



Leading the way

Low carbon initiatives at the heart of Warwickshire businesses

Business investment

Developments

Events

Motorsport

And finally

.....
.....
.....

.....
.....
.....

.....
.....
.....

Awards

.....
.....
.....

.....
.....
.....

Low carbon initiatives at the heart of Warwickshire businesses

A task force from Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire councils - collectively known as 'The Winning Technology' - brought together around 100 senior executives from across the region to network and generate business across diverse industry sectors.

The Winning Technology hosted the 'Opportunities in a Low Carbon Economy' event recently at the International Digital Lab, University of Warwick.

The local authorities also secured the prestigious name of Jaguar Land Rover (JLR) as the main sponsor for the showcase event, which was for technology-driven organisations to network and build business for the future.

Around 100 guests came to network with colleagues from the motorsport, aerospace, medical, automotive, environmental and ICT sectors as well as visit the various exhibitors, which included Axion, Coventry & Warwickshire Aerospace Forum, Dignitas,

Medilink WM, the Motorsport Industry Association and Westfield.

Guests were treated to exclusive presentations from key industry experts, including Gavin Bottrell from WMG (formerly Warwick Manufacturing Group) who presented the challenges of technology transfer; Dr Mike Richardson of JLR discussed hybrid vehicle development; and Chris Vowles from Axion talked about battery development for electric vehicles.

The theme of the presentations focused on the diversity of innovation and technology that companies are using to evolve and drive their businesses forward.

Dr. Mike Richardson, senior technical engineering manager at JLR, underlined the importance of sustainable and low carbon technology, not just for the automotive industry, but for industry as a whole. He said: "Research into hybrids and the wider aspects of vehicle electrification and the subsequent development of appropriate

technologies are integral to Jaguar Land Rover's advanced engineering activities. We have already committed more than £800m to environmental innovation, which includes having a focus on low carbon and sustainable technologies. This is important not only from the perspective of reducing tailpipe emissions, but also for the overall operational activities of the Jaguar Land Rover business."

JLR is one of the most successful global vehicle manufacturers built around two great British car brands that design, engineer and manufacture in Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire. JLR is the UK's largest investor in automotive environmental technologies and is committed to the development of technologies aimed specifically at reducing tailpipe CO2 emissions. The company is working on the development of sustainable technologies including hybrids and electrification.



COVENTRY, SOLIHULL AND WARWICKSHIRE

SENIOR FIGURES: Paul Galland, Strategic Director Environment & Economy, Warwickshire County Council, with Dr Mike Richardson of Jaguar Land Rover.

Cllr Alan Cockburn, Warwickshire County Council's Portfolio Holder for Environment and Economy, said: "The 'Opportunities in a Low Carbon Economy' event was a huge success, helping businesses to uncover the exciting potential of the benefits of working with companies in other sectors.

"This showcase provided companies with an insight into how new technologies can have a positive long-term impact on their business, and we are proud that Jaguar Land Rover, one of Warwickshire's largest employers, chose to support the event."

For further information visit www.winningtechnology.com



Leamington global financial services distributor in £675k deal

Leamington Spa-based Focus Solutions has extended its contract with Bank of Ireland Life for its focus:360° wealth management product. The software distributor said that the deal, worth about £675,000, was expected to be “the first phase of a larger project which will run over the next year.”

The contract extension is expected to be worth approximately £300,000 in licence fees over a five-year term in addition to the current contract revenue, plus an additional £375,000 in professional services.

Focus Solutions provides multi-channel distribution software to the global financial services industry. Under the terms of the contract, Bank of Ireland Life will extend its focus:360° platform to an additional 130 advisers in addition to the adviser channel that went live last year.

Richard Stevenson, chief executive of Focus Solutions, said: “The decision by Bank of Ireland Life to extend focus:360° to support its mass market channel clearly demonstrates the advantages of implementing a single platform solution that can extend to new audiences in line with an organisation’s growth ambitions.

“With the extension of focus:360°, Bank of Ireland Life will be able to benefit from a consistent adviser and client experience across both channels and extend the advantages it has already achieved with its mass affluent channel.”

2,000 jobs to be created in North Warwickshire

Warwickshire County Council welcomes a major deal for online grocer Ocado to build a new £210 million central distribution hub at Birch Coppice Business Park.

