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INVEST IN SOUTH RIBBLE

The Business Newsletter of



Autumn 2015

"Basing your business in a top quality place to live gives you the greatest chance of attracting the right talent. There is no doubt that South Ribble falls into that category."

**Ben Scandrett, surveyor
for Brookhouse Group**

Find out more



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INVEST IN SOUTH RIBBLE

Welcome to the South Ribble Business Newsletter

South Ribble offers:



LOCATION
A great place to do business



VALUE
Fantastic value for money for investors



CHOICE
A great choice of highly accessible business premises



SKILLS
Access to a range of specialist skills to meet your business needs

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GROWING POTENTIAL

Attracting the Best into South Ribble

Cuerden Adopted Masterplan



South Ribble's thriving economy is presenting significant opportunities for investment and growth. For people like Ben Scandrett, group surveyor for property developer Brookhouse Group, the borough's outstanding location and commuter links, as well as the substantial infrastructure, transport and community improvements, all enabled through the City Deal, form a formidable proposition for potential investors and indeed, end users.

From the Council's perspective, attracting quality businesses and supporting current operators creates better skills development and job opportunities for residents, as well encouraging investment in the community. This allows the local authority and its partners to drive improvements across towns and villages, such as the regeneration of Station Road in Bamber Bridge.

From Ben's perspective, this vision to position South Ribble as a great place to live and do business makes it more enticing for would-be investors.

Ben explains: "Basing your business within a quality housing location gives you the best chance of attracting the right talent and there is no doubt that South Ribble falls into that category.

"There's space for firms to relocate and grow and it's supported by an expanding skills and customer base. Combine this with superb access to motorways and rail routes, and the City Deal unlocking the development potential of key sites, South Ribble is the complete package."

One of those areas is the Cuerden Strategic Site. Located at the end of the M65, it's set to create 2,500 new jobs on land equivalent to 100 football pitches. Having been involved in a number of high-profile developments across the North West, the scheme promises to be one of the most significant for Brookhouse Group, which owns a large share of the land.

During the past two years, the property development company has assisted South Ribble Borough Council and Lancashire County Council with the masterplan, which was approved earlier this year. The planning application is expected to be submitted before the end of 2015 and Ben and his team are currently assessing market demand and feeding this intelligence into the design feasibility process.

Coats Sews up South Ribble Acquisition



The world's leading industrial thread business, Coats Group plc, has acquired GSD Corporate in Walton Summit, which supplies management services that analyse time, cost and production capabilities in the sewn products sector to maximise productivity and minimise costs.

Paul Forman, chief executive of Coats Group, said: "GSD is a world leader in its field with a comprehensive offering that meets cost efficiency and social compliance needs at a time when we are seeing growth in demand in these areas."



Project installation by Lumenata Lighting Design

A Bright Future for Lighting Firm

Bamber Bridge-based Lumenata Lighting Design has secured a finance agreement with alternative lender, Creative Capital.

It follows a sharp rise in demand, which saw annual turnover swell to £600,000, with the short-term deal providing the company with enough working capital to fulfil its contracts.

The company, which designs, supplies and installs lighting schemes for commercial and residential properties in the UK and Europe has worked on a number of high-profile projects including London's iconic Shard building.

Paul Hindle, managing director of Lumenata Lighting Design, said: "We've seen a dramatic rise in demand over the past 12 months as architects, developers and interior designers are increasingly looking to create high-tech LED lighting solutions to give their buildings real stand-out appeal.

"We're in a strong position to further capitalise on this as we are one of the few specialist businesses capable of designing and delivering complex and custom lighting installations using the highest quality components."

Elitetele.com Seals £20m for Growth

Telecommunications provider, Elitetele.com, is eyeing further expansion after securing a £20 million cash injection from Lloyds Bank Commercial Banking.

The firm, based at Matrix Park, has undergone 11 acquisitions since 2008 and posted revenues of £31m for the year ending July 2014, an increase of 31 per cent. Elitetele.com attributes this growth to successful business decisions and investment in emerging mobile and cloud technology.

Matt Newing, chief executive of Elitetele.com, said: "As business confidence returns and technology develops faster than ever before, our customers require increasingly complex solutions.

"The flexible funding and expertise provided by the Lloyds Bank team will enable us to continue to meet customer demand through the acquisition of businesses at the cutting edge of data, hosting and connectivity."

Firms Take Off With Rosebud

Rosebud Finance has lent a record £2 million to 16 firms across Lancashire over the last 12 months, resulting in the creation 126 new jobs.

