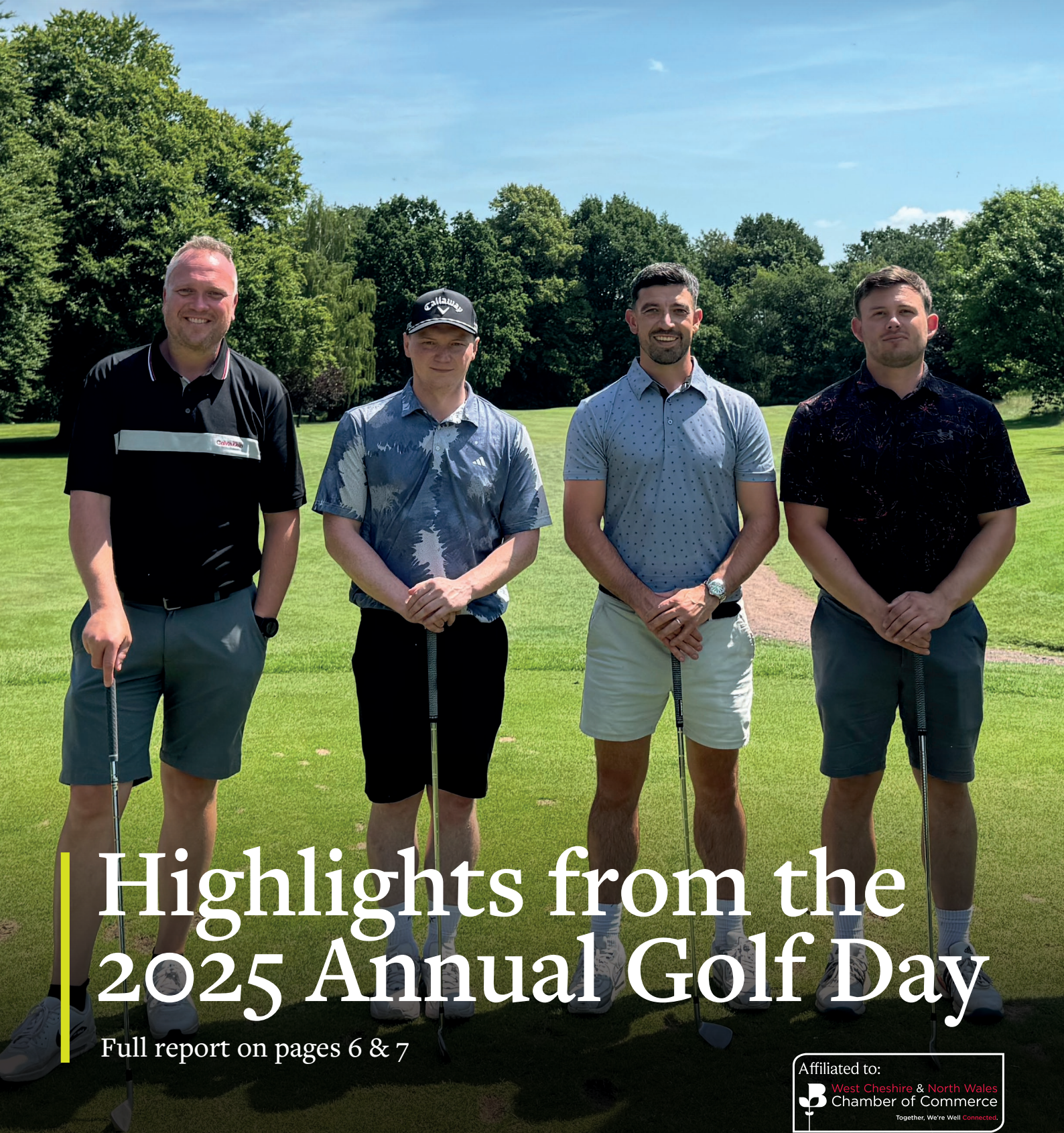


THE BUSINESS MAGAZINE FOR EAST CHESHIRE

East Cheshire
CHAMBER
of commerce & enterprise

September 2025

Chamber



Highlights from the 2025 Annual Golf Day

Full report on pages 6 & 7

Affiliated to:



West Cheshire & North Wales
Chamber of Commerce

Together, We're Well Connected.

Events Calendar

East Cheshire Young
Persons Network (YPN)

Team Working

16th September 2025

9.00am – 11.00am

The Space, 35-37 High Street,
Congleton, Cheshire, CW12 1AX

Thursday Thirty

18th September 2025

8.30am – 10.00am

Senior Aerospace Bird Bellows,
Radnor Park Industrial Estate,
Back Lane, Congleton,
Cheshire, CW12 4UQ

Annual Clay Shoot

15th October 2025

10.30am – 4.30pm

Cloudside Shooting Grounds,
Red Lane, Congleton,
Cheshire, CW12 3QG

East Cheshire Young
Persons Network (YPN)
Confidence in the Workplace

28th October 2025

9.00am – 11.00am

The Space, 35-37 High Street,
Congleton, Cheshire, CW12 1AX

Thursday Thirty

30th October 2025

8.30am – 10.00am

Jenny's Blinds, Bar Twenty Seven,
The Leasing.com Stadium,
Moss Lane, Macclesfield,
Cheshire, SK11 7SW

