

THE BUSINESS MAGAZINE FOR EAST CHESHIRE

East Cheshire  
**CHAMBER**  
of commerce & enterprise

January 2023

# Chamber



## East meets West

Chambers working together across the region.

Affiliated to:  
 **West Cheshire & North Wales  
Chamber of Commerce**  
Together, We're Well Connected.



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## Events Calendar

**Thursday Thirty**  
**12th January 2023**  
08.30am – 10.00am  
Prism Solutions, The Technology Barn,  
John Bradshaw Court, Alexandria Way,  
Congleton CW12 1LB

**Cyber Crime Workshop**  
**19th January 2023**  
9.30am – 11.30am  
Riverside Mill, Mountbatten Way,  
Congleton, CW12 1DY

**Sales Club with Sales Geek**  
**26th January 2023**  
3.00pm – 5.00pm  
The Den at Beartown Brewery,  
Bromley House, Spindle Street,  
Congleton, CW12 1QN

**Afternoon Tea Networking Event**  
**8th February 2023**  
2.30pm – 4.30pm  
Pecks Restaurant, Newcastle Road  
Moreton, Nr. Congleton, CW12 4SB

**Thursday Thirty**  
**16th February 2023**  
08.30am – 10.00am  
Mendy & Watt Financial Advisors Ltd  
George & Dragon, Middlewich Road,  
Holmes Chapel, CW4 7EA

**Business Awards**  
**17th March 2023**  
18.45pm - Late  
De Vere Cranage Estate, Byley Lane,  
Cranage, Nr. Holmes Chapel,  
Cheshire, CW4 8EW

**Thursday Thirty**  
**30th March 2023**  
08.30am – 10.00am  
WR Partners  
Details to be confirmed

**Sales Club with Sales Geek**  
**20th April 2023**  
3.00pm – 5.00pm  
The Den at Beartown Brewery,  
Bromley House, Spindle Street, Congleton,  
CW12 1QN

**Wellness at Work Seminar**  
**26th April 2023**  
9.00am – 12.00pm  
Riverside, Mountbatten Way,  
Congleton, Cheshire,  
CW12 1DY

**Thursday Thirty**  
**18th May 2023**  
08.30am – 10.00am  
Cheshire's Silk 106.9, Adelaide House,  
Adelaide Street, Macclesfield,  
Cheshire, SK10 2QS

**Annual Golf Day**  
**21st June 2023**  
10.00am – 9.00pm  
Royal Vale Abbey, Vale Royal Drive,  
Whitegate, Cheshire,  
CW8 2BA

Events can be found on our  
website 'Events Page' at  
[www.eastcheshirechamber.co.uk/events](http://www.eastcheshirechamber.co.uk/events)



## Welcome from the Chief Executive

### Happy new year to all our readers!

As East Cheshire Chamber of Commerce continues to support the businesses throughout our region, we are excited that in a joint bid for funding to develop a Local Skills Improvement Plan we, along with South Cheshire, North Cheshire, West Cheshire and Warrington have had our submission approved by the Department of Education.

The Local Skills and Improvement Plan will provide an agreed set of actionable priorities that employers, providers, and stakeholders in a local area can get behind to drive change. LSIPs will place employers at the heart of local skills systems and facilitate direct and dynamic working arrangements between employers and providers.

East Cheshire Chamber are full steam ahead with the preparations for our Annual Business Awards on 17th March, full details can be found on pages 10 and 11 in this magazine and on our website.

We have a few new events coming up in 2023 including a Cyber Crime Seminar, a quarterly Sales Club, Networking Afternoon Tea at Pecks and of course our renowned Thursday Thirty Networking events!

On page 5 you will find the details of a very exciting announcement - having worked together for many years we are now delighted to disclose the establishment of an affiliation with West Cheshire & North Wales Chamber of Commerce which will benefit members of both regions. Affiliation provides an opportunity to

develop complementary services, work together, share best practice and provide a platform for business engagement.

The team at East Cheshire Chamber of Commerce would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year and look forward to seeing you at forthcoming events.

**Jackie Randles**  
Chief Executive

## New Members

*The Chamber extends a very warm welcome to the following new members:*



### Daisy's Dream Cheshire East

Daisy's Dream Cheshire East hub, a charity which supports children and their families who have been affected by a life-threatening illness or bereavement of someone close to them. Our professional services are free. If you know of anyone that needs our support, please pass on our details.

[www.daisysdream.org.uk/cheshire-east](http://www.daisysdream.org.uk/cheshire-east)  
Tel: 07812 377 110,  
PO Box 309, Nantwich, Cheshire, CW5 9ER



### One Stop Business Finance Ltd

One Stop Business Finance are a principal lender, supporting SMEs with working capital facilities around the UK. We offer bridging loans, development finance and working capital loans, all secured against property. As it's our own money, we aren't restricted on what we can or can't lend against.

[www.osbf.co.uk](http://www.osbf.co.uk)  
Tel: 01757 289885 / 07437 324466  
The Old Cow Shed, Oak Farm, Laytham, York, North Yorkshire, YO42 4PP



### Mendy & Watt Limited

Selling properties in East Cheshire, giving independent financial advice, we are also able to help with Wills, Trusts, Care Costs and Probate. Joined up support for individuals, families & businesses.

[www.mendyandwatt.co.uk](http://www.mendyandwatt.co.uk)  
Tel: 01477 518464  
3 Middlewich Road, Holmes Chapel, Cheshire, CW4 7EA



### NW RFCA

NWRFCA promotes and supports the Reserve and Cadet Forces in the North West and through the Armed Forces Covenant engages with organisations who would like to support defence and defence people.

