on a computer or tablet, confirm that they have read and understood policies and procedures and even manage their holidays online. This full audit trail allows employers to manage constantly changing employment law requirements more easily and ensure that they will always be up to date.

The key to managing your company's position on the right side of the law, as it is with most things in business, is to be proactive rather than reactive. Not acting until you have to is undoubtedly a risky strategy and one that more than often can end up in front of a judge. Keep things simple but ensure that you're protected. That way you can focus on building and developing staff relationships that will benefit the business into the future.

For more information about taking care of your employees and protecting your business, please contact:

James Heath
Associate, Employment Law & HR team
01260 282300
james.heath@sasdaniels.co.uk

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Are you in? Enter the Dabbers Den in 2015.

Now entering its fourth year The Dabbers' Den competition is back bigger than ever for 2015. The competition, which launched on the 1st July, gives entrepreneurs who have a great new business or business idea the chance to submit their application to win a prize worth an amazing £10,000.

If your business is based in Crewe, Nantwich, Sandbach, Congleton or Alsager and was established after 1st June 2014 then you are eligible to enter. Details of how enter can be found on the website www.dabbersdencompetition.co.uk
Dabbers Den sees Howard Worth Chartered Accountants and Poole Alcock Solicitors once again join forces with NatWest, Cheshire East Council and the Residence Restaurant and Bar.

Visit our website for further information: www.dabbersdencompetition.co.uk like us on Facebook: Dabbers-Den, follow us on Twitter: @dabbersden or call to speak to Dawn on 01606 369000.



The Chancellor delivered his second budget of 2015 in July and the key points for business owners are

Business measures

- The rate of corporation tax will be reduced to 19% from April 2017, and to 18% from April 2020.
- The NIC Employment Allowance will increase to £3,000 from April 2016.
- The Annual Investment Allowance will become £200,000 from 1 January 2016.

Personal measures

- The personal allowance will rise to £11,000 in 2016/17, and to £12,500 by 2020.

- The way dividends are taxed will change substantially from April 2016. There will be a new £5,000 dividend allowance. Dividends received above this allowance will be taxed at 7.5% (basic rate taxpayers), 32.5% (higher rate tax payers), 38.1% (additional rate tax payers).
- Tax relief on mortgage interest payments for buy-to let properties will be limited to the basic rate of income tax.
- Inheritance tax changes will mean from April 2017 couples can pass on £1m tax free,

including the new family home allowance of £175,000 each.

- For those earning over £150,000, tax free pension contributions will reduce from £40,000 p.a. to £10,000 p.a. on a sliding scale.

For more information on any of the measures introduced in the July 2015 budget please go to www.mittenclarke.co.uk/resources/budget or contact Michael Burgess on 07771 353681 or Adrian Veale on 07771 353678.



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MEMBERS SPOTLIGHT



Jac Lee Photography

DANIELLE MASON HAMMOND MCNULTY

surprised as I didn't know anything about it. I was writing a list of the award winners for one of the Partners that couldn't make the event and then I heard my name called out! I was so shocked! Everyone at our table was then smiling at me and clapping. I couldn't understand how everyone had managed to keep the secret from me that I'd been nominated. I'm a control freak and like to know what's going on so I couldn't believe this had been going on behind the scenes without me knowing. I was so proud to have been nominated and couldn't believe I won.

How do you spend your Leisure time?

I love travelling. We have a map of the world at home with lots of pins in it with the places we've been and places we'd like to go to. There are so many places to visit.

Other than that I try to go to the gym when I can find the motivation and enjoy having fun with friends

What are today and tomorrow's challenges?

Keeping up to date with the constant changes in legislation and trying to be

proactive. Also keeping up to date with technology and making sure you are always ahead of the game or you'll get left behind. Always trying to provide a first class client service.

If you had the chance to start your career over again, what would you do differently?

I really like watching law TV programmes and this always make me wonder if I should have done Law. Although I'm sure Law is completely different in the real world than it's portrayed on TV!

What or who was the key factor that lead you to your position today?