East Cheshire Young
Persons Network (YPN)

Workplace Relations

18th November 2025

9.00am – 11.00am

The Space, 35-37 High Street,
Congleton, Cheshire, CW12 1AX

Thursday Thirty

20th November 2025

8.30am – 10.00am

Goostrey Home & Leisure,
Goostrey Lane, Goostrey,
Cheshire, CW4 8HE

East Cheshire Young
Persons Network (YPN)

Financial Awareness

2nd December 2025

9.00am – 11.00am

The Space, 35-37 High Street,
Congleton, Cheshire, CW12 1AX

Annual Christmas Lunch

5th December 2025

12.00pm – 5.00pm

Pecks Restaurant, Swan Bank,
Congleton, Cheshire, CW12 1JR

Thursday Thirty

11th December 2025

8.30am – 10.00am

Cheshire Without Abuse
TBC

Thursday Thirty

15th January 2026

8.30am – 10.00am

Westfield Health

The Space, 35-37 High Street,
Congleton, Cheshire, CW12 1AX

East Cheshire Young
Persons Network (YPN)
Mental Health Awareness

20th January 2026

9.00am – 11.00am

The Space, 35-37 High Street,
Congleton, Cheshire, CW12 1AX

East Cheshire Young
Persons Network (YPN)
Networking

10th February 2026

9.00am – 11.00am

The Space, 35-37 High Street,
Congleton, Cheshire, CW12 1AX

Thursday Thirty

26th February 2026

8.30am – 10.00am

Caudwell Children
TBC

Annual Business Awards

20th March 2026

6.45pm onwards

De Vere Cranage Estate,
Byley Lane, Holmes Chapel,
Cheshire, CW4 8EW

We are now accepting hosts for Thursday Thirty events in 2026.

Limited dates remain. For further information or to express your interest, please
contact Liz at the Chamber - liz.longmore@eastcheshirechamber.co.uk

Events can be found on our website 'Events Page' at
www.eastcheshirechamber.co.uk/events



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Welcome From The Chief Executive

Welcome to this edition of the Chamber Magazine!

I hope you enjoy this issue, and as always, if there is anything we can do to support you, please do not hesitate to ask.

As we look back over recent months, it is encouraging to see steady progress across our region. At the Chamber, we are proud to continue supporting our members by fostering growth, collaboration, and innovation – all with the aim of helping to build a strong and sustainable future.

We are also thrilled to bring you highlights from one of the most anticipated events on our calendar – the Chamber Golf Day.

More than just a day on the green, this event brings together local businesses, community leaders, and professionals for a fun-filled opportunity to connect and celebrate the spirit of our business community.

This year's Golf Day was a tremendous success, showcasing not only great sportsmanship but also the strong partnerships that make our Chamber thrive. Whether you were swinging a club, sponsoring a hole, or networking at the clubhouse, your presence helped make the day truly memorable.

You'll find a full report on Page 6 & 7, including event highlights, photos, and special acknowledgments for the sponsors and participants who made it all possible.

Looking ahead, our events calendar shows no signs of slowing down with our established Thursday Thirty networking events planned until July 2026.

We are especially looking forward to welcoming members to our popular October Clay Shoot – another fantastic opportunity to network, unwind, and enjoy a day of friendly competition in a relaxed outdoor setting.

Enjoy the read!

Jackie Randles
Chief Executive

Welcome To Our New Members

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



Hemsley Ltd

Hemsley Ltd provides 'Done for You' Lead Generation services, including targeted LinkedIn Outreach, Data Leads, and bespoke prospecting campaigns. We also help revenue generators to be better at Business Development & Sales, through online Training Bootcamps, and 1:1 Coaching Support.

www.hemsley.ltd

Tel: 07443 548851
Middlewich, Cheshire



EPIC.LAN

EPIC.LAN is a Congleton-based events and production company focussing on the world of gaming and esports but also working across a wide range of sectors in event management, live streaming and equipment hire (for both gaming and AV).

www.epiclan.co.uk

Tel: 01260 701042
Unit 3, Greenfield Industrial Estate,
Congleton, Cheshire, CW12 4TR



British Red Cross

The British Red Cross is there for people when crisis strikes. No matter who they are, no matter where the emergency is, we can get life-changing help to those who need it most. We're part of the world's largest humanitarian network, with teams in 192 countries across the world – and that includes right here in the United Kingdom, supporting people across our nation.

www.redcross.org.uk

Tel: 07711 189085
Bradbury House, Brunswick Business Park, Tower Street,
Liverpool, Merseyside, L3 4BJ



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We are here to make the complex mortgage & protection advice journey simple - putting our client's financial goals first. We have 60 years combined industry experience & a personal commitment to offering an exceptional service.

www.cookeand Snape.co.uk

Tel: 07562 523162
Moss Close, Congleton,
Cheshire, CW12 3UG



DPC Accountants Ltd

DPC Accountants, a trusted Staffordshire firm with over 80 years' experience, joined in Summer 2024. They provide intelligent accounting solutions and expert advice to support private clients and champion local small to medium-sized enterprises.

www.dpcaccountants.co.uk

Tel: 01782 744144
Stone House, Stone Road Business Park,
Stone Road, Stoke on Trent, ST4 6SR



Goostrey Home & Leisure

Based in Cheshire, Goostrey Home & Leisure is a family run business that showcases handpicked furniture, homeware, and garden pieces. Blending style with quality, it also features a cosy cafe, creating an inspiring and enjoyable shopping experience.

www.goostreyhomeandleisure.co.uk

Tel: 01477 549191
Goostrey Lane, Cranage, Goostrey,
Cheshire, CW4 8HE

Interested in joining the East Cheshire Chamber of Commerce?