On 12th October Ocado officially signed a deal which will create up to 2,000 jobs in the area after North Warwickshire Borough Council rubber stamped outline planning consent for a 124-acre extension to the Birch Coppice site, in Dordon, in September.

The online supermarket, which delivers directly to the kitchen table, and landowner IM Properties have now submitted a detailed ‘reserve matters’

planning application for the 35-acre site. The recent stock-market floatation of Ocado will help finance the hi-tech centralised distribution facility which will process approximately 180,000 customer orders per week at its eventual, maximum capacity.

Cllr Alan Cockburn, Warwickshire County Council’s Portfolio holder for Environment and Economy, said: “This is a welcome investment in North Warwickshire and we are delighted to see major players like Ocado coming to Birch Coppice. The West Midlands has been hit hard by the economic downturn, but investments of this

scale provide a great boost to the local economy and demonstrate that the county continues to be a prime location for business.”

The development plot – the size of 17 football pitches – is thought to be worth around £500,000 per acre. The state of the art warehousing and distribution building will be 350,000 sq ft.

Preparatory work on site to produce development plateaus is scheduled to commence immediately. The Ocado complex is due for completion towards the end of 2012.

Low vacancy rates remain in Nuneaton

Nuneaton has continued to attract retailers to its town centre over the last couple of months, keeping vacancy rates at just under 6%, which is around half the national average.

National retailer TJ Hughes have recently opened a two storey outlet in the former Woolworths premises on Queens Road. As well as creating over 100 new jobs for the local area, TJ Hughes have invested over £2.5 million in the new store.

Caffe Nero, the Italian coffee bar have also opened a store on Queens Road, employing 6 full time staff. “The new store is trading extremely well and seems

to have been welcomed into Nuneaton with open arms” says Sharan Burley, Area Manager at Caffe Nero. “We are expected to make record sales this Christmas and will continue to build the business into the New Year”

Further investment in the town centre has been witnessed, with historical gift retailer Past Times taking a short-term let on a unit in the Ropewalk Shopping Centre.

This influx of new retailers, along with the award-winning market, means Nuneaton continues to be a vibrant town centre and a great place to invest.



PRIME LOCATIONS: Caffe Nero on Queens Road and the award-winning market.



Leamington Spa's Regent Court attracts renewed interest before Christmas

Two new stores and an art gallery follow a new restaurant into Leamington Spa's exclusive Regent Court shopping destination which has a growing customer base.

Gareth Shiells of leasing agent Savills said: "Leamington Spa is a resilient town with an affluent shopper base. The fact that Regent Court has a footfall which is up by 25 per cent*, in addition to an interesting mix of national and independent shops and restaurants, is part of its obvious appeal."

Rohan, the specialist clothing retailer, which offers products to cope with a wide range of different environments, is the latest addition to the Kings Mall line up.

Store Manager, Imran Mouhal said; "I knew that our store would work in Regent Court with stores such as Jaeger, Austin Reed and Shoon drawing in similar discerning customers."

Following hot on the heels of Rohan, the Apple premium reseller Western Computers



is currently fitting out and will be opening on 11th December. The store will feature the Apple range of innovative products and accessories.

Adding further interest to Regent Court, Leamington Studio Artists has opened a new Art Gallery. As a vibrant centre for local artists it is anticipated that the new Gallery 150 will drive considerable footfall, with new artists featured fortnightly up until the New Year. The idea has potential for a national roll out and could create opportunities for other shopping centres.

The new retailers at Regent Court follow on from the recent arrival of the Spa Buffet which offers a tantalising mixture of Thai, Chinese, Italian and Indian Cuisine in a beautiful environment. The Spa Buffet is located on the ground floor of the Grade II listed Regent Hotel.

*(Footfall – 1st November, 2009 – 31st October, 2010)

JLR to join up with University of Warwick

Jaguar Land Rover (JLR) is to relocate its 170-person advanced research group to the University of Warwick as part of a strategy to raise vehicle production from under 100,000 to 300,000 a year.

The luxury carmaker, inspired by the so-called "German model" of collaboration with academia, plans to spend more than £100million on collaborative research at Warwick in the next few years.

The move reflects a growing belief in politics and business that German-style collaboration between academe and industry can help a manufacturing-led recovery in the UK.