I started off my career studying for my accountancy qualification whilst training with Hammond McNulty in Congleton. Following completing the accountancy exams, I wanted to differentiate myself from others so I studied for the tax exams. The Partners provided the time and funding that I needed to do this and I am truly very grateful to them for supporting me through these exams. So today I enjoy a variety of work in accountancy and taxation. I'm lucky to work with a such great team of people who are more like a family than colleagues.



What motivates you?

I absolutely love helping people and seeing them happy as a result. It is very rewarding receiving compliments from clients. I'm motivated by the thought of trying something new and doing something successfully.

Who has been your greatest inspiration?

My Parents. They always taught me to 'work hard, play hard' and never have days off ill! This has worked for them so I hope I can follow in their footsteps

What has been your most satisfying moment in business?

It's got to be winning the Employee of the Year this year at the East Cheshire Chamber Business Awards. I was so



JOHN ELKIN MYERS & CO

What motivates you?

Delivering a quality service to clients. Without them, you don't have a business.

Who has been your greatest inspiration?

Two people. The late John Ryder (who was the solicitor under whom I trained) and my late mother. John was a brilliant lawyer who

focused on practical outcomes not woolly theory. My mother encouraged me to be a solicitor from the first moment (aged 13) I said that was what I wanted to do and she was never less than 100% behind me.

What has been your most satisfying moment in business?

Achieving partnership less than 3 years after I qualified.

How do you spend your leisure time?

Hillwalking, road cycling, mountain biking, and going to the gym – all so that I can still enjoy good food and a few drinks!!

What are today's and tomorrow's challenges?

Today the challenge for law firms is to remain profitable in a competitive market which increasingly seeks to move away from hourly rate work and pay fixed prices. Some areas of work still require hourly rate approach and communicating that in itself can be challenging.

Tomorrow's challenge is to stay ahead of the game, reacting early to the emerging threats and harnessing IT to do so.

If you had the chance to start your career over again, what would you do differently?

Without wishing to sound smug, I wouldn't change a thing. I loved being a practising solicitor and I now enjoy my role supporting the team at Myers & Co in any way I can.

If you could talk to one person from history, who would it be and why?

I know they say that history repeats itself but I prefer to look at recent and current events. In that respect I would love to spend time with Sir David Brailsford, previously the Head of British Cycling and now Head of Team Sky. He has taken a low interest sport and made it massive as a result of his obsession with detail and his uncompromising drive.

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Join us at one of our Thursday Thirties



"I just wanted to say thank you for this morning's networking event, I really enjoyed it. There was a great atmosphere and everyone was very welcoming and approachable which was refreshing."
Camilla Crockett, East Cheshire Hospice



"Really nice to meet you today and to see the Thursday Thirty networking event in action. I must say everyone was very friendly and welcoming."
Rennie Evans, Prospero Accounting

Thursday Thirty Breakfast Network Meetings continue to be as popular as ever with meetings now scheduled up until May 2016!

We have had a wide variety of venues and hosts, the latest meeting being held on July 16th at the George and Dragon in Holmes Chapel and hosted by Neon Freight.

Ian Mallon, MD, Neon Freight held a short quiz about freight forwarding which proved to be both informative and fun.

We had people attending from as far away as Chester and Wilmslow as well as the local area.

Congleton College hosted the Thursday Thirty on June 4th in the Sixth Form building at Congleton High School, Box Lane, Congleton.

A complimentary continental style breakfast was served followed by a 15 minute presentation from Anthony Smith and Wendy March, Congleton High School.



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County Insurance acquires Chester Insurance Services



Dave Clapp, CEO - The County Group

We are pleased to announce the acquisition of Cheshire based insurance broker Chester Insurance Services, located just outside Chester.

Chester Insurance Services has been established since 2004 and has a client base mix of both personal and commercial insurance. The business was founded 11 years ago by Tony Crute and Shaun Evans, preceded by 10 years of working closely together at The Co-Operative Insurance.

This acquisition follows The County Group recent purchases of Whitchurch Insurance Services in May 2012 (£1.2m GPI), JSW Insurance Services in July 2013 (£6m GPI), Safe and Sound Insurance Centre in July 2014 (£1.5m GPI) and Clement Gallagher in September 2014 (£1.25m GPI).