Please contact Liz for further information:
liz.longmore@eastcheshirechamber.co.uk



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18th September 2025

08.30am – 10.00am

Senior Aerospace Bird Bellows

Upcoming Thursday Thirty's in 2025



15th January 2026

08.30am – 10.00am

Westfield Health



30th October 2025

08.30am – 10.00am

Jenny's Blinds

*For further details please contact
liz.longmore@eastcheshirechamber.co.uk*



11th December 2025

08.30am – 10.00am

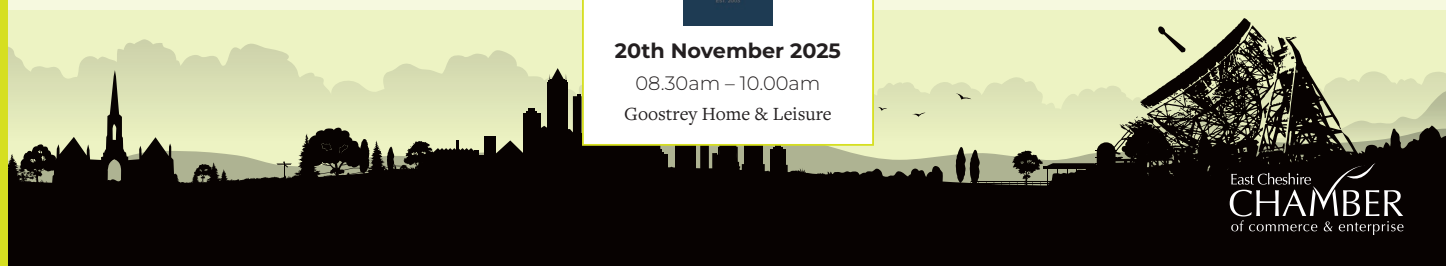
Cheshire Without Abuse



20th November 2025

08.30am – 10.00am

Goostrey Home & Leisure



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"I love doing what I do – helping business owners realise their goals."

Kevin Cook

T: 07801 399508

W: businessdoctors.co.uk/cheshire

E: kevinc@businessdoctors.co.uk



Sunshine, Swings & Success – East Cheshire Chamber's Annual Golf Day 2025

Our Annual Golf Day at the East Cheshire Chamber of Commerce, proudly sponsored by Prism, teed off in spectacular style on Wednesday 18th June 2025 at the stunning Vale Royal Abbey Golf Club in Whitegate – and what a fantastic day it turned out to be!

The morning got underway with a warm welcome at registration, accompanied by delicious bacon brioche rolls, fresh tea, and coffee – the perfect start to the day. Spirits were high right from the beginning, and the energy only picked up with the ever-popular Putting Competition. It was a fun yet competitive start, and we were all thrilled to see Jack Higginbotham from Prism walk away with a beautiful glass trophy for the win.

As the teams headed out onto the course, we were treated to a full day of glorious sunshine – perfect golfing weather. Jackie Randles and Liz Longmore were stationed at Hole 10, greeting teams and taking team photographs, and cheered everyone on as they took their shots.

Later in the afternoon, Jackie made her way around the course, handing out refreshing drinks and tasty cookies – a little touch from the Chamber that was warmly received by all the players.

Once everyone had completed their rounds, we gathered in the magnificent Great Hall for a hearty roast beef carvery followed by classic apple crumble, tea, and coffee. The prize giving ceremony that followed, was filled with cheers and celebrations. Rob Sandall from Prism won the Longest Drive on Hole 15, while Mike Bowker from Langricks was Nearest the Pin on Hole 6.

Senior Aerospace Bird Bellows Team B proudly took third place, Pear Hospitality secured second, and the coveted top spot went to the Bunker Dwellers from Reliance Medical – the champions of the day.

This year, we were delighted to welcome our chosen charity, East Cheshire Hospice, who brought along a brilliant raffle with some fabulous prizes. Thanks to the generosity of everyone who attended, we raised an incredible £565 to support their incredible work.

It was a day filled with sunshine, laughter, friendly competition, and community spirit – a true celebration of everything we value at the Chamber. We're already looking forward to doing it all again next year!





**Longest Drive winner
Rob Sandall**



**Putting Competition winner
Jack Higginbotham from Prism**



**Nearest the Pin winner
Mike Bowker from Langricks**



**Third Place, Senior Aerospace
Bird Bellows Team B**



**Second Place,
Pear Hospitality**



Winning Team, Bunker Dwellers from Reliance Medical

Thank you to this years Hole Sponsors:



Company Spotlight - Nadine Abrahams

Professional Will Services



What are some things people often overlook when creating a will?