[www.nwrfca.org.uk](http://www.nwrfca.org.uk)  
Tel: 07811 087381  
Alt House, Altcar Training, Hightown, Merseyside, L38 7JD





# AA Rosette for Culinary Excellence and 5 Stars

**Following the refurbishment and reopening of The Lion & Swan, one of our top priorities was to have the venue accredited by the AA. The process for accreditation begins with an unannounced overnight stay from an AA inspector, the identity of whom is not known.**

We had ambitions of attaining the same AA grading as we achieved at our sister venue, The Wheatsheaf in Sandbach. Our teams are familiar with the standards expected and it was a core consideration for our refurbishment process.

We are pleased to announce that the AA awarded The Lion & Swan with 5 Stars and were overwhelmingly complimentary about the stay, giving specific mention to the professionalism and radiant personality from our team members. A highlight to this was the attention to detail that our housekeeping team uphold, led by Head Housekeeper Rebecca Murrell.

Development Chef Lukasz Borkowski, Kitchen Manager Will Truscott and the rest of our talented kitchen team received particular praise from the AA inspector. The inspector was impressed by the complexity of flavour, technical skill and presentation of the dishes sampled. Ristorante Leone has therefore been awarded an AA Rosette for Culinary Excellence.

We are exceptionally proud of these awards and our team.

We hope that the community of Congleton are delighted too that we have these awards within our wonderful town centre and with one of our greatest historical buildings.

I would like to personally thank all of the members of our team at The Lion & Swan, they continue to push forwards and achieve exceptional levels of service and quality for our guests.

Thank you all for your continued support,

Jake Pear,

Managing Director



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info@lionandswan.co.uk

Member of the Pear Hospitality and Retail Group.



# East Cheshire Chamber of Commerce and Enterprise

*Welcomed by West Cheshire & North Wales Chamber of Commerce as Affiliate Members*

**East Cheshire Chamber of Commerce and Enterprise are pleased to announce the establishment of an affiliation with the West Cheshire & North Wales Chamber of Commerce.**

By becoming an Affiliate Member of the West Cheshire & North Wales Chamber of Commerce, the voice of business is strengthened in the region with firms of all sectors and sizes represented on the local, national and international scale.

East Cheshire Chamber of Commerce also now has a direct link to the British Chambers of Commerce via West Cheshire & North Wales Chamber, enabling them to strengthen further their membership proposition and benefit businesses in the region.

Debbie Bryce, Chief Executive Officer of West Cheshire & North Wales Chamber of Commerce, commented:

*“West Cheshire & North Wales Chamber of Commerce is delighted to welcome East Cheshire Chamber of Commerce as an Affiliate Member.*

*“Having worked together for many years, it has been an absolute pleasure to build on our existing relationship and take the next step by signing an affiliate agreement. In signing the agreement, both Chambers have made a formal commitment which greatly benefits members of both regions.*

*“We very much look forward to working closely with Jackie and the team in the coming months and years.”*

Jackie Randles, Chief Executive of East Cheshire Chamber of Commerce, commented:

*“East Cheshire Chamber of Commerce is proud to become affiliated to West Cheshire & North Wales Chamber of Commerce, an accredited member of the British Chambers of Commerce.*

*“Affiliation provides an opportunity to develop complementary services, work together, share best practice and provide a platform for business engagement. We now have a direct link to the British Chambers of Commerce through West Cheshire & North Wales Chamber of Commerce’s ongoing accreditation.*

*“The backbone of this arrangement is a service level agreement which outlines the many benefits and positives for both Chambers.*

*“I would like to thank Debbie Bryce for helping us achieve this.”*







## Clay Shoot Report Autumn 2022

We had a fantastic day at our Annual Clay Shoot on Wednesday 19th October, with over 40 attendees for the day! Despite the gale force winds, everyone was still in highly competitive spirits and enjoyed the day.

We had fantastic feedback throughout the day – a lot of our attendees were first time shooters, and they came away extremely happy with the support they received from the instructors at Cloudside Shooting Grounds.

Once all shooters returned from the Clay Competition, a lovely hot meal of pie, chips

and veg was served in front of the fire. Whilst enjoying their meal and networking, the instructors tallied up the scores.

The individual score winners were in 3rd place, Lee Smith from Senior Aerospace Bird Bellows, in 2nd place, Mark Barnett from Senior Aerospace and in 1st place was Paul Powell from the Eze-Talk Team. The Overall Winning Team had shooters from Eze-Talk, and Iron Market Group.

The best ladies individual score went to Gemma Littler from the Eze-Talk team and the Clay Conservation Award was won by

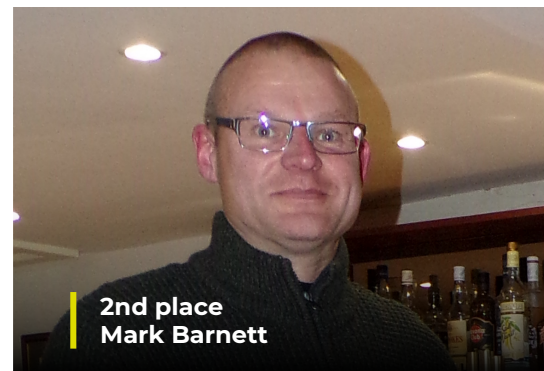
new member, Stevie Jepson from Platinum Accountancy Services.

Our Chamber Charity of the Year - Smile Group also attended and put together some wonderful raffle prizes, raising a brilliant £310.

Thank you again to our sponsors Business Doctors Cheshire and Berisfords Ribbons - and thank you once again to our hosts Cloudside Shooting Grounds.



1st place  
Paul Powell from Eze-Talk Team (left)



2nd place  
Mark Barnett



3rd place  
Lee Smith



Clay Conservation Award  
Stevie Jepson



Overall Winning Team  
Eze-Talk Team and Iron Market Group



Best Ladies Score  
Gemma Littler

# The Big Switch Off

What 'The Big Switch Off 2025' means for your business

**The Big Switch Off 2025 is the UK's biggest communications project since analogue television was retired, over ten years ago.**

In a bid to move the old copper network online, Openreach has recently announced that it will be soon switching off its PSTN and ISDN networks. This unfortunately means that The Big Switch Off will affect anyone who still uses a landline phone service, with a government-backed deadline of 2025.