Vince Cable, business secretary, is said to be a strong supporter, inspired by a recent report by Hermann Hauser, a Cambridge technology entrepreneur. Hauser, who was born in Austria, proposed the establishment of intermediate bodies similar to Germany's Fraunhofer institutes.

The research initiative at JLR, which is owned by Tata of India, follows the appointment of Ralf Speth, formerly of BMW, as chief executive earlier this year. In an interview with a national newspaper, he said: "In Germany all the car companies are involved with a university. We need to go more in that direction in the UK. We will do all our pre-development work at Warwick, and that will

be a radical change."

JLR has already moved 30 engineers and designers to the International Automotive Research Centre at WMG, the intermediate body founded and run by Lord Kumar Bhattacharyya, the academic entrepreneur. Another 140 will transfer from JLR's research base at Gaydon, Warwickshire, to WMG's Digital Laboratory in the coming months.

Lord Bhattacharyya, an adviser to Ratan Tata, Tata chairman, said: "Our approach is to combine academic excellence with industrial relevance. Warwick will have a symbiotic relationship with a company that has state of the art manufacturing and that is a big contributor to UK output."

WMG's Digital Laboratory is a steel and glass building crammed with sophisticated equipment that includes an MRI scanner and computer systems for testing vehicles and their manufacture in virtual reality. "The digital lab is great and that is the direction we will go in," Speth said. "We can't go on developing cars the way that we used to."

JLR and WMG researchers will work on developments such as electronic control systems, including collision prevention using GPS, and lightweight materials. Speth believes the technology is the key to building up critical mass and better financial returns.

Bedworth Tesco has its expansion plans approved

The redevelopment of the Tesco site in Bedworth took a giant leap forward, when the development was approved by Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough Council's Planning Applications Committee on 22nd November.

The old store will be demolished and replaced with an extended 92,000 sq ft supermarket. A petrol station and 518 parking spaces will also form part of the £27 million development.

The development will also see changes to the road layout in the town centre, and consent was also granted to demolish

the White Swan Public House as part of the regeneration of the area.

Tesco are keen to start work early in the New Year with the opening of the new store anticipated in time for Christmas trading 2011.

Tony Fletcher corporate affairs manager for Tesco commented "We are delighted with this decision and look forward to working with council officers to finalise the details. This major investment will create new jobs for local people and represents a great opportunity for us to bring a modern shopping experience for our customers in Bedworth."

St James Investments, in partnership with Tesco Stores Ltd, are behind the development plans, which will safeguard 340 existing jobs and create 150 extra positions.



MIRA plan for £250m technology park could create 2,000 jobs

An ambitious £250 million project which could create up to 2,000 new jobs across the region has been unveiled.

The Motor Industry Research Association (MIRA), the testing and design facility on the A5 near Nuneaton, announced the plans in October this year, amid claims the company could "miss out on future business opportunities" due to a lack of space.

The multi-million pound investment will create a new technology park, including building modern, environmentally-sustainable office space and state-of-the-art workshops, as well

as a dedicated business campus.

Bosses at MIRA hope the project will attract high-quality companies to the area over the next ten years and generate jobs requiring a variety of skill levels.

The plan's focus is the development of a new engineering centre and an improved technology park, within MIRA's existing 750-acre site.

Experts believe the £250 million investment would enable the business to build on its reputation for engineering excellence and lay the foundations for growth over the next 30 years.

Commercial director of MIRA Technology Park Ltd Terry Spall said:

"Whilst our work is at the cutting edge of what is possible using technology, we have many buildings, including our main office block, that date back to the 1950s and despite improvements over the years they are environmentally inefficient and far from ideal.

"We have achieved 30 per cent growth over the past year, recruited 70 new staff and our current technology park – which is home to 32 world-class companies – has reached capacity.

For further information visit www.mira.co.uk

MTC at Ansty Park Warwickshire

The Manufacturing Technology Centre (MTC) has appointed Dr Clive Hickman and Ken Young as the new chief executive and technical director respectively. The centre was funded with a £40m investment from Advantage West Midlands (AWM) and the East Midlands Development Agency (EMDA).

Alex Stephenson CBE, first chairman of regional development agency Advantage West Midlands and pro chancellor at Birmingham City University, will also take a seat on the board as a non-executive director.

