

KNOWSLEY Place News

BUSINESS HAPPENINGS IN AND AROUND KNOWSLEY

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ISSUE 2

Spring 2018

Renowned restaurateur chooses Knowsley for next venture

Gary Usher, the inspiration behind restaurants like Wreckfish in Liverpool and Sticky Walnut in Chester, has announced plans to open his fifth restaurant - in Prescott.

The new bistro-style restaurant will be located on Eccleston Street in the town centre and will be called Pinion. It will be the latest addition to his portfolio of Elite Bistros which also includes Burnt Truffle on the Wirral and Hispi in Didsbury.

Gary said, "This place will be small but it's an opportunity to really be part of the plan to regenerate the area."

It is great news for Knowsley to have attracted such a renowned and talented restaurateur and is testament to Prescott's growing appeal as a place 'on the up.'

To find out more about the plans for the new restaurant you can join the likes of celebrity chefs Gordon Ramsay and Tom Kerridge by following @pinion_prescot on Instagram or @PINIONbistro on Twitter.

Kier Construction has been appointed to build the Shakespeare North Playhouse in Prescott. The construction group has extensive experience building theatres, including the recently completed refurbishment and redevelopment of Chester Storyhouse.

Work has now commenced on site and the main construction will start in the summer. The new Playhouse will be complete in summer 2020.



LFC investment

Liverpool Football Club's plans to redevelop their current Academy site and provide improved community sports facilities in Kirkby have moved a step closer.

LFC has agreed a deal to purchase the land next to its Academy from the Council to bring the development forward. As well as paying for the

site, the Club is also making a further significant investment in the community sports facilities and public playing pitches.

The Club's vision is to bring its first team and Academy football training operations and facilities together on one site in Knowsley.



Shakespeare themed micropub now open in Prescott

A new Shakespeare themed micropub is now up and running in Prescott.

'The Bard' is owned and managed by husband and wife team Julie and John Marsden, who run The Melwood Beer Company based on Lord Derby's Estate.

The Bard opened its doors in February and has been extremely well supported by the local community and many others travelling to Prescott to sample the wide range of quality real ales, craft beers, cider and gins on offer.



Knowsley Chamber has launched a new Construction Forum.

The Forum aims to help open the door for local businesses looking to get involved in the many developments ongoing and planned in Knowsley. The first event, which was very well received by businesses, took place on 17 April with a further session planned for 20 June. For more details visit www.knowsleychamber.org.uk

FASCINATING FINDS UNEARTHED IN PRESCOT

Ahead of construction work beginning on the new Shakespeare North Playhouse in Prescott, a team of archaeologists from Salford University have carried out an investigation of the site.

They have unearthed some fascinating finds including a four metre-deep stone quarry, the footings, cellar walls and cellar floors of long-lost buildings and numerous artefacts.

Historic mapping of the area suggested sites dated to the 16th century and indicated that some of the houses had kilns on their land. Whilst the team did not discover any kilns on the Mill Street site, there was plenty of evidence of pottery production.

One of the most interesting finds and the earliest form of activity was a rock-cut well which appeared to have survived in use into the 20th century having been encased in a brick-built cellar which was built later.



The archaeology team has taken away all of the artefacts to be cleaned and documented which will eventually go on display providing a fascinating glimpse into Prescott's past.





Kirkby town centre development pushes forward

Significant progress continues to be made in the development of Kirkby town centre.

St Modwen's demolition works which will make way for the new retail scheme, including a Morrisons supermarket, are well advanced and a contractor for the construction work is expected to be announced in the coming weeks.

Meanwhile, the demolition of three council-owned sites in the town centre is also under way to make way for new development.

NEXT AMBASSADORS MEETING

The next Knowsley Ambassadors meeting is taking place on Wednesday 23 May (8am to 10am) at QVC on Knowsley Business Park.

This session will focus on Knowsley's housing ambitions – the phenomenal progress made to date and the positive impact this work is having on the wider place.

Ambassadors will hear from two prominent housebuilders currently active in Knowsley who will be able to share their perspective on the appeal of the place and their experience of working here. They will also be on hand after the session to meet with any local supply chain representatives who may want to find out more about the opportunities that might be available to their businesses.