The firm says that this move is part of an ongoing effort to modernise the UK's telecommunications infrastructure, which will enable them to better support 5G services and provide customers with more high-speed broadband options.

Openreach plans to move all phone calls away from the traditional telephone network and onto Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP). VoIP will not only incorporate features such as caller ID, call waiting, call forwarding and voicemail retrieval into one service via the internet, but it means cheaper and clearer phone calls too.

The project was announced in 2016 and has already started rolling out across the country.

**Why are ISDN and PSTN being phased out?**

ISDN stands for Integrated Services Digital Network, and was invented in the 1980s to provide phone connections that could carry both data and voice. The problem with ISDN is that it requires a lot of equipment and has limited range—it's only good for local calls.

This digital network also suffers from a high fixed cost per user. Because of this, it's not cost effective for companies to use an ISDN line when they can retain unlimited data usage on other types of connections at much lower costs. The PSTN (Public Switched Telephone Network) connection is being phased out because it isn't as

flexible as newer, cheaper technologies. The PSTN connection uses copper wires to connect people on the same network, but this means that when there are problems with the wires, they must be fixed manually, which can be time-consuming and costly.

More favourable, newer technologies use fibre optic cables and satellites to connect people on different networks without having to go through a central location first. This means that if there's a problem, it can be fixed remotely instead.

**What is SIP?**

If you're looking for a robust way to get connected with your customers, it may be time to investigate Session Initiation Protocol (SIP). SIP is a technology that allows you to make calls over the internet (VoIP) and is increasingly becoming a preference for business owners who want to save money on their phone bills by routing calls through their existing internet connection.

What's more, with SIP you're not tied down to a fixed line at a fixed location, giving your business the flexibility of making and

receiving secure, quality communications from anywhere in the world.

**Life after the Big Switch Off. What does it mean to switch to a cloud-based telephone system?**

It means more than just saving time and money—it can help your business grow. Cloud-based systems are the perfect way for businesses to save time and money without sacrificing features or functionality, which is especially important when you're trying to build an efficient, cost-effective workplace.

If you want to find the solution that best fits your business objectives and strategy, Eze Talk is here for you. For decades, we've helped Cheshire businesses like yours improve their customer support and have seen just how much of a difference it can make. Choose Eze Talk to help improve your connectivity by matching you with the best telecom solutions and customer support packages.

*Get in touch with one of our friendly colleagues today on 0333 200 0801 or email [hello@eze-talk.com](mailto:hello@eze-talk.com).*





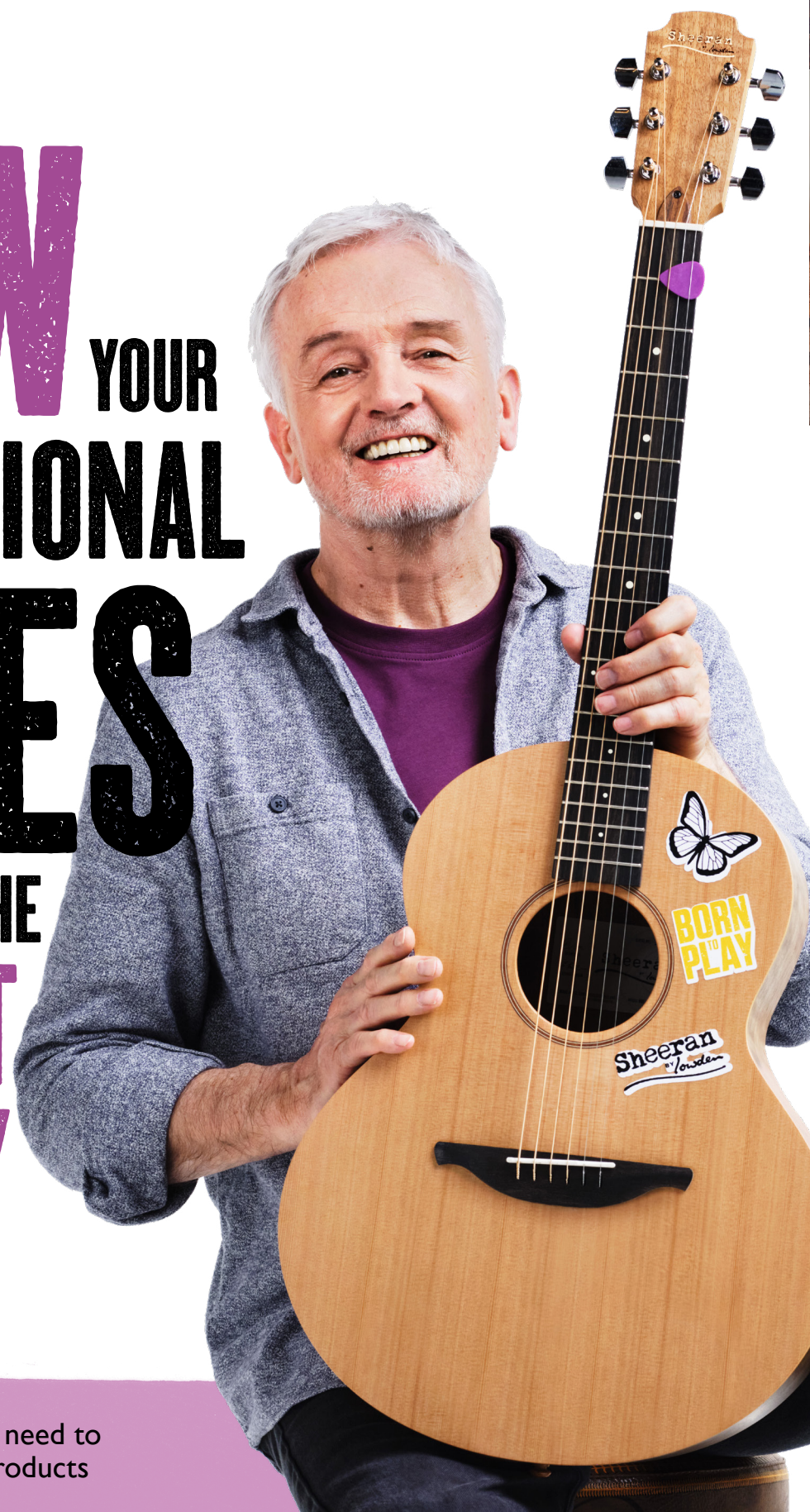


Department for  
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## Celebrating 20 Years of Making a Difference

*Two decades helping local people to gain  
the skills and confidence to fulfil their  
ambitions – at work and in life.*

When we opened the doors to our first students in February 2003,  
I never imagined I would be writing this 20 years later!