The MTC, based in Ansty Park in Warwickshire, is a new facility and collaboration between academia, research organisations and industry.

Dr Hickman is currently head of engineering at Tata Motors, heading up Tata's Warwick University-based European technical centre.

Former chair of the British Automation and Robot Association, Ken Young is director of Warwick Innovative Manufacturing Research Centre. He takes up his new role at the MTC in January 2011.

Alex Stephenson has more than 40 years experience in manufacturing and design having held executive posts at Perkins Engines, BMW / Rover and, most recently, Alstom Transport as engineering

and safety director.

The three experts join Terry Morgan CBE, chair of Crossrail, who was recently appointed as new chairman of the MTC following verification by Philip Hammond, secretary of state for transport.

The MTC received public funding approval in October 2009 and construction commenced in April 2010 with completion expected summer 2011. The centre will specifically provide resources and a high quality environment for the development and demonstration of new technologies on an industrial scale.

For further information visit www.anstypark.co.uk

Warwickshire takes the stand at the BCSC Conference 2010, Manchester



WELL REPRESENTED: Katy Hunter, Warwickshire Investment Partnership with Martin Gorman and Darren Humphrey from Waitrose.

Around 2,500 delegates were at the British Council of Shopping Centres (BCSC) annual conference in Manchester Central from the 1st – 3rd November 2010.

With many reporting a more positive mood than at last year's event, there was plenty of serious business clearly being done on the 80-plus stands hosted by retailers, property owners, suppliers and advisors.

The designated Public Sector Hub was a hive of activity with developers and retailers engaging with the local authorities from around the UK including Warwickshire County Council and Coventry City Council.

A number of key leads were generated at the Conference, with officers from Warwickshire County Council, Rugby Borough Council, Warwick District Council, Stratfordward BID Company and Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council working in partnership to maximise the effectiveness of their presence at the show.

Warwickshire Investment Partnership are working closely with partners to engage with potential investors. Interest from a number of national retailers and developers will mean that a number of potential development sites around the county will get the boost they need to kick start development.

Asset Management Conference November 2010

Based at the QEII Conference Centre in London, the Asset Management 2010 sell-out event saw over 380 key decision makers from across the public, private and third sectors discuss the key issues in Public Sector Asset Management today. This event was the 5th annual Asset Management Conference which has built on its own success over the years by attracting a number of high profile speakers.

Chair of the Conference, Clive Shore, a relocation expert and contributor to Relocation: Transforming Where and How Government Works, set to examine the core challenges for asset management in the public sector.

With central departments, local government and the wider

public sector tasked with the challenge of making dramatic budget savings across their departments, efficient management of the public sector estate looks to be a key factor with regards to achieving cost savings.

Throughout the day delegates were treated to presentations from a range of senior executives within public sector organisations, including Jeanne Spinks, Director of Estates Transformation, Ministry of Justice and Ian R. Smith, Author, Relocation: Transforming Where and How Government Works.

In the afternoon, Stuart Ladds, Deputy Director, Government Property Unit considered the current national property controls and what was next for Government's estates strategy.



Current Chair of the N&B Business Network Christine Kerr with network members: l-r: Sharon Vallance (Nuneaton Training Centre), Guy Hands (Cartwright Marston), Mary Mills (Nuneaton Town Football Club), Christine Kerr (Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough Council), Jeff Hunt (Health Food & Home Baked Products) and Andy Cartwright (A R Cartwright (Construction) Ltd).

Join the *NEW* Nuneaton & Bedworth business network

An exciting new business network has been set up in Nuneaton and Bedworth, in response to feedback received from various local businesses.

The network is designed to help Nuneaton & Bedworth businesses share ideas, contribute to the future development of the local economy, and to keep informed about local or national government schemes that could benefit their business.

The business network is free to attend and meets quarterly. The next meeting is on Tuesday 25th January 2011 at 7.30am at Eliot Park Innovation Centre, Nuneaton, and will be supported by Warwickshire Investment Partnership.

Why not come along to make an active and lively contribution to the business life of the borough and to meet some new business contacts?