When creating a will, there are several important details that people often overlook. One common oversight is not appointing executors wisely—these individuals are responsible for carrying out the terms of the will, so it's crucial to choose someone trustworthy and capable. Inheritance tax planning is another key area that can be missed, potentially leaving loved ones with unexpected tax burdens. Many also forget to include funeral wishes, which can help guide family members during a difficult time. For those with children under 18, it's vital to appoint guardians to ensure their care is arranged according to your wishes. Lastly, it's important to consider how beneficiaries will inherit; in some cases, using trusts can offer better protection or control over how assets are managed and distributed.

How has probate changed with the rise of digital assets?

The rise of digital assets has introduced new challenges to the probate process. One significant issue is the lack of awareness about what digital assets a person owns, which makes it harder for executors to locate and identify them after death.

Many of these assets—such as online accounts, cryptocurrency, or digital photo libraries—are also protected by passwords or two-factor authentication, further complicating access. Additionally, the legal landscape in the UK has not yet caught up, as there is currently no specific legislation that clearly governs how digital assets should be handled in probate. While the Law Commission has recommended reforms, the lack of clear guidelines continues to pose difficulties for executors and families alike.

Why is estate planning important for younger people and those with modest wealth?

Estate planning is important not just for the elderly or wealthy, but also for younger people and those with modest assets. For anyone with children under 18, having a will is crucial to appoint guardians and ensure their care is arranged according to your wishes. It's also essential for unmarried couples—under intestacy rules, partners who aren't married or in a civil partnership are not entitled to inherit anything, regardless of the relationship's length or seriousness. Without a will, the probate process can also become slower, more expensive, and more stressful for loved ones left behind. Ultimately, estate planning offers peace of mind, knowing that your affairs are in order and your loved ones will be looked after.

How can families prevent disputes over wills and inheritance?

Families can help prevent disputes over wills and inheritance by taking a few key steps during the estate planning process. First and foremost, having a properly drafted will is essential—it ensures your wishes are clearly recorded and legally valid.

It's also important to keep the will up to date, especially after major life events such as births, deaths, or changes in relationships. Choosing executors and trustees carefully can also make a big difference, as these individuals will be responsible for managing and distributing the estate. In some cases, using trusts can help manage complex family dynamics or protect assets. Finally, understanding legal rights—especially if you intend to exclude someone from your will—is crucial, as failing to follow the correct procedures can lead to legal challenges and family conflict.

What key legal or tax changes in 2025 should people know when making a will?

When making or reviewing a will in 2025, it's important to be aware of upcoming legal and tax changes that could affect your estate planning. From 6 April 2026, significant changes to Business and Agricultural Property Relief will limit the amount that qualifies for full inheritance tax relief, which may impact business owners and farmers in particular. Looking ahead to 6 April 2027, pension death benefits will become liable for inheritance tax, meaning unused pension pots may now form part of a taxable estate. Additionally, the Nil Rate Band and Residence Nil Rate Band thresholds remain frozen until April 2030, which could result in more estates becoming liable for tax as property values rise. Finally, the Law Commission has recommended major reforms to modernise the law around wills—although these are still under review, they signal that further changes may be on the horizon.

www.nadineabrahams.co.uk

Tel: 07771 360120





Annual Clay Shoot

Cloudside Shooting Grounds

The annual Chamber Clay Shoot will take place on Wednesday 15th October from 10.30am onwards, at Cloudside Shooting Grounds.

10.30 am - Breakfast

11.00 am - Clay practice followed by refreshments

1.00 pm - Clay competition

3.00 pm - Meal & awards presentation

Location:

Cloudside Shooting Grounds, Red Lane,
Congleton, Cheshire, CW12 3QG



For more information

Please contact Liz Longmore on 01260 540570 or

liz.longmore@eastcheshirechamber.co.uk

Early booking is recommended.



EAST CHESHIRE CHAMBER *Christmas* LUNCH

FRIDAY 5TH DECEMBER
2025

at

PECKS RESTAURANT

SWAN BANK, CONGLETON,
CHESHIRE, CW12 1JR

Tax traps for the unwary!



Are you being dragged into higher rates of tax due to tax thresholds being frozen?

The effect of this, which is called fiscal drag, can be quite stark and without some planning, you can end up paying far more tax than you need. It gets worse though. Child benefit payments are clawed back when one half of a couple earns between £60,000 and £80,000 on a sliding scale. So, you can have 2 people both earning £59,000 and they keep the full allowance but one partner earning above £80,000 (and the other nothing), and they get nothing.

Take a couple who have 2 children and the higher earner earns £70,000, even without student loans this equates to a marginal tax rate of 51% on the £10,000 as the child benefit is gradually clawed back.

And, once your taxable income is over £100,000, you start to lose your personal allowance at the rate of £1 for every £2 you go over. This creates an effective tax rate of 62% on earnings between £100,000 and £125,140. Oh and if you were getting tax free or 30 hours child care, well that disappears completely when one partner earns over £100,000. If you have pre school age children, you would be better off refusing the promotion or reducing hours – with the loss of childcare, the effective tax rate is over 100%.

We do not despair, there are ways that you can mitigate this, but it takes a little bit of planning.

- Consider making personal pension contributions
- Consider making gift aid donations
- Consider income shifting
- Make use of tax free allowances such as ISA's.

The first two work by effectively extending the basic rate band so more of your income is taxed at a lower rate. If you can move investment income from one partner to another who is a lower rate payer that can also save you tax.