Dave Clapp, CEO of the County Group, explains the rationale for the purchase of Chester Insurance Services:

"I am absolutely delighted to welcome Chester Insurance Services to The County Group. The business has been excellently run for the last 11 years with a loyal client base and is a well-established brand in Chester and the surrounding areas".

"I'm delighted that Tony and Shaun are remaining in the business. Their insurance expertise and knowledge of the area is top notch and they will help us continue to deliver our strategy of providing a first class local broking service to local communities".

"This branch fits nicely into our strategy to provide a local broker service to communities and expanding our branch network in the North West.

"County Insurance will control in excess of £40 million this year, we have a branch network of nine offices and employ over 175 excellent people.

"We have a business plan we are working to. We have 2 further acquisitions that should complete by the end of 2015, and several more in the pipeline for 2016. With these acquisitions and our current organic growth rate, I'm confident we will become a £50m GPI broker in the next couple of years".

To summarise, post-acquisition County Insurance is now :

- £40m premiums
- Over 175 employees
- 9 Branches

**NEW
MEMBERS
SPECIAL
OFFER**

Roller Banner offer from Spiral Colour for New Members. Banners and Roll Up Banners are a speciality at Spiral Colour who have years of experience and are able to produce high quality banners.

East Cheshire Chamber of Commerce have got together with Spiral Colour to offer the next 50 new membership applications a Roll Up Banner at the amazing price of just £20!!

Please contact: Jackie Randles on 01260 540570 or email jackie.randles@eastcheshirechamber.co.uk

Artwork must be supplied and the price is subject to VAT.





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WE ARE RECRUITING.

Following this exciting period of client growth, TMC Strategic Communications are recruiting for an additional 4 roles!

- **Graphic Designer**
- **Account Manager**
- **Account Exec**
- **Front End Developer**

Designer

TMC is looking for a talented and experienced Designer to join our team - developing creative concepts and designs for an array of print and digital marketing collateral. This is an opportunity for a driven and experienced designer to step into a role that's both challenging and rewarding.

Account Exec

We are seeking a pro active account executive to serve as a direct link between the account management/creative teams and the client, to manage day to day needs and maintain excellent relationships. Highly organised and cheerful, our ideal candidate will have great communications skills and be customer service focussed with a keen interest in marketing.

Front End Developer

TMC are looking to expand their digital team with an enthusiastic, driven front-end developer. Above all else we are looking for someone with a healthy obsession for detail and a love of learning and implementing new technologies to find creative solutions to problems.

For further details contact Jackie on Jackie@wearetmc.co.uk with your CV and a brief outline of why you feel you would be a great fit for TMC!

CONGLETON AGENCY TMC CONTINUES TO GROW

TMC Strategic Communications has had an incredible few months with client wins, new team members and plans for further growth.

2015 sees TMC securing substantial account wins; from website redevelopment for Europe's largest manufacturer of security bollards and vehicle barrier systems, to a full congress brand and communication plan for a pan-European medical oncology society.

TMC head to Vienna in September for the European Cancer Congress 2015, where

the design and editorial team will produce 15,000 overnight newspapers covering the scientific congress, which are distributed across the center to delegates throughout each day. The team then flies to Barcelona in October for the United European Gastroenterology Week Congress where they will also deliver daily newspapers for the second year running.



VIDEO PRODUCTION

The latest service to be added to TMC's comprehensive offering over the last 18 months is seeing terrific growth with videos being produced for a diverse range of clients.

The visual team has been up and down the country recording live footage for client videos, from corporate Pharma video interviews to animated sequences for our very own Chamber.

CONTACT US TODAY IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN SHOWCASING YOUR BUSINESS THROUGH VIDEO



WELCOME TO OUR NEW DIGITAL TEAM MEMBER!

TMC's latest addition is Robin Taylor who joins the team as Web Developer who has been developing digital products for over 15 years. Robin has worked across many different sectors, charities and corporate organisations such as the BBC, and Channel 4.