So much has changed over the last two decades, our name, company  
structure and premises to name a few. But one thing has never  
changed, our passion to make a difference to the lives of the students  
we work with.



Springboard, formally known as Cheshire Learning Partnership  
CIC, was established to bring adult education back to Congleton.  
The Chamber has played an important role in our success and  
collaborative working with other members has been key. Delivering  
First Aid Training, in partnership with Claire Dalton of Live for  
Work since 2007, and the support we have received from Prism and  
TMC Creative all deserve a special mention.

As a small not-for-profit, it hasn't always been easy but we have  
changed and developed continually to maintain our presence in the  
town. Our core offer of English, maths and IT qualifications have  
been constant but new projects have always evolved to meet the  
needs of the community.

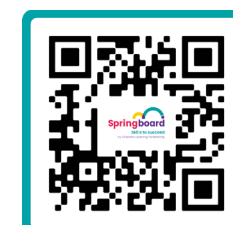
Opening our first Work Hub in 2010 was a significant moment for  
us and this service has now grown to a network of hubs across the  
county in partnership with Cheshire East Libraries.

As for many other businesses, the pandemic was a difficult time  
but we acted quickly and embraced Zoom! It also gave us the  
opportunity to work on the government Kickstart scheme. This was  
a challenging project for us but the reward of seeing so many young  
people gain permanent roles, with local businesses, made it  
all worthwhile.

One of our current projects, delivering English classes to refugees,  
is a humbling addition to our provision. We have students from  
Afghanistan, Hong Kong, Syria and Ukraine, and we love having such  
a diverse customer base studying with us every week.

I have so many highlights from the last 20 years and feel privileged  
to have been a part of so many people's lives, sharing with them  
some truly amazing achievements. I couldn't have done any of it  
though without the fantastic team around me.

Adele Cook, Managing Director





THE CHAMBER OF CHOICE

East Cheshire  
**CHAMBER**  
of commerce & enterprise

ANNUAL CHAMBER BUSINESS  
**AWARDS**  
**2023**

FRIDAY 17TH MARCH

TO BE HELD AT

DE VERE CRANAGE ESTATE, BYLEY LANE  
CRANAGE, CHESHIRE, CW4 8EW

CATEGORIES FOR ENTRY

	Business of the Year Award	Excellence in Customer Service Award	
	Export & International Trade Award	Employer of the Year Award	
	Manufacturer of the Year Award	Progress towards Carbon Neutrality Award	
	Family Business of the Year Award	Start-up Business of the Year Award	
	Innovation Award	Small Business of the Year Award	
	Charity of the Year Award		

FIND OUT MORE



Visit the NEW Business Awards page on our website  
[www.eastcheshirechamber.co.uk/business-awards-2023](http://www.eastcheshirechamber.co.uk/business-awards-2023)



Download and complete the nomination form for your own or another company you wish to nominate. Email this to  
[jackie.randles@eastcheshirechamber.co.uk](mailto:jackie.randles@eastcheshirechamber.co.uk)



# Thursday Thirty



Congleton Town Council were the hosts of our September Thursday Thirty Networking Meeting. It was great to see our members and a lot of new faces and new members.

Jackie gave a short introduction, telling everyone about the fantastic events we have coming up, which was followed by David McGifford, Chief Officer at Congleton Town Council who gave us a presentation, talking about the changes throughout the town, what the council do for the town and how they're there to help.

Attendees enjoyed some delicious bacon rolls, coffee, and juices whilst networking.



Our last Thursday Thirty of the year was held by SAS Daniels on the 24th November, and the venue was hosted by Visyon in Congleton.

Another fantastic number in attendance and it was great to see a lot of new faces again at this event. George Hayes welcomed everyone before handing over to Genevieve Powrie from SAS Daniels.

Genevieve spoke about the importance of business Lasting Power of Attorney's and how businesses can be impacted without them.

Bacon rolls, pastries and tea & coffee were thoroughly enjoyed by attendees whilst networking.



**Marking the start of Christmas, the annual East Cheshire Chamber of Commerce Christmas Lunch was held on Friday 2nd December at Pecks Restaurant in Congleton.**

All 70 guests enjoyed an afternoon of delicious food and drink, with a choice of the menu on the day.

Jackie Randles, Chamber CEO, welcomed all the guests and thanked Andy & Jake Pear for their hospitality, and all the staff at Pecks for all their hard work to make it another festive occasion to remember.

Details for the Annual Business Awards 2023 and how to enter via the website were also announced, the awards evening will be held at De Vere Cranage Estate on Friday 17th March.

After lunch, a raffle was held for the Chambers current Charity of the Year, Smile Group which raised £500.

Many guests stayed on to enjoy drinks and petit fours into the early evening, and others took the advantage of complementary transport into Congleton, courtesy of Andy Pear.

## What are the latest cybercrime trends and their impact on businesses in Cheshire?

Police and Crime Commissioner John Dwyer is hosting a series of events to help Cheshire businesses understand the impact of cyber crime and how to protect themselves.

Presented by Detective Inspector Dan Giannasi, Head of Cyber & Innovation at the Cyber Resilience Centre. Dan will be discussing the biggest threats and the latest scams cybercriminals are using against small businesses.

