

Publicity

Business news from Preston, New City... New Opportunities

0800 389 8392

www.preston.gov.uk/prestoncity



Welcome

Welcome to the sixth issue of Publicity – the business newsletter from Preston City Council. Read all about the exciting plans and latest developments in this fast growing new city.

Tithebarn Project Developing

It has been confirmed that John Lewis will be the anchor department store for the 1.6 million sq ft project.

Lancashire Businesses Booming

The city's businesses growing, thriving and award-winning.

Preston – Home to Business Link Northwest

The newly formed regional business support organisation has moved into new headquarters in Preston.



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Anchors Aweigh with John Lewis on Board



The Tithebarn project has reached a significant milestone, with the confirmation that John Lewis will become the anchor department store for the 1.6 million sq ft project in Preston.

The 230,000 sq ft store will be a multi-million pound investment and will represent the next generation of John Lewis shops – adding an exciting new dimension to the city's shopping opportunities.

Ann Humphries, Director of Retail Development for John Lewis commented, "This investment demonstrates John Lewis's confidence in the plans for the regeneration of Preston."

The £450 million Tithebarn project aims to reinvigorate Preston city centre with new shopping, leisure and housing.

Transport Revolution

The EU-funded CIVITAS programme is progressing plans to complete significant improvements to transport, travel and the environment in Preston city centre.

Plans for 'Clear Zones' – more pedestrian friendly areas, near the university and around Fishergate are progressing well, with the bus fleet of Preston Bus and Preston City Council vehicles now using more environmentally friendly biodiesel.

'Park and Ride' schemes have been improved and are running successfully across the city, alongside a new online car sharing system www.sharedwheels.co.uk, which is providing the opportunity for people to contribute to improving travel and environmental conditions whilst saving money. For more information about the project visit www.civitas-success.org



Preston's Creative Centre has the Mark of Success

A former derelict office building on Ribbleson Lane, Preston has become one of the North West's most successful creative centres, employing 130 people with a turnover of £5.8 million.

The Watermark, which was developed by renowned sculptor and entrepreneur, Charles Hadcock, is now widely recognised across the region as a leading light in the creative industry sector. Charles's vision for The Watermark was to bring together a unique blend of design based companies and individual artists in an innovative and creative environment. This vision has enabled small businesses within The Watermark to compete with large agencies based in creative strongholds in Manchester, Liverpool and London.

As well as providing incubator space for fledgling artists, The Watermark is home to no less than 28 small creative businesses.

As The Watermark goes from strength to strength, Charles has ambitious plans to replicate this success across the North West. His second project, The Benchmark, is already thriving in Preston.

For more information visit www.thewatermark.co.uk



News in Brief

Businesses Invited to Stand Out and Deliver



Around 60 businesses from Preston, Chorley and South Ribble were given advice on how to 'stand out and deliver' at the Central Lancashire Business Support Event. It was an excellent networking opportunity for

business people from the area to make new contacts, exchange ideas and share best practice with other local organisations, not forgetting a unique opportunity for companies to tap into and benefit from the wide range of business support available in the local area.

Attendees took part in informative workshops, with the entrepreneurial focus of the day being reinforced by speakers Mark Strange of Skylandian Productions – a film company based in Leyland and Andrew Patrick, North West Regional Business Advisor for creative industries at the Northwest Regional Development Agency.

This event was organised by Preston City Council, Chorley Borough Council, South Ribble Borough Council, Business Link Lancashire, Lancashire County Developments Ltd and supported by Preston, South Ribble and Chorley Local Strategic Partnerships.

Directing Businesses in Central Lancashire

Preston City Council, along with South Ribble Borough Council and Chorley Borough Council, has launched its Business Directory and CD-Rom for 2006 – 2007.

The new directory and CD-ROM contain information on 3,400 businesses, providing users with valuable data to source local suppliers and identify new business leads.

The CD-ROM allows users to create their own tailored listings by adding and removing field details. Additional benefits include mail merge, email merge and excellent sort facilities to streamline searches.

For more details contact Val Sinhal at Preston City Council on **01772 903416** or email v.sinhal@preston.gov.uk

Publicity Business and Growth

Renovation, Renovation, Renovation

Carphone Warehouse has celebrated the official opening of its contact centre at Tulketh Mill. The opening marks the end of the first phase of renovation work, which has created a state-of-the-art work environment for the 800 people currently employed there.



The company has also been given planning permission to create a stunning new entrance to the building, together with a new 49-bedroom hotel for Carphone Warehouse employees visiting the mill for training purposes, in addition to a bar/restaurant and a crèche. The historic building and its Blackpool Road frontage will be transformed as a result and the call centre operations extended.

The company will also contribute to improving public transport, cycle routes and alley gates in the local area.