These are just a few simple ways of beating the tax traps that are waiting out there to catch you but as always when dealing with tax, please make sure you take professional advice. Please feel free to give us a call on the number below and we will be glad to help.

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Call Chris on 01625 669669 or email CBentley@harts-ltd.com harts-ltd.com



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Contact your dedicated Westfield Health & Wellbeing Consultant, Manni Aheer.

maheer@westfieldhealth.com
07710 074753
www.westfieldhealth.com/chamber



What Happens When You Replace Isolation, with Collaboration?

Co-working spaces have transformed the way we think about work environments. For freelancers, remote teams, startups, and even established businesses, the rise of collaborative and creative workspaces provide so much more than just flexibility and community.

For solo workers, they offer a much-needed sense of connection and the chance to build networks that could legitimately shape their success. For growing businesses, they deliver the benefits of a slick, professional office without the cost and commitment of leasing a private space.

The Value of Meeting Face-to-Face

While digital tools keep us connected when there is no other option, there's no true replacement for face-to-face interaction.

In-person meetings allow us to develop deeper relationships that go beneath the surface, they encourage open dialogue and reduce the risk of miscommunication. Body language, subtle cues, and spontaneous discussions thrive in person, leading to richer conversations and more effective decision-making.

But in a world of cost-saving and reluctance around physical premises, how can we encourage this? Using third-party, bookable meeting spaces could hold the answer.

They provide a professional environment that encourages focus, collaboration, and productivity, far removed from the distractions of home offices or noisy cafés. Enter The Space. Our portfolio of meeting rooms hosts from 2-20 delegates, with flexible configurations, complimentary refreshments and an opportunity to bring new ideas to life in an equally new setting.

Co-Working at The Space

The Space offers various co-working spaces to ensure you have the ideal environment to work in. Our community learns in a wealth of different ways, so we aspire to be as diverse in our design as their preferences are. Formal desks, soundproof phone booths, comfy armchairs or tall tables – there's something for all. For the content creators amongst us, the new podcast studio is fully-equipped to produce award-winning episodes.

From boardroom setups for strategic planning, to theatre-style presentations or workshops, our spaces can be adapted to meet your goals.



Plus, all meeting spaces are equipped with everything you need to run a smooth and professional session. High-speed Wi-Fi, large presentation screens, integrated AV systems, and air con/heating ensure everyone is comfortable and fully connected.

You bring the agenda; we'll handle the tech and environment!

Ready to elevate your workflow at The Space?

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SJP Approved 04/08/2025

Chamber Member Magus Electronics Celebrates 40 years in Business!



Founded in 1985, Magus reflects on 40 years of providing Design and Manufacturing solutions to a variety of industry sectors.

Our owner, Philip Shaw, first set up the business to support the bespoke design of electronics solutions for his clients, which set the ball rolling for the implementation of a full electronics manufacturing production line.

Our design expertise was formally recognised by winning a 'Flying Start' TV series award for design and innovation.

The team are proud to work on a variety of manufacturing projects that cover everything from lighting, measuring and test equipment, cosmetic treatment units and high end music equipment. If it's electronic, we can design and manufacture it!

Over the 40 years, we have come a long way and so has our team. We have invested in automated machinery for our production line and successfully trained newcomers, who are now the experts in our automated machinery, to kickstart their career in manufacturing.

Keeping it in the family

The day to day running of the business now undertaken by daughter Kirsty and step-daughter Charlotte, builds on the success from 1985, whilst keeping up with a modern approach to business.

As a family run business, we see our customers as partners and pride ourselves on collaborating to make each design or manufacturing project a success. To this day, we continue to manufacture products for our customers, including those from 1985; it's great to see how far they've come as well.

We have learnt a lot over our time in business and greatly value the individuals who make Magus the success it is today. We have provided opportunities for recognised training in all departments. Our manufacturing team are all IPC-A-610 certified (a recognised electronics industry standard) and we have our own in house trainer to keep on top of industry changes. We have also provided training at management, accounting and procurement level and we continue to offer apprenticeships for new employees in our design department.

In 2015, we successfully certified to ISO:9001 as part of our quality commitment to customers and more recently have joined as members of Made in Britain to promote UK manufacturing and work towards a more sustainable business plan.

In the near future, we are working towards increasing our capacity by upgrading to the latest automated assembly line for the next level of robotic assembly together with real time data systems to further enhance our production processes.

 **MAGUS ELECTRONICS LTD**



Celebrating Adult Maths Success in Congleton

Springboard, which delivers adult learning on behalf of Cheshire East Council Skills and Lifelong Learning, recently hosted a special event at The Space in Congleton to celebrate the achievements of its adult maths learners.

Thanks to the government's £560 million Multiply initiative, Springboard has seen a significant rise in enrolments for its free Functional Skills Maths courses. These nationally recognised qualifications offer practical numeracy skills—from budgeting to problem-solving—and provide a valuable alternative to GCSEs.

Adele Cook, Managing Director of Springboard, said:

"This celebration marks a proud milestone for our adult students. This year, we've seen a record number of people take that first step back into education—and go on to achieve qualifications. Their hard work and determination have been truly inspiring."