Utilising his own experience from working within the North West Regional Organised Crime Unit, Dan will also share in more detail the tactics and trends that police forces are seeing in the North West.

Dan will explain how the Cyber Resilience Centre can support businesses in Cheshire to protect themselves against attacks through membership and cyber security services.



**9:30am – 11:30am**  
**Thursday 19 January**  
**Riverside, Mountbatten Way**  
**Congleton CW12 1DY**



[www.cheshire-pcc.gov.uk](http://www.cheshire-pcc.gov.uk)







## International Expansion

*for North-West Strategic Communications Agency*

As part of its success and growth plans, TMC Creative Ltd will be officially launching TMC Europe ApS, a new venture within Copenhagen from January 2023 under the 'TMC' brand. The expansion forms part of TMC's strategic growth plans to further collaborate with clients in the Healthcare, Science & Technology sectors, across Europe and beyond.

Well-positioned to partner with leading Danish organisations, TMC has established a strong presence and wealth of experience over the past 16 years. Working alongside global MedTech companies, international member societies, and cutting-edge technology enterprises, TMC has been responsible for delivering strategic counsel and creative solutions that have significant commercial value and social impact.

“Our short and medium-term strategies have identified substantial growth opportunities in overseas territories. TMC works in alliance with clients that have a mutual commitment to values-led growth, these are clearly in abundance within the Danish culture and inherent in the specialist organisations we look forward to working with.”

Tim McCloud, CEO of TMC Creative Ltd

For nearly two decades, TMC has placed huge emphasis on it's people and values 'employee fit' at the core of its recruitment strategy.

Natascha Kronborg Lauritzen, former Marketing Manager of TMC Creative Ltd, will head the new Danish office at TMC Europe ApS, based out of Copenhagen. Having successfully enjoyed the opportunities presented by remote working Natascha's desire to move back to her native Denmark, has been a foundation for this new chapter.

“The Danish market is a great fit for TMC. Danish companies are very forward-looking when it comes to CSR, ESG and Social Impact; areas where our expertise have led the way for change and excellence for many of our current clients.

I'm incredibly proud and excited to be part of this next journey, being able to collaborate with Danish companies to create change, utilising the creativity, knowledge and skills that TMC's employees demonstrate on a daily basis.”

Natascha Kronborg Lauritzen, Senior Marketing & Operations Manager, TMC Europe ApS

Plans to establish an office from within the EU, align with TMC's vision. Serving organisations from the UK, USA and 19 of the 27 EU member states, TMC have proven experience in navigating the complexities of global legislation, communication, and regulatory requirements.

In addition to the benefits of a native-speaking team based in the heart of Copenhagen, the decision to expand into Denmark is based on cultural, legal, and financial common ground between the two countries.

Explore solutions and services at: [wearetmc.co.uk](https://wearetmc.co.uk). Discover latest developments at: [Instagram.com/\\_wearetmc](https://www.instagram.com/_wearetmc). Connect with the team: [Linkedin.com/company/ tmc-strategic-communications](https://www.linkedin.com/company/tmc-strategic-communications)

For Further Information Please Contact  
Jessica Peake at: [Jessica.peake@wearetmc.co.uk](mailto:Jessica.peake@wearetmc.co.uk) -  
+44 (0)1260 295 700.



## De Vere Cranage Estate unveils plans for refurbishment



De Vere Cranage Estate, located near Holmes Chapel and part of De Vere's portfolio of country estate hotels, has announced the start of a refurbishment which is due to be completed in March 2023.

More than £850,000 is being invested to upgrade the hotel, which includes the transformation of bedrooms, public areas and leisure facilities, as well as the introduction of electric vehicle charging points.

The refurbishment will see an update to 25 of its Deluxe bedrooms of which five will be turned into interconnecting family rooms. The hotel's corridors will be refreshed with a contemporary colour palette and new carpets, along with carefully selected artwork featuring nods to the hotel's history and countryside setting.

The bedrooms and en-suites will be newly decorated and styled to bring them in line with De Vere's distinctly British aesthetic. Each bedroom blends a heritage colour palette of muted greens, taupe, and cream with tan accents throughout and complete with luxurious facilities including fluffy robes and slippers, classic Roberts radios, luxurious Penhaligon's toiletries and smart TVs.

De Vere Cranage Estate's gymnasium studios will be redecorated, and brand-new Technogym equipment will be installed.

The hotel will soon be able to accommodate electric vehicles, with six electric chargers being installed into the car park which will be suitable for all EV models.

Richard Morrell, General Manager at De Vere Cranage Estate, commented, "We're thrilled that works have started on the hotel's transformation. The refurbishment will offer our guests new state-of-the-art facilities, whilst celebrating the hotel's rich history and character. We're looking forward to our guests experiencing the refreshed look and feel of the hotel."

DE VERE  
CRANAGE ESTATE

DEVERE.CO.UK/CRANAGE-ESTATE

01477536765

RACHEL.RANGER@DEVERE.COM



THE FIRST RULE ABOUT SALES CLUB IS...

# EVERYONE TALKS ABOUT SALES CLUB!

East Cheshire Chamber of Commerce  
are teaming up with **Sales Geek Cheshire East** and  
**Beartown Brewery** to host **SALES CLUB 2023!**



It's a free quarterly event exclusively for members of the Chamber that has been designed to help you get some structure and stability into your sales pipeline and ensure that 2023 is a year full of business growth and profitability. You will learn how to close and generate more sales opportunities in your business.

'The Den' at Beartown Brewery in Congleton will be the venue for Sales Club, with the first session on **26th January from 3pm to 5pm**. You will be more than welcome to stay on to continue networking and try their amazing beer!

Session 1 is 'Selling with Stories!' Connecting with your potential customers on an emotional level is a powerful yet simple skill, we'll explore how you can do that irrespective of the product or service you're selling.