Farington-based steam cleaning machine manufacturer, Matrix Cleaning Systems, which we featured in the spring 2015 edition, was one of such firms.

A £250,000 loan also enabled DNA Agile, located on Cuerden Way, to invest in research and development, which will create six new jobs over the next four years.

The supply-chain consultancy, founded by Mark Hughes and Phil Jones in 2007, supports more than 250 companies and has proven expertise across a range of sectors, with a particular focus on aerospace.

Managed by Enterprise Ventures on behalf of Lancashire County Developments, Rosebud Business Finance helps local firms to grow and expand. For more information, visit: www.boostbusinesslancashire.co.uk/directory/rosebud-business-finance



Wincanton Lands BAE Contract

Logistics group, Wincanton, has won a contract with BAE Systems to supply its Military Air & Information (MAI) operations.

The deal extends the 10-year relationship between Wincanton and the defence giant and includes goods management and inspection, storage and packaging and transportation services at both Samlesbury and Warton.

Wincanton will also become the operator of the new purpose-built Defence Logistics Centre, scheduled for completion in 2016, becoming the first non-BAE Systems business at the Samlesbury Enterprise Zone. The move will generate 70 new jobs for the local area and help generate opportunities to create further advanced engineering roles in other businesses that are likely to be attracted to the Enterprise Zone.

L-R Eddie Sutton, deputy chief executive at Lancashire County Council and Dave Holmes, manufacturing operations director at BAE Systems Military Air and Information



Construction Starts on BAE Systems £15.6m Training Academy

Defence firm BAE Systems has started work on a new £15m training academy which will form the first investment on the Enterprise Zone at Samlesbury.

The start of construction of the state-of-the-art facility was marked by a ground-breaking ceremony, carried out by Edwin Booth, chairman of the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership, which also coincided with a new cohort of apprentices joining the defence giant's Military Air & Information (MA&I) business.

It will be completed in time for the 2016 Apprenticeship intake, which will include BAE Systems' new degree apprentices. The academy will also train up apprentices for North West aerospace businesses as part of a company-funded initiative to boost skills in the region.

BAE Systems is one of the UK's largest employers of apprentices and invests around £80m a year in training and skills. The company trains more than 1,000 apprentices across the UK at any one time and plans to significantly grow this number to 2,000 by 2018.

Chris Boardman, managing director of BAE Systems MA&I, said: "The ground breaking today is a significant milestone in this exciting development that will provide cutting-edge facilities and greater capacity for future apprentices joining our business.

"I am extremely proud of our Apprenticeship programme and the role it plays in ensuring we continue to develop world-class skills to create world-class technology."

Council Launches Apprentice Skills Drive

South Ribble's hard-working youngsters have received the chance to earn while they learn thanks to an Apprenticeship scheme from the Council.

The programme's original intake was for four Business Administration apprentices, yet exceptional demand has seen the local authority recruit an additional six young learners – four in Horticulture, one in Civil Engineering and one in Shared Assurance.

The cohort of apprentices, aged 16-18, is working towards nationally-recognised qualifications during the next two years whilst receiving on-the-job training within the borough.

South Ribble Borough Council is working with Runshaw, Myerscough and Bolton College to deliver the programme, which began in September.

Margaret Smith, council leader, said: "We're dedicated to investing in our young people and will make sure that it is local youngsters who get the chance to take up these opportunities, because as far as I am concerned, one unemployed young person in the borough is one too many.

"We've wanted to resurrect our Apprenticeship programme for a number of years and have been thrilled by such high levels of interest and applications for our current scheme.

"Our ten new apprentices are all extremely bright and keen to learn and we look forward to helping them build a long-term career path thanks to their Apprenticeship."

Runshaw's new Science and Engineering Innovation Centre



Runshaw's £6.2m Science & Engineering Centre Taking Shape

The steel framework for Runshaw College's new multi-million pound Science and Engineering Innovation Centre (SEIC) at Euxton Lane has been erected and internal works have begun.

Expected to complete in spring 2016, the build programme with Balfour Beatty is well underway, with the SEIC becoming fully operational in time for the 2016/17 academic year.

The facility will accommodate around 400 students, state-of-the-art workshops and laboratories and forge stronger links between the training provider and local businesses, particularly those in science and engineering.

It will also house the college's new HND (Higher National Diploma) in Mechanical Engineering, which launched September 2015. The course, which can also be studied part-time as a HNC (Higher National Certificate), is suited to anyone looking to pursue a career within this sector and those already working within the field.