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CEO visits Enterprise Presentation Day

David Watson, East Cheshire Chamber CEO, recently went along to Mossley CE Primary School to take part in their Enterprise Presentation Day, and to hear more about the exciting market which had been run at the school summer barbeque.

The year 6 students had been through a programme of Enterprise Education, created by social enterprise, Stepping into Business, which was led by the year 6 teachers Andrew Gregory and Ben Heades, with support from parents and local business mentors Edward Whitehead, Nick Barnes and Jenny Ware.

Edward Whitehead, a parent at the school and Chamber member as part of Plasto-Sac UK Ltd commented, "It has been a real privilege to be involved. The children have very much led it from start to finish - the teachers have provided great support in terms of learning and Jenny, Nick and I have been here to have a chat with the teams about their ideas and offer help and advice".

The team products ranged from Crazy Crepes, Customised T Shirts, Sweets and Candy Floss, Bags, Key Rings, Milkshakes, Face Painting and a Photo-

Booth experience! Each team learnt about innovation, team building, marketing, sales, presentation and project management. They pitched their business ideas to the panel of 'business angels' with the aim of securing the maximum £50 investment available.

Andrew Gregory, one of the Year 6 teachers who ran the programme explained, **"We have also learnt a lot over the weeks we have run this, and we hope the children have taken inspiration from this peek into business. Thanks also to the Chamber for sponsoring, the 'Mossley CE Primary into Business trophy this will pass through the years and we hope build on our local business links in the future."**

"The school market and barbeque worked really well, they raised over £500 after cost, to pass on to the next year 6 group to reinvest in their ideas. That's a great legacy!" said Ben Heades, who also teaches Year 6. "We mixed up teams and friends and they've all built new relationships and made these fantastic mini businesses, so they've really developed some important skills to take on to their next school and I am sure business enterprise!"

"It's been so interesting to hear the children speak about the quality of products and development of products,



it's so impressive to see these primary age children coming up with these concepts themselves and learning from their experience. Their honesty is great - they are proud to tell you when they have made a mistake and to recognise how they could improve next time and grow from that is great" said David, after hearing from all the teams at the presentation morning.

"I've been blown away! We've seen some brilliant ideas, brands and teamwork. Congleton has a great future in children like these! They should be very proud of what they have achieved", said David, who handed out the awards for the teams who had made most profit, along with Dinah Turner from Stepping into Business. Other children were commended by the mentors for their presentation skills, teamwork and even for Corporate Social Responsibility, for a team who also raised money for the RSPCA in addition to selling cotton bags with animal designs.

Stepping into Business work with schools and businesses to set up programmes for enterprise learning. If your business or your school would like to find out more contact them at hello@steppingintobusiness.org

Stepping Into Business
Bringing learning to life...

Chamber Forthcoming Events 2015



Blue Bell 

BMW Ultimate Driving Day

4th November 2015

Blue Bell BMW Crewe is once again kindly hosting this prestigious event.

This ride and drive event will enable you to sample some of BMW/MINI's brand new product line-up. During the day you will experience the superb driving dynamics of the BMW/MINI range, a complimentary lunch will be served at a surprise location along the route on which you will travel.



Autumn Clay Pigeon Shoot

Wednesday, 14th October

The Autumn Clay Pigeon Shoot is to be held at Cloudside Shooting Ground, Red Lane, Congleton, Cheshire, CW12 3QG and is kindly sponsored by Business Doctors.

The day commences at 10.30am with breakfast, a clay practice at 11am, clay competition at 1pm and meal at 3pm.



Christmas Lunch

**Friday 4th December,
12 noon until 3.30pm**



The Chamber Christmas Lunch will once again be held at Pecks Restaurant, Newcastle Road, Moreton, Nr. Congleton, CW12 4SB.

Choose your preferred menu on the day in the Traditional Pecks style!



butters john bee Appoints Two New Board Directors



butters john bee bjb are delighted to announce the appointment of James Beardmore and Steve Dourish to the main Board with effect from the 1st August, 2015.

James joins the Board as Operations Director and will have overall responsibility for the Group's strategic direction as well as ensuring its continued expansion both geographically and in the services offered to clients.