Jonathan Whitby



**07775624534**  
jonathan.whitby@salesgeek.co.uk

## Midlands Solicitor Claims Coveted Conveyancer of the Year Award.

**Leading Law Firm, Tinsdills Solicitors celebrates huge win at legal industry's largest Conveyancing Awards ceremony.**

Residential Property Director, Andrew Burrows scooped the top prize at the prestigious LEAP Modern Law Conveyancing Awards Ceremony as he was named "Conveyancer of the Year".

Up against a tough shortlist of nominees, Andrew's work was scrutinised by a diverse and formidable panel of judges from a range of professional service areas. The panel took into consideration Andrew's exceptional case load noting that "84.9% is gained from professional and personal referrals, recommendations and repeat clients".



Plus, his commitment to both clients and staff "often going above and beyond, working unsociable hours all whilst finding time to support and train aspiring conveyancers".

Having worked in Conveyancing for over 30 years, Andrew Burrows has a long track record of providing outstanding Conveyancing services to clients as one of the most experienced Conveyancers in the area. Commenting on this deserved achievement, Legal Director, Andrew Burrows says.

*"It's a great honour to win the conveyancer of the year award.*

*It's tribute to the excellent team with whom I work, the outstanding way that the practice is managed and how the department is run. This is never a 9-5 job, and I wouldn't have achieved this without the support, understanding and patience from my wife and boys."*

Managing Director, Rebecca Medcalf comments on the Firm's recognitions:

*"Our teams are dedicated to ensuring clients receive the right advice, in the right way for them. These commendations reaffirm that the processes we have in place, and the support we provide for clients are of an award-winning level."*



tinsdills  
solicitors

## Start the new year with the right advice.

Here for you, your family and your business.

- |                     |                                      |
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| Employment          | Residential Property                 |
| Dispute Resolution  | Wills, Trusts & Probate              |

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## New HMRC filing regimes designed to hit persistent offenders

From 01 January 2023 HMRC are introducing two new penalty regimes for VAT customers. The penalties will affect ITSA customers from 2024.

### Late Submission Penalties

Every time a business fails to submit a VAT return, they will get a point. Once they hit their penalty threshold (2 points for annual returns, 4 points for quarterly returns and 5 points for monthly returns), they will receive a fine of £200. Every subsequent late return will incur another £200 fine.

Points will expire after two years and reset to zero. But, if at the penalty threshold, taxpayers must demonstrate a period of compliance to reset their points.

#### To do this they must:

- Submit all returns on time for a set time period (24 months for annual returns, 12 months for quarterly returns and 6 months for monthly returns)
- Submit all returns for the preceding twenty-four months (even if late).

Both conditions must be met for the points to be reset.

HMRC say this will be kinder to people who make a one-off mistake, whilst penalising persistent offenders.

### Late Payment Penalties

Basically, the sooner you pay the lower the penalty rate will be.

#### First Penalty

No penalty if payment is made **within 15 days** of the due date.

Day 15 – penalty is 2% of the amount outstanding.

Day 30 – penalty becomes 2% of the amount outstanding at day 15 PLUS 2% of the amount outstanding at day 30.

#### Additional or Second Penalty

Day 31 – daily penalty of 4% per annum of the outstanding amount. This will only stop when the outstanding balance is paid.

#### Soft Landing Period

No penalty will be charged between 01 January 2023 and 31 December 2023, IF the amount due is paid in full within 30 days of the payment due date.

#### Time to Pay Arrangements

If a time to pay arrangement is agreed with HMRC, the penalty will stop accruing, but only if the terms of the TTP agreement are honoured.



If you have any VAT related questions or queries, please contact Alix Hyde – [ahyde@wrpartners.co.uk](mailto:ahyde@wrpartners.co.uk)



## Upcoming Thursday Thirties 2023



Thursday Thirty  
**12th January 2023**  
08.30am – 10.00am  
Prism Solutions



Thursday Thirty  
**16th February 2023**  
08.30am – 10.00am  
Mendy & Watt Financial Advisors Ltd



Thursday Thirty  
**30th March 2023**  
08.30am – 10.00am  
WR Partners



Thursday Thirty  
**18th May 2023**  
Silk 106.9



Thursday Thirty  
**6th July 2023**  
Neon Freight



Thursday Thirty  
**10th August 2023**  
H21 Safety Ltd



Thursday Thirty  
**14th September 2023**  
SAS Daniels LLP

For further details please contact [liz.longmore@eastcheshirechamber.co.uk](mailto:liz.longmore@eastcheshirechamber.co.uk)




EAST CHESHIRE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

*Afternoon Tea Networking Event*

WEDNESDAY 8TH FEBRUARY 2023

14.30PM - 16.30PM

Pecks Restaurant, Newcastle Road, Moreton, Nr. Congleton, CW12 4SB








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Ruby's would like to thank you for all your support in 2022 and to wish you all the best for 2023.

Please visit our new website [www.rubysfund.co.uk](http://www.rubysfund.co.uk) to find out what we've been up to and how you can help us help more local families in need.



Registered Charity Number 1152148

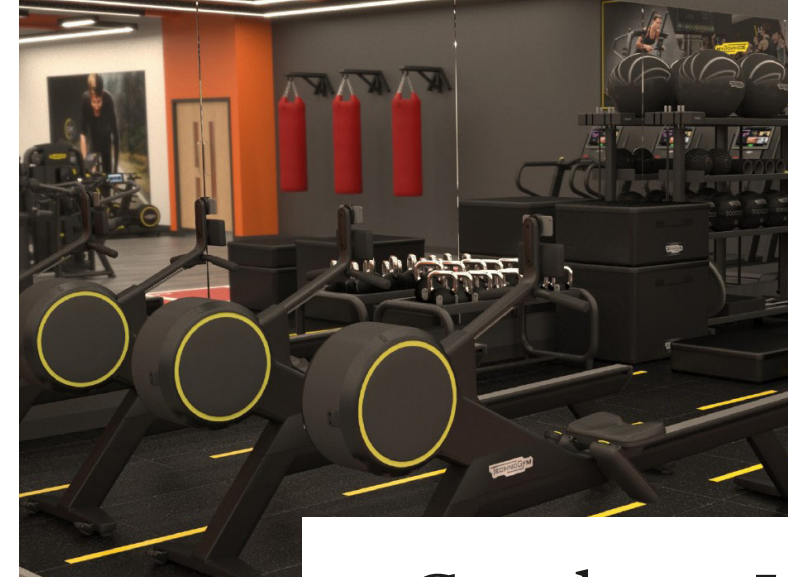
Registered Company Number 0856065

## Prism Solutions support local Chamber Member

On Thursday 8th December, Prism Solutions held a 'Mince Pie and Mingle' event at Congleton Tennis Club, a mid-morning occasion to raise money for Chamber members New Life Church.