If you would like to see your business benefit from the network, please register your interest by emailing Cheryl Mann at wips@warwickshire.gov.uk

2010 ICT Cluster Conference



The West Midlands ICT Cluster Conference took place at The National Motorcycle Museum, Solihull, on 25th November. Now in its 7th year, the event brings together technology companies from across the UK, Europe and the rest of the world for networking and sharing ideas in the fastest growing industry sectors.

Hosted by Stuart Linnell MBE, guests at this year's conference were treated to a presentation by keynote speaker, Phil Smith, Vice President and CEO, Cisco UK & Ireland.

This year's theme was based on how to succeed during challenging times. Delegates were also invited to workshops on a range of topics including cloud computing, opportunities in emerging markets and sales strategies & tactics. The workshops were run by Ian Osborne, Director of the Digital Systems KTN,

Dr Peter Waggett, Manager of Emerging Technology at IBM's Hursley Laboratory and Mark Wormald of Sandler Systems, respectively.

Other features of the conference included an exhibition of local ICT businesses and support agencies including an area demonstrating new technology.

The Cluster represents the interests of the region's ICT business community together with those organisations which can provide a range of support services to the ICT sector.

For further information visit www.wmictcluster.org

STOP PRESS NEW Leamington Spa Investment Profile 2010

This new brochure highlights the town's strengths in attracting new business to the area.

With a low vacancy rate, and high footfall, Leamington Spa is bucking the trend for investment. Recent developments include the new Warwickshire Justice

Centre based along Newbold Terrace which will attract around 400 visitors a day once fully operational.

To read the full brochure visit www.warwickshire.gov.uk/wips and click on publications.



The MIA – racing to a clean tech future at Autosport International



DRIVING SEAT: Lord Drayson with members of CRP Racing and the new eCRP 1.0 motorcycle at the 4th Cleaner Racing Conference.

The Motorsport Industry Association (MIA) is organising a huge range of events taking place at the Autosport International Show in January 2011. Headquartered in Warwickshire, the MIA are the global business network for the motorsport industry.

Prior to the Autosport Show, the MIA are hosting the 5th European Cleaner Racing Conference & Showcase, Europe's leading and most successful conference for 'green' motorsport.

As an extra bonus, immediately following the conference, all delegates are invited to enjoy the UKTI International Drinks Reception to network with high-profile international business visitors.

The MIA will also manage the Business Lounge located at the heart of the show and will be organising a range of Business Workshops.

The MIA Awards Dinner will take place immediately after the first trade day of the show, on 13th January 2011. This prestigious gathering attracts over 500 industry executives, during which the Business Excellence Awards will be presented recognising excellence at all levels within the industry.

For more information about these events, including how to book your place, visit www.the-mia.com/Events-Diary

Warwickshire establishes itself on the motorsport map

Warwickshire Investment Partnership (WIP), in conjunction with our inward investment colleagues at Coventry and Solihull, will be exhibiting at the forthcoming Autosport Engineering Show.

Autosport Engineering is firmly established as Europe's largest dedicated trade-only motorsport exhibition for specialist technical suppliers and organisations involved in the motorsport and performance engineering sector. Forming an integral part of Autosport International, it is a two day event which offers a cost effective opportunity to meet some 26,000 trade buyers, decision-makers and the industry's leading engineers from over 50 countries.

Exhibiting under the banner Invest in Coventry, Solihull & Warwickshire, this will be the third consecutive time that the teams will have a presence at the show.

Regarded by many industry figureheads as motorsport's primary show, Autosport Engineering is the must-attend event for businesses. Being part of this unique showcase



event will put WIP in a prime position to encourage further motorsport and automotive investment into the region, adding to companies such as Aston Martin, Jaguar Land Rover, MIRA and Prodrive.

Held at the NEC since 1991, Autosport International has been widely regarded as a showcase event for the motorsport industry. Held on 13th-16th January 2011, this annual pre-season network event covers all areas of motorsport, both professional and grass roots, from Karting up to Formula 1.

For more information about the team's work in the motorsport sector, visit www.winningtechnology.com

For more information about Autosport, visit www.autosport-international.com

WIP ENJOY SUCCESS AT STRATFORD BUSINESS EXPO

Warwickshire Investment Partnership (WIP) recently exhibited at the hugely popular Stratford Business Expo.

Now in its third year, the two-day exhibition featured new events to really help the exhibitors and visitors to get the most out of the show.