Steve's appointment to the main Board as Sales Director will expand his responsibilities across the Group, whilst he will retain an active role in the Estate Agency division maintaining its position as the "Best Regional Agency Group".

Ian Cheetham, Executive Director, said: "We're thrilled that James and Steve are to join the main Board, bringing their considerable expertise and experience.

There's no doubt they will guide the business during its continued expansion and maintaining the high standards the Group has become known for. We wish James and Steve every success in their new roles and look forward to exciting times ahead".

Nigel Dickin, Executive Director, added:

"It's testament to our success as a Group that we are able to appoint Board members from the existing team, demonstrating the wide range of skills and expertise that are being developed".

butters john bee ^{bjb}

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Handforth based business travel management company, Review Travel has welcomed two new additions to its team.

Kathryn Todd has joined as PA to the Chief Executive, Christian Gleave; whilst Linda Duffy has been recruited to continue to grow the company's offering to the Groups' and Schools' markets. With a strong track record in organising complex itineraries, often on a tight budget, Review Travel has seen a significant increase in demand for this service.

Welcoming the two new members into the team, Christian commented: **"Our business is seeing continued growth. Kathryn and Linda are a great addition to our team, and will support our ambition to continue to grow, through adding still further value to the service we deliver to our clients."**



ALSAGER GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB HAS SOMETHING FOR EVERYBODY

Alsager Golf and Country Club is well known for its stunning views and challenging course and thanks to a £500,000 investment programme a few years ago this picturesque 18 hole golf course can be played throughout the year.

We offer a wide selection of Memberships from full 7 day to family and our newly launched Corporate Membership packages are ideal for any company looking to combine business with pleasure.

The Club has excellent conference and banqueting facilities which are available for hire and can accommodate small meetings up to seated weddings breakfasts of up to 150 guests. For business we have a number of rooms which can be used for 'break out' meetings with free Wi-Fi and parking throughout the day. Conference packages are tailored to individual requirements including room hire, breakfast meetings, full or half day conferences and our boardroom is available from just £10 per hour.

If you would like more information on any of the above, please call 01270 875700 or visit our website at www.alsagergolfclub.co.uk



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But there is still more to uncover at Alsager Golf Club. Nestled on the South Cheshire and North Staffordshire border, we are ideally placed for your conference or special event. Our three private function rooms are open for meetings, parties and weddings from 2 to 150 guests and our impressive in-house catering, ample free car parking and Wi-Fi, will turn any event into a success.

- New Corporate Membership now available
- Corporate Golf Days
- No joining fee and full membership for only £62.50 per month
- Excellent function rooms and catering from 2 – 150 people
- Civil License
- Board room for hire from £10 per hour
- Special under 30's membership
- Family friendly membership packages
- Junior Golf Academy
- Society special packages, starting at just £20 per person
- Charity AM-AM – 13th September, £120 per team of four, including dinner
- All visitors welcome

For more information or to book a tee time visit our website at: www.alsagergolfclub.co.uk



Carers Trust 4all is a local charity who provide support for unpaid carers. That's anyone of any age who provides unpaid support to family or friends whose health or wellbeing would suffer without this help.

We are extremely grateful for the support of **SAS Daniels** who provided free talks for Carers on Lasting Powers of Attorney during Carers Week in June. Many people leave getting such powers far too late, making the process more complex. The advice from SAS Daniels was very well received.



Staff from Franklyn Financial Mgt
enjoying Britain's Best Breakfast in 2014

Get ready for Britain's Best Breakfast!

Our Autumn fundraising campaign runs from mid September to the end of October. It's a very simple idea. Just invite friends and colleagues to an organised breakfast for a donation in support of Carers Trust 4all. At the same time you will be helping people who face some of the toughest challenges in life. If you can help by holding a fun breakfast or brunch in your organisation please email SGraystone@CarersTrust4all.org.uk or call Sandy on 01620 292850 for more information.