YOUR PLAYHOUSE
NEEDS YOU

People who live, work and study in Knowsley are being given the opportunity to make their mark in Shakespearean history and name the street that will be home to the iconic Shakespeare North Playhouse. Suggestions need to be unique and Shakespeare themed and appropriate for an address that will soon be known and visited by millions of people from around the world.

For more details visit www.knowsleynews.co.uk

Other news in brief

• NEW ARTWORK CELEBRATES HUYTON'S RAIL CONNECTIONS

Thousands of people passing through the Huyton train station subway each day can now view a fascinating piece of new artwork celebrating the town's railway heritage and its enviable location on the Liverpool to Manchester train line.

The artwork, developed with schools and the local community takes its inspiration from residents' experiences of Huyton Village and the town's unique place in the history of the railway.



• IMPROVEMENTS TO J5 ON M62

Work has been completed on improvements to Junction 5 (westbound) of the M62. The slip road has been widened to provide two lanes and new traffic signals have been installed. The works will hopefully ease congestion on this particularly busy slip road and the nearby stretch of motorway – a key route into the city.

Business Awards

SAVE THE DATE

The date for this year's Knowsley Business Awards has now been announced – Thursday 22 November 2018. Make sure you save the date!

This year's event will build on the ever growing success of this prestigious awards night which brings together the business community to celebrate success and champion the endeavour and aspiration of Knowsley's best businesses and business people - an event not to be missed.

For more information visit
www.knowsleybusinessawards.com



Shakespeare North Playhouse gets tongues wagging in MIPIM Cannes

Plans to build the Shakespeare North Playhouse in Prescot was a hot topic amongst the property community at MIPIM. Newly appointed construction partner Kier gave an

informal presentation on the Liverpool City Region Stand – highlighting the uniqueness of the project and its significance not just to Knowsley but the wider region and UK as a whole.



Funding secured for Huyton Village

As part of the Council's budget for 2018/19, £1.75 million has been earmarked for improvements to Huyton Village Centre. The funding will be used to enhance the public realm and general amenity to improve the experience for visitors and attract new investment and occupiers to the area.

Already a popular residential area with well-established local facilities, Huyton is home to the Council's administrative HQ and a range of national and local retailers. Its location on the M62 and direct rail links to Liverpool, Manchester, Wigan and Preston make it an attractive destination for residents and businesses.

A large programme of house building in the immediate area is driving demand for additional retail and leisure provision in the Village Centre and a number of investment and development opportunities are currently available. Specifically interest from retailers, leisure operators and residential developers is sought to explore a range of options in the immediate area.

For more information contact Ryan James (ryan.james@knowsley.gov.uk / 0151 443 2893) or Jonathan Lowe (jonathan.lowe@knowsley.gov.uk / 0151 443 2328).



Work underway on speculative development

Orbit Developments has started construction of a distribution scheme at Academy Business Park in Knowsley.

The speculatively-built distribution centre will have an initial first phase of 110,000 sq ft which will consist of

a 100,000 sq ft warehouse and 10,000 sq ft of ground and first floor offices.

The project is next to Liverpool Football Club Training Academy, and is being built by Orbit's sister company Jones Contracts.



A new awards ceremony will this year celebrate the achievements, talent and dedication of pupils, teachers and schools across Knowsley.



The Knowsley Education Awards will take place in June and highlight best practice and achievements across the sector. For more information visit www.knowsleyeducationawards.com

The ceremony will take place on Wednesday 27 June at the Leggate Theatre, Victoria Gallery and Museum, University of Liverpool.

5750 Components invests £3m in Knowsley operation

5750 Components Ltd has taken on new staff and invested £3m to shore up its laser-cutting operations in Knowsley.

The specialist laser-cutting division of engineering and fabrication business WEC Group, used the seven-figure sum to move into larger 33,000 sq ft premises at Knowsley Business Park which will accommodate future growth. In addition 5750 has also taken on new staff members and invested in specialist machinery to help maximise productivity.

Image Business Park sold for £3.5m

A Seybourne Estates business has acquired Image Business Park for £3.5 million.

The site, located on Knowsley Business Park, was formerly one of Kodak's largest sites in the UK. It comprises more than 38 acres and provides 400,000 sq ft of office, warehouse and industrial space,

with key tenants including Surface Transforms, Future Industrial Services and Ames Goldsmith.