Carphone Warehouse CEO, Charles Dunstone commented, "We were very proud to acquire Tulketh Mill and create a contact centre in Preston. Everyone involved in the restoration has worked incredibly hard and it has been a fascinating renovation to see evolve. We have found a talented and skilled workforce in Preston and will continue to recruit from the area."

Garden Centre Blossoms

Barton Grange Garden Centre is poised to begin construction of a brand new garden centre and marina. The new development will be built at Brock, just north of Preston and five minutes from the current garden centre site at Barton.

As well as the garden centre and 80-berth marina, the development will include a chandlery, restaurant, garden park and crazy golf course. Planning permission has also been given for a hotel on the site.



Demolition of the existing buildings on the site has already taken place. Guy Topping, Managing Director at Barton Grange Garden Centres commented, "The detailed specification of the scheme is continually being worked up but over the next few weeks we hope to be putting together a programme of works which will then give us a realistic opening date. We are aiming for March 2008."

Confirmation of Relocation

The proposed £30 million relocation of major Lancashire employer, James Hall & Co, has been given the go-ahead. The company, which supplies Spar shops across the North West will move on to Bluebell Way, Fulwood. The 47,000 sq m building will be Preston's largest, with the site comprising a warehouse and distribution centre, shop and petrol filling station, crèche and maintenance workshop.

Andrew Hall, Managing Director of James Hall & Co was thrilled with the passing of the planning application, and is delighted that the future of the company in Preston is now secure.

Investing in the Future

BAE Systems has submitted plans to create a major aerospace park on its site near Preston.

The investment in the 74-acre site will also enable BAE to keep up with the demand for its fighter jets and meet the challenges of the future. The proposal includes 57,884 sq m of industrial units, 39,000 sq m of office space, reception buildings, crèche facilities and car parking.

The defence manufacturer employs more than 9,000 people at its two bases in Samlesbury and Warton. The development goes some way to safeguarding existing jobs, as well as having the potential to create new positions.

Deepdale Developments

Plans to complete the redevelopment of Preston North End's Deepdale Stadium have been approved.

The ambitious scheme includes a new 4,500-seat East Stand, being built on the site of the unused Pavilion Stand, which will incorporate a public health clinic.

The clinic will be operated by Preston Primary Care Trust, and will cater for approximately 10,500 patients.



Business Briefs



Booths on Top of the World

A Preston based supermarket is celebrating after being named the second best food retailer in the world. Trade magazine 'The Grocer' placed Booths in second place in its annual survey of the top stores on the planet.

Edwin Booth, the fifth generation of the family-owned firm commented, "I think our passion for serving people on a human level and a passion for good quality food and drink are things which set us aside from our competitors."

New City Law Firm for Preston

A new law firm for the city has been established as a result of a merger between Napthens and Roscoes – two of the region's most established legal practices.

The new firm boasts 60 lawyers and 90 support staff. Executive Chairman, Ian Higginbotham commented, "This is a tremendous development and the new firm can offer expertise that is second to none across the complete range of legal services."

Napthens' offices are in the heart of Preston's legal quarter, Winckley Square, and in Blackburn, Bamber Bridge and Longridge.



Growing Acorns in Preston

Recruitment firm Acorn has added an office in Preston to its current portfolio of 12 branches across the country.

Christian Ash, Manager of the new Preston office thinks Preston is a "perfect site" and he hopes to provide large employers in the region with skilled and semi-skilled staff.

Publicity

Business Link Northwest Makes Preston its Home

Business Link Northwest has settled into its new headquarters on Bluebell Way in Fulwood. The newly formed business support organisation has replaced five district bodies previously covering the region.

A transitional team of staff moved into the building, next to the Lancashire County Council Hub building, in March preparing for the new company to open officially in April.

David Slater, Marketing Director commented, "Preston is very central within the North West and because of the excellent location and facilities the building offered, especially being so close to the region's motorway network, it was the obvious choice."



Riverside Re-vamp

An £800 million vision for the Riverworks scheme, a 20 year plan to create jobs, homes, leisure facilities and a city park, centred on the river and canal, is being developed. Amongst the proposals are a landmark building and a performance arena at the marina end of Preston Dock. On the east side of the city, centred on Fishwick and Brockholes Brow, plans are in the pipeline for a 'major outdoor leisure resource'.

Winners of The BIBAs 2007 Unveiled

The winners of The BIBAs (Be Inspired Business Awards) 2007 were unveiled at a glittering, Oscar style ceremony held at The Empress Ballroom, The Winter Gardens, Blackpool, in March 2007. Four of the prestigious trophies went to businesses in the Preston area.