Please help us spread the word that support is available to unpaid carers. One in ten people are currently carers and one in three of us will be carers at some point in our lives. The chances are that **you** know someone who is a carer or is about to become one. Many carers struggle juggling family, work and caring simply because they do not know that help is available. Please help us connect with those who need us. Do you have staff members, customers, friends or family members who are carers? Let them know we are here to help,

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Julie Dale, Franklyn Financial Mgt
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Quite a few other Chamber Members are already enjoying the benefits of contacting Reliance Vehicle Management Ltd for their vehicle solutions. **Call now for your bespoke quote.**



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In April 2014 Finance Brokers that previously operated with a Consumer Credit Licence had their supervision transferred from the Office of Fair Trading to the Financial Conduct Authority and were initially given 'Interim Permission' to continue Regulated Credit Activities pending 'Full Permission' being granted by the Financial Conduct Authority between 2014 and 2016.

RVM Ltd were included in the first phase of applications that required submission to the Financial Conduct Authority. All of those requested permissions were approved.

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Local charity celebrates 20 successful years

Friends for Leisure, founded in 1995 in Macclesfield, is celebrating 20 years of working with disabled children and young people.



The charity was formed following a survey of parents. This revealed that disabled children lack appropriate leisure opportunities and many experience social isolation and loneliness. Friendship, leisure opportunities and being part of your community are a central and vital part of growing up. Friends for Leisure now works across Cheshire East, running youth groups, drama sessions, ten-pin bowling, holiday activities and managing one-to-one friendships between disabled young people and young volunteers.

If you were once involved with Friends for Leisure and would like to come along to the party on 26 September, please email info@friendsforleisure.org.uk or phone 01260 275333.



**Albert Chambers, Canal Street,
Congleton CW12 4AA**
t: 01260 275333
e: info@friendsforleisure.org.uk
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Friends.for.Leisure



30 Reasons to join the Chamber Of Choice

1. B2B Referral

Putting members together to create business opportunities.

2. Access to Mailing Lists

Receive the latest news and event up dates via email to keep you in the networking loop.

3. Use of Chamber Logo

Opportunity to use the East Cheshire Chamber logo in a publication 'Member of'.

4. Membership Certificate

Once a member has joined they will receive a membership certificate.

5. Free Legal Helpline

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For Business Services, Wills and Property please contact Myers & Co on 01782 577000

6. Legal Benefit Package

We at SAS Daniels offer a no obligation first consultation

Please contact SAS Daniels on 01260 282300

7. Chamber HR Packages

Chamber Resource

Chamber Resource has been devised by Myers & Co Solicitors to give Chamber members a flexible one-stop service for employment issues.

Contact Karen Coleman 01782 577000

SAS Protect, HR Package

SAS Protect and HR Solutions, introduced by SAS Daniels Solicitors, are two products available to members.

Contact James Heath 01625 442110

8. Discounted Vehicle Hire

Contact Cheshire Vehicle rental for discounted rates on vehicle hire on 01260 280433

9. Competitive Business & Vehicle Insurance

County Insurance Consultants offer 10% discount on all insurance policies and business insurance to members of East Cheshire Chamber of Commerce. Call your dedicated Chamber Insurance phone number of 0800 980 3466 or email sales@countyins.com and quote 'Chamber Insurance'.

10. Networking Events

The Chamber hosts a variety of networking events.

11. Export Document Authorisation & International Trade Advice

David Watson and Jackie Randles have both completed a course on Certification Procedures. This gives them the right to stamp and authorise legal exporting documents.

Contact Jackie Randles 01260 540570

12. Roadside Rescue Package

ALPS has many years' experience in providing a comprehensive range of road rescue solutions to brokers and their clients. Contact ALPS 0843 178 0600

13. Low Cost Debt Recovery Service

£1 to £10 for the first demand letter to a debtor (plus VAT) Myers & Co Solicitors. Kelly Swetmore 01782 525003

14. Discounted Training Packages

The Chamber provides advice on up and coming courses. Jackie Randles 01260 540570

15. Employee Health Scheme

AXA Healthcare & Westfield Health are offering Chamber members Business Healthcare plans and corporate health insurance.