Seybourne said that it plans to undertake selective development to release 15 acres of the site for industrial or warehousing on a build-to-suit basis with units from 50 to 250,000 sq ft.

QVC IS TOP EMPLOYER

Knowsley's QVC is one of only 85 companies certified as a Top Employer UK by the Top Employers Institute – the global certifier of excellence in employee conditions.

This is the fifth year in a row that QVC has achieved this certification which shows that QVC “**provides exceptional employee conditions, nurtures and develops talent throughout all levels of the organisation**” and “**is always striving to optimise its employment practices and to develop its employees.**” A great achievement.



GRUPO ANTOLIN RELOCATION

National logistics developer db symmetry and funding partner Barwood Capital have announced the successful relocation of Grupo Antolin to Aquila, a 120,000sq ft facility on Huyton Business Park. Grupo Antolin provide solutions to dress the interior of vehicles and is a key supplier to Jaguar Land Rover.

Jaguar Land Rover continued success

Jaguar Land Rover registered record sales for 2017 with Jaguar selling 178,601 cars (up 20%) while Land Rover sales rose 2% to 442,508. In fact, JLR sales have more than tripled since 2009.

In addition to these impressive figures, in what remains a challenging market, the company was named the largest automotive vehicle and engine manufacturer in the UK for the third consecutive year.

Ambassadors hear from Professor Damian Hughes

Internationally renowned speaker and best-selling author Professor Damian Hughes addressed Knowsley Ambassadors in February. Having worked with the likes of Sir Alex Ferguson, Sir Richard Branson and Muhammed Ali, Damian certainly has some fascinating experience to draw on and interesting insight and stories to tell. The feedback from Ambassadors was excellent with Damian providing a thought provoking and inspiring session that was extremely well received.



New homes update



- Housebuilder **Bellway** has purchased a 10 acre site in Whiston with planning permission to build 133 new homes. Construction work on the new development is expected to start imminently.
- Housebuilder **Stewart Milne Homes** will transform part of the former British Insulated Callenders Cables site to create 68 new homes (a mix of two, three, four and five bedroom properties). The scheme will be known as Callenders Green.
- At Prescot Park, **Barratt Homes, Anwyl Homes, Taylor Wimpey and Countryside** are building nearly 600 new properties providing a great choice of high quality homes. Anwyl Homes and Taylor Wimpey are developing three and four

bedroom homes while Barratt Homes will be developing two, three and four bedroom properties. The Countryside development will include a mix of one and two bedroom apartments and three and four bedroom houses, available for private rent.

- **Bellway Homes** has acquired over 8 acres of land in Roby for a new residential development, known as Nutwood. The development will comprise of 87 properties, a range of high quality three and four bedroom homes. Construction is soon to start, with a sales launch expected in the summer.
- Planning applications are expected imminently for development at Knowsley's prestigious **Halsnead Garden Village**.



THE TEMPEST AT KNOWSLEY HALL

For the third year running Knowsley Hall will, this summer, host a spectacular evening outdoor performance of Shakespeare.

On 9 August (7.30pm) Lord Chamberlain's Men, will bring Shakespeare's spellbinding masterpiece, The Tempest, to Knowsley. Tickets are now on sale via www.knowsleyhall.co.uk

Exciting plans for future development in Knowsley have been featured by Move Commercial. The article includes an interview with Tony Clark, Head of Major Developments at Knowsley Council and highlights a number of key projects, including the Shakespeare North Playhouse in Prescot, the development of Kirkby town centre, and Halsnead Garden Village. It also praises the Council's proactive approach to development and describes Knowsley as a place "very much on the up". You can read the full article on www.movecommercial.com

DEFENCE HONOUR FOR EARL OF DERBY

The Rt. Hon The Earl of Derby, has been honoured for his support to the Armed Forces Community. He has received a bronze award in the Defence Employers Recognition Scheme which honours those who have signed the Armed Forces Covenant, are armed forces-friendly, and open to employing reservists, veterans, cadet instructors and military spouses or partners.

The Earl, who was in the Grenadier Guards, has strong family connections to the military and as President of the

Liverpool & Sefton, and the Knowsley Chambers of Commerce, Lord Derby says he recognises the qualities and transferrable skills that veterans and reservists bring to business.