Held at the Civic Hall in Stratford town centre, the emphasis of the show was on networking and building good working relationships with other exhibitors there.

There was a networking breakfast on the first morning which got the show going and introduced exhibitors to each other.

The cost of exhibiting at the Expo, run by Talk Business, was deliberately kept low so that it was affordable to small, as well as larger companies.

Many long lasting and profitable business relationships have been made through this form of networking. A valuable marketing event for you and your business whether you are exhibiting or visiting.

Entry to the Expo was free for visitors, and there were a wide range of activities that were available to them, such as the speed networking sessions and the informative seminars on both days featuring a variety of speakers and topics.

WIP exhibited alongside over 100 other businesses from a wide cross section of industry.

Warwickshire showcased at Business Startup show

With entrepreneurs becoming ever more important in our economy, Warwickshire Investment Partnership (WIP) got a head start on attracting the next wave of business owners to Warwickshire at the Business Startup Show.

WIP exhibited at the recent start-up event held at Earls Court, London. With over 200 exhibitors, 100 guest speakers and over 20,000 visitors, the show is the biggest event of its type in the UK and provided the ideal platform for entrepreneurs to develop and progress their business ideas.

Located close to the seminar rooms, WIP experienced a wealth of visitors to the stand, with the team meeting 22 companies who were interested in setting up their business in Warwickshire. The enthusiastic entrepreneurs came from a wide range of sectors including software designers, dance teachers and café owners.

With nearly 200 visitors to the stand, WIP promoted Warwickshire to potential business investors throughout the two-day show. As London can be reached within an hour by rail from Warwickshire, the county is well positioned as the ideal business location at the heart of the UK – this was one particular attribute stand visitors were attracted to.

For more information about the Business Startup show, please contact the Partnership team on 01926 412140.



THE RIGHT START: Warwickshire Investment Partnership at the Business Startup Show 2010.

Alumet wins two major manufacturing accolades

Alumet Systems of Southam, Warwickshire, has scooped two major awards in this year's EEF Future Manufacturing Awards and collected a runner-up prize for good measure. The awards were held on 11th November at the Heritage Motor Centre at Gaydon, Warwickshire.

The company, which designs, manufactures and installs everything required for the external façades of modern buildings, including curtain walling and cladding, won both the Midlands Region Environmental Efficiency Award and the Climate Change Opportunity Award, as well as being named runner-up in the Business Growth Award.

The two award winning entries acknowledged the company's success in developing a far-reaching programme that improved energy efficiency, reduced environmental impact and trained staff in sustainability. Alumet's developments included investing over £250,000 in improving the company's environmental performance through the installation



WINNING TEAM: Alumet staff pose with their award certificates.

of additional insulation, new heating systems, roof lights, solar shading and renewable energy technologies. The company has also diversified with the launch of a new division called EOS Energy, which specialises in providing solar panels and renewable technologies to both the commercial and domestic markets.

The annual awards are hosted by EEF, the manufacturers' organisation, and recognise excellence in enterprise, innovation, environmental performance and skills development among UK manufacturers.

Chair of the judging panel, Steve Evans, Professor of Life Cycle Engineering at Cranfield University, said the company was setting an excellent example of how businesses should embrace environmental efficiency.

David Ost, Acting Region Director of the Midlands Region for EEF, commented:

"The Midlands remains a driving force for manufacturing in the UK. Innovative companies such as Alumet Systems demonstrate that well-run manufacturing businesses have a very bright future and are critical to the long term economic success of the region and of the UK."

Alumet will now represent the Midlands at the national finals, the winners of which will be announced on 27th January at a ceremony at Merchant Taylor's Great Hall in the City of London.

For more information, visit www.alumet.co.uk and www.eosenergy.co.uk

Double whammy for local pub company as two Warwickshire pubs carry off Godivas

Two Warwickshire pubs run by the Midlands-based Peach Pub Company have pulled off a bit of a coup for their owners by winning two of this year's Godiva awards, at the ceremony which took place at the Ricoh Arena in Coventry on Thursday, 14 October.

The Rose & Crown in Warwick won the hotly contested title of Best Pub after coming top of the public's list of great watering holes in the area while The Almanack in Kenilworth carried off the Best Customer Service business award for the second year running.