The event marked the conclusion of the two-year Multiply project and featured personal learner stories, short films by local media company Prickly Peach, and speeches from Jane Carroll, Multiply Contract Manager at Cheshire East Council, and Adele Cook.



Springboard tutor Linda Walker shared:

"Many adults arrive saying they're terrified of maths. But within a few weeks, their confidence grows dramatically. They begin to realise they use maths every day—and they're better at it than they thought."

Courses are delivered at Riverside in Congleton, with additional learning opportunities across Cheshire East. All adults aged 19+ without a GCSE grade 4/C (or equivalent) can access maths courses free of charge. Fully funded English and Digital Skills courses are also available.

Courses are designed to suit all levels—from Entry Level (to build confidence) through to Level 2, which is required for many jobs, apprenticeships, and training programmes. An initial assessment helps each learner start at the right level.

Local employers are encouraged to refer staff who would benefit—particularly those looking to upskill, retrain, or grow in confidence. Springboard also works closely with community organisations, the Department for Work and Pensions, and Cheshire East Council to make lifelong learning accessible to all.

Learn more or refer a learner at:
www.springboard.me.uk
 Email: info@springboard.me.uk
 Tel: 01260 290682



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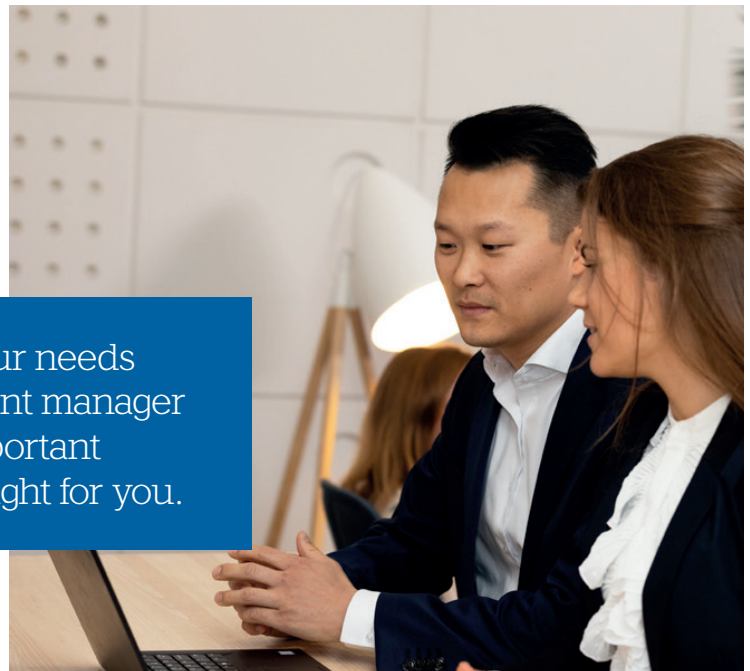
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2026

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Talbots Law Acquires Tinsdills Solicitors in Strategic Expansion

One of the Midlands fastest growing employee-owned law firms is expanding into North Staffordshire and Cheshire through one of its largest acquisitions to date.

Talbots Law, which already operates across the Black Country, Birmingham, Coventry, Shropshire and Worcestershire, has acquired Tinsdills Solicitors as part of its strategic growth plan to broaden its geographic reach and enhance its client offering.

The acquisition will see around 85 highly skilled staff join Talbots Law, with offices in Leek, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Sandbach and Stoke-on-Trent becoming part of the Talbots network.

This move brings together two of the region's most respected and long-established legal firms, creating a powerful partnership committed to delivering a full spectrum of legal services to individuals and businesses across the Midlands and beyond.

"Since becoming an Employee-Owned Trust (EOT) in 2021, we've been focused on both organic and acquisitive growth to accelerate our presence," said Dave Hodgetts, CEO of Talbots Law.

"This deal takes our combined turnover to over £40m and expands our footprint to 19 offices."

"North Staffordshire and Cheshire have long been 'target' areas for us, and there are few firms as respected as Tinsdills Solicitors whose roots date back to 1580. The decision to join forces was easy - our values align, and we share a deep commitment to supporting local people and businesses. Tinsdills' client service is ranked as top 15 nationally on Review Solicitors, which speaks volumes."

He continued: "As an employee-owned business, every member of our team has a stake in our success. That shared ownership drives our culture, our client service, and our ambition. Welcoming the Tinsdills team into our employee ownership model means we're not just growing - we're growing together."

Importantly, all existing staff will continue to serve clients from their current offices, ensuring a smooth transition and uninterrupted service.

"We're excited to be joining Talbots Law," said Peter Hamilton, Business Owner and Chairman of Tinsdills Solicitors.

"While our name will retire, this move allows us to build on our legacy and embrace new opportunities for growth and enhanced client service."

He concluded: "Our clients can be rest assured that the trusted relationships they have built with our team will remain - now backed by the strength and shared values of an employee-owned firm."

About Talbots Law

Founded in 1828, Talbots Law is one of the fastest growing law firms in the Midlands, with over 500 staff located in 19 offices across the Black Country, Birmingham, Cheshire, Coventry, North Staffordshire, Shropshire and Worcestershire.

For further information, please visit www.talbotslaw.co.uk or to find current vacancies www.talbotslaw.co.uk/careers.