For more information on Runshaw's new SEIC and HND / HNC in Mechanical Engineering, contact 01772 643008.



International sales manager, Peter Thompson, meeting the Queen

Export and Innovation Leader Scoops Queen's Award

Evans Vanodine has received a prestigious Queen's Award for Enterprise – an accolade recognised as Britain's most coveted prize for business success.

The firm, based at Walton Summit, was awarded the prize within the International Trade category, following its outstanding growth in overseas sales during the last three years.

In operation since 1919, the company is an experienced exporter of cleaning and hygiene chemicals for industrial, animal health, food process and janitorial use.

Evans Vanodine currently exports to 72 countries across the globe, with a further 10 locations serviced by its licensed manufacturing units overseas. The firm is now turning its attention to the Indian market for the next phase of its expansion and is working with a local partner to develop an effective distribution system.

The business bases its overseas sales strategy around expansion of its distributor network and utilises exhibitions and trade shows to further drive growth. This success has seen total sales increase from £22.9m in 2012 to £25.9m in 2014.

The company employs more than 150 staff and has built a reputation based on innovation and commitment to research and development, ensuring the regular introduction of new products and improved formulations through its in-house laboratories.

Peter Thompson, international sales manager for Evans Vanodine, said: "Winning the Queen's Award is a great honour and a testament to the efforts of the entire company to be the best in our field.

"Development of our international business is an essential cornerstone on which we are built and to be recognised with this award is confirmation that we are successful in our efforts to operate on a global scale."

A total of 141 UK businesses received a Queen's Award this year, with just nine winners located in the North West – two being in Lancashire.

South Ribble Firms Celebrate BIBAs Glory

Four innovative firms in South Ribble took home prizes at a sell-out awards ceremony celebrating the cream of the county's companies and entrepreneurs.

The Be Inspired Business Awards took place at Blackpool Tower on Friday 11 September, with 19 prizes given out on the night.

Leyland-based Cleanall Services were double winners, picking up trophies for Excellence in Customer Service and Service Business of the Year.

Conlon Construction, based in Bamber Bridge, retained its Construction Business of the Year award, whilst Evans Vanodine collected Exporter of the Year.

KaBo Hockey, located on Matrix Park, also scooped New Business of the Year. The recent start-up specialises in professional hockey sticks and accessories designed to enhance athlete performance.

Baxi Scoops Community Recognition

Baxi has been crowned one of South Ribble's unsung community heroes after demonstrating its strong and continued support across the borough's towns and villages.

The manufacturer and distributor of domestic and commercial heating and hot water solutions plays a leading role in aiding local fundraising, charities and sponsoring community events. Baxi also provides meeting space for local scout groups and volunteers to assist vulnerable and elderly residents as well as supporting young, aspiring engineers through its partnerships with schools and colleges.

Chris Tyrer, operations director at Baxi, said: "At Baxi we believe passionately in giving something back to the community.

"Our foundations are in South Ribble and our staff have a great deal of pride in the local area.

"We'd like to thank them for all their hard work, as it's that dedication that has led us to win this award."

Six shining stars received recognition at the South Ribble Community Awards, which were presented during our Big Do in June.



L-R South Ribble mayor Mary Green, Ashlea Arnold procurement category manager and Peter Mitchinson components manager (both Baxi), with David Holmes of BAE Systems.



Top Award for Funeral Planner

A husband and wife from Bamber Bridge scooped Best Newcomer at the 2015 Funeral Planner of the Year Awards.

Ian and Wendy Wilde launched Ian Wilde Funerals in 2013 with a vision to offer outstanding personalised service. Ian is a fourth generation funeral director with his great grandfather, Harry Wilde, setting up in business in 1896. The business is located at the former White Bull Hotel on Station Road, Bamber Bridge.

Roundhouse Properties Welcomes New Tenants

Commercial landlord, Roundhouse Properties, has welcomed two new occupiers at its Bamber Bridge development.

Specialists in air conditioning systems, sanitation and heating, Coolfix Ltd, is moving from its Leyland location to 333 Ranglet Road, where it has taken 1,508 sq ft of open warehouse space on a three-year lease. Around one fifth of the site will be used to accommodate the team's internal office function.

Roundhouse Properties has also welcomed UK Energy Saving Experts. The firm, which specialises in loft and cavity wall insulation, boilers and renewable energy services, is relocating to 334 Ranglet Road. Its new 1,527 sq ft site features open warehouse space and an office.

Jeremy Lefton, director of Roundhouse Properties, concluded: "We're extremely delighted to welcome Coolfix Ltd and UK Energy Saving Experts as new tenants and look forward to working with them in the coming years.