"Winning one Godiva is a fantastic achievement in itself, as there's stiff competition and the standard of the entrants is extremely high," says Jeremy Kynaston, Peach Managing Partner who runs The Rose & Crown and The Almanack. "Carrying off two - one twice on the trot - is simply awesome, something anyone would be over the moon about, which is just what we are.

"Winning is testament to everything we do to make our pubs great places to eat and drink where people want to be. We have a saying here that 'our house is your place' and we work hard to create that kind of laid-back yet friendly environment that makes people feel at home. It's great to have that recognised.

"We also have brilliant teams of people at both pubs, who make The Rose & Crown and The Almanack what they are, and we couldn't have done it without them. We'd like to say a big thank you to them as well as everyone who voted for us, and for anyone who hasn't dropped in for a pint or a bite to eat, please come and see us soon."

For further information visit www.peachpubs.com

Events

Autosport International
'The Racing Car Show'
13th - 16th January 2011
NEC, Birmingham
www.autosportinternational.com

Nuneaton & Bedworth Business Network
25th January 2011
Eliot Park Innovation Centre, Nuneaton
www.warwickshire.gov.uk/wips

Digital Goodlife - Free SME Workshop
27th January 2011
The Digital Lab, Warwick University
<https://digital.warwick.ac.uk>

CeBIT
1st -5th March 2011
Hannover, Germany
www.cebit.de

MIPIM
8th - 11th March 2011
Cannes, France
www.mipim.com/en/mipim/

For more event information go to
www.warwickshire.gov.uk/wips

Contact us

For further information, or if you would like to feature in our next newsletter, please contact Katy Hunter or Gus Bhandal on 01926 412140 or email

Warwickshire Investment Partnership
Shire Hall, PO Box 43, Warwick, CV34 4SX

Successful bid for LEP status

Proposals for twenty-four Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEP) were given the green light by Government on October 28th, in a landmark move that will see local business and civic leaders working together to drive sustainable economic growth and create new jobs in their communities.

Ministers announced the first wave of successful partnerships on October 28th as part of a new plan for local economic growth, which sets out the Government's role in empowering locally driven growth, encouraging business investment and promoting economic development. The Coventry and Warwickshire LEP (CW LEP) which was one of the successful 24, have set up an Arrangements Board with the aim to assemble a full LEP board which can hit the ground running.

The newly lauched £1.4bn Regional Growth Fund (RGF) will support the creation of private sector jobs and will particularly support communities currently

dependent on the public sector, helping them make the transition to private sector led growth and prosperity. The CW LEP are currently developing RGF bids for the sub region.

Business Secretary Vince Cable said:

"I was delighted that so many of the proposals for local enterprise partnerships showed real imagination and initiative and a genuine desire to drive local economic growth. I am pleased to announce that we are asking 24 of these partnerships to set up their boards and get to work.

"The knowledge and expertise of the private sector, local authorities and their local communities will be crucial as we work to create a better environment for business and ensure that everyone has access to the opportunities that growth brings."

Partnerships not being approved today have been informed and given feedback on how to develop their proposals further. Revised proposals will be welcomed by Government as they become ready.

Digital Goodlife

The International Digital Lab at the University of Warwick is running another Digital Goodlife workshop on 27th January 2011.

This workshop is open to all SMEs in the West Midlands, and promotes practical knowledge of digital technologies to support your critical business processes such as marketing, finance, project management, IT and more.

For further information please visit www.eventbrite.com/event/787097229

'The Magnificent Mentors' offer free support

This special project, launched by VASA (Voluntary Action Stratford-on-Avon District) is an opportunity for any new business to have free mentoring support during every stage of development:

- Mentoring to develop a basic idea
- Mentoring to support business plan development
- Mentoring/advice on funding and support to turn a plan into a new business

VASA have recruited seven specialist mentors who are volunteering to give their support and advice to:

- Individuals who are considering starting their own small business

- Individuals or partnerships who are investigating the possibility of making a significant investment to start a new business
- Community Groups who are considering setting up a Community Enterprise

The mentoring will be from people who have been successful entrepreneurs in both small and large scale businesses. They include successful people in manufacturing as well as service and product supply.

To find out more please contact David Morgan, Parish Plans and Rural Outreach Project Manager at VASA on 01789 262 889, email david.morgan@vasa.org.uk or visit www.vasa.org.uk