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running and only
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Hospice's funding
is from the
government. Our
services are
delivered by over
100 staff and more
than 300
volunteers.**

Coffee, Cake & Community – £183.50 Raised for East Cheshire Hospice

On Thursday 17th July, we were excited to host a brand-new event in support of our current Charity of the Year, East Cheshire Hospice – a Chamber Charity Networking, Coffee & Cake Afternoon.

It was a joy to bring both members and non-members together for an afternoon of connection, conversation, and community spirit. Guests had the opportunity to hear from Luke and Laura from the hospice, who spoke with such passion about the incredible work carried out both within the hospice and out in the community. They shared moving stories about the families they care for and explained just how vital every single donation is in helping them continue their work.



A huge thank you to everyone who generously donated cakes and treats for the afternoon – there was a beautiful selection to choose from, and they were enjoyed by all! We were absolutely blown away by the generosity shown on the day, raising an amazing £183.50 for East Cheshire Hospice.

The afternoon was a great success, and we're excited to make this a tradition for our Charities of the Year in the future.



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Petty Pool Event

On 28th August, East Cheshire Chamber partnered with the West Cheshire & North Wales Chamber of Commerce for a joint net walking and networking event at Petty Pool in Sandiway, Northwich.

The event was well attended, and participants learned about the inspiring journey of Petty Pool, which began over 40 years ago. Today, Petty Pool Vocational College supports 113 full-time learners with learning disabilities and difficulties. The Petty Pool Outdoor Education Centre welcomes more than 4,500 local children each year, many of whom take part in residential stays. In addition, Petty Pool in the Community now boasts over 60 members and continues to grow.

Attendees also enjoyed a scenic walk through the site's beautiful 40-acre woodland.



East Cheshire Young Persons Network #ECYPN



Are you a young person or apprentice looking to develop your business skills?



Are you a manager looking for an opportunity to help develop your younger members of staff into the leaders of the future?

Yes? Then join the East Cheshire Young Persons Network Today!

This programme has been developed by East Cheshire Chamber of Commerce and The Pledge Partnership to deliver meaningful skills sessions and help foster the creation of a peer network for the next generation of employees in and around Congleton and the surrounding areas.

Whether you are an apprentice in the early stages of your career, a graduate starting your first job after university, or you have recently moved into a position where you have the chance to grow and develop as an employee, the East Cheshire Young Persons Network is an exciting opportunity to learn new skills from experienced professionals who are experts in their fields.

To book your place or find out more about the #ECYPN programme, please contact:
Jackie Randles - jackie.randles@eastcheshirechamber.co.uk



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Cheshire & Warrington Local Skills Improvement Plan 2025: Progress, Priorities & The Power of Business Voice



Sarah Emes-Young
Project Manager



Julie Shawcross
Skills Consultant



Maria Davison
Skills Consultant

As the Cheshire & Warrington Local Skills Improvement Plan (LSIP) completes another year, our 2025 Progress Report showcases a region-wide effort to reshape education and training around the real needs of local business. Approved by the Secretary of State for Education in August 2023, the LSIP is a three-year initiative led by South Cheshire Chamber of Commerce, designed to place businesses at the heart of the skills system.

What Is the Cheshire & Warrington LSIP?

Our LSIP focuses on five key themes: Technical Skills, Accessibility, Employability Competencies, Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG), and Educational Professionals, with a focus on transitioning industry professionals into teaching.

We aim to bridge the gap between business and post-16 education providers, ensuring that training provision aligns with current and future workforce demands.

Progress Highlights (July 2024 – June 2025)

Technical Skills: Over 4,200 learners have accessed new facilities funded by our Local Skills Improvement Fund (LSIF), including immersive learning environments and green technology hubs. 38 Skills Bootcamps (funded training) are planned for 2025–26.

Accessibility: More than 55 employers have received support navigating training and funding, including apprenticeship levy transfers. Inclusive initiatives such as SEND-specific careers fairs and youth task forces are helping disadvantaged groups access opportunities.

Employability Competencies: Programmes like “Core Skills for 2030” and mock assessment centres have reached over 930 students, embedding essential skills like communication, resilience, and digital literacy into the curriculum.

CEIAG: Over 6,000 students attended careers fairs, and new work experience models are being trialled in Net Zero, Life Sciences, and Advanced Manufacturing sectors.

Educational Professionals: Initiatives like the Industry Associate Pilot are helping professionals transition into teaching roles, while Continued Professional Development and careers awareness training have reached over 60 educators.

What Still Needs to Be Done

Despite strong progress, several challenges remain:

- Increasing capacity within the education system to meet demand for technical course delivery.
- Improving employer understanding of training offers and funding mechanisms.
- Mapping gaps in employability skills provision and ensuring consistent reporting across partners.
- Strengthening engagement with disadvantaged groups and promoting inclusive recruitment.

We are actively working with partners to address these issues, with full delivery targeted by August 2026.

Your Voice Matters – October Relaunch

This October, we will relaunch our engagement activities - and we need your voice!

Without input from businesses, we cannot make real change. Your feedback shapes the future of training and skills provision in Cheshire & Warrington, ensuring it reflects the realities of your workforce and industry.

Whether you're facing recruitment challenges, skills shortages, or planning for future growth, your insights are vital. Join us in shaping a resilient, responsive, and inclusive skills system.