Visit www.axapphealthcare.co.uk or please call 0800 38 77 54

Visit www.westfieldhealth.com/hti

16. Business Awards

Every year the Chamber holds an annual Business Awards event. This is a celebratory evening for all local businessmen and women to showcase the best of East Cheshire.

17. Annual Golf Day

Join East Cheshire Chamber of Commerce at the prestigious venue 'Vale Royal Abbey Golf Club' for a fabulous day of golf followed by dinner at the Abbey.

18. Discounts on Magazine Advertising

Members can advertise in 'The Chamber' magazine at reduced prices.

Jackie Randles 01260 540570 or email jackie.randles@eastcheshirechamber.co.uk

19. A Voice to Local & Central Government

A voice to local and central government via our connectivity to our local authority and members of parliament.

20. Free Employment Law Audits

Free health check of your employment contracts and other documentation. Contact Karen Coleman, Myers & Co Solicitors 01782 525005.

Examination of your employment contracts, policies and procedures, the initial consultation is free and on a no obligation basis. Contact James Heath, SAS Daniels Solicitors 01625 442110

21. Discounted Merchant Banking Services

Merchant banking services available at discounted prices. Please contact Jackie Randles 01260 540570 or email jackie.randles@eastcheshirechamber.co.uk

22. Email Shot Service

For £50 plus vat we can send out an email for you outlining the services that your business offer which will reach all the members of East Cheshire Chamber of Commerce.

23. Clay Pigeon Shoot

A Clay Pigeon Shoot is held each year.

24. Chamber Open Day

The Chamber Open Day gives members the opportunity to showcase their business.

25. Membership of Marketing Club

Free initial consultation provided by TMC giving Chamber Members access to high-level marketing advice and consultancy with the specific aim of making a real difference to your business. Contact TMC 01260 295700

26. Christmas Lunch

Christmas Lunch is a very popular event which is held at the prestigious Pecks Restaurant in Congleton.

27. Telecom Service Solutions

Set up in 1994, Auditel delivers highly effective cost management solutions to organisations throughout the country. Mike Somers 01260 280270 or email mike.somers@auditel.co.uk

28. Free Strategic Health Check

Business Doctors has developed and helped transform hundreds of companies across a spectrum of industries - free consultation available to all members.

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29. Fuel Card Services

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*Quotation based upon Contract Hire Quotation, including Road Fund Licence; for 24 months and 8000 miles per year. Initial payment(s) of 3 month(s) in advance will be followed by 23 further payments commencing in month 2. This quote is indicative and is only valid for limited companies, LLP's, Partnerships and Sole Traders with car fleets of less than 50 vehicles. This quote is valid for 30 days unless there is any change in the Manufacturer's price for the Vehicle or in the Road Fund Licence fee or VAT or as otherwise provided in the Agreement. This quotation is subject to the Vehicle detailed above being available and sourced from our preferred supplier. All rentals shown are exclusive of VAT which will be levied at the relevant rate, currently 20.00 %. BMW Group Corporate Finance is a trading division of Alphabet (GB) Limited, Europa House Bartley Way, Hook, Hampshire RG27 9UF Telephone 0370 0120 301 Fax 0370 50 50 261 Email bpssupport@alphabet.co.uk. Registered in England, No. 3282075

Official fuel economy figures for the new BMW 6 Series range: Urban 22.2-45.6mpg (12.7-6.2l/100km). Extra Urban 40.4-57.6mpg (7.0-4.9l/100km). Combined 31.0-52.3mpg (9.1-5.4l/100km). CO2 emissions 213-143g/km. Figures vary depending on driving style and conditions. Official Fuel Economy Figures for the MINI Hatch Range: Urban 26.4-67.3 mpg (10.7-4.2 l/100km). Extra Urban 44.8-91.1 mpg (6.3-3.1 l/100km). Combined 35.8-80.7 mpg (7.9-3.5 l/100km). CO2 Emissions 184-92 g/km. Figures may vary depending on driving style and conditions.



For more information on any Business Partnership BMW or MINI please contact **Bernard Rooney** at Blue Bell Crewe on **01270 212525**