"We've had a surge of sign-ups to Bamber Bridge due to its prime location and the size of the units. We're also building similar size units close by at Momentum Business Centre at South Rings, which will be ready towards the end of the year."

The Ranglet Road development at Bamber Bridge



An architect's impression of Burnley High School from Eric Wright Construction



Contractors Triumph in £5bn Schools Framework

Conlon Construction and Eric Wright Construction, part of the Eric Wright Group, have been appointed to the coveted Education Funding Agency (EFA) Regional Framework on Lot 6 which covers the North West. They are the two regional contractors in the North West to secure a place.

This achievement displays both companies' outstanding project work and their ability to compete on a national scale alongside some of the country's largest contractors.

Work to an estimated value of £5 billion is expected to come through the EFA framework, with schemes ranging from £200,000 to £12 million in value, which will include new builds, extensions and refurbishments.

Conlon Construction is currently underway with two EFA-funded projects including a new build for West Didsbury CE Primary School and refurbishment at Wellington School in Timperley. Eric Wright Construction is also in motion with three new build EFA framework projects including Christ Church CE Primary School in Ellesmere Port, Burnley High School and Unity Community Primary School, Cheetham Hill.

A new Central Lancashire Construction Group is also due to be launched shortly. For more information, please contact Jennifer Clough, economic development, on **01772 625567** or email info@businessinsouthribble.com.

Momentum Business Centre Secures First Occupier

Avalon Doors has exchanged contracts to purchase the first unit at Roundhouse Properties' new Momentum Business Centre development at South Rings, Bamber Bridge.

Avalon Doors is a leading supplier and installer of security doors, security roller shutters, awnings and garage doors for industrial, commercial and domestic use. The company will move from its Leyland premises to the 729 sq ft unit when construction completes later this year.

The 58,700 sq ft Momentum Business Centre scheme offers 42 units ranging from 600 to 2,500 sq ft, with 19 being released during phase one.

Peter Singleton, managing director at Avalon Doors, said: "We are very much looking forward to moving into our new premises. Momentum Business Centre will give us the platform to continue growing the business. It's a quality development that's situated in a great location with access to the national motorway network. We were extremely impressed with the design and functionality of the development, giving us the flexibility we need."

Momentum Business Centre development at South Rings



Business Mentors Gear Up to Support Local Firms

Budding entrepreneurs and business owners in the western parishes of South Ribble can benefit from a new enterprise and innovation project, following a £130,000 government investment through the Coastal Communities Fund.

The programme will create advice and growth opportunities, including the introduction of an advisor to support firms in transforming their business idea into a reality and then fuelling growth.

The launch of a new incubation hub will also provide low-cost, fast-access working space in Longton.

Leading business mentor, Orvia Group, is working in partnership with South Ribble Borough Council to provide free, confidential and impartial support for those based in Longton, Much Hoole, Little Hoole, Hutton West and Horwich and Priory*. Orvia's team of experienced business advisors is on hand to provide a range of services, including:

- Practical workshops with an overview of starting a business
- Guidance to develop a business plan
- One-to-one tailored advisory sessions
- Help accessing finance
- Assistance sourcing suitable premises

For further information on the business support project, contact the Economic Development team at South Ribble Borough Council on **01772 625567** or email info@businessinsouthribble.com.

*Certain eligibility criteria applies

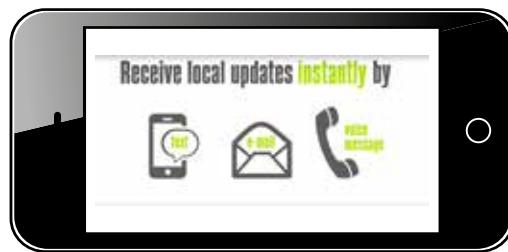


£8m Growth Fund Win

Businesses in South Ribble can now apply for an £8 million pot of funding from East Lancashire Chamber of Commerce, following a successful bid with the Regional Growth Fund.

The finance programme aims to stimulate enterprise across the borough by providing grants and International Trade support to those firms with the potential for economic growth and sets out to encourage businesses to bring forward growth projects within South Ribble and accelerate the creation of sustainable jobs.

For more information and to apply, contact Mike Beckett on 01254 356447 or email m.beckett@chamberelancs.co.uk or Stef Heywood on 01254 356454 or email s.heywood@chamberelancs.co.uk.



Is Your Business In The Know?

Lancashire Constabulary is urging businesses across South Ribble to sign up to its 'In The Know' initiative.