New Life Church are a Congleton based charity who put together food parcels for those in need throughout our local community. Proceeds raised from the event were matched by Prism Solutions, raising over £1100!

Jeff Cutts from New Life Church gave a short talk about the donations received, what they mean to them and how they are resourcefully used.

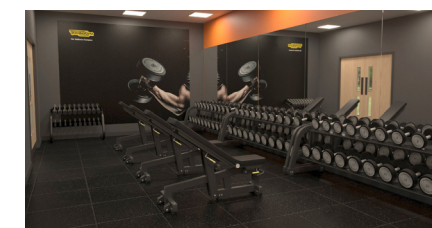


## Congleton Leisure Centre

*Newly Refurbished Congleton Leisure Centre Opening Spring 2023*

### So, what can members expect to see in the complete redevelopment of Congleton Leisure Centre?

Starting with the fitness suite, it will boast a spacious two story, 100 station gym, kitted out with industry leading IFI accredited gym equipment. It will encompass all aspects of training including, dedicated strength, conditioning, resistance, functional and cardio areas, all working towards an improved health and fitness experience for the local community of Congleton.



Members will be kept active and motivated with over 60 new instructor-led fitness classes including group cycling in the brand-new dedicated fitness studios.

*"The facility will offer two large swimming pools including a six lane main pool with an additional learner pool to support with Everybody's Learn to Swim Scheme and help deliver one of their 8 commitments to the local community for 2022/23"*

*"Work with parents and schools to help the 5000 children in Cheshire East currently waiting to learn to swim."*

What has the Taste for Life Café got to offer residents and visitors to Congleton?

The new café area will provide a delicious menu of Taste for Life's much loved coffee blend as well as freshly prepared lunches and hot and cold snacks on offer. The café will be situated next to the exclusive three story, soft

play area, being one of its kind throughout the 16 Everybody facilities in Cheshire East.

Everybody haven't finished there!

The new Congleton development will house a thermal suite including a sauna and steam room, a four court sports hall, two purpose built group exercise studios and an additional group cycling studio. All this on offer with the convenience of free car parking for leisure centre users, including accessible and family bays with electric charging points available.

**For more information visit [www.everybody.org.uk](http://www.everybody.org.uk) and follow Congleton Leisure Centre's Facebook page [www.facebook.com/CongletonLeisure/](https://www.facebook.com/CongletonLeisure/) for updates on the reopening.**



## East Cheshire Chamber of Commerce Business Fair 2023

To be held at:  
Congleton Leisure Centre  
**On 20th September 2023**

Further details to be announced in Spring 2023

East Cheshire  
**CHAMBER**  
of commerce & enterprise





## Business Doctors antidote to the permacrisis

# FEELING THE PRESSURE?

If rising costs and the economic uncertainty are leaving you feeling under pressure, please give me a ring.

Kevin Cook  
07801 399 508



# Member Spotlight



**Ruth Williams**  
Smile Group

### How important have your team members been to the success of Smile?

Natalie and I co-founded Smile together 12 years ago, so have been through everything together. 2 of the 3 team members have also been with us for over 5 years and so we have been on this journey as a team as we adapt and develop along the way.

### What motivates you?

My kids is one of the biggest things. Without my eldest Smile wouldn't have happened and for her to know that if there isn't something there for you, you can go out there and create it yourself pushes me every day. While we can't take away perinatal mental health challenges, for families to know that they aren't alone motivates me to continue doing what we do.

### If you had the chance to start Smile over again, what would you do differently?

Leave the 'day job' and come into Smile on a fulltime basis earlier. Take the Risk, but generally nothing else. We have developed in our own way which means we have created something special.

### How many hours do you work a day on average?

One of the things coming to work for Smile was so that I could improve on the work/life balance. Prior to working full time doing this we ran Smile behind the scenes in the evenings and weekends for nearly 10 years. So now I have the flexibility of being able to do school pickups/ drop offs and see sports days/ nativity etc but also get the job done, which sometimes means leaving the house at 6am and returning at 10pm after trustee meetings, but we get everything done in between.

### How do you spend your leisure time?

What's that then? I'm a mum of two, step mum to three, a school Governor, on the PTA and this year run Sandbach Santa Sleigh with a small team around me. I am however a member of Sandbach Ladies Circle where I am me and

none of those other things, but if you could put me on a cruise or sitting at the top of a mountain in blue sky with snow around me, I'm definitely at my happiest.

### What Are Today and Tomorrow's Challenges?

Funding will always be every Charities challenge today and tomorrow. As a small charity and everyone having to do a bit of everything can often pose some difficulties with not enough hours to in the day, or the full skills to complete them, but they are good challenges to have and we look forward to overcoming them.

### Who has been your greatest inspiration?

My parents, who knew how hard parenting actually was when you were young, they didn't always get it right, but they did their best and now I have developed the same view.

My daughters, because I don't always get it right, but they are developing into amazing young people and finally Natalie, the co-founder of Smile with me, without her much of this is just a dream.



## Major tax changes are coming...

A number of major tax changes are coming which will change how small businesses and landlords structure their affairs and pay tax.