Liverpool City Region in top four for growth

A new report has identified Liverpool City Region as one of the UK's top four growth hot spots.

The study analysed growth prospects in the UK's leading urban economies and measured their growth potential against six key pillars; workforce and skills, infrastructure, business

environment, place, city brand and housing.

The report ranks Liverpool City Region 4th nationally, just behind Edinburgh, Oxford and Cambridge but ahead of London, Birmingham and Manchester.

Local elections will take place in Knowsley on Thursday 3 May 2018. The results will be published on www.knowsley.gov.uk on Friday 4 May.

New MATE Creative Café at Market Place

An operator has been appointed to run the new café and community space at Market Place in Prescot.

Gaynor La Rocca and her husband Francesco will run the new premises as part of the £500,000 transformation of Market Place being delivered through the Prescot Townscape Heritage Initiative.

The couple bring extensive creative experience and a family history in the restaurant business. Gaynor is Artistic Director at Prescot based MATE Productions and Francesco, a property lawyer with Weightmans LLP, is also an actor with MATE Productions with a huge passion for food.

Gaynor said, "Francesco and I are overjoyed to be given this opportunity. We already have a long-standing relationship with Prescot which we consider to be our home. Our vision is to create a community café, a meeting place for friends, a centre for activity, entertainment and conversation in the heart of Prescot. We plan to host a range of events that will animate and bring Market Place to life all year round."

Work is about to begin with the new café due to open in September 2018. The redesign is by Mark Wray Architects, who were chosen last year from a list of 45 architects from around the world.



Other news in brief

- **COUNTRYSIDE PROPERTIES PICK UP MAJOR AWARD**

Countryside Properties, who are currently building across a number of sites in Knowsley, has been named the Best Large Housebuilder at the 2017 Housebuilder awards.

- **JOINT FIRE & POLICE STATION NOW OPEN**

A new Community Fire and Police Station is now open in Prescot. The purpose-built facility is home to both firefighters and neighbourhood police providing bespoke facilities and spaces for community use.

- **A LEVELS BACK IN KNOWSLEY**

Young people wanting to stay in Knowsley to further their studies now have the option to study for A Levels at Knowsley Community College from September this year. The College, which has recently relocated to a £32m main campus in Huyton is launching a dedicated A Level Academy offering a range of choices for students.

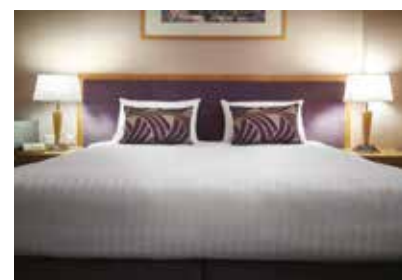
- **KNOWSLEY LANDMARK MAKES HISTORIC ENGLAND'S LIST OF HIDDEN GEMS**

A gravestone in Knowsley has been listed among the 20 most intriguing historical sites in England. The Grade II listed burial spot in Halewood is the final resting place of Blackie the war horse who served with the British Army during the First World War.

To share your business news email
paul.morris@knowsley.gov.uk

Suite success

After a successful 2017, this year has started off with a flurry of activity at the Suites Hotel with work commencing on the refurbishment of 78 suites. Working with local suppliers the hotel is investing £500,000 to upgrade its offering to local, national and international guests. Most of the work is now complete and already the hotel is reporting improved occupancy levels.



Plans submitted for Earlsfield development

Plans for a new mixed-use development – Earlsfield Park – have now been submitted for approval by developer Ion and its partner Knowsley Estate.

The site is located close to junction 2 of the M57 and it is intended to provide 40 acres of employment space along with 160 homes.

The project includes a pub/restaurant with three-storey hotel alongside, a petrol station with convenience store, and pedestrian and cycle routes. It is

Ion's intention to create a broad mix of business space, with advanced manufacturing R&D facilities along with sub-regional logistics space and office and workshops.

The current application is seeking detailed consent for the housing, and two speculative industrial units of 45,000 sq ft each, along with the petrol station and store and pub/hotel development.

The planning application will be considered by the Council later this year.

PRESCOT IN THE PRESS

The town has recently been featured in Lancashire Life and Lancashire & North West magazine