The free communication service provides businesses and residents with real-time updates concerning incidents and key information specific to their local community from the police and selected partners. The range of options available include coastline and rural crime, watch groups, recruitment and volunteering opportunities and Neighbourhood Watch news.

Members can elect to receive information via email, voicemail or text message, with the scheme aimed at improving the flow of information between the local community and its police force to improve the prevention and detection of crime and anti-social behaviour. In addition, it will inform residents of the day-to-day activities of the neighbourhood policing team.

Lancashire Police is currently building an extensive network of contacts within the local business community to provide firms with advice around target hardening, basic security training and encourage sign ups to In The Know.

In the Know is a free of charge service and registration is quick and simple. For more information and to sign up, visit: <http://www.lancashire.police.uk/help-advice/in-the-know>



CSA Group Opens Leyland Transportation Lab

CSA Group, a global provider of testing and certification services and leading standards development organisation, has opened an updated laboratory for testing and certification of equipment used in transportation.

At more than 57,400 sq ft, the state-of-the-art laboratory in Leyland is one of the most comprehensive facilities of its kind in Europe. It features a new drive-in chamber with temperature testing ranging from -60°C to 120°C, an Accelerometer Calibration lab, engine test cell upgrades and electric motor testing.

Magali Depras, CSA group chief operating officer, said: "As a part of our global business strategy to invest in the European market and the transportation sector, we are delighted to offer our European clients expanded services in Leyland. The laboratory has been successfully supporting transportation companies in the United Kingdom and globally for more than 30 years, and we can now offer more tests and certifications than ever before."

IT'S ALL HAPPENING IN SOUTH RIBBLE

The Mill at St Catherine's Park



Hospice Hub Approaches First Anniversary

St Catherine's Hospice's new café and community hub located within its grounds in Lostock Hall celebrates its first year in operation this November.

Built by Eric Wright Special Projects, a division of the Eric Wright Group, The Mill in St Catherine's Park provides information, therapies and support for families experiencing serious illness.

In a relaxed café environment, The Mill encourages and reassures people to help themselves and each other to live more comfortably and independently. It aims to bring a sense of normality and dispel feelings of anxiety that many people have about hospices.

The café is open to everyone to enjoy, serving a range of dishes prepared using locally-sourced, seasonal ingredients, along with St Catherine's unique coffee blend. The Mill operates as a social enterprise, with all profits supporting the specialised care at St Catherine's Hospice.

In addition, rooms can be hired by local groups and businesses to host everything from exercise classes to management meetings.

For more information, visit: www.themillatstcatherinespark.co.uk.

Specialist Firm Secures Rail Contractor Licence

Eric Wright Rail, part of the Eric Wright Group, has been awarded a Principal Contractor Licence (PCL) by Network Rail.

The full Licence formalises Eric Wright Rail's credentials for delivering rail infrastructure projects following a comprehensive audit of a recent level crossing upgrade project in Kent. It allows the firm to bid for further Network Rail infrastructure schemes across the UK, building on the company's track record in the rail sector.

New Partner for Law Firm

Birchall Blackburn Law has promoted Anna Maria Knipe to partner. The 34-year-old joined the firm in 2010 and manages its Leyland branch.

The company, which raised more than £5,500 for St Catherine's Hospice last year, is also looking to inspire other firms to back the charity's Give a Gift campaign, which celebrates its 30th anniversary this year. To pledge your support, visit: www.stcatherines.co.uk.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Trio of Appointments for Events Company

Bamber Bridge-based Pennine Events has made three new appointments following a flurry of new business wins. Mark Parkinson joins the team as events development officer, Jemma Crossen as events assistant and Nilma Solanki as marketing and sales apprentice.

Calendar Idea to Light up Town Centre

Local traders have pioneered a bright idea to improve the look of Leyland town centre. A 2016 calendar has been produced; with the revenue it generates going towards the cost of the Christmas lights. The Light Up Leyland campaign hopes to attract more visitors and shoppers to the town and boost business.

Great Food From Behind Bars

A new Italian has opened its doors in the Old Police Station building in Leyland, enabling diners to experience its quirky settings. La Corte Ristorante, Pizzeria and Wine Bar is the lifelong dream of Franco Iozzi and partner Angela Brown.

Supporting South Ribble Businesses

Jennifer Clough (Economic Development) would like to work with your business to make sure that we and our partners provide the services and conditions that you need to thrive. In order to help businesses, South Ribble Borough Council offers a range of help free of charge.



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A great place to do business



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