The UK Trade & Investment International Trade Award went to Evans Vanodine International PLC, The Harris Walker Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award was scooped by Hannah Crook of Supplement Solutions. Rob Salter from Moore and Smalley and Maureen Nickson from St. Catherine's Hospice Trading

Company took home The Naphthens Business Person of the Year Award and The HSBC Business Woman of the Year Award respectively. Visit www.thebibas.co.uk for more information.



The BIBAs 2007 were organised by Business Link Lancashire and the North and Western Lancashire Chamber of Commerce with support from key sponsors; the Northwest Regional Development Agency, Lancashire Economic Partnership, Lancashire County Developments Limited and the Lancashire Evening Post.

Publicity Recent Developments

Landmark Building Given New Lease of Life

NCO Europe Ltd has been given the go-ahead to turn the landmark Tradex building off Preston Ringway into its European Headquarters. The decision could result in the company's expansion to provide up to 1,000 jobs in the city.

Homeserve Expansion

Fulwood based Homeserve Claims Management is planning to expand its facility, which could lead to more than 400 new jobs.

Planning permission has been secured for a new three storey office block, which will see the company occupy additional office space adjacent to its existing operation on Caxton Road.

Managing Director, Simon Hancox commented, "We have had to speed up development because we have grown much quicker than we thought. We currently employ 850 people and I would anticipate that would rise to between 1,200 and 1,300 once this work is complete."

Space on Fairways

Prestigious new offices are available at Fairways, Oliver's Place, Fulwood. The space is adjacent to the M6 and M55 motorways.

The development comprises detached and semi-detached office buildings, set in landscaped groups, each with a dedicated car park in an exclusive courtyard setting.

For further information contact Roger Parker at Parker & Co on 01772 823516.



Faraday Complete

Unit three at Faraday Park is now complete. Located within the North Preston Employment Area the self-contained offices offer units ranging from 232 sq m to 433 sq m. Located close to the M6 and M55 motorway junctions, the scheme boasts ample on-site car parking and quality landscaping.

For further information contact Gill Fletcher at Eckersley on 01772 883388.



Free Property Search

For details of these and other recent developments contact Preston City Council on:

0800 389 8392

The Council operates a free sites and property register for Preston – covering all available industrial units, offices, shops and commercial development sites.

In addition, on-line details of Preston sites and property can be accessed through our website. There are also links to a database covering sites and property throughout Lancashire.

www.preston.gov.uk/prestoncity



Publicity

UCLan Awarded Top Ten Ranking

A research report, published in the most recent edition of 'Quality in Higher Education', places the University of Central Lancashire (UCLan) in the top ten of all English universities for the quality of its teaching.

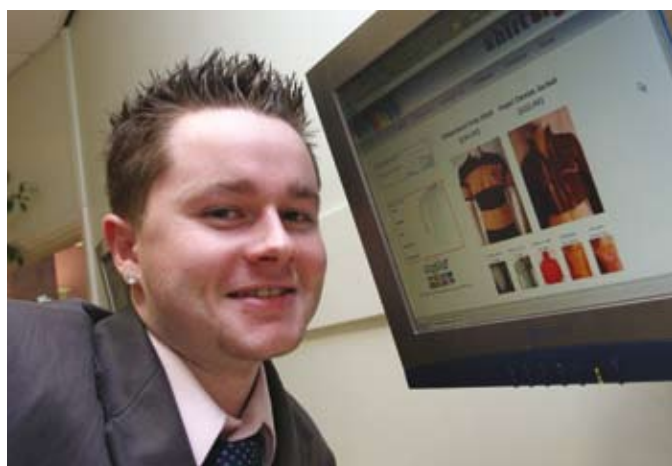
The report ranks the teaching quality of 83 English universities and places UCLan in seventh position overall.

Professor Patrick McGhee, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), said that he was delighted that the true quality of UCLan's teaching had been recognised in the report. He commented, "As an institution we are focused on producing graduates from a diverse range of backgrounds who are equipped with the skills demanded by global employers. High standards of teaching quality are integral to that process."



Preston's Enterprising People

Budding entrepreneurs located in Preston will soon be able to utilise an incubation unit, housed within the multi-million pound Media Factory building at the University of Central Lancashire (UCLan), to harness their business skills.



UCLan has a reputation for producing graduates with the skills demanded by employers and is rapidly gaining a reputation for producing the entrepreneurs of the future. In the last two years over 200 students from UCLan have successfully started their own businesses; including Business Studies graduate, Rick Heskin. Rick, from Leyland, launched 'Shirtsighted', an online clothing store, www.shirtsighted.com, which sells a range of high fashion clothing for men, women and children.

Future entrepreneurs will have access to the Incubator Unit within the Media Factory when it opens in September 2007. The unit will provide technical and mentoring support to help students, graduates and fledgling SMEs develop credible self-employment or business ideas.