### Associated companies

If you have more than one company, the additional companies may mean you pay more corporation tax on each company's profits from April 2023.




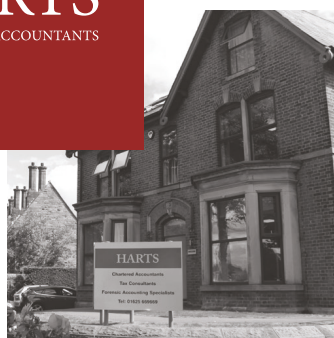
### Basis period reform


The rules for taxing the profits of sole traders and partnerships with a year-end other than 31 March will change. Most will pay more tax in 2023-24.


### Making tax digital

HMRC propose that almost all landlords and sole traders will be required to file quarterly tax returns from accounting software from April 2024.


For more help with these changes, please call Harts, or visit our website. We will be happy to help.



More information on  
 **YouTube**  
Interviews, webinars & more

Scan the  
**QR code**



# WELLNESS AT WORK

In conjunction with Claire Dalton from Live for Work and Nicki Stewart-Juggins from Triad UK, East Cheshire Chamber are excited to announce that these sessions will be held twice a year. Our next event will take place on **Wednesday 26th April 2023**. Full details to be announced.



**Mental Health – what is it?**



**Biology of stress and how it presents**



**Duties as employers/managers**



**Challenging the stigma around mental health**



**Top tips on managing stress in the workplace and at home**



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FOR THE FUTURE



## Franklyn's Winter Waltz raises an incredible £175,000

Congleton based wealth management firm and patron sponsor of the chamber, Franklyn Financial Management, were joined by over 300 guests at The Mere Golf Resort and Spa on Friday 25th November for their Winter Waltz Gala Dinner where £175,000 was raised.



Managing Director of Franklyn, Andrew Chatterton, with reality star, Jake Quickenden, Operations Director at Franklyn, Charlotte Chatterton, and comper for the night, Darren Proctor.

The event took place in aid of the St. James's Place Charitable Foundation, the philanthropic arm of St. James's Place Wealth Management, of which Franklyn are a senior partner practice.

One of the most successful corporate foundations in the UK, the SJP foundation distributes grants to thousands of charities across the country with their key focus being on supporting disadvantaged or disabled children and young people, hospices, cancer care, mental health, and veterans.

Part of the monies raised on the night will also go to the chosen 'pledge charity' of the event - a local, worthy charity which attendees are able to support through pledging to donate a specific amount that will go directly to the them. This year it was North West and North Wales based childhood cancer support charity, The Joshua Tree, that was selected as the pledge charity for the event.

Recognising that every family's cancer journey is unique, The Joshua Tree works with families who have been affected by childhood cancer through providing emotional, academic, and practical support such as counselling, art and play therapy, health and well-being advice, support in and around the home, and educational tutoring where required to help ensure that life remains as normal as possible during an incredibly traumatic time.

After more than 65 guests pledged their support, The Joshua Tree will receive a donation of £126,000 which will go towards providing more support to local families affected by childhood cancer.

Richard Driffield, CEO at The Joshua Tree, commented: "We are so grateful to the team at Franklyn Financial Management for choosing to support The Joshua Tree as their pledge charity for this year's Winter Waltz. We are blown away by the generosity of everyone who attended and the amount raised is incredible, thank you to SJP for matching the amount pledged on the night. As a small charity, this level of support will make a huge difference and enable us to help even more families affected by childhood cancers"

North west based premiership rugby side and official partners of Franklyn, Sale Sharks Rugby Club, were one of the biggest supporters on the night who pledged an incredible £50,000 to The Joshua Tree, making their donation the largest single amount pledged in Franklyn's history of running their event.

The evening itself was sponsored by foreign exchange experts, TorFX, as well as Acceptcards, Flagstone, Belvoir, and Franklyn Elite Sports, and was hosted by well-known Manchester based Happy Radio presenter, Darren Proctor.

Guests were kept well entertained with performances from Cheshire based singer, Georgia Hair, and former X-Factor, I'm A Celebrity Get Me Out of Here, and Dancing on Ice reality star, Jake Quickenden.

The night was made complete with a high-energy, party rocking set from one of the UK's best party bands, Madhen.

Andrew Chatterton, Managing Director and Chartered Financial Planner at Franklyn, stated: "Giving back is something that we pride ourselves on at Franklyn and following on from the covid-19 pandemic, it has been clear that many charities around the world are still feeling the profound effects from it. With this in mind along with the current cost of living crisis, we know

that our support by running the Winter Waltz to the SJP Foundation and The Joshua Tree is more important than ever before."

"Each year I am blown away by the generosity of our guests and supporters of the event, and this year was no different. I would like to once again thank those that made the Winter Waltz possible and I look forward to continuing our charitable activities in 2023 which promises to be an exciting year for Franklyn."

With the amount raised at this year's Winter Waltz, the running total raised by Franklyn over the years for the SJP Charitable Foundation now stands at £1.46 million.

CEO of St. James's Place Wealth Management and Chair of the SJP Charitable Foundation, Andrew Croft, was in attendance at the event and commented: "As Chair of the St James's Place Charitable Foundation Trustees, I know the monies raised at this year's Winter Waltz will make a huge difference to so many charities across the globe and as a board, we are incredibly grateful for the support of Andrew, Charlotte, and the team at Franklyn. The now £1.46million raised by them over the years for charity is a testament to their commitment and dedication to giving back to those less fortunate and a testament to the success of their charity events which continue to get bigger and better every year."

For further information on the St. James's Place Charitable Foundation or The Joshua Tree, please visit: <https://www.sjpfoundation.co.uk/> and <https://thejoshuatree.org.uk/>



Andrew Chatterton, MD at Franklyn, thanked guests on the evening for their incredible support.



Charity registration number 1168751

Smile Group

Smile Group supporting families who are affected by perinatal mental health challenges across Cheshire East

smilegroup.org.uk   hello@smilegroup.org.uk

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