The full LSIP Progress Report is available on our website: cheshireandwarringtonlsip.co.uk

If your business needs help to navigate the skills system, get in touch: LSIP@sccci.co.uk





Thursday Thirty Reports

Our Thursday Thirty Networking mornings continue to go from strength to strength, with bookings now taken right through to June 2026 – and extra dates already added for later this year!

May's event was hosted by Parx Mortgages and Insurance Services and saw a completely sold-out attendance. David Flavell, Director & Relationship Manager, opened the morning with an overview of Parx and his role within the company, before introducing Alex Parkes, Director & Financial Advisor. Alex spoke in more detail about the services Parx provides and how they can support Chamber members. Following the presentation, conversations flowed, and attendees enjoyed a relaxed breakfast together.

June's Thursday Thirty was hosted by SAS Daniels, where we heard from Matt Ottley. Matt delivered an engaging talk on the Employment Reform Bill and the changes expected to come into effect. This was another highly interactive session, with members asking plenty of questions and sparking some fantastic discussions.

We were also delighted to welcome three new members to June's event – a great example of how Thursday Thirty continues to connect, inform, and grow our Chamber community.

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sas daniels SOLICITORS





DIY SOS team will head to Cheshire for BBC Children in Need Special with Morning Live

This year's DIY SOS build for Children In Need is collaborating with BBC One's Morning Live for the first time, with viewers able to watch the progress of the build in September on the show and watch the final reveal in November.

In September, DIY SOS will be partnering with BBC One's Morning Live, to deliver this year's BBC Children in Need build. Presenter, Nick Knowles appeared on Morning Live to announce the new build and encourage tradespeople and businesses to volunteer their time, services or materials to get it off the ground.

DIY SOS Children in Need Special will see Nick Knowles, and his trusty team of Chris, Billy, Radha, Ashley & designer Gabrielle Blackman joined by Morning Live presenters Gethin Jones and Helen Skelton, who will don their steel toe capped boots, hi-vis and hard hats to help make a difference to children and their families affected by cancer. They'll be joined by an army of volunteers as they extend the charity's building - in just 10 days.

The Joshua Tree was founded in 2006 and provides bespoke support to children and their families affected by childhood cancers. Over recent years, the charity has grown significantly, and due to increasing demand from across the country, it has now outgrown its original base in Cheshire.

The DIY SOS team will attempt to transform the site by extending all the facilities to accommodate more children and their families, all of which will help give young people and their families the crucial support they need to improve their mental and physical health and wellbeing and reduce isolation.

Nick Knowles, Presenter of BBC One's DIY SOS said: "We have another huge build ahead of us in Cheshire, which will benefit children who are going through cancer treatment and help support their families too. If you have a trade, a skill, can spare some time to graft or can help us with materials then get in touch. It'll be great fun and something you'll never forget being part of."

Cal Turner, Commissioning Editor for DIY SOS added: "DIY SOS has always shown the power of people coming together to make a real difference. This year's collaboration with Morning Live and BBC Children in Need is incredibly special. The build for The Joshua Tree will not only provide vital support to families but will also shine a light on the compassion and generosity of communities across the country."

Emma Morris, Executive Editor, Morning Live added: "The Joshua Tree charity is a very special place and offers invaluable support for families who are going through the toughest of times. DIY SOS, as always will bring together a brilliant team to create an amazing build and Morning Live can't wait to follow it brick by brick as well as donning our own hard hats to get stuck in too!"

Tommy Nagra, Director of Content at BBC Children in Need added: "We are so looking forward to seeing DIY SOS join forces with Morning Live for The Joshua Tree in Northwich. These builds are lifechanging and leave a lasting legacy for children and the families we support all year round. It promises to be a very special build".

After finding out the news, Dai and Lynda Hill, Founders of The Joshua Tree added: "When we set up the charity 20 years ago we could never have imagined it would grow in the way that it has. We created The Joshua Tree when our son was going through cancer treatment to help combat the isolation our family were feeling. The charity supports more and more families each year, and truthfully we have outgrown the space. To find out that DIY SOS are going to help us extend, and enable us to reach even more children and their families facing the unimaginable diagnosis of cancer is more than we could have dreamt of."

Rich Driffield, CEO at The Joshua Tree said: "We are incredibly grateful to DIY SOS for choosing to support our charity. This amazing transformation will allow us to reach even more families affected by childhood cancer across the UK, offering them the support they need during the most challenging times."

The Joshua Tree Charity receives funding from BBC Children in Need for a Children's Support Worker who provides practical and emotional support for children, giving them access to fun activities in a safe space that helps reduce their isolation and improves their wellbeing.

Across Cheshire, BBC Children in Need currently funds eight projects to the value of £827,000 supporting children and young people.

DIY SOS charitable builds are hugely ambitious and rely on the generosity of trade volunteers and company donations and so is appealing for tradespeople including; electricians, plumbers, carpenters, plasterers and decorators to offer support with the transformation in September.

The build will commence from Tuesday 2nd September – Thursday 11th September 2025.

The episode will be broadcast during the BBC Children in Need Appeal week in November.

Further information on BBC Children in Need can be found at www.bbcchildreninneed.co.uk



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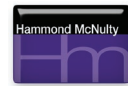
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